

What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. stocks dropped in a volatile session as tensions over Ukraine escalated. The S&P 500 fell 1%, pushing into correction territory, while the Dow and Nasdaq lost 1.4% and 1.2%, respectively. **A1**

◆ **Oil, natural-gas and agricultural prices** rose as the situation threatened to disrupt flows of natural resources from Eastern Europe to world markets. **B13**

◆ **Macy's has opted against** separating its e-commerce business from its bricks-and-mortar stores amid calls from activist investor Jana to increase shareholder returns. **B1**

◆ **VW said it is in advanced** talks with its largest shareholder, Porsche Automobil Holding SE, that could lead to an IPO of Porsche AG. **B1**

◆ **Home-price growth** in the U.S. surged 18.8% in 2021, as low mortgage rates prompted buyers to compete fiercely for a limited number of homes for sale. **A2**

◆ **Home Depot said** sales growth will likely slow this year, as the home-improvement retailer posted an 11% rise in quarterly revenue. **B1**

◆ **Meta ramped up its** counterattack against TikTok by launching Reels for all global Facebook users and introducing many new features for advertisers. **B1**

◆ **Hedge fund Standard General** said it struck a deal valued at \$5.4 billion to buy TV broadcaster Tegna. **B3**

◆ **The U.S. urged** Canada to abandon a plan to impose a digital service tax on large businesses. **A2**

World-Wide

◆ **The U.S. and European** allies outlined a range of sanctions against Russia for what Biden called "the beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine," measures that included blacklisting two major banks and halting the Nord Stream 2 natural-gas pipeline. **A1, A8-9**

◆ **Ukraine's president** mobilized reserve military personnel as Russian troops poured into his country's eastern Donbas region. **A1**

◆ **A federal jury** found three white men who murdered Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man, in Georgia in 2020 guilty of hate crimes and other charges. **A3**

◆ **The U.S. Soccer Federation** and members of the women's national team who sued it for gender discrimination reached a \$24 million settlement agreement. **A3**

◆ **The Supreme Court** said it would consider whether a Colorado website designer had a First Amendment right to refuse to produce same-sex wedding announcements. **A4**

◆ **McConnell said** he had no objections to Biden's announcement that his Supreme Court nominee would be a Black woman, after other Republicans criticized the selection criteria. **A4**

◆ **Canada has told** the country's banks to unlock financial accounts belonging to individuals involved in a protracted Covid-19 protest in Ottawa that police shut down. **A18**

◆ **Trump's social-networking** platform, Truth Social, has gone live in the U.S., but some would-be users reported glitches. **A6**

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West Hits Moscow With Sanctions



Russian army troops maneuver Tuesday in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, near the border with eastern Ukraine.

U.S., allies target banks and pipeline as Biden cites 'beginning of invasion' of Ukraine

The U.S. and its European allies outlined on Tuesday a range of sanctions against Russia for what President Biden called "the beginning of a

By Ian Talley in Washington, Laurence Norman in Berlin and Max Colchester in London

Russian invasion of Ukraine," measures that included blacklisting two major banks and halting the Nord Stream 2 natural-gas pipeline.

The coordinated U.S. and European actions fall short of the package of sanctions threatened by the administration if Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, but taken together, the measures are meant to limit Russia's access to the global financial system.

Japan, Australia and Canada also announced that they would impose sanctions against Russia.

Mr. Biden promised to expand the measures if Russia continued its invasion, punishing Moscow for launching the war, increasing the cost of pursuing it and trying to force an end to the campaign.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia ordered troops on Monday. *Please turn to page A8*

Ukraine Crisis

Rising tensions from Russia's actions increase global economic risk... **A8**
 Putin hardened his position despite diplomacy... **A9**
 Kyiv warns Russian spies are poised to move... **A9**

Ukraine Mobilizes as Russia Rolls In

Ukraine's president mobilized reserve military personnel as Russian troops poured into his country's eastern Donbas region on Tuesday, one

By Yaroslav Trofimov in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thomas Grove in Novoluhanske, Ukraine, and Andrew Restuccia in Washington

day after Moscow recognized two Russian-controlled states there as independent. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said in a tele-

vised address that Russia's threat to Ukraine's sovereignty forced him to recall military reservists to active duty and to mobilize members of new territorial defense brigades for exercises. He said Ukraine wouldn't carry out a general mobilization of civilians.

"We are certain of ourselves, we are certain in our country, we are certain in our victory," Mr. Zelensky said. "We are here to overcome, not to cry."

Kyiv and its Western partners were waiting to see whether the Russian forces en-

tering the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" that President Vladimir Putin of Russia recognized on Monday would try to punch through Ukrainian positions in the coming days and try to seize the two-thirds of the region that they claim but don't control. That would trigger even harsher measures than the punishments meted out Tuesday by the U.S. and its allies, officials said, which included U.S. sanctions of two Russian financial institutions and its sovereign debt.

Russia's parliament for-

mally accepted on Tuesday Mr. Putin's request to use military force abroad, which the Biden administration characterized as the start of an invasion.

"We think this is, yes, the beginning of an invasion. Russia's latest invasion into Ukraine," Jonathan Finer, White House principal deputy national security adviser, said on CNN Tuesday morning. "An invasion is an invasion and that is what is under way."

The Russian troop movements led U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to can-

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Economic Boom Hasn't Raised America's Spirits

Polls show that discontent is widespread. Behind it: inflation, shortages, pandemic

By Josh Mitchell

Americans normally are happiest when the economy is growing rapidly. The unusual nature of today's recovery has upended that pattern.

Last year was the best year for job growth on record. Workers are commanding solid wage gains. Booming home and stock-market values have lifted household wealth to records.

But the record job growth followed record job losses in

2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Inflation at 7.5% is eating up those wage gains for many Americans. And the unsettling effects of the pandemic, such as product shortages, are still playing out.

That explains why consumers say they feel as bad as they did in the financial-crisis year of 2009, a recent Gallup poll showed. For the

Please turn to page A10

◆ Home-price rise hit a record 18.8% in 2021... **A2**

S&P 500 Slips Into Correction, Off 10% From Its January High



By Will Horner and Michael Wursthorn

Stocks dropped in a volatile trading session Tuesday that pushed the S&P 500 into correction territory as tensions in Eastern Europe escalated.

The broad stock-market index closed down 1%, hitting its lowest level in more than four months, as investors digested the ramifications of Russia's deployment of soldiers into Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

The threat of war has become the latest wild card for investors who were already concerned with supply-chain disruptions, rapidly rising inflation and central banks' plans to tighten monetary policy.

The S&P 500 declined 44.11 points to 4304.76, leaving the

index down more than 10% from its Jan. 3 high and marking its first correction since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in February 2020.

The index pared even bigger losses of nearly 2% after President Biden unveiled sanctions against Russia that were less aggressive than feared, analysts and investors said.

Stocks, which were near their session lows during Mr. Biden's speech outlining the sanctions, recouped a chunk of their declines.

"We don't think heightened sanctions by themselves would meaningfully impact the long-term earnings potential of U.S. companies," said Dave Sekera, Morningstar's chief U.S. mar-

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◆ Bearish bets against markets are surging... **B1**

INSIDE



SPORTS
 A nerdy baseball stat, 'wins above replacement,' goes mainstream. **A14**



BUSINESS & FINANCE
 Macy's won't separate its e-commerce from its bricks-and-mortar stores. **B1**

A Real-Life 'Queen's Gambit'—Maid Becomes a Chess Champ

Brazilian player cleaned houses, studied games, working her way to tournaments

By Samantha Pearson

MACAÍBA, Brazil—Cibele Florêncio was just 24 when she was crowned vice champion at a national chess tournament in Brazil last year, no mean feat given she was spending up to 12 hours a day cleaning houses. A maid and single mother from Brazil's poor northeastern scrublands, Ms. Florêncio is competing at the highest level at what is still considered an elitist game in one of the world's most unequal countries.



Power player

"People look at me and wonder what the hell I'm doing there," she said of the other contenders at tournaments—players she described as mostly nerdy.

