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What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. stocks jumped and oil prices slid, extending a period of volatility. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gained 2.6%, 3.6% and 2%, respectively, while Brent-crude futures fell 13%. **B1**

◆ **Bitcoin's price surged** on Biden's executive order to study digital currencies, a move the industry welcomed and skeptics decried as delaying needed regulation. **B1**

◆ **Amazon's board approved** a 20-for-1 stock split and authorized the repurchase of up to \$10 billion of the company's common stock. **B1**

◆ **A congressional panel** asked the DOJ to investigate Amazon and some of its executives for what lawmakers say is potentially criminal obstruction of Congress. **A3**

◆ **London's nickel market** remained on ice after an ill-fated trade sparked mammoth price gains and billions of dollars of losses. **B11**

◆ **Disney's CEO told** shareholders the company is opposed to a controversial education bill in Florida that critics say targets LGBTQ youth. **B3**

◆ **Zucker reached** an exit deal with CNN's parent before he announced his resignation entitling him to a payment of over \$5 million. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **A Russian airstrike** hit maternity hospital in the besieged southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, local authorities said, as Moscow's invasion has shifted to a new, more destructive phase that is aimed at civilian targets. **A1, A8, A10-14**

◆ **The House passed** a \$1.5 trillion spending bill that includes emergency aid for Ukraine, after Democratic leaders stripped out a contentious Covid-19 aid provision. **A4**

◆ **South Koreans elected** Yoon Suk-yeol as president, installing a conservative who promises a tougher stance on North Korea and closer ties with the U.S. on regional affairs. **A15**

◆ **The Biden administration** restored California's ability to set stricter air-pollution limits for auto makers, ending a conflict with the state's air-quality regulators that began under Trump. **A3**

◆ **The RNC filed suit** to block a Jan. 6 panel subpoena seeking records related to the GOP's fundraising and donor efforts from Salesforce, one of the RNC's vendors. **A4**

◆ **Four men accused** of plotting to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2020 went on trial. **A6**

THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

The energy and climate issue. **R1-10**

CONTENTS Opinion... A21-23
Arts in Review... A19
Personal Journal A17-18
Business News... B3-6
Crossword... A20
Technology... B4
Equities... B7
U.S. News... A2-4, 6
Heard on Street... B12
Weather... A20
Markets... B11
World News... A8-15



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Russia Bombs Maternity Hospital



An injured pregnant woman is carried from the bombed hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, on Wednesday. The city has been under Russian shelling for a week.

By ALAN CULLISON

KYIV, Ukraine—A Russian airstrike hit a maternity hospital in the besieged southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, local authorities said, as Moscow's invasion has shifted to a new, more destructive phase aimed at civilian targets.

Video footage released by the Mariupol mayor's office

showed wounded people being pulled out of the partially collapsed hospital complex. A wide, deep bomb crater was visible, with signs that the blast, which took place around 5 p.m. local time Wednesday, had knocked down trees and torched cars. Nobody was killed in the blast, and 17 people were wounded, officials said.

Mariupol has faced more

than a week of Russian shelling that has cut off water and power in the city of over 400,000, where remaining residents have been hunkering down in basements. More than 1,200 civilians have died in the assault, local authorities said.

The city's deputy mayor said other, uncounted bodies couldn't be recovered because of intense shelling, and that 47

were buried in a common grave on Wednesday.

"They want to kill as many civilians as possible," said the deputy mayor, Serhiy Orlov, speaking by phone from outside the city. "They will not allow for evacuation. They deliberately target lines for water and food."

The shelling of Mariupol and similar attacks on other cities

across Ukraine that are within range of Russian forces indicated that Moscow, having failed to swiftly take control of the country after it launched its invasion two weeks ago, was advancing with increasing disregard for civilian casualties. Moscow didn't comment on Wednesday's attack on the hospital; Moscow has said its

Please turn to page A11

West's Tactical Challenge: Navigating Putin's Red Lines

By STEPHEN FIDLER

The U.S. and its allies are walking a fine line in Ukraine, seeking to help the country thwart Russia's invasion while avoiding crossing Moscow's red lines and getting pulled into a direct conflict with a nuclear-armed adversary.

So far, Washington and Western European capitals have responded to the steadily increasing violence of Moscow's military offensive with weapons deliveries, intelligence sharing and financial aid to Kyiv, as well as sweeping economic sanctions against Russia.

