

What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. oil prices closed above \$110 a barrel for the first time since 2011 as Russia's war in Ukraine started to scramble world oil flows and OPEC decided it would stick to its plan to boost output only slightly. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the S&P 500, Dow and the Nasdaq gaining 1.9%, 1.8% and 1.6%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **The Fed's Powell**, testifying before a House panel, said he would propose a quarter-percentage point rate increase at the central bank's next policy meeting. **A1**

◆ **Ford is reorganizing** its operations to create two separate divisions—one for its conventional gas-engine business and another to focus on developing electric vehicles and software. **A1**

◆ **The Biden administration** is preparing to confront China on its industrial subsidies and seek ways to protect America's edge in new technologies. **A2**

◆ **Former Nissan executive** Greg Kelly was found guilty of helping Ghosn evade Japan's pay-disclosure laws during one fiscal year and received a suspended sentence. **B1**

◆ **Citigroup has underperformed** its peers and needs a comprehensive transformation that will take years, CEO Fraser told investors. **B1**

◆ **Fanatics has raised \$1.5 billion** from a group of investors, pushing the company's valuation to \$27 billion. **B1**

◆ **The defense team for** former Goldman banker Roger Ng sought to undermine the testimony of the prosecution's star witness. **B10**

Russian Strikes Exact Heavy Toll



Ukrainians take shelter from Russian strikes in a Kyiv subway station on Wednesday, top. Refugees file for residency papers in Prague, bottom. A bombardment continued to inflict heavy damage in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv.

Attacks on Ukraine's cities intensify; deaths from one week of war are put in thousands

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV
AND JAMES MARSON

KYIV, Ukraine—Russian forces pounded Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, with airstrikes in a bid to break the will of the country's resistance as Moscow's offensive toward Kyiv stalled amid fierce Ukrainian counterattacks and logistics mishaps.

Russian missile debris fell near Kyiv's central train station on Wednesday night, damaging a major heating pipeline, with the blast wave breaking the station's windows. Thousands of civilians, particularly women and children, are sheltering in the station at night as they await evacuation trains to western Ukraine. Ukrainian officials said the missile was shot down by Kyiv's air defenses.

In the southern part of the country, Russian forces have gained a swath of land and have entered the Black Sea port city of Kherson.

For the first time, Russia's Defense Ministry acknowledged extensive losses in the seven days of war, saying that 498 Russian troops have been killed and 1,597 injured. Moscow said its forces killed 2,870 Ukrainian soldiers.

Ukraine hasn't released its casualties, but said its military has killed 5,840 Russian troops. Ukrainian officials have put the invasion's civilian death toll at about 2,000.

Kharkiv residents said the city of 1.4 million people suffered heavy bombardment for the third day in a row, including airstrikes that hit residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

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Oil Tops \$110 as Global Trade Is Scrambled

U.S. oil prices closed above \$110 a barrel for the first time since 2011 on Wednesday as

By Collin Eaton,
Joe Wallace
and David S. Cloud

Russia's war in Ukraine started to scramble the world's oil flows and OPEC decided it would stick to its plan to boost

output only slightly.

The jump in prices reflected an uncertain new order emerging among the world's chief buyers and sellers of oil as long-held assumptions about how major players would respond in the event of a supply shock were being upended by rapidly shifting geopolitical views on Russia.

Russian supplies that had

been expected to continue flowing to customers and evade major impacts from sanctions were snarled as some buyers refused to take the cargoes. Middle East producers that had responded to U.S. calls for more production in the past were walking a careful line on Russia, their new partner in the oil alliance known as OPEC+.

Meanwhile, Western compa-

nies such as Exxon Mobil Corp. that had long produced oil with partners in Russia were pulling out, raising questions about that output. And U.S. shale companies, which had been viewed as swing producers that could quickly respond to market shortfalls just a few years ago, continued to indicate they were holding the line on added spending as signs emerged that

their ability to ramp up might be bottlenecked.

Exelis Chief Executive Darren Woods said that existing sanctions directed toward Russia, as well as the possibility for reprisals to escalate, factored into the company's decision to shut down its operations in the country and halt new investment there.

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Ukrainian Jews Decry Putin's Nazi Smear

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

KYIV, Ukraine—Hours after a Russian missile Tuesday struck the television tower in Kyiv's Babyn Yar area, the site of one of the worst massacres during the Holocaust, Vitali Senchenko phoned his cousin in Israel, trying to get his family out of the city.

"The Babyn Yar attack was the last straw," Mr. Senchenko, a cyber defense expert, said on Wednesday in the basement of a synagogue in Kyiv's

Podil area as he prepared to part with his wife Kateryna and their two children, ages 2 years old and 1 month. They were to leave on an evacuation convoy organized by the Jewish community.

Mr. Senchenko said he is remaining in Kyiv to apply his skills helping the city's defense. "He is staying so that we could come back," Kateryna said.

Down the corridor, Galina Naletnikova—who also decided

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How Might the War End? Five Factors Loom Large

By STEPHEN FIDLER

Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine isn't going as planned so far, according to military strategists, with Russia facing tougher armed resistance than expected and harsh Western sanctions.