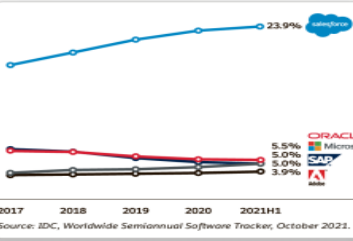
"But I use it to my advantage," said Ms. Florêncio. "They let their guard down." Ms. Florêncio's arms are covered in tattoos of a lion and the initials of her 5-year-old son, Nicollas. She said her friends have likened her to the prodigy from the award-winning Netflix series, "The Queen's Gambit"—a young woman who defies the odds to rise to the top of the chess world in 1950s America. Ms. Florêncio watched it three times, she said, but can no longer afford the streaming fee.

She was 9 when she started playing. The town's then-mayor, an aficionado himself, had introduced chess training to the public school curriculum. She became ob-

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Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2021 H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following ITC-defined functional markets: Sales Force Productivity and Management, Marketing Campaign Management, Customer Service, Contact Center, Advertising, and Digital Commerce Applications. © 2021 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., as are other names and marks.

Monetarism talks

Inflation gives well-worn ideas a new lease of life — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 17

Xi's overseas dragnet

The hunt for fugitives as corruption crackdown widens — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Stress test

Investors risk underplaying impact of conflict — KATIE MARTIN, PAGE 11

Putin backs separatist claims to whole Donbas region of Ukraine

Endorsement raises stakes Scholz freezes Nord Stream 2 UK, US and EU sanctions



MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW
GUY CHAZAN — BERLIN
HENRY FOY — BRUSSELS

Vladimir Putin has endorsed the claims of Russian-backed separatists to the entire Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, taking the countries closer to full-blown conflict despite tougher than expected western sanctions.

Minutes after Russia's upper house of parliament unanimously approved a "peacekeeping" mission to the Donbas, Putin said that "the best solution" to the crisis would be for Ukraine to "demilitarise", abandon its goal of joining Nato and pledge neutrality.

The move came hours after German chancellor Olaf Scholz halted the approval of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, which connects Russia directly with Germany, scuppering Europe's most controversial energy project.

Moscow warned European consumers would end up paying the price. "Welcome to the brave new world where Europeans are very soon going to pay

Russian armoured vehicles in the Rostov region of Russia
Yuri Kochenkov/GPA-EFG/Shutterstock

€2,000 for 1,000 cubic metres of natural gas" tweeted Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chair of Russia's security council and a former president.

By recognising the breakaway provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, Russia had committed a "grave breach of international law", Scholz said.

The separatist states control only about a third of the Donbas, an important industrial region, but claim "historical borders" that Ukraine won back after the conflict broke out in 2014.

The Russian president's decision to send in the military while endorsing the territorial ambitions of the rebel

enclaves has heightened western fears of a broader offensive in coming days.

"Every indication is that Russia is continuing to plan for a full-scale attack on Ukraine," Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said.

Putin said Russian forces would not necessarily enter the Donbas "right now", adding that he hoped the border dispute could be resolved through negotiations but warning of unspecified consequences if his demands were ignored.

The sanctions packages under preparation by the US, UK, EU and Japan were expected to fall short of the toughest economic curbs available, which diplomats said would be triggered if Russia were to drive deeper into Ukraine.

However, Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the west "not to wait" with sanctions until Russia escalated its campaign, saying "the first steps of this aggression have already been taken".

Global stocks fell and oil prices ral-

lied, with Brent crude rising more than 5 per cent to close in on \$100 per barrel, topping a seven-year high. Russian markets were volatile. The benchmark Moex index fell as much as 9 per cent before ending the day up 1.6 per cent.

In the UK, prime minister Boris Johnson announced sanctions on five Russian banks and three "high net worth" individuals. The EU unanimously approved a package of sanctions against Russia and its surrogates in Ukraine, targeting 351 members of the Russian parliament and 27 individuals and entities blamed for undermining Ukraine's sovereignty.

Additional reporting from Sam Fleming and Eleni Vavilioti in Brussels, Laura Hughes in London, Victor Mallet in Paris, Leila Abboud in Vendôme and Demetri Sevastopoulou in Washington
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Russia stocks rise page 6
UK weighs curbs page 10
Andrey Kurkov page 17
Lex page 18

Briefing

► **HSBC keeps \$451mn for China defaults**
The Asia-focused bank has braced itself for more defaults in the troubled property sector and warned of a slowdown in wealth management due to Hong Kong's "zero Covid" strategy. — PAGE 6, LEX, PAGE 18

► **EU slaps new sanctions on Myanmar**
Brussels has imposed curbs on officials and state energy group Myanmar Oil and Gas, a key source of revenue for the junta, following the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's government last year. — PAGE 4

► **Hong Kong announces mandatory tests**
Carrie Lam, the territory's leader, has unveiled new testing for all residents from next month as experts said more than a third of the population would have had Covid by April without fresh curbs. — PAGE 4

► **Record annual rise for US house prices**
Prices have registered an annual gain of 18.8 per cent, the highest annual increase in 34 years as buyers raced to buy ahead of expected rises in interest rates. — PAGE 4

► **Allianz in pay warning over ESG values**
The investment group with €673bn in assets under management has said it will wield its vote against big UK and European companies that fail to link top pay to sustainability metrics from next year. — PAGE 10

► **Pressure mounts on Spanish opposition**
People's party head Pablo Casado has been urged to call a party congress as he seeks to placate regional leaders and grassroots supporters infuriated by his handling of an internal conflict. — PAGE 4

► **Vonovia becomes biggest Adler investor**
The German property group has become the single biggest shareholder in its struggling local rival after Adler's leading investor, Aggregate Holdings, failed to service a margin call on a €250mn loan. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Support for vaccine passports



Australia has the highest average backing for vaccine passports across 26 nations surveyed by YouGov, followed by Saudi Arabia, and Mexico. At the other end of the scale, Poland and Russia have less than 40 per cent average support.



Western allies should now proceed with sanctions on Russian debt; on banks and energy companies; and on Putin's inner circle and oligarchs close to him



Disclosures saddle Peloton with a question of rust

Peloton employees from four US states have given fresh details on how the connected fitness company sought to conceal corrosion on its exercise bikes. Labelled 'Project Tinman', as 'rust' was at odds with Peloton's image, it was a bid to avert a recall soon after a child's death forced it to claw back treadmills, they say. One employee called it 'the single driving factor in my beginning stages of hatred for the company'.

Recall cycle — PAGE 9
LEX — PAGE 18

Volkswagen steers Porsche towards €20bn listing to fund electric growth

JOE MILLER — FRANKFURT

Volkswagen has taken a step towards a €20bn initial public offering of its Porsche brand, in what would be one of Germany's biggest listings in years.

The world's second-largest carmaker by volume said it was in advanced talks with the investment vehicle of its controlling shareholder, the Porsche-Piëch family, over floating one of the automotive industry's most resonant names.

Under the plan, VW would seek to raise at least €20bn through floating about a quarter of Porsche, which it expects to be valued at between €80bn and €90bn, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter.

Using the multiples applied to rival luxury carmakers such as Ferrari, some analysts have put Porsche's market value as high as €200bn, dwarfing VW's mar-

ket capitalisation of roughly €110bn.

The Porsche-Piëch family and VW have an agreement that "should form the basis for further steps in the preparation of a potential IPO", VW said yesterday, declining to comment further.

The prospect of Porsche's joining public markets sent shares in VW up 9 per cent. Along with Audi, Porsche has been a profit engine for VW and has made inroads into the electric car market with its successful Taycan model, which now outsells the classic 911.

VW said a final decision on whether to proceed with an IPO had yet to be taken and would be subject to approval by VW Group's management and supervisory boards. The decision to prepare an IPO comes after VW has faced pressure to revive a share price that has lagged behind Tesla's over the past year and to help fund its own electrification efforts.

VW is already committed to spending €52bn on emissions-free models but executives told the Financial Times it would require further funding for battery factories and to secure materials.

