

## Brexit let-down

The promised fruits are difficult to find — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 23

## The next big scandal?

Hype leaves ESG funds open to mis-selling claims — BIG READ, PAGE 21



## Third way

Workspaces that are neither office nor home — BUSINESS LIFE, PAGE 24

# Belarus says Russian troops will stay as West seeks Ukraine talks

◆ Fresh push for Putin meeting ◆ Conflict on eastern front escalates ◆ Kyiv vulnerable

MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW  
VICTOR MALLEY — PARIS

Belarus said that 30,000 Russian troops participating in joint drills would stay in the country indefinitely, as western leaders initiated a fresh effort to maintain dialogue with Vladimir Putin in a bid to deter an attack on Ukraine.

The announcement by Belarus came on the day the joint military exercises were scheduled to end and added to western fears that Russia is planning an invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow has massed as many as 190,000 troops on Ukraine's borders. The figure includes those participating in the Belarus drills, which had been supposed to return to base.

The conflict between Russia-backed separatists and government forces in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine has escalated in recent days.

The separatists have accused Ukrainian troops of breaching the ceasefire and ordered an evacuation of civilians, in a move Kyiv and its western allies said could be a prelude to a Russian invasion. Kyiv has reported heavy shelling on its positions on the front line.

Emmanuel Macron, France's president, spoke to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday in what a French official described as "part of the last possible and necessary efforts to avoid a major conflict".

France said that Putin had agreed with Macron on an "intense effort" to organise a trilateral meeting today between Russia, Ukraine and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe with the aim of enforcing the ceasefire on the 500km "contact line" in eastern Ukraine.

Antony Blinken, US secretary of state, said that Joe Biden, US president, was "prepared to meet President Putin at any time, in any format, if that can help prevent a war".

The Kremlin said Russia's president "recognised the importance" of finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis



Marching for peace: Protesters carry a giant Ukrainian flag during a rally in the southern city of Odesa yesterday  
Oleksandr Gumen (AFP)  
Getty Images

"through the foreign ministries and political advisers of the Normandy format countries", a reference to Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France.

"It falls upon these contacts to ensure the ceasefire is restored and progress in regulating the Donbas conflict is made," it said, without confirming any specific agreement on more talks.

Putin blamed the clashes in eastern Ukraine on "provocations by Ukrainian security forces" but the US accused Moscow of creating false pretexts for an attack.

Blinken said Washington believed that Putin had decided to invade Ukraine, but that diplomacy was still an option. "Even if the die is cast, until it's

settled, until we know that the tanks are rolling, the planes are flying and the aggression has fully begun, we're going to do everything we can to prevent it," he said.

Lloyd Austin, US secretary of defence, said Russia could move "a significant amount of combat power very quickly to take Kyiv".

"We see a lot of tanks, armoured vehicles, we see a lot of artillery, we see rocket forces. If [Putin] employs that kind of combat power, it will certainly create enormous casualties within a civilian population," Austin told ABC News.

Emiliy Peskov, Putin's spokesman, told state television that "tensions have

been ramped up to the maximum" in the Donbas.

"Any spark, any unplanned event or minor provocation could lead to irreversible consequences," he said. He repeated Putin's denials that Russia would attack Ukraine.

Boris Johnson, UK prime minister, said the UK and US could target Russia's access to foreign currency as part of a sanctions regime in the event of conflict. "We are, with our American friends, going to stop them trading in pounds and dollars," he said.

Additional reporting by Jasmine Cameron-Cheshe in London and Aime Williams in Washington  
News & analysis page 4

## Briefing

### ◆ England's Covid rules scaled back

Boris Johnson is today expected to announce the scrapping of the legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive test when he outlines England's strategy for "living with Covid". — PAGE 2

### ◆ UK and EU race to rewrite finance rules

Britain should quickly rewrite legacy EU financial rules to create an "investment big bang", says Jacob Rees-Mogg. Brexit opportunities minister, as Whitehall frets Brussels has had a head start. — PAGE 2

### ◆ NatWest cuts fossil fuel exposure

NatWest has said it will stop doing business with certain coal companies and end lending to a number of oil and gas majors that do not have "credible" decarbonisation plans. — PAGE 11

### ◆ Camelot set to face lottery battle

Rivals are preparing for a legal challenge if Camelot is awarded the contract to run Britain's national lottery for a fourth term, arguing the tendering system disadvantages new entrants. — PAGE 2

### ◆ China seals military deal with Pakistan

China is selling 25 of its most advanced fighter jets, four frigates and up to eight attack submarines to Pakistan in a deal seen as a challenge to India, their mutual rival. — PAGE 5

### ◆ Investors wary of linking pay to ESG

Cutting the use of plastic straws helped Starbucks' chief executive earn his annual bonus last year, but investors are becoming suspicious of linking bosses' pay to environmental and social targets. — PAGE 8

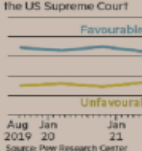
### ◆ SoftBank backs 'inclusive' IPO group

Primary26d, a start-up that allows UK retail investors to buy shares in stock market listings, has been valued at up to \$700m in a fundraising led by SoftBank and Hedosophia. — PAGE 11

## Datawatch

### Judging the judges

% who have an opinion of the US Supreme Court



In the past three years, the share of Americans with a favourable view of the Supreme Court has declined 15 percentage points. The court will be in the spotlight this year as President Joe Biden has pledged to nominate the first black woman.

Source: Pew Research Center



## Sewage leaks test patience of Pennon's customers

Almost all the water companies in England and Wales have cut capital spending since they were privatised. But Pennon, one of three stock market listed providers of water and sewage services in the UK, has wielded the axe most vigorously. The owner of South West Water now boasts the most expensive water bills as well as a dismal record on pollution. Fed-up residents say it is time to focus on stopping the sewage leaks.

Flood of indignation — PAGE 11

# Oil majors prepare for bumper \$38bn in stock buybacks as energy prices soar

TOM WILSON

Western energy majors are on course to buy back shares at near record levels this year as soaring oil and gas prices enable them to deliver bumper profits and boost returns for investors.

The seven supermajors — including BP, Shell, ExxonMobil and Chevron — are poised to return \$38bn to shareholders through buyback programmes according to data from Bernstein Research. Investment bank RBC Capital Markets puts the total figure at \$41bn.

That would be almost double the \$21bn in buybacks completed in 2014 — when oil last traded above \$100 a barrel — and the biggest total since 2008.

The plans underscore the strength of companies that are reaping the rewards of a resurgence in energy demand as lockdown restrictions are rolled back.

Gas prices are at record levels and oil is trading at a seven-year high of \$93 a barrel, resulting in big profits for the supermajor group which also includes TotalEnergies, Eni and Equinor.

Banks, including Goldman Sachs, expect Brent crude to trade at more than \$100 later this year, with some predicting that if Russia invades Ukraine it will trigger an even sharper rise in energy costs.

Ritaj Borkhatia at RBC Capital Markets said: "The sector is in the best shape it's been in for a long time. Now the question is the duration of the cycle." The underperformance of the companies' shares during the pandemic meant that management teams felt their shares were undervalued and that buybacks were cheap, he added.

Shell is set to lead the pack, buying back more than \$12bn of shares, accord-

ing to RBC and Bernstein. Chevron bought back shares worth \$1.4bn in 2021 and will spend \$3bn to \$5bn on buybacks this year.

Pressure to cut emissions and the uncertainty over future demand has meant that oil and gas companies are also investing less in replacing supply than in the past, leaving management teams with even more cash.

But some critics have suggested buybacks are diverting capital away from the transition to renewable energy.

Nick Stansbury, head of climate solutions at Legal and General Investment Management, said companies had to "strike a balance" given the uncertainties surrounding future energy demand.

BP's 2021 results were its best in eight years and Chevron and Exxon reported their highest profits since 2014.