That raises the question, what next? Although predictions are next to impossible, military strategists are focusing on several factors to provide clues,

including the performance of the armies on the ground and the impact of sanctions.

One thing becoming clear is that the performance of Russia military thus far is delivering Mr. Putin a reality check and potentially scrambling the range of outcomes. "Every day the Ukrainians don't lose, they win politically," said Michael Clarke, former director of the Royal United Services Institute, a London think tank. "And the political cost for him is going

up on a daily basis."

Lawrence Freedman, a professor emeritus of war studies at King's College, London, doesn't think the Russians will succeed in installing a puppet government in Ukraine. "They can't occupy the whole country," he said. "A puppet government in Kyiv not backed by Russian arms wouldn't have any legitimacy and wouldn't survive."

That will likely make it difficult.

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Gerald F. Selb: China and India hold a key for Putin
A4

Sanctions begin to bite Russian citizens
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Pentagon holds off missile test
A8

Wounded Russian soldiers are ferried into Belarus
A10

Abramovich plans to sell soccer club Chelsea
A12

Ford Separates Gas-Engine, EV Units in Major Overhaul

By MIKE COLIAS

Ford Motor Co. is reorganizing its operations to create two separate divisions—one for its conventional gas-engine business and another to focus on developing electric vehicles and software.

Ford said Wednesday that it plans to keep both operations in-house with separate names and their own leadership structures and profit-and-loss statements. Eventually, the auto maker intends to break out separate statements for the two di-

visions. The changes are being made immediately, Ford said.

The company also raised its projection of electric-vehicle production and profitability. It expects electric vehicles to account for one-third of global sales by 2026—or about two million EVs total—and half of global sales by 2030, compared with a previous target of 40%. Ford also lifted its forecast for operating profit margin to 10% by 2026.

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◆ Heard on the Street: Ford seeks an inner Tesla..... **B12**

INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Citigroup CEO says bank needs transformation that will take years. **B1**

Powell Calls for Rates To Rise a Quarter Point

By NICK TREMORAOS

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said he would propose a quarter-percentage point interest-rate increase at the central bank's meeting in two weeks amid high inflation, strong economic demand and a tight labor market, offering an unusually explicit preview of anticipated policy action.

Mr. Powell said Wednesday that before Russia's invasion of Ukraine last week he expected the central bank would follow

that initial rate rise with a series of increases this year.

"For now, I would say that we will proceed carefully along the lines of that plan," Mr. Powell told the House Financial Services Committee. "We're going to avoid adding uncertainty to what is already an extraordinarily challenging and uncertain moment."

While he said it was too soon to say how the war and heavy sanctions imposed by the West against Moscow would influ-

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RUSSIANS CAPTURE CRUCIAL BLACK SEA PORT AS BOMBING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS ESCALATES



As many as 15,000 people, mostly women and children, are sheltering in cramped, communal conditions in Kyiv's subway system.

Eastern Europe Uniting in Fear Of Putin's Aims

By ANDREW HIGGINS

PODBORSKO, Poland — Scattered around the forest in Poland like archaeological ruins, the crumbling concrete bunkers for decades stored Soviet nuclear warheads. Today, they store only memories — deeply painful for Poland, joyous for the Kremlin — of the vanished empire that President Vladimir V. Putin wants to rebuild, starting with his war in Ukraine.

"Nobody here trusted the Russians before and we certainly don't trust them now," said Mirosław Zuk, a former Polish soldier who oversees the once top-secret nuclear site. The bunkers were abandoned by the Soviet military in 1990 as Moscow's hegemony over Eastern and Central Europe unraveled in what Mr. Putin has described as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

Now Eastern European countries fear a catastrophe of their own could be in the making, as Mr. Putin seeks to turn back the clock and reclaim Russia's lost sphere of influence, perilously close to their frontiers. Even leaders in the region who have long supported Mr. Putin are sounding the alarm.

Warnings about Moscow's intentions, often dismissed until last Thursday's invasion of Ukraine as "Russophobia" by those without experience of living in proximity to Russia, are now widely accepted as prescient. And while there has been debate about whether efforts to expand NATO

Huddled in the Kyiv Subway, Three to a Mattress

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

KYIV, Ukraine — As the escalator glides down the final few yards into the subway stop deep in Kyiv's normally immaculate mass transit system, a sprawl of foam mattresses, suitcases and plastic bags filled with food comes into view. The space is surprisingly quiet, almost silent, despite the 200 or so people camped there to escape the bombing and artillery fire above.

They sleep three or four to a single mattress. The children push toy cars over the gray granite slabs of the station floors, watching their mothers scroll endlessly on their cellphones, searching for news of the war.

Little hands and feet stick out from underneath blankets, though it is noticeably warmer in the station than above ground. Volunteers come and go, bringing food and other necessities of life. One mother sets up a tent, for a modicum of privacy.