Porsche SE, the listed investment vehicle of the Porsche-Piëch family, which owns 53.3 per cent of the VW shares that carry voting rights, said it might buy ordinary shares in Porsche as part of a potential IPO. Shares in Porsche SE were up 9 per cent at €88.88.

Porsche became part of VW in 2012 in a reverse takeover after the luxury carmaker failed in its attempt to buy VW.

Speculation has mounted that Porsche SE would sell down some of its stake in VW to fund the buying of shares in any IPO of the sports car maker. However, a person familiar with the family's plans said it intended to keep more than 50 per cent of VW's voting shares.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 22	prev	%chg		Feb 22	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4320.60	4340.87	-0.46	\$ per £	1.134	1.134	0.735	US Gov 10 yr	141.60	1.34	0.01
Nasdaq Composite	13397.18	13549.07	-1.11	\$ per €	1.260	1.261	0.200	US Gov 10 yr	1.39	0.96	
Dow Jones Ind	33790.53	34075.18	-0.85	€ per £	0.804	0.803	0.120	Ger Gov 10 yr	0.24	0.04	
FTSEurofirst 300	1780.80	1779.59	0.07	¥ per \$	115.065	114.835	0.014	Jpn Gov 10 yr	110.38	0.19	-0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	3979.35	3985.71	-0.16	HK\$ per \$	1.044	1.038	0.570	US Gov 30 yr	102.79	2.24	0.00
FTSE 100	7494.21	7484.33	0.13	S\$ per £	1.882	1.882		Ger Gov 2 yr	103.93	-0.41	0.05
FTSE All-Share	4172.35	4172.09	0.01								
CAC 40	6787.60	6788.34	-0.01								
Xetra Dax	14903.00	14731.12	-0.26								
Nikkei	28448.61	28819.87	-1.21								
Hong Kong	23520.00	24170.07	-2.89								
MSCI World \$	2975.91	2983.58	-0.26								
MSCI EM \$	1219.46	1221.77	-1.90								
MSCI ACWI \$	700.90	703.34	-0.35								

COMMODITIES			
	Feb 22	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	92.52	91.59	1.02
Oil Brent \$	97.04	96.39	1.73
Gold \$	1894.45	1893.60	0.04

FUTURES			
	Feb 22	prev	%chg
Feed Grains \$	0.08	0.08	0.00
US 3m Bill	0.35	0.36	-0.01
Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
UK 3m	0.88	0.87	0.01

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Morningstar

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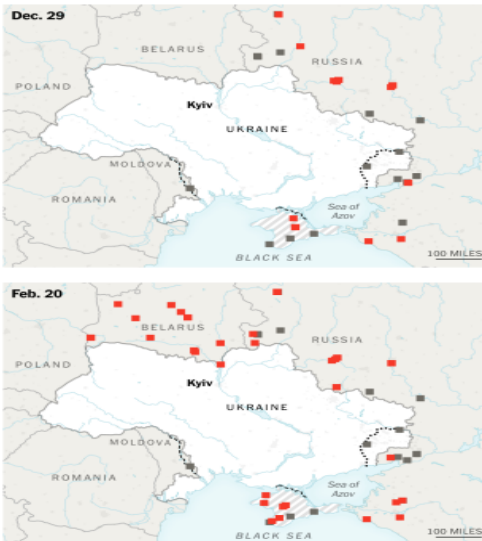


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CONDEMNING RUSSIA, BIDEN ISSUES SANCTIONS

How Russian Troops Closed In on Ukraine

Since October, Russia has built an enormous military force along Ukraine's borders that appears prepared to attack from the north, east and south.



Source: Roohan Consulting | Note: Troop positions in eastern Ukraine and Transnistria include Russian-backed separatists.

Russian military positions: ■ Existing position ■ New position

Joins Allies in Financially Cutting Off Kremlin Over Ukraine 'Invasion'

This article is by Michael D. Shear, Richard Pérez-Peña, Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Anton Troianovskii.

WASHINGTON — The United States and its allies on Tuesday swiftly imposed economic sanctions on Russia for what President Biden denounced as the beginning of an "invasion of Ukraine," unveiling a set of coordinated punishments as Western officials confirmed that Russian forces had begun crossing the Ukrainian border.

Speaking from the White House, Mr. Biden condemned President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and said the immediate consequences for his aggression against Ukraine included the loss of a key natural gas pipeline and cutting off global financing to two Russian banks and a handful of the country's elites.

"Who in the Lord's name does Putin think gives him the right to declare new so-called countries on territory that belonged to his neighbors?" Mr. Biden said on Tuesday afternoon, joining a cascade of criticism from global leaders earlier in the day. "This is a fla-

grant violation of international law and demands a firm response from the international community."

Mr. Biden warned Mr. Putin that more sanctions would follow if the Russian leader did not withdraw his forces and engage in diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis.

But that prospect remained dim by the end of the day, as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken canceled plans to meet with the Russian foreign minister on Thursday, saying that it does not "make sense" to hold talks while Russian forces are on the move.

"To put it simply, Russia just announced that it is carving out a big chunk of Ukraine," Mr. Biden said, adding, "He's setting up a rationale to take more territory by force."

The global response began early on Tuesday, just hours after Mr. Putin recognized the self-declared separatist states in eastern Ukraine and Russian forces started rolling into their territory, according to NATO, European Union and other officials.

Continued on Page A11

Putin Aims to Blot Out History. Who Will Write Europe's Future?

By ROGER COHEN

PARIS — For the prime minister of Lithuania — and Lithuania knows something of life in Moscow's imperium — President Vladimir V. Putin's rambling dismissal of Ukrainian statehood, used to justify sending Russian troops into the eastern part of that state, "put Kafka and Orwell to shame."

There were "no lows too low, no lies too blatant," the prime minister, Ingrida Simonyte, said of Mr. Putin's menacing explanation on Monday of his decision to recognize two separatist regions of Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk. But if the speech revived the doublespeak of the

Soviet Union, more than 30 years after its demise, did it also rekindle the Soviet threat and the Cold War that went with it?

On many levels, the challenge Mr. Putin's revanchist Russia presents to the West is different. This Russia has no pretense of a global ideology. The Cold War depended on closed systems; computer technology put an end to that. No Soviet tanks are poised to roll across the Prussian plains and absorb all Europe in a totalitarian empire. Nuclear Armageddon is not on the table.

Yet, perhaps because of the way he prepared the ground for full-scale war, saying Russia has "every right to take retaliatory measures" against what he called a fictive nation led by usurpers who would be responsible

West Hears the Echoes of the Continent's Darker Days

ble for the bloodshed, Mr. Putin's decision felt like a breaking point that went beyond his annexation of Crimea in 2014. It held up the specter of Europe's darkest days. He laid down a marker, setting the outer limit of the European whole and free of 1989.

The Russian president's aggressive move was a slap in the face to President Emmanuel Macron of France, who has led efforts to engage with Russia, and it left, at least for now, the idea of some reconfigured Euro-

pean security architecture moribund.

In its place, division and confrontation loomed in a world marked by what Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken called "President Putin's flagrant disrespect for international law and norms." The White House called Russia's move "the beginning of an invasion."

China, walking a fine line between its support for Mr. Putin and its support for the territorial integrity of sovereign nations, has declined to criticize Russia, while saying those norms must be upheld. Still, in a month when Russia and China cemented a friendship with "no limits," Mr. Putin's order to dispatch troops into Ukraine suggested how

Continued on Page A8

U.S. Women's Soccer Players Win a Promise of Equal Pay

By ANDREW DAS

For six years, the members of the World Cup-winning United States women's soccer team and their bosses argued about equitable treatment of female players. They argued about whether they deserved the same charter flights as their male counterparts and about the definition of what constituted equal pay.

But the long fight that set key members of the women's team against their bosses at U.S. Soccer ended on Tuesday just as abruptly as it had begun, with a settlement that included a multimillion-dollar payment to the players and a promise by their federation to equalize pay between the men's and women's national teams.