Western efforts to support Ukraine as it fights the Russians go well beyond the assistance the U.S. and its allies delivered to the mujahedeen following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Such intervention is a gray area in conflict. Against a

Please turn to page A14

U.K. Gives Oligarchs Cold Shoulder

By MARGOT PATRICK
AND ELIOT BROWN

Over the past two decades, London's high-end property market was overrun by the global super-rich led by Russian oligarchs who did so many big, brash deals that locals called

the city Londongrad.

A mansion just a stone's throw from Kensington Palace—on land leased from the crown—sold for \$140 million to one oligarch, while estates built by Victorian aristocracy and industrialists traded to Russia's new rich, who added sprawling

subterranean pools and sleek glass walls.

Now the U.K. government has all but told rich Russians they are no longer welcome. The move could hit the top slice of the real-estate market, which is already on edge due to

Please turn to page A12

Invasion Brings NATO New Focus

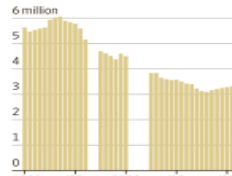
Troops at Lithuania's Rukla military base have stood at high alert for years, worried about the threat posed by Russia, across the border 62 miles away.

By Daniel Michaels
in Brussels,
Sune Engel Rasmussen
in Tallinn, Estonia,
and Evan Gershkovich
in Rukla, Lithuania

Their NATO allies to the west had played down those concerns. Now NATO is pouring resources into the remote outpost.

Since President Vladimir Putin launched an invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, other North Atlantic Treaty Organization members have sent 600 troops to Rukla and doubled

NATO military personnel*



*Data for 1993-94, 2001-04 unavailable; data for 1984, 1989, 1999, 2020-21 estimates. Source: NATO

the number of allied forces throughout this tiny country to 3,000. NATO plans to add another 1,000 troops from the U.S. and other countries.

Please turn to page A10

Waves of refugees
overwhelm Poland
A8

U.S. opposes giving
Kyiv Polish aircraft
A10

Power cut at Chernobyl
stirs worries
A11

Rift with oil industry
limits Biden's options
A13

Stocks end losing streak
as S&P 500 rallies
B1

Crypto Rises On Biden Order

Move is seen as positive for digital currencies. **B1**

Price of one bitcoin
\$43,000 As of 5 p.m. ET
\$41,909.59



Source: CoinDesk

Rising Meat Prices Eat Away At a Texas Barbecue Tradition

Pitmasters get creative to stay afloat
and keep a pillar of state's culture alive

By ELIZABETH FINDELL

AUSTIN—Since 1975, Skeeter Miller's The County Line barbecue restaurants have been dishing out ribs, brisket, turkey and sausage "so good you'll want to get it all over ya," their slogan says. Loyalists who have been coming since the beginning remember all-you-can-eat plates for \$6.75.

Amid the pandemic and the fast-rising cost of meat, Mr.

Miller has had to raise prices, including four times in just the past year, he said. When he pushed the price of the Big Daddy Platter—a hefty rack of slow-smoked beef ribs—to \$32.99 from \$18.99, he handed all the waiters sheets with his cellphone number to give to any customers who complained.

"If you go into a high-end steakhouse you expect prices to be high, but when you walk

Please turn to page A16

Top Economist Warns Inflation Here to Stay

Goodhart sees years of worker shortages

By TOM FAIRLESS

When the global economy tanked in March 2020, the rate of inflation looked like it was heading to zero. That made it a surprising moment for former U.K. central banker Charles Goodhart to predict that inflation would hit between 5% and 10% in 2021—and stay high.

Mr. Goodhart reasoned that a seismic shift was under

way in the world economy, one that fiscal stimulus and the post-pandemic recovery would only hasten. A long glut of inexpensive labor that had kept prices and wages down for decades, he said, was giving way to an era of worker shortages, and hence higher prices.

"The coronavirus pandemic will mark the dividing line between the deflationary forces

Please turn to page A16

War in Europe



Will the Baltic states turn into the new West Berlin?
BIG READ, PAGE 13

Chinese military scholars take lessons from conflict
KATHRIN HILLE, PAGE 4

US cyber troops neutralise dormant malware in Ukraine
ANALYSIS, PAGE 2

Zelensky accuses Russians of hospital 'atrocities' in plea for world's assistance

Children's and maternity wards hit • Mariupol resorts to mass graves • Kremlin warns over Polish jets plan

GUY CHAZAN — LVIV

Ukraine has accused Russian forces of breaching a ceasefire and destroying a hospital in the besieged city of Mariupol, as aid agencies warned of a humanitarian disaster unfolding in the city.