Bonuses tied to ESG targets page 8

## World Markets

### STOCK MARKETS

	Feb 18	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4348.87	4380.26	-0.72
Nasdaq Composite	10948.07	10976.72	-0.25
Dow Jones Ind	34079.18	34112.03	-0.09
FTSE 100	1982.65	1978.83	+0.19
Euro Stoxx 50	4074.28	4113.19	-0.95
FTSE 250	2913.82	2937.37	-0.82
FTSE All-Share	4195.45	4212.37	-0.41
CAC 40	6029.63	6046.92	-0.28
Nikkei 225	15042.51	15067.03	-0.17
Hang Seng	24227.71	24762.77	-2.16
MSCI World	3058.09	3060.29	-0.07
MSCI EM	1242.82	1244.19	-0.11
MSCI ACWI	269.79	270.19	-0.15

### CURRENCIES

	Feb 18	prev	%chg
\$ per £	1.134	1.137	-0.26
€ per £	1.358	1.362	-0.29
¥ per £	9.835	9.835	0.00
¥ per \$	115.540	114.905	+0.55
¥ per €	156.430	156.503	-0.05
£ per \$	1.044	1.048	-0.38
£ per €	0.882	0.880	+0.23

### COMMODITIES

	Feb 18	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	94.80	90.84	+4.36
Oil Brent \$	96.00	92.97	+3.25
Gold \$	1920.45	1982.80	-3.14

### INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	141.33	1.90	-0.04
UK Gov 10 yr	1.30	0.09	-0.01
Ger Gov 10 yr	0.19	0.04	-0.01
Jpn Gov 10 yr	100.86	0.22	0.00
US Gov 30 yr	101.16	2.25	-0.04
Ger Gov 3 yr	100.80	0.49	-0.05
US 3m bill	0.00	0.00	0.00
US 2m bill	0.30	0.30	0.00
US 10yr bill	0.50	0.50	0.00
US 30yr bill	0.80	0.80	0.00

Prices are latest for London. Data provided by Bloomberg

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**Late Edition**  
Today, mostly sunny, noticeably milder, high 52. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, fairly mild, low 41. Tomorrow, cloudy, mild, rain and drizzle, high 56. Weather map, Page B7.



Marching in the Olympics' closing ceremony on Sunday as Beijing handed off to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, the 2026 hosts.

## How the Sandy Hook Families Emerged Triumphant in Court

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

The image stopped him cold. Josh Koskoff, a Connecticut lawyer, was scanning crime scene photos of the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting when he noticed "taped mags" on a classroom floor, two ammunition magazines crudely duct-taped together to speed reloading.

The gunman had dropped them during his rampage that killed 20 first graders and six educators in Newtown, Conn.

That photo was a "checkmate moment," Mr. Koskoff said, in the novel legal strategy that ultimately resulted in the \$73 million settlement last week for the families of nine Sandy Hook victims from insurers for Remington, the maker of the Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle used in the massacre. It was the largest payout so far in a mass-shooting-related case against a gun manufacturer.

The settlement was also the lat-

## Long-Awaited Victories Over Conspiracists and a Gun Maker

est in a half-dozen legal victories by the families that have renewed scrutiny of the gun industry and of the rising tide of misinformation that engulfed Sandy Hook. Left devastated nine years ago when the Senate failed to pass even modest gun control legislation after the massacre, the families have now won on two difficult fronts — against a gun manufacturer and against conspiracy theorists, including Alex Jones — through persistence, creative legal strategies and in the case of the conspiracists, the technological expertise of Lenny Pozner, a parent who foresaw the long-term danger of rampant social media

Continued on Page A14

## Covering the Stains With Glitter, Beijing Closes the Winter Games

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and KEVIN DRAPER

BEIJING — All along, Chinese officials insisted that the Olympics were not about politics, but rather sports. In the end, controversy and scandal haunted those, too.

For all of China's efforts to carry on the Winter Games with a festive spirit, Beijing 2022 unfolded as a joyless spectacle: constricted by a global health disaster, fraught with geopolitical tensions, tainted once again by accusations of doping and overshadowed by the crisis in Ukraine.

Amid the pomp of the closing

## Spectacle Shadowed by Political Tensions and a Doping Scandal

ceremony, China could celebrate pulling off the Games on schedule, despite everything. It is a success, however, as measured by the low bar of avoiding total disaster.

The most indelible memory of these Winter Olympics — beside images of Olympic workers and volunteers enrobed in hazmat gear — will very likely be that of a 15-year-old Russian skater falling on the ice after being allowed to compete despite a test showing traces of a banned heart medicine.

Continued on Page D6

## Russia's Invasion Options Test How West Will React

### Rebel Enclaves Sit at Strife's Center vs. Nibbling at It

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

STANYTSIA LUHANSKA, Ukraine — People pass the bare-bones checkpoint dragging wheeled suitcases along the muddy pavement, crossing one of the starkest political divides in Europe today.

In pale winter sunshine on Sunday afternoon, Gleb Yegorov, 17, made his way into Ukraine after navigating a half-mile buffer zone and then crossing a pedestrian bridge strung over a ravine. Artillery boomed in the distance.

Behind him was the Russian-backed separatist enclave known as the Luhansk People's Republic, which he said he was fleeing to avoid the draft. He barely made it out, he said, after an eight-hour interrogation on the separatist side of the crossing, and would never go back.

"There's no future for me there," he said. "They send boys to the front and don't think about it if they die."

For years, the Luhansk People's Republic and its fellow breakaway Ukrainian enclave, the Donetsk People's Republic, were largely ignored. They were just two odd little political entities, Stalinist too esoteric to merit much attention from the outside world.

But now that the biggest war in Europe in decades may hinge on them, it sometimes seems as if Luhansk and Donetsk are all anyone is thinking about.

With Ukraine surrounded by Russian forces, Western governments warn that Moscow may use the two Russian-backed republics as the stage for a "false flag" attack on ethnic Russian civilians — and then cite it as justification when they storm across the border.

The divide between these mini-states and Ukraine is reminiscent of the Berlin Wall — that is, a separation that grew not out of language or ethnicity but from Cold War-style politics. On one side of the roughly 250-mile frontline is Ukraine, a Western-looking nation aspiring to integrate with European democracies. On the other is a 3.5 million people living in virtual police states.

The worry is that these territories will become the setting for a catastrophe, whether staged or accidental, that could lead to far wider violence. A stray shell, for example, might hit a residential building, or there could be a terrorist attack on fleeing refugees. Whatever the situation, Ukraine would be blamed, and Russia would have a pretext to invade.

Russia, despite repeated accusations from the West, says that it

Continued on Page A7

By DAVID E. SANGER

MUNICH — When President Biden declared on Friday that he was convinced President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia had decided to attack Ukraine "in the coming week, in the coming days," the skeptics among American allies suddenly fell quiet. Hours before, Mr. Biden had informed them that American intelligence agencies had just learned that the Kremlin had given the order for Russian military units to proceed with an invasion.

Now the debate has shifted to how Mr. Putin will do it: in one massive nationwide attack; a series of bites that dismantle the country, piece by piece; or a pythonlike squeeze. That last option is made all the easier with the news Sunday morning that Belarus is allowing Russian troops to remain indefinitely, where they can menace Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital. Mr. Putin might be betting that he can shatter Ukraine's



A woman in Ukraine leaving a separatist region on Sunday.

economy and oust its government without having to roll in tanks immediately.

Mr. Biden's strategic choices over the next few weeks may make a huge difference in how the world reacts.

If he strikes to take the whole country in a single blow, the approach that senior American military and intelligence officials and many outside analysts now think is the most likely — it could provoke the largest, most violent battle for European territory since the Nazi surrender in 1945.

There is little question that the full package of sanctions and technology export cutoffs would be invoked almost immediately. International condemnation would follow, though Mr. Putin may be betting that it would not last long and that the world would gradually get accustomed to a new, larger Russia reconstituting the sphere of influence that was once the hallmark of the old Soviet Union.