Under the terms of the agreement, the women — a group of several dozen current and former players that includes some of the world's most popular and decorated athletes — will share \$24 million in payments from U.S. Soccer. The bulk of that figure is back pay, a tacit admission that compensation for the men's and women's teams had been unequal for



ALEX GRIMM/GETTY IMAGES
American players after capturing the World Cup in 2019.

years.

Perhaps more notable is U.S. Soccer's pledge to equalize pay between the men's and women's national teams in all competitions, including the World Cup, in the teams' next collective bargaining agreements. That gap was once seen as an unbridgeable divide preventing any sort of equal pay settlement. If it is closed by the federation in negotiations with

Continued on Page A18

Federal Jury Finds That Arbery Killing Was Motivated by Racism

This article is by Tarro Mzezewa, Audra D. S. Burch and Richard Fausset.

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — A jury on Tuesday found the three white Georgia men who murdered Ahmaud Arbery guilty of a federal hate crime, determining that they were motivated by racism when they chased the 25-year-old Black man through their neighborhood.

The case was one of the most high-profile hate crime trials in years, and came after a rash of acts of violence against African Americans, including Mr. Arbery and George Floyd, led to protests and soul-searching around the nation. It was seen as a victory for the Justice Department, which has pledged to make such cases a priority.

While legal analysts say that hate crimes are especially difficult to prove, federal prosecutors in the Georgia trial presented voluminous evidence of the defendants' racist beliefs and crude language, leaving some jurors visibly shaken. It took them roughly four hours to reach a verdict. When it was read aloud in court, some jurors wept.

National civil rights leaders

hailed the conviction as a victory for racial justice.

"As the nation continues to grapple with racially motivated violence by police and vigilantes who shroud themselves in self-appointed authority, the jury sent a powerful message: We see you for what you are, and we will not tolerate your deadly campaign of intimidation," said Marc H. Morial, chief executive of the National Urban League. "This verdict draws a clear line in the sand."

Mr. Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, said she never doubted that the jury would find the defendants guilty, but her satisfaction was tempered with grief. "As a mother I will never heal," she said. "They gave us a small sense of victory, but we will never get victory because Ahmaud is dead."

In addition to the hate crime convictions, the jury also found the three men — Travis McMichael, 36, his father, Gregory McMichael, 66, and their neighbor William Bryan, 52 — guilty of attempted kidnapping and found the McMichaels guilty of one count each of brandishing or discharging a firearm during a vio-

Continued on Page A15



Ahmaud Arbery's mother at the verdict in Brunswick, Ga.



INTERNATIONAL A4-13

U.N. Climate Change Report

Rising heat may bring a 50 percent increase in the occurrence of severe wildfires by the century's end. PAGE A6

A Rise in Attacks in Pakistan

The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has led to more terrorism, putting Pakistan in a tight spot. News Analysis. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A14-18

Checking In on Subway Plan

In the first morning rush hour since a policy to remove the homeless from the system took effect, there were signs of change and plenty of gripes. PAGE A17

Revisiting Gay Marriage Issue

The Supreme Court will look at how to reconcile claims of religious liberty with laws barring discrimination. PAGE A16

OBITUARIES A20-21

A Spy With the Gift of Gab

Peter Earnest, who spent decades at the C.I.A., was also a savvy raconteur who led a spy museum. He was 88. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-5

Treasury Pushed on Its Hiring

Two Democratic lawmakers asked for an investigation into the revolving door between the department and the country's biggest accounting firms. PAGE B3

SPORTS B6-8

Five Weeks in Las Vegas

A new league with a short season has offered some women's basketball players a lifeline. PAGE B6

Mickelson Offers an Apology

Facing a backlash, Phil Mickelson said he regretted supporting a breakaway Saudi Arabia-backed golf tour. PAGE B7



FOOD D1-8

Savoring Miami's Croquettes

These finger foods come in flavors like ham, chicken or fish, but a new era of chefs isn't stopping there. PAGE D6

Man's Best Dinner Companion?

Paleo, vegan, gluten-free: Owners are putting pets on human regimens, but some experts are skeptical. PAGE D1

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Putting 'Killing Eve' to Rest

Sandra Oh and Jodie Comer talked about their journey together through four seasons of the series. PAGE C1

A Linguistic Struggle

In a play by Sanaz Toossi, four Iranians and a language teacher find much to learn in a second tongue. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

Madeline Albright

PAGE A23



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Sports betting still a gamble

Many state voters lean toward legalizing practice, poll says. But a battle looms ahead.

By JOHN MYERS
AND TARYN LUNA

SACRAMENTO — California voters are open to the idea of creating a legal market for betting on college and professional sports, but fewer than half of those surveyed in a new poll are sure of their support, an unsettled finding that serves as a prelude to a multimillion-dollar political battle in November.

A poll released Wednesday by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies and co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Times finds 49% of voters surveyed would support amending the California Constitution to allow sports betting. One-third of voters said they are opposed to such an effort while the remaining 22% of respondents — more than 1 in 5 — are undecided.

The poll did not ask voters to weigh in on any of the details of how California would establish legal sports betting. As many as three ballot measures on the topic could appear on the statewide ballot in November, each envisioning a different business model. The proposals are backed by rival groups promising to spend what could be a record amount of campaign cash to prevail on election day.

"It's just anybody's guess right now how an initiative might fare," said Mark DiCamillo, the institute's survey director. "They might be able to win if they can pass a benefit to the state and a lack of harm to the larger population."

Efforts to legalize sports betting in California have been in the works since 2008, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law that banned all states except Nevada from establishing sports betting operations. The legal challenge was brought by New Jersey in its bid to boost the sagging fortunes of its race tracks and Atlantic City casinos.

Four years later, the industry has kicked into high gear. More than 30 states, including all of those that share a border with California, have already authorized sports betting operations. But no state offers as lucrative a market as the one estimated by the poll.

U.S. hits Russia with sanctions



MEMBERS OF a presidential honor guard carry the coffin of Capt. Anton Sidorov to a cathedral in Kyiv, Ukraine. The army said he died of a shrapnel wound amid shelling by separatists in the country's east.

ANALYSIS

Economy will feel the pain

Putin's advances in Ukraine and the U.S. response bode ill for oil prices and inflation.

By DON LEE

WASHINGTON — Whatever the consequences for Russia of the new sanctions that President Biden announced Tuesday, the invasion of Ukraine and ensuing global standoff will further darken the outlook for the U.S. economy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to employ a so-called salami military tactic by sending troops into a slice of Ukraine only adds to the uncertainty for global and American economies still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conflict is likely to push up oil prices, at least in the very near term, adding to the already worrisome level of inflation.

It remains to be seen how much pain the new U.S. sanctions targeting Russian banks and individuals will inflict on the Russian economy. Some analysts viewed them as relatively modest and not nearly strong enough to speak before blurring out



IRINA Federovna, 60, lives in New York, Ukraine, a few miles from the contact line with separatist fighters — and a potential target for a Russian assault.

'Situation getting worse': Ukraine town can hear it

As shelling increases and Russian soldiers enter, the question is, how far will they go?

By NABIH BULOS

NEW YORK, Ukraine — The bakery in the center of town offered poppy seed babka-like pastries and breads of various shades. The baker seemed reluctant to speak before blurring out

that the shelling — always present but also far away — increased in recent days. She would have said more, but a tall, burly pensioner wearing an imposing gray coat and a black fur hat jumped in with his own opinion:

"Situation getting worse," he said, alluding to the prospect that Russian troops may be on their way, before walking out without waiting for a response.

Not far away, in the central square, Dmitri

Sergeivich, a 44-year-old who works at the nearby chemical plant, sat with two of his friends, joking and discussing the affairs of the day in the suddenly cool evening air. He gave an easy smile that belied his midlevel-street-enforcer looks.

"I live on a nearby mountain that looks into Donetsk so I'm not worried," he said, pointing to a sprinkling of houses on a nearby hill. Besides, he was sure no one would attack the chemical

[See Ukraine, A4]

Biden and European allies roll out unified response as invasion of Ukraine begins.