Refuge for Thousands as Explosions Thud in the City Above

"It's not so comfortable," admitted Ulyana, who is 9 and has been living in Dorohozhychi station with her mother and their cat for six days now. "But you see, this is the situation, and we just have to put up with it. It's better to be here than to get into a situation outside."

As many as 15,000 people, the city's mayor said Wednesday, most of them women and children, have taken up residence in Kyiv's subway system to escape the grim conditions in the city as Russian forces bear down.

And the subway is not the only subterranean refuge. Doctors at Maternity Hospital No. 5 in Kyiv,

for example, have set up chambers in the basement to provide women a safe place to give birth. So far, five babies have been born in this way, said Dmytro Govsevoy, the clinic's director.

Six days into the conflict, the Kremlin's war plans remain unclear. The movements of tanks, artillery guns, armored personnel carriers and other heavy weaponry toward Kyiv, with a population of about 2.8 million before the exodus of evacuees, is raising grave alarms about the potential onset of bloody street fighting.

But Russia might instead settle on a grinding siege punctuated with shelling and the cutting off of food supplies, water and ammunition in hopes of breaking the resistance without the destruction and killing of a frontal attack.

Either way, life underground in Kyiv, already difficult, is likely to get even harder.

Above ground, Ukrainian soldiers

First Key City Falls, Ukraine Says — Looming Offensive to Cut Off Kyiv

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ and RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

ODESSA, Ukraine — Russian forces on Wednesday seized the first major Ukrainian city in their onslaught, the strategic port of Kherson, as they stepped up bombardment of civilian targets across the country, put other cities under siege and pushed to encircle and cut off the capital, Kyiv.

Russian troops and tanks rolled into Kherson, on the Dnieper River near the Black Sea, after days of intense fighting that left as many as 300 Ukrainian civilians and fighters dead, said the mayor and another senior Ukrainian government official who confirmed that it had fallen. "There is no Ukrainian army here," the mayor, Igor Kolykhaev, said in an interview.

Other Russian columns besieged Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, and the port city of Mariupol. And most ominous, a huge convoy of military vehicles stood north of Kyiv in apparent preparation for a major offensive.

The battle for control of Kherson, a shipbuilding center, left bodies strewn about the city streets, power outages, limited water and little food, Mr. Kolykhaev said. Utility workers have tried to fix damaged pipes and downed lines, he said, but have come under fire from snipers.

He said a group of about 10 armed Russian officers, including the commander of forces attacking the city, had entered the city hall and informed him that they planned to set up a military administration.

The nearly week-old Russian invasion at first drew global attention to attacks on the two largest cities, Kyiv and Kharkiv in the north, but it appeared to be making more progress in the south. Capturing Kherson could clear the way for Russian forces to push westward toward Odessa — a much bigger prize — as they try to seize Ukraine's entire Black Sea coast, cutting it off from world shipping.

Russian troops have gained ground near Mariupol while naval forces gathered offshore, raising fears of an amphibious assault on a city where local officials said there was no power or heat.

Mariupol lies on the Sea of Azov, a body bordered on three sides by Russia, which controls access to it. The port is part of a vital stretch of terrain Russia is apparently trying to capture, to link Russian-backed separatist enclaves in the southeast with Crimea, the southern peninsula Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014. That could trap the Ukrainian troops arrayed against the breakaway region in a pincer, caught between Russian forces to the east and west.

A day after President Biden vowed in a defiant State of the Union address that the war would "leave Russia weaker and the world stronger" and that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia "has no idea what's coming," the West further tightened the retaliatory economic squeeze that has the Russian economy reeling. U.S. and European sanctions have hit the Russian government, its ally Belarus, Russian businesses, powerful individuals and their assets abroad.

Russian artillery and rocket fire have cut off essentials like electricity, medicine, water and heat to many Ukrainian communities, and turned a growing number of offices, homes, businesses and vehicles to crumpled, burning hulks.

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ARMING UKRAINE NATO nations send weapons, raising the risk of a conflict with Russia. PAGE A8



Shelling damaged buildings on Wednesday in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, which was under siege by Russian forces.

Hard Reality of Conflict Sinks In Across Russia

By IVAN NECHEPURENKO and ANTON TROIANOVSKI

SOCHI, Russia — On Feb. 23, Ruzil Malikov, a tank driver in the Russian Army, called his family and said he would be home soon; his unit's military drills in Crimea were just about wrapping up.

The next morning, Russia invaded Ukraine, and Mr. Malikov hasn't been heard from since. On Monday, Ukraine published a video of a captured soldier in his unit, apologizing for taking part in the invasion.

"He had no idea they could send

Kremlin Acknowledges Troop Deaths Even as It Cracks Down

him to Ukraine," Mr. Malikov's brother, Rashid Allaiberganov, said in a phone interview from the south-central Russian region of Bashkortostan. "Everyone is in a state of shock."

The reality of war is dawning across Russia.

On Wednesday, the Russian De-

fense Ministry for the first time announced a death toll for Russian troops in the conflict. While casualty figures in wartime are notoriously unreliable — and Ukraine has put the total of Russian dead in the thousands — the 498 Moscow acknowledged in the seven days of fighting is the largest in any of its military operations since the war in Chechnya, which marked the beginning of President Vladimir V. Putin's tenure in 1999.