Continued on Page A6

**ALLIANCE** The Biden administration plans to counter a pact between Vladimir V. Putin and Xi Jinping, portending a new Cold War. PAGE A5

## Writers Wonder if People Want To Curl Up With a Covid Novel

By ALEXANDRA ALTER

Twelve years ago, Sigrid Nunez published "Salvation City," a novel about a boy whose parents die from a mysterious respiratory illness. She conjured a near-future America that seemed like a far-off dystopia, one where a rapidly spreading virus upends society, as schools close, supplies of hand sanitizer and surgical masks dwindle, understaffed hospitals run out of ventilators, and new viruses emerge, causing infections to surge and recede in waves.

Ms. Nunez, who based her fictional illness on the 1918 flu, fig-

ured that "Salvation City" would be her one and only pandemic novel.

Then history repeated itself, and she found the subject was unavoidable. Last winter, holed up in her small apartment in downtown Manhattan, she started writing a novel that features a woman living in New York during the first wave of coronavirus infections, who starts to fray from the unrelenting fear and uncertainty.

"It seemed too soon to be writing about the pandemic, which we were living through, but it also

Continued on Page A12

## In Redrawn District, Staten Island and Park Slope Make Odd Pair

By KATIE GLUECK

At The Original Goodfella's, a well-known Staten Island pizzeria where photographs of Republican politicians are prominently displayed, the news sank in painfully: This borough, a rare conservative outpost of New York City, was being tossed into a congressional district with the liberal residents of Park Slope, Brooklyn.

"Park Slope is more of a younger crowd with yuppies, hipsters," said Carlo D'Angelo, 28, a Trump supporter who, when asked about who won the 2020 presidential election, said, "Only the man in the sky, only God, knows."

Staten Island was more "family-oriented and traditional," he added, speaking near a framed display of a fork that ex-mayor Bill de Blasio, a Park Slope resident, scandalously used to eat pizza. "It's two different, completely different, viewpoints."

The feeling was mutual outside the Park Slope Food Coop, the famously liberal Brooklyn grocery where social consciousness pervades every aisle, in a neighborhood that is home to many left-leaning families. Pamela Plunkett, 57, stood nearby, across the street from a meditation center, as she questioned how the wildly diver-



Staten Island, home to many Trump voters, will share a House seat with a liberal area of Brooklyn.

gent politics and needs of residents in the new district would work.

"I hate to say it, they're one of the five boroughs, but it's almost like they're an outlier," she said of

Staten Island, noting differences in attitudes around issues including politics and the pandemic. "That's why I'm worried about being grouped in with them."

The once-in-a-decade redistricting effort has created unusual congressional district lines all over the country, reflecting a partisan process embraced by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Continued on Page A13



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

### Guarding India's Forests

Braving tigers and other dangers, frontline workers try to keep the peace between humans and wildlife. PAGE A4

### Queen Elizabeth Tests Positive

The queen, who recently marked her 70th anniversary on the throne, has faced a series of health issues. PAGE A5

NATIONAL A11-15

### C.D.C. Is Slow to Share Data

The agency has withheld from the public critical details on Covid booster shots, hospitalizations and, until recently, wastewater analyses. PAGE A12

### Bloodshed at a Police Protest

A person was shot dead and five others were wounded in what the Portland police called an encounter between protesters and a homeowner. PAGE A11

### Biden Halts New Drilling

The administration froze new federal oil and gas leases and permits after a judge blocked the U.S. from weighing the cost of climate damage in decisions. PAGE A11



BUSINESS B1-7

### A Great Resignation for Bosses

Top corporate executives are reassessing the role of work in their lives, stepping back and walking away. PAGE B4

### Credit Suisse Data Is Leaked

The information shows that the Swiss bank served strongmen and spies, missing or ignoring red flags. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES A16-17

### He Revamped the Rangers

Emile Francis, a onetime goaltender who reshaped the team as its coach and general manager and became a Hockey Hall of Famer, was 95. PAGE A17

SPORTS D1-10

### A Slap Amid Handshakes

Upset by Wisconsin calling a late timeout while well ahead, Michigan Coach Juwan Howard struck a Badgers assistant, and players had a scrum. PAGE D9

OPINION A18-19

### Farah Stockman

PAGE A19



ARTS C1-6

### Billie Eilish Takes Command

The set was minimally adorned for the singer's appearance at Madison Square Garden, but the concert's power was fueled by her frenetic energy. PAGE C1



# Los Angeles Times

\$2.75 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2022

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

latimes.com

## BEIJING OLYMPICS



ENTERTAINERS perform inside Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremony Sunday night. "You can't brace each other, even if your countries are divided by conflict," IOC President Thomas Bach told athletes.

## Winter Games never eluded clouds

Organizers quelled coronavirus outbreak, but other sticky issues marred event, leaving IOC chief 'disturbed.'

BY DAVID WHARTON

BEIJING — After nearly three weeks, both joyous and problematic, this city had reason to celebrate with golden fireworks exploding across the black sky above the stadium known as the Bird's Nest.

The Winter Olympics had delivered Nathan Chen's redemptive victory in figure skating and Norway's record-breaking run, among other highlights. The host country's newest superstar, Eileen Gu, had won three medals.

"I'm so grateful to China for everything they've done for this event," the new superstar of freestyle skiing said. "I think that this is a monumental moment."

As children carried traditional lanterns across the stadium floor, dancing beneath a giant snowflake, Sunday's closing ceremony rejoiced in the fact that thousands of athletes had convened from around the world with no significant coronavirus outbreak. Amid dire predictions, a strict "closed-loop" system had pushed daily cases to zero by the end.

"The success of the countermeasures means the success of the Games," an organizing committee official said.

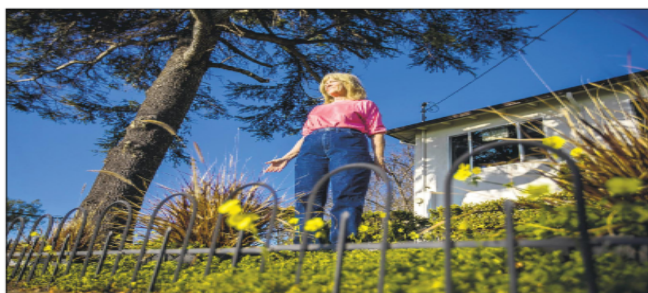
But for all the obvious triumphs in Beijing, these Olympics never escaped dark clouds that loomed overhead from the start.

No blazing downhill run could fully distract from China's troubling human rights record. No hockey shootout could offset what happened in women's figure skating, a premier event besmirched by doping allegations and scenes of a crestfallen young athlete harangued by her coach.

"I was very, very disturbed," said Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee. "It was chilling to see this."

In all, nearly 3,000 athletes assembled to compete in seven sports, vying for gold in 109 events. Thousands more coaches, officials

[See Olympics, A5]



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

WHEN THE state gave up on plans to build the proposed 238 Freeway, Debbie Frederick was able to buy the home she was renting in Hayward.

## A ROAD NOT BUILT CAN LEAVE A SCAR

Abandoned freeway project freed up homes and left winners, losers

BY LIAM DILLON

HAYWARD, Calif. — Eight lanes of freeway would be slicing through what's now Debbie Frederick's house if everything had gone to plan.

Instead, the retired nurse practitioner gazes through her home's picture windows on clear afternoons to take in a vast sweep of the San Francisco Bay. With binoculars, she can spot a spire of the Golden Gate Bridge 30 miles away.

She had rented this three-bedroom stucco house in the East Bay city of Hayward for nearly a quarter-century when, just over a decade ago, her absentee landlord, the state of California, finally

gave up on plans to build the proposed 238 Freeway.

The state began selling off hundreds of properties, and, in 2013, Frederick bought the house for \$250,000.

"I'm sitting on a gold mine by accident and good luck," she said.

Her real estate coup marked a happy ending in one of the many decades-long battles that blighted swaths of cities around the nation: roads that were planned but never built.