Posting a video from inside a maternity ward that appeared devastated by bombing, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky claimed Russia was responsible for an "atrocity". He wrote: "People, children are under the wreckage. How much longer will the world be an accomplice ignoring terror?"

Pavlov Kirilenko, governor of the Donetsk region, said a Russian air strike had destroyed the maternity hospital, a children's ward and therapy centre. Mariupol, a port city of 460,000, has been one of the hardest hit in a war that is raging with no end in sight, laying waste to urban areas, unsettling the world economy and driving more than 2m civilians out of the country. Enduring heavy Russian shelling for days, tens of thousands of residents have been confined to freezing basements without water, heat, sanitation or phones.

With the civilian death toll mounting, Mariupol's local authorities have resorted to digging a mass grave, saying normal burials are impossible.

"Sadly, there are just too many bodies," said Vitaly Falkovsky, a local official. "It was a necessary measure because we can't bury people in the normal way. The morgues are overflowing." Ukraine and Russia's foreign ministers are set to meet today in the highest-level contacts since Moscow's invasion — but the sides are expected to remain far apart on steps to end the war.

Dmytro Kuleba is due to meet Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of a diplomatic forum in Turkey, their first meeting since Russia invaded Ukraine two weeks ago.

Russia, meanwhile, has confirmed it used thermobaric weapons in Ukraine, according to the UK's Ministry of



Rescuers carry an injured pregnant woman from the hospital damaged by shelling in Mariupol — Evgeny Maloletko/FP

Defence yesterday. The MoD said the system uses thermobaric rockets, creating incendiary and blast effects.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the humanitarian situation in Ukraine was "dire and desperate", with homes "reduced to rubble". Following a pattern of largely un-

successful efforts to allow civilians to flee the worst-affected towns, Ukraine said yesterday it had reached an agreement with Russia to create multiple evacuation corridors, including in Mariupol. But despite Russian promises, only residents of Sumy were able to escape.

Zelensky pleaded with the west for more support. "Listen: we have a war, this is not ping pong... We ask once again: solve it faster. Do not shift the responsibility, send us planes."

Poland had offered to transfer its fleet of MIG-29 fighter jets to the US as part of a complex plan to dispatch them to Ukraine. But the Pentagon quickly dismissed the idea, declaring it untenable because of Ukraine's contested airspace.

The Kremlin underlined the risks for Nato members providing combat aircraft to Ukraine. Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, said the Polish proposal was "very undesirable and potentially dangerous".

The oil price dropped about 10 per cent after the United Arab Emirates said it would encourage fellow Opec members to increase production. Brent crude fell from \$131.64 to \$113 in late trading. Iraq also indicated it was prepared to boost output.

Yousef al-Otaiba, the UAE's ambassador to Washington, told the Financial Times: "We favour production increases and will be encouraging Opec to consider higher production levels."

Main developments

- Ukraine foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov are set to meet today
- The EU added 14 more Russians with close Kremlin ties and 146 lawmakers to its sanctions list
- UniCredit warned it would face losses of about €7bn in an 'extreme scenario' where its Russia unit was wiped out
- Banks reviewed ties with telecoms group Veon after investor Mikhail Fridman was hit with sanctions
- Citigroup's long-planned sale of its Russian retail unit is in legal limbo, cutting the odds of its being wound up

Inside

- War in Ukraine: news & analysis
- Volunteers sight invaders Page 2
- Russian tech workers join flight Page 3
- Companies & Markets
- Nickel market freezes up Page 5
- Fears of 1979-style crude crisis Page 8
- Opinion
- FT View: US ban on Russian oil Page 14
- Robert Shrimley, Brooke Masters & Ukraine's foreign minister Page 15
- Lex
- EU banks, Russian banks Page 16

Chinese phonemakers halve shipments to Russia as rouble's fall leads to losses

SUN YU IN BEIJING AND EDWARD WHITE SEUL

China's biggest smartphone makers have slashed shipments to Russia since the rouble collapsed after western sanctions were imposed, despite pressure from Beijing to support Vladimir Putin after his invasion of Ukraine.