Russians who long avoided engaging with politics are now real-

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At Rikers, Savage Beatings Hidden From View

By JAN RANSOM and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

When a man was beaten on Rikers Island in December, guards at the New York City jail complex downplayed his injuries, delaying filing a report and then including only minimal information: Fractured eye socket. Swelling of the head. No hospitalization required.

The reality looked much different. Hours after another detainee slammed the man, Jose Matias,

Brutality May Be Even Worse at Jail Than Public Knew

25, to the floor and kicked him in the head, Mr. Matias began having seizures. He was taken to a hospital, where doctors removed a chunk of his skull to ease swelling in his brain. He spent six weeks in

a coma and, when he emerged, had to relearn how to walk and talk.

It was at least the second time in four months that the Department of Correction had failed to document a serious injury to a person in custody, records and interviews show. In the other case, in August, a man being held in an intake cell was beaten so badly by another detainee that he was paralyzed from the neck down. No re-

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Jan. 6 Panel Lays Out Potential Case vs. Trump

By LUKE BROADWATER and ALAN FEUER

WASHINGTON — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol said on Wednesday that there was enough evidence to conclude that former President Donald J. Trump and some of his allies might have conspired to commit fraud and obstruction by misleading Americans about the outcome of the 2020 election and attempt-

Suggests Ex-President Conspired on Fraud and Obstruction

ing to overturn the result.

In a court filing in a civil case in California, the committee's lawyers for the first time laid out their theory of a potential criminal case against the former president.

They said they had accumulated evidence demonstrating that Mr. Trump, the conservative lawyer John Eastman and other allies could potentially be charged with criminal violations including obstructing an official proceeding of Congress and conspiracy to defraud the American people.

The filing also said the men might have broken a common law statute against fraud through Mr. Trump's repeated lies that the

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INTERNATIONAL A4-13

A Global Pact Against Plastic
A new legally binding treaty would commit 175 nations to halting a tsunami of plastic waste through recycling, clean-up and curbing production. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A14-21

Big Boost for Texas Upstart
Jessica Cisneros for a powerful South Texas Democratic representative into a runoff vote with the help of national progressive leaders. PAGE A18

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Fed Is Poised to Raise Rates
Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, said he would support a quarter-point increase as the central bank tries to address high inflation. PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-11

Oligarch Will Sell Chelsea
As British lawmakers take aim at the assets of wealthy Russians, Roman Abramovich said he was seeking to sell a prize of the Premier League. PAGE B9

OPINION A24-25

Ezra Klein PAGE A25



COMMENTARY

Racist double standard in war coverage

Journalists' shock at suffering in 'civilized' Europe suggests it's acceptable elsewhere.

BY LORRAINE ALI

The scenes are gravely familiar to anyone familiar with the 21st century news cycle: families fleeing on foot, swarming border crossings and searching through rubble for loved ones. Journalists reporting on Russia's invasion of Ukraine could not help but compare the military strikes and resulting humanitarian crisis to recent conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

But a painful double standard quickly emerged inside of those comparisons.

"This isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan, that has seen conflict raging for decades," said CBS News correspondent Charlie D'Agata on Sunday. "This is a relatively civilized, relatively European — I have to choose those words carefully too — city, one where you wouldn't expect that or hope that it's going to happen."

D'Agata's troubling language, in which he seemed to catch himself midsegment, pinpointed much of the emerging bias. In the heat of war, as the international press corps scrambled in real time to wrap their arms around a fast-moving military campaign, a number of correspondents, consciously or not, framed suffering and displacement as acceptable for Arabs, Afghans and others over there — but not here, in Europe, where the people "have blue eyes and blond hair" and where they "look like us." (And yes, those are actual quotations from news clips.)

The sentiment has been laid bare again and again in numerous American and European press outlets since the beginning of the invasion last week.

"We're not talking here about Syrians fleeing the bombing of the Syrian regime backed by Putin; we're talking about Europeans leaving in cars that look like ours to save their lives," Philippe Corb   of the France-based 24-hour news channel BFM TV said. Tellingly, Europe's own [See Media, A9]

Russia captures strategic port



A WOMAN is overtaken by emotion in the backyard of a house hit by what residents in the town, Gorenka, say was a Russian airstrike. In the capital, the mayor vowed, "Kyiv stands and will stand. We will fight."

VADEM GRIEDA, Associated Press

Moscow faces world censure as deadly strikes only strengthen resolve of Ukrainians in Kharkiv and Kyiv.

BY NABIH BULOS AND LAURA KING

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces Wednesday intensified a wide-ranging offensive targeting key Ukrainian cities, menacing the capital, Kyiv, with a miles-long military convoy, launching deadly strikes on the second-largest city, Kharkiv, and seizing a strategic Black Sea port city with tanks and troops.

On the seventh day of a war marked by fierce Ukrainian resistance against advancing Russian firepower, Moscow faced growing international denunciations. The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning the invasion, and President Biden said it was "clear" that Russia was deliberately targeting civilians.