"The narrative is that highways that were built ruined cities," said Emily Lieb, a Seattle-based historian who has studied the legacy of such projects. "But no, it's that highways that were planned ruined cities." [See Scar, A8]

## An unending protest over her son's slaying

Indonesian's quest for accountability inspires a vibrant movement.

BY DAVID PIERSON AND KEVIN NG

SINGAPORE — Every Thursday for Maria Catarina Sumarsih begins the same: make breakfast for her husband and daughter, say the rosary, prepare the placards, grab her umbrella and head toward the palace, where for the last 15 years she has camped in the tropical heat, protesting the death of her son.

His name was Wawan. A

20-year-old university student who loved his mother's cooking, especially her nasi goreng and satay, he was killed in 1998 when Indonesian soldiers fired on young protesters demanding political reforms. She didn't know at first how to channel her grief other than to visit his grave in the capital city, Jakarta.

But as the years passed, Sumarsih turned despair into anger — at times throwing eggs at members of parliament who had absolved the army of wrongdoing — to become a relentless symbol of a woman seeking justice. Her trail frame and shock of white hair arrive every week [See Indonesia, A4]

## Diplomacy gets new urgency in Ukraine crisis

Biden, in the latest bid to avert war, agrees 'in principle' to a summit with Putin if Russia doesn't invade.

BY NABIH BULOS, ELI STOKOLA, NOAH BIERMAN AND TRACY WILKINSON

KHARKIV, Ukraine — With tens of thousands of Russian troops massed near Ukraine's northern frontier, and as tensions intensified in the country's eastern Donbas region, Western and Russian leaders continued to engage in a high-stakes dance Sunday mixing equal parts diplomatic bickering and military puffery — but with little sign that their efforts could successfully forestall the biggest conflict in Europe since World War II.

In the latest attempt to avert war — in what appears an excruciating test of wills between Washington and Moscow — President Biden late Sunday agreed "in principle" to a summit with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, the White House said.

The eleventh-hour round of diplomacy was coaxed by French President Emmanuel Macron and came as a

Russian invasion appeared to be moving ever closer and other appeals for de-escalation faltered.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the summit would probably follow a meeting later this week by the two countries' top diplomats, Antony J. Blinken and Sergei Lavrov.

"We are always ready for diplomacy. We are also ready to impose swift and severe consequences should Russia instead choose war," Psaki said in a statement. She said the meetings between the diplomats and the presidents are contingent on Russia not proceeding "with military action."

Meanwhile, in Ukraine's east, where the Ukrainian government has been mired for years in a stalemate with Russia-installed separatists, observers reported barages of shelling across the cease-fire line established between the belligerents in 2015. And in a step designed to bolster Moscow's narrative of an impending Ukrainian onslaught on the separatist enclaves, pro-Russia authorities Sunday suspended leisure, cultural, entertainment and educational events until further notice.

Earlier in the weekend, the separatists began evacuating thousands of women [See Ukraine, A5]

## Thinking it was a date, young man drove into deadly trap, police say

He went to Pacoima to see woman he met online, and became victim of the MS-13 gang, detectives say.

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH

Some come to La Tuna Canyon to get rid of what they don't want.

Strewn across the hillside just off the Foothill Freeway, among the scrub and a few stubborn trees blackened by wildfire, are broken furniture legs, containers of motor oil, a baby carrier, tires, orange buckets full of broken glass and floor tiles.

Some come here to look for value in what others discard. A little before 8 a.m. on Jan. 19, someone picking through the trash came across the body of a young man.

Bryan Cojon Tuyuc, 20,

died, it seems, as he lived — innocently. Believing he was going to meet a woman he'd been messaging online, he drove his uncle's minivan from the home he shared with his father and into a trap. A construction worker with no criminal record, he was robbed and stabbed to death, then dumped in the canyon, detectives say.

His life stands in stark contrast to that of one of the people accused of taking it. For Gabriel Orellana, his arrest last month on suspicion of killing Cojon Tuyuc was the culmination of a string of violence and misery.

Over the course of a year, Orellana, whom police have identified as a member of the street gang MS-13, has been implicated in the beating of a transgender woman in MacArthur Park, a kidnapping and attempted murder in Griffith Park, and a violent liquor store robbery in Fontana. With no apparent ties to family or any [See MS-13, A12]

### Bill would tax 'extreme wealth'

Democrats renew push to raise levies on households worth \$50 million or more. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Queen Elizabeth tests positive

The monarch, 95, will carry on working despite mild symptoms from COVID. WORLD, A3

### U.S. rents climb to 'insane' levels

Options for tenants are to fall behind, dig deep into savings or settle for subpar unit. NATION, A6

### Weather

Mostly cloudy. L.A. Basin: 60/48. B6



CHARLES KRUPA Associated Press

### RIM REAPER

LaMelo Ball of Team Durant dunks during Team LeBron's win in NBA All-Star game. SPORTS, D1

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Partly sunny 63/49 • Tomorrow: Rain 63/60 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 • B2

## Heart afflictions after covid alarming

A cardiovascular "tidal wave" is projected amid mystery ailments

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

Five months after being infected with the coronavirus, Nicole Murphy's pulse rate is going berserk. Normally in the 70s, which is ideal, it has been jumping to 160, 170 and sometimes 210 beats per minute even when she is at rest — putting her at risk of a heart attack, heart failure or stroke.

No one seems to be able to pinpoint why. She's only 44, never had heart issues, and when a cardiologist near her hometown of Wellsville, Ohio, ran all of the standard tests, "he literally threw up his hands when he saw the results," she recalled. Her blood pressure was perfect, there were no signs of clogged arteries, and her heart was expanding and contracting well.

Murphy's boomeranging heart rate is one of a number of mysterious conditions afflicting Americans weeks or months after coronavirus infections that suggest the potential of a looming cardiac crisis.

A pivotal study that looked at health records of more than 153,000 U.S. veterans published this month in *Nature Medicine* found that their risk of cardiovascular disease of all types increased substantially in the year

SEE VIRUS ON A18

## DOD faces pushback over its findings on Kabul blast

BY DAN LAMOTHE

As the sun faded on another anxious, adrenalized day, Kareem Nikoui, a 20-year-old U.S. Marine from Southern California, balanced on top of a concrete traffic barrier and scanned the crowd. Thousands of Afghans had packed into the fetid, open-air corridor outside Kabul's airport, desperate to flee Taliban rule and undeterred by warnings of a suicide bomber in the area.

Nearly 8,000 miles away, Nikoui's mother, Shana Chappell, had a sinking feeling. She was aware the hastily orchestrated evacuation was growing increasingly perilous and worried about how her son would process the reality that thousands would be left behind.

It was Aug. 26. At 5:36 p.m. local time, the bomber struck, detonating a vest packed with explosives and ball bearings. Nikoui, standing barely 30 feet away, was killed, along with 12 other U.S. service members and an estimated 170 Afghans.

The attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport's Abbey Gate was not preventable, the

SEE ATTACK ON A8

## Biden agrees 'in principle' to meet Putin



CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

People light candles at a memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine, dedicated to slain activists during commemorations of the February 2014 clashes. Months-long protests culminated in violence between demonstrators and police, leading to the deaths of more than 100 people and the ouster of the president. Eight years later, Ukraine is again in crisis.

## A new, more aggressive Putin wields threat of war

BY PAUL SONNE AND ROBYN DIXON

He is the man with the very long table who seats world leaders and ministers at an almost comical distance. He is a lone figure in a dark coat laying a wreath at a cemetery in St. Petersburg or sitting solo in his Olympic viewing booth in Beijing. He is aging, isolated, more powerful than ever, and on the brink of waging a possibly catastrophic war.

Russian president leverages his military to coerce world's attention

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in the 22 years since he first took office, has evolved from an afterthought of Washington leaders to the world's most watched and pleaded-with man, using reconstituted Russian mil-

itary might to force the globe to reckon with his interests after having complained for years about being ignored.

His latest belligerence follows two years of pandemic isolation and eight years of Western sanctions that analysts say have fed the bunker mentality Putin has exhibited since his earliest years.