The cuts show that efforts by China's president Xi Jinping and his counterpart Putin to build a close personal relationship are not shielding Chinese groups from the economic fallout of the war.

Shipments from leading Chinese smartphone producers Xiaomi, Huawei and Oppo have fallen by at least half since the war began, people familiar with the matter said. Chinese brands make up about 60 per cent of the Russian smartphone market.

The sanctions are also making it diffi-

cult for Chinese companies to exploit opportunities created by an exodus of western groups from Russia.

"It is politically sensitive to openly announce a sales suspension in the Russian market like Apple and Samsung," said one former Xiaomi executive, referring to Beijing's support for Moscow. "But from a business perspective, it makes [sense] to stand by and watch what happens next."

Chinese factories making everything from smartphones to air conditioners have counted on Russia in recent years for overseas growth, gaining a strong foothold in the country of 140m people. Bilateral trade hit a record high of \$146bn last year, with China accounting for about 14 per cent of Russian imports, including almost all electronic goods.

Within days of Russia's assault on Ukraine, western companies pledged to

cut ties with Moscow — among them Apple and Netflix — to avoid reprisals from any association with the Kremlin.

But the rouble's plunge of more than 35 per cent against the dollar since the invasion has made it difficult for Chinese companies to sell their products in Russia without incurring a loss. They need to charge Russian customers a much higher price in roubles to make up for the exchange rate, yet that is difficult, given the deteriorating economy.

"You need to set a new price every day in order to avoid making losses," said Ivan Lam, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Counterpoint Research, a consultancy.

"It is very risky to operate in Russia right now," said one former Huawei executive who has worked in Moscow.

Xiaomi and Huawei did not comment while Oppo was not available for comment.



Levi's departs Russia with pockets full of memories

The symbolism of Levi's retreat from Russia sets it apart from other totemic brands that have pulled out. The blue 'dzhins' made their first appearance at The American National Exhibition in Moscow in 1959, when most pairs were stolen. By 1961, their price had hit 200 roubles, an engineer's monthly pay. Bruce Springsteen's Levi's on the cover of *Born in the USA* became a badge of dissent against the Soviet system. Now business is 'untenable', the group says. **Back in the USSR** — PAGE 7

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Mar 9	prev	%chg		Mar 9	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4278.67	4170.70	2.58	\$ per £	1.105	1.088	0.760	US Gov 10 yr	148.04	1.92	0.07
Nasdaq Composite	13194.83	12795.55	3.12	\$ per €	1.316	1.311	1.191	UK Gov 10 yr		1.53	0.08
Dow Jones Ind	33381.32	32632.64	2.23	¥ per €	0.840	0.830	127.825	Ger Gov 10 yr		0.22	0.11
FTSEurofirst 300	1700.03	1625.94	4.61	₹ per \$	115.815	115.900	81.953	Jpn Gov 10 yr	110.90	0.16	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	3741.37	3605.29	6.73	₹ per €	152.372	151.357		US Gov 30 yr	114.26	2.28	0.03
FTSE 100	7190.72	6994.11	2.25	SFr per €	1.624	1.611		US Gov 2 yr	103.98	-0.51	0.11
FTSE All-Share	3999.43	3817.24	4.42	€ per \$	0.905	0.919					
CAC 40	6393.83	5982.96	7.13								
Xetra Dax	13847.93	12831.51	7.92								
Nikkei	24717.53	24790.95	-0.30								
Hong Kong	20627.71	20765.87	-0.67								
MSCI World \$	2797.70	2819.54	-0.77	GB Won \$	107.87	123.70	-4.88	Fed Funds Eff	0.08	0.08	0.00
MSCI EM \$	1096.05	1107.30	-1.02	US Won \$	113	127.98	-7.7	US 3m Bills	0.38	0.38	-0.02
MSCI ACWI \$	835.47	880.77	-4.98	US Yen \$	219.01	189.95	2.93	Euro Liber 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
								US 9m T-Bills	0.98	0.98	-0.08
								Prices are subject for addition			

COMMODITIES

	Mar 9	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	115.07	123.70	-6.98
Oil Brent \$	118.10	127.98	-7.72
Gold \$	2039.05	1980.95	2.93

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HOSPITAL HIT AS ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS GROW



An injured woman was carried from a Mariupol, Ukraine, maternity hospital heavily damaged by Russian shelling on Wednesday.