By ELI STOKOLS
AND TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced Tuesday that the United States will levy its first tranche of economic sanctions against Moscow, responding in concert with European allies to what he described as "the beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine" while holding stronger measures in reserve.

"I'm going to begin to impose sanctions in response far beyond the steps we and our allies and partners implemented in 2014," Biden said, a reference to the response that followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine eight years ago.

"If Russia goes further with this invasion, we stand to go further with sanctions" against Moscow, he added.

U.S. sanctions will hit "large Russian financial institutions" in a way that will "cut off Russia's government from Western financing," Biden said from the White House, adding that similar measures would soon also target "Russian elites" and their family members, including the head of Russia's Federal Security Service, known as the FSB, the main domestic security agency that succeeded the Soviet-era KGB.

Shortly after Biden's announcement, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said he had called off his planned meeting this week in Geneva with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov.

"Now that we see the invasion is beginning and Russia has made clear its wholesale rejection of diplomacy, it does not make sense to go forward with that meeting at this time," Blinken said.

Speaking to reporters in Washington with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba at his side, Blinken said that he was not yet giving up completely on diplomacy but that Putin was fulfilling the worst of U.S. predictions of how he would attempt to attack and "subordinate" Ukraine.

"The United States and I personally remain committed to diplomacy if Russia is prepared to take demonstrable steps to provide the

[See Biden, A4]

Europeans fear a new Cold War

Russia's incursion in Ukraine raises concern of a return to East-West divisions. WORLD, A3

COLUMN ONE

The ultimate influencer, born too soon

Vito Paulekas and his dancers shaped L.A.'s '60s hippie scene. Has he been forgotten?

By ERIK HIMMELSBACH-WEINSTEIN

Vito Paulekas was a freak. He was also a painter, a sculptor, a marathon dancer, a felon, an enthusiastic devotee of free love and a civic leader. He enlightened many, infuriated others and was the sort of influencer who would have blown up on TikTok and Instagram. Too bad he was born about 100 years too soon.

In the 1960s, Paulekas helped change the way a generation danced by eschewing rigid norms of partner-focused choreographed steps that had dominated Western cultures for centuries. If you've ever been to a Grateful Dead show or seen the "Woodstock" movie, you'll find ample evidence of his impact.

Paulekas viewed dance as a form of self-expression whose movements should be determined solely by how the music's beat makes you feel, and he led a ragtag troupe of young dancers (known as the Freaks) into clubs



BB PAULEKAS with family photos, some showing father Vito Paulekas, who led a troupe of dancers, known as the Freaks, in the '60s L.A. music scene.

Hate crimes in Arbery case

Georgia victim's family sees vindication in verdicts against the 3 men who hunted him down. NATION, A6

Mayor hopefuls face protesters

Candidates jab an absent Rick Caruso at an event interrupted by foes of a larger LAPD. CALIFORNIA, B1

They all won in soccer pay suit

U.S. federation, women's team can both claim victory in settlement, Kevin Baxter writes. SPORTS, B10

Weather: Chilly, early showers. L.A. Basin: 58/37, B6

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Arbery's killers guilty of hate crime

Verdict is first race-based conviction in high-profile slayings of Black people

BY DAVID NAKAMURA
AND MARGARET COKER

A federal jury offered Almaud Arbery's family and civil rights leaders another measure of justice Tuesday by convicting three White men of committing a hate crime when they chased and killed him — the first race-based conviction in any of the high-profile slayings of Black people that sparked mass protests in 2020.

The verdict came after just a few hours of deliberations, following a trial in Brunswick, Ga., that focused on a history of racist and offensive statements from Gregory McMichael, 66, Travis McMichael, 36, and William "Roddie" Bryan, 52.

Jurors found the men guilty of all the federal charges they faced: using force and threats of force to intimidate and interfere with Arbery's right to use a public street because of his race, and attempted kidnapping, for all three defendants; and a weapons violation for the McMichaels.

U.S. District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood said she will determine their federal sentences in coming weeks.

The convictions represent a victory for President Biden's Justice Department, which has vowed to more aggressively prosecute hate crimes, and for civil rights groups that have demanded greater accountability in racially motivated attacks against Black people and other minorities.

The federal government moved forward with the prosecution even after the men were convicted of murder in a state court last fall.

SEE ARBERY ON A3

The Critique: Lessons for the U.S. in Wanda Cooper-Jones's anger. A2

Floyd case: Civil rights trial puts focus on police department. A4

West rolls out penalties against Russia



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Putin's plans stir defiance, fear for city in harm's way

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN

KHARKIV, UKRAINE — About 50 miles from where Russian troops and tanks are massed, a group of Ukrainians put their hands over their hearts, held up flags and sang the country's national anthem.

"Glory to Ukraine, glory to heroes," they said in unison Tuesday, before adding a crude quip about Russian President Vladimir Putin.

SEE KHARKIV ON A17



ALEXANDER ERMOCHENKO/REUTERS

TOP: In Kharkiv, which is close to Russia and in a region just west of the separatist areas of eastern Ukraine, people gather for Patriots' Day. **ABOVE:** A militant of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic watches as evacuees board a train in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk.

Tools of coercion: When it comes to Putin, sanctions may have limited effectiveness. A14

Energy prices: Market uncertainty grows as oil and natural gas costs surge. A15

Sanctions from Europe include halting pipeline

This article is by Emily Randolph, Karla Adam, William Booth, Greg Miller and Lovelady Morris.

BRUSSELS — European leaders who had been emphasizing diplomacy with Moscow rapidly shifted gears Tuesday after Russia deployed troops into two separatist regions of Ukraine.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Berlin would halt the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project between Russia and Germany, dealing a blow to Russia's energy sector. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced what he said was a "first barrage" of sanctions, targeting five Russian banks and three Russian billionaires.

SEE EUROPE ON A13

U.S. MOVES AGAINST 2 BANKS, ELITES

Biden vows more if Ukraine 'invasion' grows

BY SHANE HARRIS,
ELLEN NAKASHIMA
AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

The White House on Tuesday announced a round of sanctions targeting Russian banks and limiting the country's access to financial markets after Russia sent troops into two regions of eastern Ukraine, a step U.S. and European officials characterized as the opening stages of a wider war.

The sanctions, which targeted two state-owned banks as well as Russians the White House called Kremlin-connected "elites," were significant but stopped short of the most severe penalties the administration had threatened. Biden, who described Moscow's military advance as "the beginning" of an invasion, said the measures announced Tuesday were "the first tranche of sanctions" and warned that more could come.

"If Russia goes further with this invasion, we stand prepared to go further with sanctions," he said, one day after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into the two breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, which he formally recognized as independent. Putin said the troops were on a "peacekeeping" mission. Biden called Russia's actions "a flagrant violation of international law."

The U.S. measures paired with similar efforts in Europe, including the mothballing of the \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany that will now sit dormant for the foreseeable future.

Putin's actions followed a sharp increase in violence in eastern Ukraine over the weekend. Civilians in Ukrainian-controlled parts of the east said they thought their homes were being targeted by separatists to provoke a response from Ukrainian government forces. U.S. officials have repeatedly warned that Russian troops might stage such an attack to justify an invasion.

SEE UKRAINE ON A16

At the border, scarred land and barrier gaps

After halting Trump-ordered wall projects, Biden administration pursues remediation and repairs

BY NICK MIROFF

GUADALUPE CANYON, ARIZ. — The demolition crews kept right on blasting through the Peloncillo Mountains long after Donald Trump lost the election, a result that doomed their contracts. They carved steep roads at dizzying angles and gouged a wide path through the ridge line where the border wall would go.

The clock ran out before they built it, leaving behind a mutilated landscape and a boneyard of steel fence panels stacked by the hundreds.

At more than \$41 million per mile, Guadalupe Canyon was the most expensive segment of a \$15 billion megaproject that ranked among the costliest in U.S. history. Today the abandoned border wall site is a liability for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, with loose rocks and boulders sliding down the mountainsides.

Sage Goodwin, whose family's nearby ranch house rattled daily through nine months of blasting.