At 69, and now a grandfather, he has had hours alone to consider his legacy as Russia's longest-serving leader since Jo-

SEE PUTIN ON A10

A statesman emerges

War or no war, Ukraine gives Biden new lease on leadership. A10

Belarus

Russian forces will remain in the nation after military drills end. A11

False-flag evaluations

A war scare manufactured by separatists unraveled quickly. A12

Ukrainian Americans

Waves of grief and worry are rippling across the Atlantic. A12

### PERSPECTIVE

## These Games exposed IOC's emptiness

In pledging neutrality, Olympic leaders did more harm than good

BY JERRY BREWER

BELING — The Olympics stayed out of it. Like a good little Games, they kept their long-held neutrality promise or at least the illusion of it, leaving fires to burn in every direction.

The International Olympic Committee stayed out of China's politics. It empowered a country accused of rampant human rights abuses with the cushiest home-turf advantage: the platform to say and do as it pleased.

In a warped sense of fairness, the Court of Arbitration for Sport thought it was doing Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva a favor by letting her compete even though she tested positive in December for a banned substance. It ended up concealing a scenario that would destroy the 15-year-old and sicken an international audience.

SEE BREWER ON A14



JEROME FAVRE/EPF/EPF/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Snowflake Cauldron in National Stadium is lowered during the Closing Ceremonies on Sunday. Despite numerous controversies, organizers insisted the Beijing Games would "go down in history."

Closing Ceremonies

Right to the end, China avoided breaking its tight script. A14

Jessie Diggins delivers again

The cross-country skier claims silver on the Games' final day. D1

## College faculties take up critical race theory fight

BY NICK ANDERSON AND SUSAN SVRLUGA

Appalled at efforts to limit what they can teach about race and other sensitive subjects, faculty leaders at prominent public universities around the country have rallied in recent weeks behind resolutions to reaffirm academic freedom and denounce legislation that would undermine it.

These declarations show that the heated debate over state regulation of lessons on race, centered so far largely on K-12 public schools, is rapidly expanding onto college campuses. In this case it pits politicians, mainly Republicans, who depict themselves as guardians of objectivity concerning "divisive concepts," against professors who say the state has no business meddling in the content of lectures, syllabi and seminars.

The latest skirmish has erupted in Texas.

On Feb. 14, the Faculty Council of the University of Texas at Austin approved, on a 41-to-5 vote with three abstentions, a resolution rejecting "any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate the content of university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice." The resolution said the council will "stand firm against any and all encroachment" on faculty authority, including by the legislature.

Afterward, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R) denounced the resolution. "I will not stand by and let looney Marxist UT professors poison the minds of young students with Critical Race Theory," he wrote in a tweet. "We banned it in publicly funded K-12 and we will ban it in publicly funded higher ed." On Friday, Patrick said he would support ending the job-protection measure known as tenure for professors who teach critical race

SEE FACULTY ON A4

### IN THE NEWS



CHRIS JACKSON/POOL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

**Queen Elizabeth II** The British monarch tested positive for the coronavirus and was experiencing "mild cold like symptoms." A13

**Daytona 500** Austin Cindric held off Bubba Wallace and avoided two late crashes in his first career NASCAR Cup Series win. D12

**THE NATION** Witness testimony in the hate-crimes trial over Ahmaud Arbery's murder illustrated just how thoroughly guns are embedded into American public life. A3

**Fifty years ago**, a stunned world watched as President Richard M. Nixon, a hard-line anti-communist, paid a visit to Chinese leader Mao Zedong. A4

**THE WORLD** Politicians keep trying to sideline a judge who is one of the last U.S. allies in the fight against graft in Guatemala. A5

**Police regained control** of most streets in Canada's capital after a week-end operation to disperse the self-styled "Freedom Convoy" protesters. A7

**THE ECONOMY** The Help Desk explains how to deal with a surge of annoying spam texts. A15

**THE REGION** As a Maryland man's addiction spiraled, a dispute with his father over a cryptocurrency account nearly turned deadly. B1

**New proposed legislation** could bring mobile

voting to the District, a measure that supporters say would enfranchise more eligible voters throughout the city. B1

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### MONDAY

**The Presidents' Day** holiday is observed. **Climate envoy John F. Kerry** delivers remarks on international climate action during a trip to Cairo.

#### TUESDAY

**President Biden** discusses supply chains, clean energy and job creation at a White House event. **The Supreme Court** hears arguments in two cases: *Yuleta del Sur*

*Pueblo v. Texas* and *Denezip v. United States*.

#### WEDNESDAY

**The Supreme Court** hears arguments in *Ari-zona v. San Francisco*.

#### THURSDAY

**Jobless claims** are estimated at 230,000. **The Supreme Court** is expected to announce opinions.

**Biden and other Group of Seven leaders** may hold a virtual summit to discuss the threat to Ukraine.

#### FRIDAY

**The American Bar Association** holds a forum on air and space law.

### INSIDE



**STYLE** **Pitch perfect** As "Homer at the Bat" turns 30, Wade Boggs, Steve Sax and others recall the legendary "Simpsons" episode. C1

**SPORTS** **A PR fumble?** Close to half of D.C. residents have a negative view of their local NFL team's new name, a poll finds. D1

**BUSINESS NEWS** A15  
**COMICS** C8  
**OPINION PAGES** A10  
**LETTERS** B3  
**OBITUARIES** B6  
**TELEVISION** C4  
**WORLD NEWS** A5

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0 70628 21100 3

## deportes

## Festejo superclásico

Boca venció a Central y River le ganó a Newell's

Los xeneizes triunfaron 2-1 en la cancha de Vélez; el Millonario se impuso en Rosario por 2-0



## LA REINA ISABEL, CONTAGIADA DE CORONAVIRUS

—el mundo

Según Buckingham Palace, la monarca, de 95 años, tiene síntomas leves y se habría contagiado de su hijo el príncipe Carlos. Página 4

## VUELTA A CLASES, CON EL BARBIJO EN EL CENTRO DEL DEBATE

—sociedad

Los especialistas se muestran divididos sobre su uso en los niveles iniciales; sin burbujas, hoy empiezan las clases en la ciudad y en Mendoza. Página 19

## LA NACION

LUNES 21 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Contra reloj, el Gobierno intenta limar resistencias ante el FMI

**ACUERDO.** Multiplica las gestiones con legisladores kirchneristas para limitar las abstenciones y lograr un aval robusto; en el Senado quedaron expuestas las divisiones

Mientras acelera las gestiones para lograr "en los próximos días" un preacuerdo con el directorio del Fondo Monetario Internacional que pueda enviar al Congreso convertido en proyecto de ley, el Gobierno multiplica gestos y contactos con legisladores propios y ajenos. Ya no solo busca los votos necesarios para destrabar la aprobación de ese entendimiento (cree tenerlos), sino que también intenta limitar las abstenciones y ausencias en el recinto. La meta de la Casa Rosada es dotar al acuerdo de la mayor legitimidad posible y evitar dar una señal de debilidad política ante el FMI y el mundo.

Sin embargo, más que hacia la oposición, la mayoría de esos gestos apuntan al propio kirchnerismo, como lo expuso la semana pasada el presidente Alberto Fernández, al rodearse de ministros y funcionarios de La Cámpora.

Con avances en la Cámara baja, las gestiones no alcanzan para despejar el panorama en el Senado, donde el silencio impuesto por Cristina Kirchner comenzó a ser desafiado por los legisladores del PJ que responden a los gobernadores: además de salir a respaldar las negociaciones del Gobierno con el Fondo, comenzaron a señalar la responsabilidad de sus compañeros de bancada en la carrera para evitar el default. En la recta final de las negociaciones, las divisiones quedaron expuestas. Página 6

## Pulseada de Guzmán por los desembolsos

Jaime Rosenberg  
Página 8

## Casaretto: "Si no votan, los K serán minoría"

Página 8

## EL ESCENARIO

## La microfragmentación oficialista

Claudio Jacquelin

—LA NACION—

Como una Penélope burocrática e involuntaria, Alberto Fernández parece condenado a tejer cada día lo que se le des-teje cada noche, sin resistirse.