Russia Strikes Maternity Center; Many Trapped in Besieged Cities

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

Russian forces bombarded Ukrainian cities, prevented hundreds of thousands of civilians from escaping and destroyed a maternity hospital on Wednesday, while the Kremlin accused the United States of waging "an economic war" against Russia.

The misery wrought by Russia's Ukraine invasion on Feb. 24 deepened further in both countries — destruction and deprivation in Ukraine, and the toll of the West's tightening vise grip on Russia's economy.

Perilous conditions were getting worse in several Ukrainian cities where Russian forces were closing in, increasingly striking civilian targets and leaving people trapped without basic needs like water, food, heat and medicines.

Things were especially dire in the southern port of Mariupol, where Russian strikes hit several civilian buildings on Wednesday, including a maternity hospital, sending bloodied pregnant women fleeing into the cold.

Hundreds of casualties have been reported, people have taken to cutting down trees to burn for heat and cooking, and trenches have been dug for mass graves and local authorities have instructed residents on how to dis-

pose of dead family members — wrap the bodies, tie the limbs and put them on the street.

At the defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant, seized by Russian troops in the days after President Vladimir V. Putin ordered the invasion, the outside electricity supply was cut off, threatening the ability to safeguard the nuclear waste stored there, the International Atomic Energy Agency said. For now, the plant has backup power and no radiation leaks have been detected, the agency said, but its warnings signaled that Chernobyl, site of the worst nuclear accident in history, could once again pose a threat to the region.

The foreign ministers of Ukraine and Russia were expected to meet on Thursday for the first time since the invasion. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, host of the meeting, said Wednesday that he hoped it would crack the door open to a permanent ceasefire, but such a prospect remained uncertain at best.

Mr. Putin, seeking to regain Moscow's lost sway over Ukraine, continued to demand that his neighbor unilaterally disarm and guarantee that it would never join the NATO alliance, conditions that Ukrainian and NATO officials have described as unacceptable.

The war has claimed thousands of lives and prompted more than

Continued on Page A8

For Oligarchs, U.A.E. Softens Sanctions' Bite

This article is by David D. Kirkpatrick, Mona El-Naggar and Michael Forsythe.

Stretching into the Persian Gulf from the beaches and skyscrapers of Dubai is an artificial archipelago in the shape of a vast palm tree, its branchlike rows of islands lined with luxury hotels, apartments and villas.

Among the owners of those homes are two dozen close allies of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, including a former provincial governor and nuclear power plant manager, a construction magnate and former senator, and a Belarusian tobacco tycoon.

At least 38 businessmen or officials linked to Mr. Putin own dozens of properties in Dubai collectively valued at more than \$314 million, according to previously unreported data compiled by the nonprofit Center for Advanced Defense Studies. Six of those owners are under sanctions by the United States or the European Union, and another oligarch facing sanctions has a yacht moored there. For now, they can count themselves lucky.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, much of the world has imposed sweeping sanctions on Russian financial institutions and the circle around Mr. Putin, and even notoriously secretive banking centers like Switzerland, Monaco and the Cayman Islands have begun to cooperate with the freezing of accounts, seizing of mansions and impounding of yachts.

But not Dubai, the cosmopolitan resort and financial center in the United Arab Emirates. Al-

Continued on Page A10

They Boil Snow for Water, With Death in the Air

By VALERIE HOPKINS

LVIV, Ukraine — Marina Levchuk said she received an alarming text message from the local authorities in the besieged city of Mariupol several days ago, before she decided to flee. "If somebody dies in your family," she said, recalling the message in her own words, "just put the body outside, cover it, tie up the hands and the legs and leave it outside."

"That's what's going on in Mariupol now," she said of the city, currently ringed by Russian forces pounding it with bombs, missiles and artillery, and hitting a maternity hospital on Wednesday. "There are just bodies lying in

Residents of Mariupol Are Told to 'Just Put the Body Outside'

the streets.

"There is no water, no heating, no gas," she continued in a video call on WhatsApp on Wednesday. "And they are collecting snow, melting the snow, and boiling the snow."