The capture of the port of Kherson, a city of some 300,000 people, marked the expanding reach of Russian forces across the south.

Residents posted videos showing Russian soldiers and tanks entering the city. Drone footage taken over a bridge near Kherson appeared to depict a battle between Ukrainian soldiers and Russian troops backed by artillery.

The mayor, Igor Kolykhaev, posted a message on Facebook saying that Russian troops had entered the city council building.

In an unusual revelation, Russia — traditionally secretive about combat casualties — for the first time provided an accounting of its battlefield deaths, with the Ministry of Defense acknowledging that 498 soldiers had been killed and 1,597 wounded since the start of its assault. Ukraine has claimed that more than 10 times as many Russian soldiers have died.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said a delegation was ready to hold talks with Ukrainian representatives in neighboring Belarus. Ukrainian officials also confirmed their readiness to hold discussions, which would be the second such session since the conflict erupted.

In Kyiv, a city of nearly 3 million people, sirens wailed repeatedly after dark and at least one heavy explosion shook buildings. Defenders — a motley mix of regular army troops and ad hoc civilian militias — braced for an expected full-scale attack. [See Ukraine, A4]



IN LVIV in western Ukraine, people rush onto a train for Slovakia. The U.N. says more than a million people have fled the invasion, and the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning it.

FELIPE DANA, Associated Press

Polish city now a refugee hub

In Przemyśl, volunteers help those who fled Ukraine

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

PRZEMYSL, Poland — Oskar Broz stood in the Polish train station amid the tumult of anxious refugees, overwhelmed police officers and exhausted volunteers distributing hot food and drink.

"The Warsaw train leaves at 2 a.m.," announced Broz, his words echoing in the sturdy walls of the Neoclassical structure. "The train is

free! You need no ticket! 2 a.m. to Warsaw!"

Similar scenes repeat over and over these days at the central train station in Przemyśl, a normally tranquil city in southeastern Poland that has become the major gateway for Ukrainian refugees fanning out across Europe.

As of Wednesday, more than a million people had fled Ukraine since Russia attacked last week, according to the United Nations, and the num-

ber was expected to keep climbing. About half headed to Poland, the U.N. said, while many others sought shelter in Ukraine's other western neighbors — Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and other countries — and some moved to the Russian Federation.

Przemyśl emerged as a principal focus of the ongoing exodus because it is the first major city to the west of Medyka, the busiest crossing point for the [See Poland, A6]

Gasc  n pivots; troubles deepen

Under fire after his reversal on a juvenile case, D.A.'s reforms draw more scrutiny.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

Since taking over as Los Angeles County's district attorney, George Gasc  n had refused to compromise on sweeping changes he said were needed to remake an office he believed was prioritizing convictions and lengthy prison sentences over justice.

A rough few weeks has changed that. Gasc  n has begun wavering in the face of incessant attacks from critics, a mounting recall effort and a growing perception he's becoming politically isolated. Last month, he quietly con-

ceded that there could be exceptions to the bans he imposed on seeking life sentences in murder cases or trying juveniles as adults.

And Gasc  n's troubles deepened when he publicly acknowledged he had been wrong to insist that Hannah Tubbs, a 26-year-old transgender woman, be allowed to plead guilty in juvenile court to sexually assaulting a child. The crime happened when Tubbs was a teen and had not transitioned yet.

That mea culpa — a stark about-face for a man who rarely expresses doubt about the righteousness of his positions — took on a sheen of political damage control when Gasc  n announced it without explanation the day before Fox News published jail recordings of Tubbs mocking her lenient sentence and the victim. [See Gasc  n, A9]

Space junk takes aim at the moon

A 3-ton rocket, probably China's, will smash into the lunar surface Friday.

PERSPECTIVES, A2

'Test to Treat' to tackle COVID

Biden's plan to return to normal includes free medicine on the spot for those who test positive at key sites across U.S. NATION, A7

Firm admits role in cash cover-up

Company targeted drug traffickers for Beverly Hills safe deposit business. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Cooler. Rain late. L.A. Basin: 70/52. B6



Pickleball's racket problem

It's accessible, fun — and loud. Neighbors across the country are suing over the noise.

BY CONNOR SHIELDS

GOLETA, Calif. — Seven days a week, dozens of retirees, college students, children and working parents flock to a sunbaked patch of pavement in this oceanside city just west of Santa Barbara. They're here to play pickleball, a nearly 60-year-old sport that's seen a surge in interest during the pandemic, wreaking genteel havoc from coast to coast.

On Feb. 18, as the waning winter sunlight filtered through the surrounding chain-link fence, Mike Myers dominated most of the competition. A dedicated player and leading local advocate for the sport, the 56-year-old [See Pickleball, A12]



GENARO MOLINA, Los Angeles Times

JUDY LOUGH, left, and Kathi Scarmichael play pickleball at a community center in Goleta.

BUSINESS INSIDE: States are probing TikTok's practices and the effects on children. A8

Ensino médio de SP tem nota mais baixa da história

Os estudantes de ensino médio das escolas estaduais paulistas registraram em 2021 o menor rendimento em matemática na prova do Saresp desde 2010, ano de início do teste.