En su congénito internismo, el Frente de Todos es atravesado por un proceso de microfragmentación o internas de las internas, con el Presidente en el centro de la telaraña. En su perjuicio y en su

beneficio. No termina de perder, pero tampoco se impone. Gana tiempo y mantiene centralidad. Como en los penales de la playa.

Los recientes abrazos de Fernández a casi todos los que lo destrataron y hasta desconocieron su autoridad exponen esa red en la que su gobierno suele quedar atrapado y sin resolver los problemas. Continúa en la página 7

## Según EE.UU., Rusia ya dio la orden de invadir Ucrania

**TENSIÓN.** Las agencias de inteligencia creen que el Kremlin transmitió la indicación a sus comandantes; frenéticos esfuerzos diplomáticos

WASHINGTON (Reuters).— Ocidente se mantenía en vilo anoche luego de que la prensa norteamericana reveló que la Casa Blanca recibió información de inteligencia confiable que indica que los comandantes rusos tienen ya las

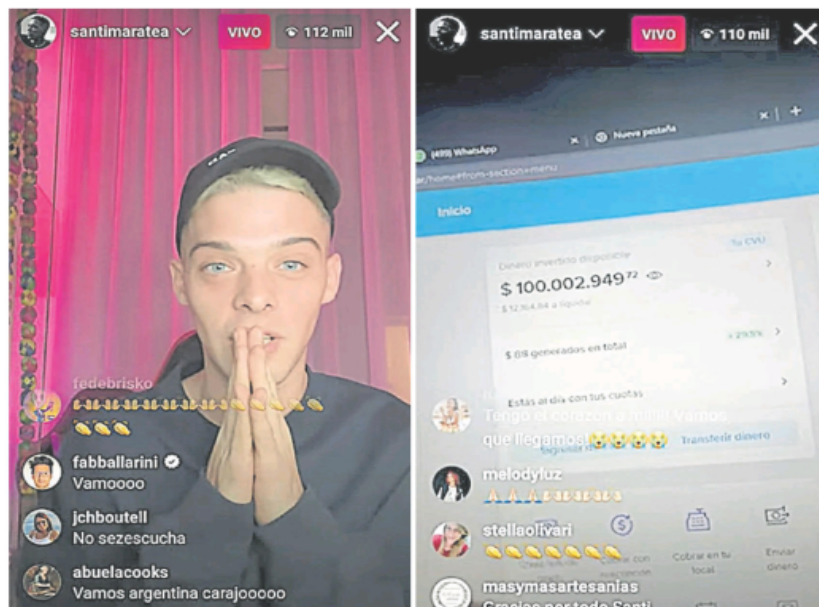
órdenes de proceder con la invasión de Ucrania.

"Todo lo que estamos viendo sugiere que estamos al borde de una invasión", afirmó el secretario de Estado, Antony Blinken, al reiterar que Rusia tiene casi el 75% de sus

fuerzas convencionales posicionadas contra Ucrania. Sin embargo, afirmó que continúan los frenéticos esfuerzos diplomáticos, tanto de los líderes europeos como de la Casa Blanca, para evitar una guerra. Páginas 2 y 3

## INCENDIOS EN CORRIENTES

**Más de \$100 millones en 20 horas.** Conocido por liderar causas solidarias, el influencer Santiago Maratea rompió ayer un récord: en 20 horas recaudó más de 100 millones de pesos para ayudar a combatir los incendios en Corrientes, y anoche seguía sumando. Conmovido, afirmó: "Me está costando entender lo que está pasando". Página 17



La reacción de Maratea en el momento en el que cruza la barrera de los \$100 millones recaudados. INSTAGRAM

## Las otras víctimas. Desesperada lucha por salvar a los animales de las llamas

Germán de los Santos  
ENVIADO ESPECIAL

ITUZAINGÓ, Corrientes.— En el corazón de los Esteros del Iberá el fuego es incontrolable. A su paso, las llamas arrasan con la reserva natural que es un pulmón del Litoral

argentino. Este espectáculo apocalíptico solo se puede dimensionar desde el aire, como lo hizo LA NACION anteayer en una recorrida en un helicóptero de la Fuerza Aérea.

En la zona cercana a San Alonso, donde hay programas para reintroducir el yaguararé, la llamada línea

de fuego se transformó en una figura multiforme que cambia a cada hora. Las llamas engullen los pastizales secos que rodean las lagunas y bañados, que desde arriba parecen cráteres. Y el fuego asusta a los animales, que corren a buscar refugio. Continúa en la página 16

## Putin mantém seus soldados na fronteira da Ucrânia

No dia em que o temido exercício conjunto entre Rússia e Belarus nas fronteiras da Ucrânia deveria acabar, a ditadura em Minsk anunciou que os 30 mil soldados de Vladimir Putin ficarão onde estão.

Só há duas hipóteses para a permanência: ou as manobras eram preparação para um ataque ou o objetivo seria forçar uma saída diplomática que agrade a Putin. **Mundo A10**



Atacante Hulk celebra a vitória na Arena Pantanal. Adriano Machado/Reuters

### Esporte B7

Atlético supera o Flamengo após 24 pênaltis e conquista título da Supercopa

## Faculdades temem ações judiciais na volta às aulas

Autorizadas a retornar com as aulas presenciais, faculdades particulares têm divergido sobre como iniciar o ano letivo e temem uma alta de ações judiciais. Com o avanço da ômicron, muitas decidiram manter o ensino remoto, o que gerou protesto de alunos. **Cotidiano B1**

### Ilustrada C1

'Euphoria' mostra jovens alucinados, mas os da vida real se drogam menos

### Cotidiano B2

Vendedores contidos tentam amenizar clima de 'golpe' no Mercado de SP

# BC quer lei para conter fraude com criptomoedas

Projeto deve atualizar o Código Penal e a legislação sobre lavagem de dinheiro

O Banco Central avalia a elaboração de diretrizes para a fiscalização de transações com criptomoedas, como o bitcoin, e a imposição de penalidades para conter a explosão de golpes e fraudes. A intenção foi relatada pelo presidente do BC, Roberto Campos Neto, a presidentes de bancos nacionais.

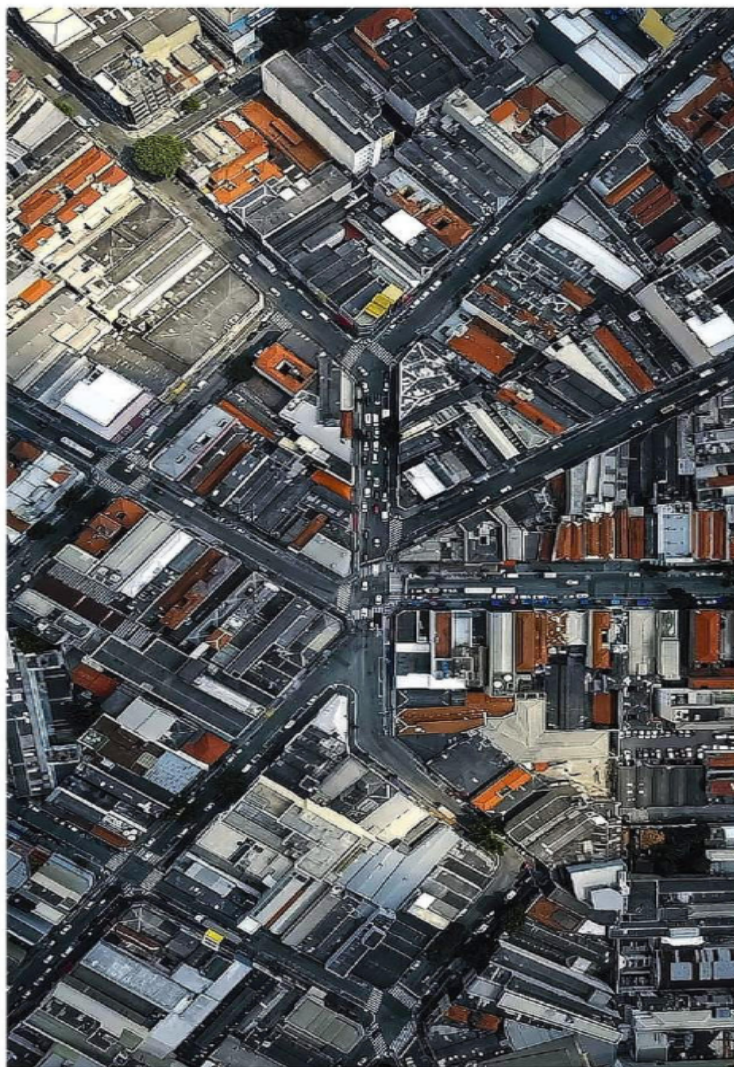
Sob anonimato, os banqueiros informam que a proposta de regulação deve ser enviada ao Congresso ainda no primeiro trimestre, para que as regras entrem em vigor até o final deste ano.