It has been seven days since Russian forces encircled the city, an important port on Ukraine's southern coast, and began to lay siege to the roughly half a million people living there. Most commu-

nications with the outside world were severed, leaving primarily those with access to satellite phones to alert Ukraine and the rest of the world to the increasingly dire state of affairs.

Having failed to defeat the Ukrainian army in the war's first weeks, and encountering stiff resistance in major cities like Mariupol, Kharkiv and Kyiv, Russian commanders appear to be resorting to tactics used in previous wars in Chechnya and Syria: flattening cities with overwhelming and indiscriminate firepower.

A video uploaded to Facebook on Wednesday evening showed the center of Mariupol after an

Continued on Page A16



Putin vs. the West

Guarding Kyiv on Wednesday. The broader conflict is one of economics and politics. Page A17.

Hong Kong's Virus Crackdown Stirs Desperation

By ALEXANDRA STEVENSON

HONG KONG — As the government in Hong Kong struggles to contain the city's worst Covid outbreak ever, some residents have panicked. They have emptied supermarket shelves of vegetables and meat. They have raided drugstores for pain and fever medication. Those who could afford it have jumped on

flights out of the city.

Tens of thousands of new Omicron cases are being reported each day, and deaths have surged. The anxiety gripping Hong Kong is not just about the explosion of infections, but also about what the government will do next. Mixed messages from officials have left residents wondering: Will there be a lockdown? Will we be sent into isolation facilities? Will our

children be taken from us if they test positive?

Under pressure from Beijing to eliminate infections, Hong Kong officials have vowed to test all 7.4 million residents. Such an operation would require restricting people's movements, but the government has been ambiguous about whether it would impose a lockdown, and if so, when. Just the

Continued on Page A6

Spending Bill Clears House, Minus Covid Funds

By EMILY COCHRANE

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday passed a sprawling \$1.5 trillion federal spending bill that includes a huge infusion of aid for war-torn Ukraine and money to keep the government funded through September, after jettisoning a package to fund President Biden's new Covid-19 response effort.

Bipartisan approval of the first major government spending legislation of Mr. Biden's presidency marked the first time since he took office that Democrats were able to use their congressional majorities and control of the White House to set funding levels for their priorities, including climate resilience, public education and child care.

But the exclusion of the \$15.6

billion pandemic aid package, amid disputes about its cost that threatened to derail the broader legislation, infuriated the White House and frustrated Democratic leaders, leaving the fate of the Biden administration's coronavirus strategy uncertain.

The president's team has said it is in urgent need of funding for testing, therapeutics, vaccines

Continued on Page A19



INTERNATIONAL A4-17

New Leader in South Korea

Voter discontent helped the conservative Yoon Suk-yeol, a former prosecutor, win a tight race for president. PAGE A4

A Boat Too Big to Ignore

As Europe targets the assets of Russian oligarchs, a 459-foot yacht cloaked in secrecy draws scrutiny in Italy. PAGE A11

NATIONAL A18-25

A First Shot at Pot Stores

New York officials intend to reserve the first 100 or more retail licenses to sell marijuana for people who have been convicted of related offenses. PAGE A25

A Crucial Clinic's Demise

A Texas clinic for transgender adolescents shut down last year after pressure from top state officials, including the governor's office. PAGE A18

Patient With Pig's Heart Dies

David Bennett Sr. had received a heart from a genetically modified pig, a procedure that may yet offer hope to millions of Americans. PAGE A18

BUSINESS B1-7

Regulations for Crypto

The president signed an executive order that will coordinate efforts among financial regulators to better understand the risks. PAGE B7

Retail Exodus From Russia

The financial and reputational risks of doing business in Russia are rising for Western brands. PAGE B1

SPORTS B8-10

Ovechkin's Putin Problem

The Washington Capitals superstar is a longtime friend and prominent supporter of the Russian president. PAGE B8



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Moving Through the Lens

After decades of modeling, Ginevere van Seenus has found love and is enjoying success as a photographer. PAGE D3

A Not-So-New Emerging Artist

It took a very long time for the art world to discover the painter Stephen Tashjian, a.k.a. Tabboo! PAGE D2

ARTS C1-8

A Bigger Vision of Black Art

With an exhibition at Gagosian, the photographer Eric Zuck is trying to reach a broader audience. PAGE C1

Packed Field for Best Actress

Which nominee has the inside track to pick up an Academy Award? Kyle Buchanan gives his assessment. PAGE C3

OPINION A26-27

Ross Douthat

PAGE A27



0 554613 9

EPA LETS STATE SET ITS OWN EMISSION RULES

U.S. reverses a Trump move that blocked California's higher tailpipe standards.