SEE BORDER ON A10



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Gaps are visible in the border wall east of Sasabe, Ariz., where contractors racing to build before Donald Trump left office did not complete segments that required custom panels.

Women's soccer players settle equal pay lawsuit

\$24 million agreement with the U.S. federation is hailed as a historic win

BY MOLLY HENSLEY-CLANCY

Members of the U.S. women's national team reached a settlement with the U.S. Soccer Federation on Tuesday that will guarantee equal pay with the men's team and offer players millions in back pay, ending a six-year fight in a gender discrimination case that resonated through American sports and beyond.

The \$24 million settlement, \$22 million of which will go to the players behind the suit, was effectively an admission that U.S. Soccer had not paid its women's team equally. It won praise from prominent figures — including President Biden, who called the case a "long overdue victory in the fight for equal pay" in a tweet Tuesday.

"This is going to be one of those incredible moments that

we look back on and say the game changed forever, U.S. Soccer changed forever, and the landscape of soccer in the country and in the world changed forever because of this," said Megan Rapinoe, one of the players who led the suit.

Rapinoe, Alex Morgan, Christen Press and 25 other players argued that had they been paid under the contract offered to the men's team, they would have earned substantially more money. After they sued their employer in the lead-up to the 2019 World Cup, the players went on to secure their fourth world title as the stadium in France reverberated with chants of "Equal pay!"

In the world of professional sports, where some of the deepest divides remain in pay and working conditions between men and women, the U.S. women's national team command a powerful platform from which to challenge inequality.

SEE SOCCER ON A8

Sally Jenkins: An apology, not the money, forged this settlement. D1

IN THE NEWS

Hong Kong Amid a surge, officials imposed coronavirus testing mandates and other emergency measures. A9

Omicron Vaccine protection was weaker in the last wave, the CDC said. A18



LAM YIK/REUTERS

THE NATION President Biden is in the final stages of making his first nomination to the Supreme Court — having completed interviews with at least three leading contenders. A6

THE WORLD South Koreans overwhelmingly want a do-

mestic nuclear weapons program, a new poll found. A12

THE ECONOMY The Help Desk tested Samsung's newest flagship phones. Here are six things you should know about the Galaxy S22 offerings. A19

THE REGION Metro's inability to respond to emergencies in a safe and organized way is putting first re-

sponders and transit users at risk, an audit said. B1
Federal and local officials were bracing for potential "Freedom Convoy" spinoffs in the D.C. area. B1

OBITUARIES Paul Farmer, 62, a lauded physician, was credited with improving millions of lives in the poorest parts of the world. B6

INSIDE



FOOD Injured hospitality Restaurant service has taken a hit in the pandemic, and diners' patience is wearing thin.

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Tiene 16 años y le ganó al campeón mundial de ajedrez

El indio Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa sorprendió a Magnus Carlsen, rey de los tableros desde 2013; de niño veía 30 videos por día y hoy es sensación. **Deportes, página 3**



MIRTHA LEGRAND CUMPLE 95: ÉXITOS Y CRÍTICAS DE UNA DIVA

—espectáculos

Desde su llegada a Buenos Aires, la actriz y conductora recorrió un largo camino de mucho éxito, censura y sinsabores; hoy su continuidad en la TV es una incógnita.

EL ARTE ARGENTINO VUELVE A EUROPA Y RECUPERA LA ILUSIÓN

—cultura

Con un festejo postergado por la pandemia, se celebran esta semana los 40 años de ARCO, la feria que le abrió las puertas del Primer Mundo a la creación local. **Página 25**

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 23 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Biden condenó la invasión rusa en Ucrania e impuso sanciones con los aliados

REPRESALIAS. La Casa Blanca tomó medidas punitivas contra oligarcas y bancos ligados al Kremlin; Alemania suspendió la activación de un gasoducto clave para las arcas de Moscú

WASHINGTON/PARÍS (De nuestros corresponsales).—El enfrentamiento entre Rusia y Occidente por la crisis de Ucrania escaló dramáticamente ayer después de que el presidente norteamericano, Joe Biden, y gobernantes europeos respondieron con nuevas sanciones contra oligarcas y

bancos rusos tras la invasión ordenada por el jefe del Kremlin, Vladimir Putin, en dos regiones del este ucraniano controladas por separatistas prorrusos. Alemania, por su parte, suspendió la activación de un gasoducto, clave para las exportaciones energéticas de Moscú. La fuerte

crítica internacional no fue acompañada por el gobierno de Alberto Fernández, que en un comunicado de la Cancillería, en el que no menciona a Rusia, evitó condenar la ofensiva de Putin sobre el territorio soberano ucraniano y llamó al diálogo a ambas partes. **Páginas 2 a 8**

EE.UU. y la OTAN, ante “la guerra de Putin”

Thomas L. Friedman **Página 4**

El anhelo de Moscú detrás de la ofensiva

Stephen Fidler **Página 6**

EL ANÁLISIS

Fascinación kirchnerista por Putin

Joaquín Morales Solá

—LA NACION—

El fuego que arrasa Corrientes es una tragedia y una metáfora. Un gobierno paralizado por una telaraña ideológica que le impide, por ejemplo, discernir entre lo que pudo suceder y lo que sucedió. El documento de ayer sobre la crisis entre Rusia y Ucrania, que ha puesto en vilo la paz mundial, se corresponde con la situación de hace diez días, no con la de ahora, cuando ya Vladimir Putin comenzó la anexión de los estados ucranianos de Lugansk y Donetsk. Un gobierno parcelado, en el que la conducción de los organismos responde solo a la filiación de sus ocupantes dentro de la coalición gobernante, no a sus atributos ni a sus conocimientos de los temas. Continúa en la **página 14**



Camiones militares rusos circulaban ayer por las calles de Donetsk, uno de los territorios separatistas del este ucraniano

AP

La soja volvió a superar los US\$600 en Chicago

MOTIVOS. La soja, el principal producto de exportación del país en forma de poroto, harina, aceite y biodiésel, volvió a superar los US\$600 por tonelada como hace nueve meses en el mercado de Chicago, cuando llegó a US\$610,13. Según los analistas, la suba es por la sequía en Brasil y la Argentina, el aumento de la demanda china y el arrastre por el alza del trigo por la tensión entre Rusia y Ucrania. **Página 18**

Solidaridad. La red de correntinos que lucha contra el fuego

Diego Cabot
Página 22

A foja cero: aún no saben quién era “el dueño” de la cocaína adulterada

NARCOTRÁFICO. No se hallaron rastros de carfentanilo en la droga secuestrada

Un peritaje realizado por la Policía Federal determinó que la droga incautada a Joaquín Aquino, conocido como el Paisa, no contenía carfentanilo, el poderoso opiode

que fue señalado como la sustancia que, mezclada en dosis de cocaína, provocó 24 muertes este mes. Según los investigadores, ese análisis no vincularía a Aquino

con la cocaína adulterada, por lo que la causa vuelve a virtual foja cero y dará un giro para intentar determinar el origen de la sustancia letal. **Página 26**

Detallan en el juicio a Cristina cómo Báez lavaba dinero

CORRUPCIÓN. Un experto de la AFIP declaró nueve horas en la causa por la obra pública. **Página 10**

Rede integrada para rastrear arma não anda, indicam papéis

Exército e Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública não avançaram na integração de sistemas que facilitariam o rastreamento de armas e munições e ajudariam a resolver crimes, apontam documentos a que a Folha teve acesso.