Segundo as informações da Receita Federal, o setor movimentou cerca de R\$ 130 bilhões ao ano no Brasil.

A falta de fiscalização facilita roubos e fraudes. Conforme as polícias Federal e Civil de São Paulo, crimes envolvendo criptomoedas rondaram os R\$ 6,5 bilhões em menos de dois anos.

O BC quer que as corretoras digitais sigam as regras dos fundos de investimento e tenham sede no país.

O projeto deve atualizar o Código Penal tipificando o estelionato com moedas virtuais — a pena de prisão deve variar de quatro a oito anos. Também se pretende atualizar a legislação sobre lavagem de dinheiro, incluindo fraudes com criptoativos na lista de crimes com agravante de pena. **Folhainvest A13**



Bruno Santos/Folhapress

## 3ª via terá desafio de não encolher com troca de siglas

A janela para trocas de partido na Câmara dos Deputados, de 3 de março a 1º de abril, representará desafio para os presidentes da terceira via. Acredita-se que o PT, de Lula, não perderá quadros, e que o PL, de Jair Bolsonaro, vá ser a legenda com o maior crescimento. **Poder A4**

### ENTREVISTA DA 2ª

David Nemer

## Desinformação gera engajamento para plataformas

Para o antropólogo e pesquisador, a falta de empenho das plataformas digitais no combate à desinformação pode ser explicada por interesses econômicos. "Fake news gera engajamento", afirma. **A12**

Lygia Maria

## Humor é perigo para quem se crê dono da virtude

A polarização ideológica mina nossa capacidade de rir e fazer rir. Cada lado tem políticos de estimação, quase deidades. Seguidores viram sacerdotes à caça de pecados não apenas dos inimigos, mas dos próprios pares. **opinião A2**

## Mercado de jogos eletrônicos atrai mais investimento

Experiências em realidade virtual e o potencial do metaverso geram forte alta do interesse de grandes empresas e investidores no setor de jogos eletrônicos. A operação mais marcante foi um negócio de US\$ 75 bilhões, a aquisição da Activision Blizzard pela Microsoft. **Folhainvest A15**



Homens usam corda para resgate no RJ. Eduardo Anzelli/Folhapress

## Grupo entra em rio para achar jovem em Petrópolis

Cotidiano B2

## PREFEITURA DE SP NÃO PLANTA ÁRVORES HÁ 6 MESES

Imagem aérea do Brás, na zona leste, área com a menor cobertura arbórea da capital; déficit é de 180 mil árvores, que deveriam ter sido colocadas nos bairros na última década. **Cotidiano B3**

### ATMOSFERA

	Hoje	Amanhã
Rio	22 34	23 32
Brasília	17 26	18 27
Ribeirão	19 31	20 32

Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



### A pandemia em 20.fev Dados das 20h

#### POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

##### No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)	<b>81,9%</b>
1ª ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)	<b>71,5%</b>
Dose de reforço	<b>28,0%</b>

##### Nos estados

	Ao menos uma dose	1º ciclo completo	Dose de reforço
SP	90,3%	80,3%	41,5%
PI	90,2%	77,8%	24,9%
PB	83,4%	75,6%	32,6%
MG	81,5%	74,8%	29,2%

#### ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

##### Óbitos

Média móvel	<b>845</b>	Em 24 h	<b>424</b>
Casos	<b>38,9%</b>	Total	<b>644.362</b>
*Variação em relação a 14 dias			

##### Casos nos estados

	Média móvel (variação*)	Ritmo
MG	13.070 (-46,4%)	acelerado
SP	13.014 (-8,3%)	acelerado
PR	11.485 (-40,6%)	acelerado
RS	11.231 (-26,0%)	acelerado

### EDITORIAIS A2

Grátis para quem? Sobre subsídios públicos para o transporte coletivo.

Vieses policiais Acerca de abordagens a negros e pobres no Rio.



**Estudio destaca el crecimiento del poder de los narcotraficantes en Paraguay**

## UE plantea crear una Ameripol para combatir crimen organizado

Alto comisionado visitó la Triple Frontera. Trabajan para que los policías de Bolivia, Brasil y Paraguay puedan estar interconectados para la rápida aprehensión de criminales.

PÁGINAS 4 y 7

Llanistas definen hoy postura  
**Diputados firman el  
libelo para juicio  
político a Quiñónez**

PÁGINA 5

### ENTREVISTA

MONS. ADALBERTO MARTÍNEZ, arzobispo

"La inequidad que  
existe en el país es  
una situación que  
clama al cielo"

PÁGINA 6



Impulsada por Última Hora  
**Expo Universidades  
orientará a jóvenes a  
elegir una carrera**

PÁGINA 18

EDGAR MEDINA



**Ñacunday  
será destino  
turístico  
sostenible**

**Belleza natural.** Autoridades y ciudadanos se reunieron para trabajar por el turismo en el municipio que tiene como principal atractivo a los Saltos del Ñacunday. **PÁGINA 19**

MEC destaca las escuelas con jornada escolar extendida  
**Inician las clases con el desafío de  
recuperar dos años de aprendizaje**

PÁGINA 17

Baja la cantidad de personas que reciben subsidio del IPS  
**Construcción y comercio reabsorbieron  
casi todos sus empleados suspendidos**

PÁGINA 10

NUEVA TOYOTA  
**RAIZE**

LA SUV FÁCIL  
DE CONDUCIR  
PARA UNA VIDA  
FÁCIL DE VIVIR.



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LUBRAX

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## LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



**CHRISTOPHE GUILLUY**  
« L'INQUIÉTUDE DES CATÉGORIES  
POPULAIRES EST SOCIALE  
ET EXISTENTIELLE » PAGES 6 ET 7

**LE FIGARO SANTÉ**  
LE MANQUE D'ACTIVITÉ PHYSIQUE,  
FLÉAU DE L'HOMME MODERNE  
PAGE 9



**PRÉSIDENTIELLE**  
Au Mont-Saint-  
Michel, Éric  
Zemmour se rêve  
d'ores et déjà  
au second tour  
PAGE 5

**DROITE**  
Amine Elbahi :  
l'arme de Valérie  
Pécresse contre  
les extrêmes  
PAGE 5

**VIOLENCE**  
Les forces de l'ordre  
face à une  
inexorable hausse  
des agressions  
PAGE 8

**NUMÉRIQUE**  
Les arnaques  
se multiplient  
déjà sur les NFT  
PAGE 28

**BAROQUE**  
La viole de gambe  
tient la corde  
PAGE 30

**HIGH-TECH**  
Créer un studio  
de musique  
à la maison  
PAGE 33

**CHAMPS LIBRES**  
• En Californie,  
les derniers  
jours  
à San Quentin  
des  
condamnés  
à mort  
• L'Inde peut-  
elle contourner  
la Chine  
en Asie?