O exame avaliou 642 mil alunos e registrou que a média na disciplina equivale ao aprendizado do 7º ano. Em língua portuguesa, a média foi a menor desde 2013. **Cotidiano B1**

USP, Unesp e Unicamp formam 25% menos mestres e doutores

Brasil chega a 650 mil mortos pela Covid-19

O país teve 335 óbitos e 29.841 casos da doença nesta quarta-feira (2). Para especialista, marca reflete erros graves. **Saúde B5**

A pandemia em 2.mar

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil	
Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)	82,6%
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)	72,3%
Dose de reforço	30,2%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos	
Média móvel	Em 24 h
509	-37,3%
Casos	-58,5% (estável)
	Total 650.052

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Casos similares ao de Lula-Moro favorecem políticos

Na esteira da declaração de parcialidade do ex-juiz Sérgio Moro pelo Supremo, outros políticos também têm se beneficiado por decisões judiciais similares contra magistrados. Um dos favorecidos é o presidente da Câmara, Arthur Lira. **Política A4**

Última ação penal ativa contra petista é suspensa

Política A6

Conrado H. Mendes: Congresso acelera colapso climático

Tramitam hoje no Congresso projetos de lei que aceleram nosso relógio do apocalipse climático. Não só terão impacto ambiental como se juntam em amplo pacote legislativo pró-corrupção, para lapidar a riqueza nacional. **Política A7**



Prédio da polícia de Kharkiv em chamas após bombardeio russo nesta quarta; 2ª maior cidade da Ucrânia é foco de combates **Ministério de Emergência da Ucrânia/AFIP**

Rússia toma cidade estratégica; plenário da ONU condena invasão

Queda de Kherson estabelece controle de Putin no sul ucraniano; Kremlin admite baixas pela 1ª vez

No dia em que a Assembleia-Geral da ONU aprovou por ampla maioria, com apoio do Brasil, resolução que condenou a invasão da Ucrânia, o Exército russo tomou uma cidade estratégica no sul e pode criar um corredor até as províncias pró-Moscou.

Após negativa inicial, o governo ucraniano reconheceu a queda de Kherson, importante porto ao norte da Crimeia, anexada pela Rússia em 2014. Embates também continuaram na capital, Kiev, e em Kharkiv, onde o prédio da polícia foi destruído.

Pela primeira vez desde o início do conflito, a Defesa russa confirmou que perdeu soldados, 498, além do triplo de feridos. Kiev fala em 6.000, e nenhum dado é aferível. Do lado civil ucraniano, a informação oficial é de 2.000 mortos.

Na seara diplomática, a ofensiva testemunhou ontem seu maior rechaço internacional. O texto das Nações Unidas em repúdio à invasão teve 141 votos a favor e 5 contra. Apesar da neutralidade pregada por Jair Bolsonaro, o Brasil deu aval.

A Assembleia, porém, não pode aplicar sanções ou enviar missões de paz. A prerrogativa é exclusiva do Conselho de Segurança. A Rússia é um dos 5 membros do colegiado com direito de veto e pode barrar medidas contra si mesma. **Mundo A11 e A12**

Cerco russo no sul da Ucrânia

Sob ataque

- Territórios do Donbass sob domínio dos separatistas
- Ocupado por tropas russas



Alimentos ficarão mais caros, diz ministra da Agricultura

Tereza Cristina (Agricultura) afirmou que a expectativa do governo é que o preço dos alimentos sofra alta em razão da guerra na Ucrânia. A estratégia para evitar reajustes elevados será diversificar fornecedores de adubos e fertilizantes, declarou a ministra.

"Isso tudo [alta dos alimentos] depende. Se a guerra acabar hoje ou amanhã, é um impacto [aumento de preço menor]. Se continuar por mais tempo, é outro", disse ela, nesta quarta (2). Especialistas preveem dificuldades para acessar insumos da Rússia. **Mercado A18**

Guru de radicais russos atrai fãs brasileiros

Chamado de "ideólogo de Putin" e comparado em influência a Olavo de Carvalho, Aleksandr Dugin, 60, já esteve duas vezes no Brasil, fala português, fundou centro de estudos em SP e admira MPB, bossa nova e literatura. **Mundo A13**

Bolsonaro defende mineração em terra indígena por causa da guerra

Mercado A18

Bilionário russo Roman Abramovich confirma que venderá o Chelsea

B7

Esporte B7

Palmeiras tem Recopa

Time bate Athletico por 2 a 0 e conquista torneio pela 1ª vez

Ilustrada C1 a C3

'Minecraft' e 'Fortnite'

Games viram espaço de exposição de arte e alvos de museus

Guia C7

Batman e os filmes

Veja outros longas do super-herói, que está de volta às telas

EDITORIAIS A2

O amigo Vladimir

A respeito das afinidades entre Bolsonaro e Putin.

Transparência é lei Sobre aplicação de norma de proteção de dados.