Procurada, a pasta informou que na próxima semana haverá reunião com os militares sobre o tema. O Exército negou dificultar acesso a dados. Cotidiano B1

Ministério Público denuncia 3 presos pela morte de Moise Kabagambe

Cotidiano B2

Reitor diz que USP deve ter banca de identificação racial

O novo reitor da USP, Carlos Gilberto Carlotti Junior, disse que deve implantar um sistema de banca de heteroidentificação racial para evitar fraudes no próximo vestibular. Assim, um grupo deverá conferir a autenticidade da auto-declaração oferecida por quem ingressa por meio de cotas. Cotidiano B4

Doria admite hipótese de desistir de candidatura

Sergio Moro (Podemos) defendeu união urgente de candidatos da terceira via e acenou a João Doria (PSDB), que falou em debater tema "lá adiante". A7

Bruno Boghossian Polícias voltam a preocupar em ano eleitoral

O protesto de policiais em Minas reflete um lento processo de desestabilização das forças de segurança em muitos estados. Agentes fazem política dentro e fora dos quartéis, o que preocupa ainda mais em um ano eleitoral. Opinião A2

Projeto de criptomoedas avança no Congresso

Texto aprovado ontem no Senado deve trazer mais segurança a investidor, mas dificilmente evitará o uso do sistema para lavagem de dinheiro. A13

Esporte B7

Seleção feminina dos EUA e federação chegam a acordo por igualdade salarial

Ilustrada C5

Youtuber Lucas Neto quer distância de passado polêmico e prefere ser isentado

Flávio Bolsonaro mobilizou Receita em caso da 'rachadinha'

Ação consta em documentos inéditos; defesa do senador diz que pedido fora recusado e está surpresa

Documentos inéditos obtidos pela Folha mostram a ação da Receita Federal para apurar acusação do senador Flávio Bolsonaro (PL) de que seus dados fiscais teriam sido acessados e repassados ilegalmente ao órgão federal que originou a investigação das "rachadinhas", o Coaf.

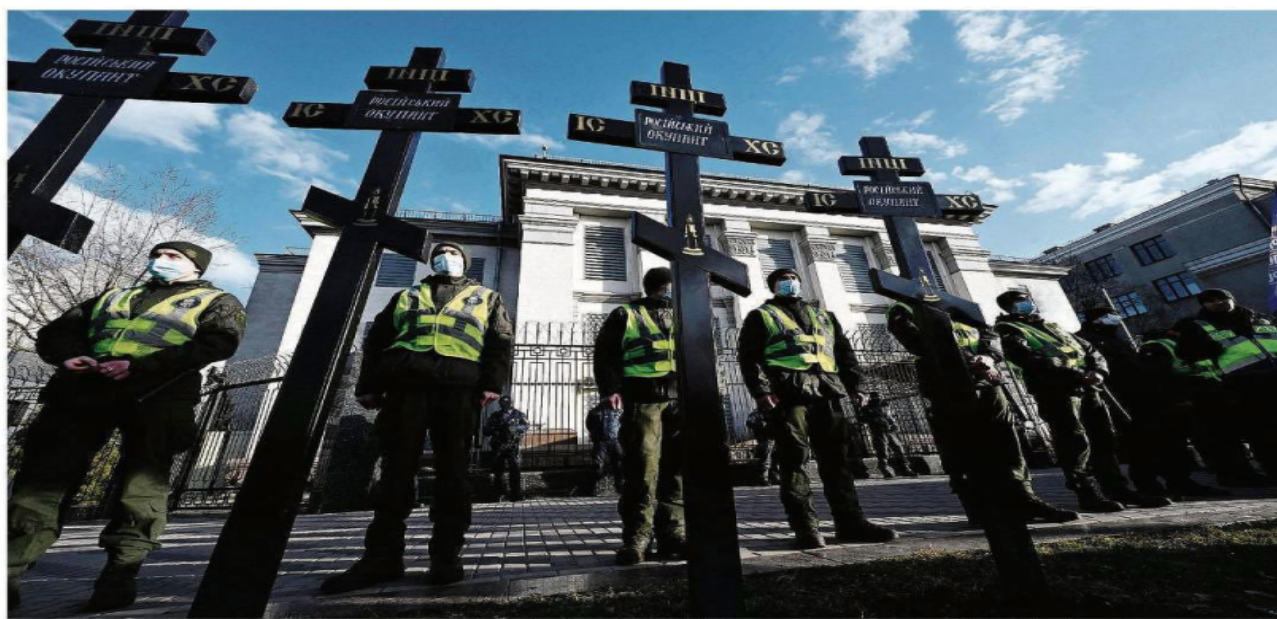
Uma equipe de cinco servidores foi destacada por quatro meses para apurar a acusação do filho do presidente Jair Bolsonaro, in forma Ranier Bragion. A Receita nunca confirmou a mobilização, mas ela consta do processo oriundo do pedido dos advogados de Flávio.

A reportagem apurou o número do processo e o solicitou via Lei de Acesso à Informação. Na petição de agosto de 2020, o senador requisita investigar com máxima urgência a identidade dos auditores que teriam acessado seus dados, os de sua mulher e de empresas a ele ligadas.

A tese era a de que servidores da Receita no Rio de Janeiro haviam vasculhado de forma ilegal essas informações e passado ao Coaf, órgão federal de inteligência financeira que produziu o relatório enviado ao Ministério Público do RJ e fonte da apuração da "rachadinha".

A pesquisa, instaurada em outubro de 2020 por ordem do então secretário especial da Receita, José Barroso Tostes Neto, custou R\$ 490,5 mil.

A defesa do senador se declarou surpresa com a constatação da investigação e afirmou que sua solicitação fora recusada. Política A4 e A5



Agentes da Guarda Nacional Ucraniana após ativistas colocarem túmulos com a inscrição 'ocupante russo' diante da embaixada do país em Kiev. Sergei Supinsky/APP

Biden afirma que Rússia perderá acesso a empréstimos no Ocidente

Joe Biden anunciou ontem mais sanções contra a Rússia, em resposta às ações na Ucrânia. O presidente americano afirmou que as medidas impedirão os russos de fazer transações envolvendo títulos de sua dívida com empresas de EUA e Europa.

"Isso significa que estamos cortando o governo russo das finanças ocidentais", declarou o americano. Vladimir Putin disse também ontem que não enviaria imediatamente tropas para regiões por ele reconhecidas como independentes.

O movimento visou pressionar ainda mais Kiev a aceitar seus termos para a segurança local. Com efeito, o líder russo fez exigências ao governo de Volodimir Zelenski durante uma entrevista coletiva em Moscou. Mundo A9 e A10

ANÁLISE Vinicius Torres Freire Moscou tem como aguentar corte de empréstimos

A longo prazo, a falta de crédito externo deve prejudicar a economia da Rússia. Por ora, eles se viram — as contas externas são superavitárias e o país tem cerca de US\$ 600 bilhões em reservas. Mundo A10

Três brasileiros são presos com cocaína na Tailândia

Três brasileiros foram presos após terem sido flagrados com 15,5 kg de cocaína ao desembarcar no aeroporto de Bancoc, segundo o governo. A droga é avaliada em R\$ 7,4 milhões, de acordo com a imprensa local. O tráfico de drogas pode acarretar pena de morte no país. Mundo A12

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UE recomenda deixar de exigir teste a visitantes vacinados

Mundo A12

EDITORIAIS A2

O show de Putin Acerca de agravamento de ameaças ao Ocidente.

Mais um vizinho Sobre a descriminalização do aborto na Colômbia.



Empresa del traficante prestó al ex ministro una camioneta para vacacionar

Escándalo: Vínculo con un narco detenido en Brasil tumba a Giuzzio

- Federico González lo reemplaza como nuevo ministro del Interior
- Opositores advierten que esto no parará el juicio político a Quiñónez

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Empezó la vacunación en los colegios
El Gobierno eliminó las restricciones impuestas durante la pandemia

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Expo Universidades abre sus puertas con una variada oferta de cursos

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Reunión en Palacio de López
Petróleo sigue en alza y deja latente una nueva suba de los combustibles

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Maratónica jornada para incautar 9 avionetas, inmuebles, ganado y autos de lujo

Operativo contra el crimen organizado deja 7 detenidos, 3 con nexos políticos

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

ÉRIC ZEMMOUR

« CETTE ÉLECTION
EST NOTRE DERNIÈRE
CHANCE » PAGE 9

GÉRARD DEPARDIEU

LA STAR RESSUSCITE
LE COMMISSAIRE MAIGRET
ET SE CONFIE AU « FIGARO » PAGES 28 ET 29

FIGARO scope

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les lieux en vue
pour faire la fête

• Restaurants :
le tour du monde
des meilleurs
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PRÉSIDENTIELLE
Rue de Montpensier,
dans le secret
du décompte des
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PAGES 15 À 17

FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mardi :
Présidentielle :
approuvez-vous le choix d'Emmanuel Macron de retarder son entrée en campagne en raison de la crise ukrainienne ?