• La tribune du  
colonel (ER)  
Raphaël  
Bernard

• La chronique  
de Nicolas  
Baverez

• La tribune  
des Gracques  
PAGES 16 À 19

**FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON**

Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr

Ukraine : les Occidentaux  
manquent-ils de  
« fermeté » face aux  
Russes, comme l'affirme  
le président ukrainien ?

JEAN LUC BERTINI/LE FIGARO  
MAGAZINE - SERGEI BOBYLEV/TASS  
VIA REUTERS



# Poutine resserre l'étau sur l'Ukraine

Alors que la tension  
à la frontière  
s'accroît de jour en  
jour, l'Occident tente  
d'éviter la guerre.  
Le président russe  
accepte de négocier,  
sans rien céder.

PAGES 2, 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Manœuvres  
conjointes des  
armées russe  
et biélorusse sur  
le terrain militaire  
Obuz-Lesnovsky  
(Biélorussie),  
samedi.

## Restauration, BTP, santé : les employeurs cherchent à séduire les salariés

Confrontés à des pénuries de  
main-d'œuvre, de nombreux  
secteurs d'activité ont décidé  
d'augmenter les rémunérations,  
mais aussi d'améliorer  
les conditions de travail.

Adaptation des plannings,  
jours de repos et congés sup-  
plémentaires, crèches, pa-  
niers repas... les employeurs  
font feu de tout bois pour atti-  
rer les salariés. PAGES 22 ET 23



## Contrat rempli pour les athlètes français aux Jeux olympiques de Pékin

La Chine a mené à leur  
terme les Jeux olympiques  
d'hiver ouverts sur fond de  
boycott diplomatique, de  
polémique écologique et de  
menace épidémique. Les

Français (14 médailles, dont  
5 d'or) ont, dans le sillage du  
biathlon, atteint leur objec-  
tif, tout près de leur record  
(15 médailles, en 2014 et  
2018). PAGES 14 ET 15

**ÉDITORIAL** par Philippe Gélie [pgelie@lefigaro.fr](mailto:pgelie@lefigaro.fr)

## Le moment de vérité

C ombien de temps peut-on rester  
au bord de la guerre sans basculer  
irréversiblement dans le fracas  
des armes? L'est de l'Ukraine est  
le théâtre d'une mise en scène de  
plus en plus dramatique, dans laquelle les sé-  
paratistes prorrusses conjuguent les violations  
du cessez-le-feu avec l'évacuation des fem-  
mes et des enfants présentés comme des vic-  
times obligées de fuir. La montée de la tem-  
pérature sur le front du Donbass (1500 tirs  
d'obus samedi) ne fait pas une véritable of-  
fensive, mais cette guerre à feu doux crée une  
impression inquiétante de déjà-vu. Se porter  
au secours des peuples russophones « menacés  
de génocide » a de longue date été l'excuse  
préférée de Vladimir Poutine pour agresser  
ses voisins.

Tous les ingrédients sont en place pour le scé-  
nario du pire : entre 130 000 et 190 000 sol-  
dats russes massés aux frontières de l'Ukraine  
- y compris en Biélorussie, où la promesse  
de retrait n'a pas été tenue -, un déploiement  
massif d'artillerie, de missiles, d'armadas na-  
vales et aériennes, un dispositif humanitaire à  
pied d'œuvre pour accueillir les réfugiés in-  
volontaires d'un assaut qui n'a pas encore eu  
lieu... Ne manque que la décision du chef.

Le moment de vérité approche, pour l'Ukraine,  
mais aussi pour les Occidentaux. Même si  
Poutine se contente de jouer à la guerre, d'or-  
chestrer la peur dans l'intention de faire plier  
Kiev et de montrer les limites de l'Otan,  
Européens et Américains jouent leur crédibi-  
lité dans cette partie d'échecs. Plus la pres-  
sion militaire monte, plus la tentation est  
grande de trouver un accommodement avec

le maître du  
Kremlin. Mais  
il faut se de-  
mander quel  
en sera le prix.  
Sacrifier  
l'Ukraine, lui  
fermer défini-  
tivement la

porte de l'Alliance et la renvoyer dans l'orbite  
de Moscou? Pas sûr que l'Otan se remette  
d'un aussi flagrant aveu de faiblesse... Où que  
l'on trace la ligne rouge, il y aura toujours plus  
à obtenir pour celui qui veut un retour à l'Eu-  
rope de 1997. L'apaisement a bien des avan-  
tages, à court terme. Sur la durée, difficile  
d'imaginer que le « rameau d'olivier » brandi  
devant les chars fasse une politique capable  
de tenir en respect Vladimir Poutine. ■



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# Revealed Credit Suisse leak unmasks criminals, fraudsters and corrupt politicians



Whistleblower reveals secret owners of £80bn held in scandal-hit Swiss firm to expose 'immoral' banking laws

Wealthy clients include people involved in torture, drug trafficking, money laundering and other serious crimes

Pages 12-17



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## Last-ditch talks as fears of Ukraine war intensify

Macron says Putin is open to dialogue but US warns Moscow has issued invasion orders

Hopes undermined as Belarus says Russian troops will remain in country indefinitely

Patrick Wintour  
Jon Henley Paris

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, yesterday launched a desperate last-minute effort to avoid a Russian invasion of Ukraine, amid further US warnings that war was imminent. He said he had persuaded Vladimir Putin to endorse urgent talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in the disputed east of Ukraine.

The two leaders agreed during a 105-minute telephone call to hold discussions in the hope of organising a summit to review Europe's future security architecture, Macron said.

But hours after his announcement, US news networks claimed US intelligence sources were briefing that Russian troops had received orders to proceed with the invasion. More than 150,000 Russian troops are massed on the borders, and yesterday Belarus's defence ministry said Russian forces sent there for military exercises would remain indefinitely.

The US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said: "Everything we are seeing suggests that this is dead serious, that we are on the brink of an invasion." He added: "Until the tanks are actually rolling, and the planes are flying, we will use every opportunity and every minute we have to see if diplomacy can still dissuade President Putin from carrying this forward."

Last night the US embassy in Russia cautioned Americans to have

evacuation plans, citing the threat of attacks in Moscow and along the border with Ukraine. The move drew a rebuke from the Russian foreign ministry, which questioned if the US had passed on the information about possible attacks to Russia. "And if not, how is one to understand all of this?" a spokesperson said.

Earlier Boris Johnson said Russia planned to launch the biggest war in Europe since 1945 by attacking Ukraine in a "bloody and protracted conflict". The west would use "all the

pressure we can bring" to "make sure that this venture does not succeed".

The chink of diplomatic light came after Putin spoke on the phone with Macron, his favoured western interlocutor, yesterday morning, and the outcome, broadly confirmed by the Kremlin, suggests the Russian leader might be willing to step back from the brink of a full invasion to allow renewed diplomatic discussions. If not, he is instead involved in an elaborate deceit of the French.

Under the plan, the French foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, will meet his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, in the coming days to work on a possible summit at the highest level with Russia, Ukraine and allies, the Élysée said.

The two leaders agreed to resume work on a meeting "within the framework of the Normandy format", meaning the participants will be Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany, Macron's office and the Kremlin said.

Putin and Macron would also work "intensively" to



▲ An official observer watches the border in separatist-held Luhansk

Queen has Covid but symptoms mild - palace

Ben Quinn

The Queen has tested positive for Covid-19, ahead of the expected ending of all coronavirus restrictions in England in the coming days. Buckingham Palace said the monarch, 95, was experiencing "mild cold-like symptoms" but expected to continue carrying out light duties this week.

It was confirmed she had been in direct contact with her eldest son and heir, the Prince of Wales, the week he had the virus, while a number of cases have also been reported at her Windsor Castle home.

The announcement yesterday was made only a few weeks after the Queen, who will be 96 in April, reached her platinum jubilee of 70 years on the throne on 6 February.

The prime minister, Boris Johnson, had been speaking earlier in the day about moves to lift Covid-19 restrictions, saying: "Now is the moment for everybody to