ATMOSFERA





Afirmó que tomó esa decisión por el estrés que le produce la situación

Ozorio, forzado a renunciar y detenido por lavado de dinero

Su detención fue facilitada por la pérdida de sus fueros y lo imputarán también por asociación criminal y tráfico en el marco del Operativo A Ultranza, según el fiscal. El ex legislador se presentó voluntariamente.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Sometido a la ley. Ozorio abandona la sede fiscal fuertemente custodiado tras prestar declaración indagatoria y está guardando reclusión en la sede de la Senad.



**Mensaje por la Cuaresma
Iglesia dice que la
narcopolítica es por
mala siembra que
no fue controlada**

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**Reporte del Banco Central
Tasa interanual de
inflación registra
un pico histórico
del 9,3 por ciento**

PÁGINA 10

**Juicio a Quiñónez en juego
Oficialismo abortó
intento de rekutu
de Pedro Alliana
en la Cámara Baja**

PÁGINA 7

**Aislados en el mundo
 Sanciones por la
invasión a Ucrania
hacen mella en la
economía rusa**

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Celeste Amarilla ratifica que los diputados Ulises Quintana, Erico Galeano y Nazario Rojas tienen vínculos con narcotráfico

PÁGINA 4

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LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de l'homme, il n'est point d'éloge d'homme » - Beaumarchais



MARION MARÉCHAL
LES COULISSES
D'UN RALLIEMENT ANNONCÉ
À ÉRIC ZEMMOUR PAGE 10

JEAN-PIERRE PERNAUT
LA STAR DU JOURNAL DE 13 HEURES
ÉTAIT AUSSI UN AMOUREUX
DES TERROIRS PAGE 36



FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE
1954-1962,
huit ans
d'une histoire
complexe et
douloureuse
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT

CORSE
Yvan Colonna
violemment
agressé par un
codétenu islamiste
PAGE 12

ÉNERGIE
La guerre
en Ukraine fait
flamber les prix
du pétrole
PAGES 13 ET 14

LUXE
Le 30, avenue
Montaigne renait
PAGES 15 ET 16

CHAMPS LIBRES
- Affaire
Boulin :
le commissaire
Lecia livre
sa vérité
- Un entretien
avec Robert
Redeker
- Les tribunes
de Nicolas
Bouzo et
d'Anne-Cécile
Suzanne
- La chronique
de Luc Ferry
PAGES 17 À 19

**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de mercredi :**
Emmanuel Macron
a-t-il raison
de continuer à parler
avec Vladimir Poutine ?

OUI 84% NON 16%
TOTAL DES VOTANTS : 237 834

**Voter aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
La guerre en Ukraine
aura-t-elle un impact
sur votre choix
à la présidentielle ?

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE MARILLAU
LE FIGARO FRANCIS BOUCHON
LE FIGARO



« Répondre à la guerre par des décisions historiques »

Dans une allocution solennelle, le chef de l'État a affirmé le soutien indéfectible de la France à l'Ukraine et sa volonté d'« obtenir l'arrêt des combats ».

PAGES 2 À 16, 18, 17, 20 À 23, 28 ET L'EDITORIAL

À Kiev, cœur de la bataille pour l'âme slave

Un chant puis une faible lueur s'élève du fond de la grotte. « Nous sommes venus prier pour l'Ukraine, pas pour la Russie », glisse une mère accompagnée de sa fille, venues se recueillir dans une crypte de la laque de Kiev. Dans la capitale ukrainienne, beaucoup de l'empire que Vladimir Poutine espère rebâtir, le monde russe qu'il prétend défendre pour justifier son intervention en Ukraine se détourne un peu plus de lui. L'héritage politique et spirituel de Kiev est au cœur du conflit entre les deux pays.

Les trois erreurs de Vladimir Poutine

Le président russe s'est enfoncé dans un désastre stratégique, politique et personnel. Il s'est trompé sur la nation ukrainienne, dont il a nié l'existence, sur l'armée de ce pays, qui s'est professionnalisée, et sur l'Occident, qui a présenté un front uni dans l'épreuve. Tous ces éléments dessinent peut-être le début de la fin pour Vladimir Poutine. Mais la période qui s'ouvre s'annonce imprévisible et extrêmement dangereuse. Pris dans un cul-de-sac, le chef du Kremlin fera tout pour reprendre la main.

Les premiers réfugiés arrivent en France

Venant de Pologne, des cars sont en route pour la France. À leur bord, plusieurs centaines d'Ukrainiens. Ils pourront entrer sans visa, leur pays en étant exempté dans la zone Schengen. Depuis le début de la guerre, plus de 700 000 personnes ont déjà fui l'Ukraine. L'Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration ne s'attend pas, pour l'instant, à une vague massive de réfugiés, mais le gouvernement tente de coordonner les initiatives, qui fleurissent à travers le pays.