OUI 43% NON 57%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 214 015

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Pensez-vous que les sanctions pourront dissuader Vladimir Poutine d'envahir l'Ukraine ?

SEBASTIEN SORIANO/LE FIGARO - F. COMME FILM PASCAL CHANTIER

Ukraine :
jusqu'où ira Poutine ?

Un char russe avance
lundi soir vers Donetsk,
« capitale » d'une des
républiques séparatistes
reconnues par Moscou.

Après la reconnaissance, Moscou a ratifié un accord de défense avec les républiques séparatistes du Donbass, qui fait craindre une invasion russe dans le reste de l'Ukraine.

PAGES 2 À 6, 16, 17 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Nos envoyés spéciaux
à Kiev, à Donetsk
et à Marioupol

Les reporters du Figaro témoignent du dilemme des autorités ukrainiennes confrontées à la menace d'invasion russe, de l'angoisse des habitants de Marioupol, sur la mer d'Azov, face au spectre d'une nouvelle attaque et de la lassitude qui l'emporte chez les séparatistes du Donbass. PAGES 2 ET 3

Les Occidentaux tentent
de s'accorder sur
un régime de sanctions

Les Vingt-Sept, décidés à garder des munitions, ont pris, unanimes, un premier train de sanctions visant les parlementaires russes. Dans un geste symbolique, très attendu à Washington, Berlin s'est résolu à bloquer le gazoduc Nord Stream 2. PAGES 4 ET 5

La campagne
présidentielle
parasitée par le conflit

À moins de cinquante jours du premier tour, l'escalade des tensions entre la Russie et l'Ukraine n'a pas échappé aux candidats. Tous se sont saisis du sujet pour détailler leur vision de la France dans le monde et faire savoir à la population ce qu'ils auraient fait s'ils avaient été aux manettes. PAGE 6

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Un coup d'avance

Au moment où Vladimir Poutine dépêchait une mission russe de « maintien de la paix » dans les républiques sécessionnistes du Donbass nouvellement reconnues, son armée était déjà déployée à l'est de l'Ukraine avec force chars et artillerie, comme en témoignait lundi soir l'envoyé spécial du Figaro à Donetsk. À chaque étape de la dramaturgie qu'il a conçue, le chef du Kremlin s'est arrangé pour avoir un coup d'avance sur ses adversaires – non pas tant à Kiev qu'en Europe et à Washington. Emmanuel Macron en a fait l'amère expérience en offrant un alibi diplomatique à celui qui préparait la guerre. Inutile de se bercer d'illusions : l'arsenal des sanctions occidentales a lui aussi été intégré de longue date dans les calculs de Moscou. Le monde en est réduit à spéculer sur le prochain pion que déplacera le maître russe des échecs. Va-t-il s'en tenir là, comme l'espèrent les optimistes ? C'est peu probable. On ne mobilise pas 190 000 soldats sur tout le pourtour de l'Ukraine juste pour sécuriser deux petites enclaves déjà surarmées. Il est possible que Poutine se donne un peu de temps pour voir si les Ukrainiens tombent dans son piège en réagissant militairement à la perte de leurs

provinces, comme l'avait fait à ses dépens la Géorgie en 2008. À défaut, il a un prétexte tout trouvé : sa reconnaissance des « républiques populaires » de Donetsk et de Louhansk s'applique aux territoires que celles-ci contrôlaient en 2014, mais dont Kiev a reconquis une partie depuis... Rectifier ce tort reviendrait à amorcer une invasion, déclenchant la guerre. Il est assez vertigineux de considérer l'effet boule de neige potentiel d'un conflit en Ukraine. L'Europe, unanime dans sa réprobation, mais déjà cacophonique dans ses réponses, est en première ligne pour en subir l'impact économique, énergétique, humanitaire, migratoire... Les États-Unis, derrière le « parapluie » desquels iront se blottir la plupart des membres de l'UE, ne tarderont sûrement pas à montrer les limites de leur engagement sur le Vieux Continent. Et si la Chine, d'aventure, en profite pour les défer en même temps à Taiwan... ? On aura noté que Poutine a scrupuleusement attendu la clôture des JO de Pékin pour allumer sa mèche. ■

Le monde
spécule sur
le prochain
pion que
bougera
Poutine

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War threat grows as Putin backs Ukraine proxy states

Revealed:
UK 'ghost flight' boom since 2020



● Biden denounces bid to carve out 'a big chunk' of the country

● Germany halts major gas pipeline project as Europe reacts to Russia

Andrew Roth *Moscow*
Emma Graham-Harrison *Kyiv*
Julian Borger *Washington*

Vladimir Putin has said Russia will support the territorial claims of its proxy states in east Ukraine, increasing the likelihood of a larger conflict in the near future in what Joe Biden denounced as an attempt to carve out "a big chunk" of the country.

Putin think gives him the right to declare new so-called countries?" Biden said, announcing new sanctions on two Russian banks and sweeping measures to stop Russia raising capital in western markets.

In a dramatic move Germany halted the approval process for the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia, while the EU and the UK announced sanctions on Russia in a show of concerted western resolve, with EU foreign ministers banning Russian bond trades in the European market.

Boris Johnson revealed a package of asset freezes on five Russian banks and three high net-worth individuals but faced criticism from his MPs for not going further. The UK, US and EU could all bring in further sanctions.

Last night the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergei

▲ Russian armoured vehicles positioned along a road in the Rostov region yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: YURI KOCHETKOV/EPA

'Like taking a peashooter to a gunfight'

Ministers are planning tougher sanctions against Russia, targeting UK-based oligarchs, after a package announced by Boris Johnson yesterday was dismissed as not robust enough by Tory MPs and defence experts.

News Page 5 →

Lavrov, that had been scheduled for tomorrow would not go ahead.

Shrugging off threats of economic isolation, Putin enlarged the scope of Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. Speaking at a press conference, he said that Russia recognised the borders claimed by the self-proclaimed "people's republics" which are well beyond the current frontline and include substantial territories, including towns and cities under Ukrainian government control.

"We have recognised the independence of these republics, which means we have recognised all their fundamental documents, including the constitution. And the constitution prescribes the borders within the Donetsk and Luhansk regions at the time when they were part of Ukraine," Putin said.

Russian troops have already crossed into

Exclusive
Damian Carrington
Environment editor

Almost 15,000 "ghost flights" have departed from the UK, according to newly revealed official figures.

The ghost flights, defined as those with no passengers or less than 10% of passenger capacity, operated from all 32 airports listed in the data.

Heathrow was top, with 4,910 ghost flights between March 2020 and September 2021. Manchester and Gatwick were the next highest. There were an average of 760 ghost flights a month over the period, although the data covered only international departures and not domestic flights.

Flying is one of the most carbon-intensive activities people can undertake and ghost flights have angered those campaigning for action on the climate crisis.

The German airline Lufthansa recently warned it would have to fly 18,000 "unnecessary" flights by March in order to keep its landing slots at airports. Under current rules, airlines lose their valuable slots if they are not sufficiently used.

However, during the pandemic-hit period covered by the new UK data, the rules that had required 80% of slots to be used were completely suspended. Airlines did not have to operate flights to retain the slots, but nonetheless flew 14,472 ghost flights.

"Flights may operate with a low number of passengers for a range of reasons," said the aviation minister Robert Courts, who produced the data in response to a parliamentary question. "Since the onset of the pandemic, the government has provided alleviation from the normal slot regulations. This means airlines have not been required to operate empty or almost empty flights solely to retain their historic slots rights."

The Labour MP Alex Sobel, who asked the



2 →

4 →