EDITORIAL par Yves Thevoz ythevoz@lefigaro.fr

Nouvelle ère

Quel moment singulier, inédit même, que cette intervention présidentielle ? À quelques heures de la clôture des candidatures à l'élection suprême, le chef de l'État s'est adressé à la nation. Pourtant, il n'a rien dit de son intention - évidente - de briguer un nouveau mandat. Les circonstances, il est vrai, ne s'y prêtent guère. Il n'était pas à la télévision pour parler de lui, mais de la France, qui, depuis une semaine, soutient l'Ukraine face aux assauts armés de Vladimir Poutine. Le ton était solennel. Mercredi soir, la politique et les ambitions d'un homme se sont donc effacées devant le bruit des armes. Pas tout à fait, cependant, car Emmanuel Macron n'était pas là en chef de guerre - notre pays n'est pas engagé sur le front et l'avenir n'est pas le peuple russe, ainsi qu'il a pris soin de le souligner -, mais comme celui qui veut entretenir le fil du dialogue avec le maître du Kremlin. À ce titre, chacun pourra juger de son action. Et moi doute que certains la critiqueront, l'offensive russe étant mauvaise en dépit de sa médiation et, semble-t-il, appelée à durer. C'est la preuve que ce conflit n'écrase pas complètement la campagne électorale. L'indulgence passée de quel-

ques candidats pour Vladimir Poutine anime d'ailleurs le débat. Emmanuel Macron s'est-il servi de la crise sanitaire pour retarder son entrée dans la compétition présidentielle ? La question a pu se poser. Avec l'Ukraine, c'est une tout autre affaire - sa posture se justifie au nom de l'histoire qui est en train de s'écrire. Alors que Moscou brandit l'arme nucléaire, que Poutine attaque la démocratie, le chef de l'État, qui plus est président pour six mois du Conseil de l'Union européenne, ne pouvait rester les bras croisés. Qu'en le veille ou non, son statut le place au-dessus de la mêlée et l'oblige à prendre l'initiative. Les conséquences de cette guerre pour la France s'annoncent importantes. L'avenir de l'Europe, son indépendance et sa souveraineté sont ainsi en jeu. Et on doit reconnaître que celle-ci se montre plus saine que jamais pour parler d'une seule voix et s'engager comme un seul homme aux côtés des Ukrainiens. Un tournant qu'il conviendrait de saisir : une nouvelle ère, celle d'une puissance naissante, commence peut-être. ■

L'Europe est en train de changer d'époque

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'To help the victims'
Abramovich to
sell Chelsea amid
call for sanctions

→ Page 8



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Russia wants to 'erase' us, warns Ukraine's president

Zelenskiy pleads for help
amid mass exodus and
dire warnings of growing
humanitarian disaster

Luke Harding and
Peter Beaumont *Lviv*
Jon Henley

Ukraine is facing a growing humanitarian crisis, international health experts have warned, as relentless Russian missile attacks on residential areas in several cities have left hundreds of civilians dead and forced almost 900,000 to flee the country.

As Moscow, defying global condemnation and overwhelming political and economic isolation, claimed yesterday to have seized the first large city of its campaign and the Ukrainian president accused it of aiming to "erase" his country, the World Health Organization said some health supplies were running out.

"We are moving closer to a humanitarian crisis," Jarno Hubicht, the WHO representative in Ukraine, told the Guardian. "This is moving very fast. Health service provisions are being moved to shelters and basements. We are concerned about electricity provision, oxygen and medicines."

WHO chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said the group was also working to verify multiple reports of "attacks on health facilities and health workers", adding that attacks on healthcare would be "a violation of international humanitarian law".

A second round of talks between the two sides was due to begin today, Russian negotiators reportedly said, adding that a ceasefire was "on the agenda". However Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, has said Moscow's demands are unacceptable and Russia must stop bombing cities if progress is to be made.

More than 350 civilians, including 14 children, have been killed and more than 2,000 wounded since the invasion began, Ukraine's emergency service said, adding that hundreds of



▲ Ukrainian refugees applying for residency permits at a police department in the Czech capital, Prague, yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAL ČÍŽEK/AFP/GETTY

UN votes to 'deplore' Putin's invasion

Julian Borger
Washington

The United Nations has voted overwhelmingly for a resolution deploring Russia's invasion of Ukraine and called for the immediate withdrawal of its forces, in a global expression of outrage that highlighted Russia's increasing isolation.

In an emergency session of the UN's general assembly, 141 of the 193 member states voted for the

resolution, 35 abstained, and five voted against. The only countries to vote no in support of Moscow were Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea and Syria. Longstanding allies Cuba and Venezuela joined China in abstaining.

The resolution said that the UN "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine". It demanded that "the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine" and "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its

military forces". The resolution is not legally binding, but is an expression of the views of the UN membership, aimed at increasing pressure on Moscow and its ally, Belarus.

"It isn't going to stop Russian forces in their stride, but it's a pretty enormous diplomatic win for the Ukrainians and the US, and everyone who has got behind them," said Richard Gowan, UN director at the International Crisis Group.

Speaking before the vote, the US ambassador to

Inside Far right Polish nationalists attack African refugees at border Page 2 →

'It's hell' Moscow accused of terror tactics in besieged cities Page 5 →

'I want to make history' Recruits to resistance speak out Page 13 →