By Russ Mitchell

California is back in the driver's seat as it steers the nation toward a future of cleaner cars and light trucks.

The Biden administration on Wednesday reinstated the state's authority to set motor vehicle pollution standards stricter than the federal government's. That includes tighter restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions.

The decision, announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, reverses an attempt by the Trump administration to block the state from using its vast market power to push the auto industry in a greener direction. The 2019 revocation of its waiver from the federal standard put California and the states that follow its lead on pollution limits into regulatory limbo, casting a mood of uncertainty across the automobile industry.

"This is truly important," EPA Administrator Michael Regan told *The Times*. "Not just for the people in California but for the nation as a whole. We are proudly reaffirming California's longstanding authority to lead in this area."

Important, yes, said Mark Wakefield, who heads the automobile group at consulting firm AlixPartners, but not shocking. It wasn't even certain the Trump-era decision would survive court challenges, he said, and very few automakers had assumed California would lose the battle with Trump.

"It's the world as we knew it returning," said Wakefield, pointing the U.S. auto industry. [See EPA, A9]

Russia bombs hospital amid truce



WORKERS evacuate a woman who was injured in the attack on the maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine.



A UKRAINIAN serviceman takes up a position as vehicles approach in Irpin, near Kyiv, the nation's capital.

'Cellar violinist' inspires
A musician's concerts in a basement shelter become a symbol of resilience. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

House OKs Ukraine aid
A larger spending bill includes \$13.6 billion in military and humanitarian assistance. **NATION, A6**

'Nobody wants this' war
In L.A.'s Russian diaspora, feelings of pride jostle with shame, guilt and fear. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Attack stirs outrage, but West rebuffs latest call for no-fly zone

By NABIH BULOS, KATE LINTHICUM AND ANUMITA KAUR

KOZELETS, Ukraine — With basic survival in Ukraine growing increasingly precarious, civilian evacuation efforts sputtered yet again Wednesday as Russian bombs slammed into a maternity hospital.

Ukraine's government had announced a daylight cease-fire for several corridors around the country that were designated for the safe exit of residents. The routes covered some of the hardest-hit areas, including the southern port city of Mariupol, where hundreds of thousands of civilians have been trapped for days with no electricity and water and dwindling supplies of food and medicine.

But late Wednesday afternoon, Russia appeared to break the cease-fire when bombs hit a Mariupol hospital complex, injuring 17. Images showed emergency responders carrying a bloodied pregnant woman through a courtyard littered with mangled cars and a heavily damaged building still smoldering.

The bombs added to the misery of a blockaded city where hungry residents have begun breaking into stores and officials dug a mass grave to bury dozens of soldiers and civilians killed in recent days.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the hospital attack "beyond an atrocity" and appealed again to the West to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine so Russia "no

[See Ukraine, A4]

The vastly outgunned Ukrainians outsmart the invaders

By NABIH BULOS

NEAR KYIV, Ukraine — The Russian soldier wrenched the steering wheel to the right, digging furrows in the embankment as the truck lurched onto a field astride the M06 highway near Kyiv. He barreled down a few dozen yards, desperate to escape the Ukrainian forces that ambushed his armored column a few miles away when he ran into another unit.

"We got the info that they were coming down this road; our intelligence groups told us," said Vasil, a 57-year-old Ukrainian tank operator sitting at a picnic table in the bushes on the side of the highway. A few yards away was his tank; it too was obscured by the trees, like a bulky beast with its turret pointed toward the road.

"They were more than us. We used everything we had." The driver's corpse and the burnt husk of the overturned Russian truck seemed proof that it was enough.

The recent skirmish was one of the many surprises of this invasion, now entering its third week: The Ukrainian army, outmanned and outnumbered by several magnitudes, has somehow been able not just to survive, but to bog down and score palpable hits against its adversary, even as Russian forces have expanded their reach in the east and south.

Rather than a lightning-fast assault made up of tank columns and swarms of helicopters meant to overrun

[See Tactics, A5]

Guess who? P-22 roams Silver Lake

It's unclear why L.A.'s famous mountain lion left Griffith Park for the residential area.

By NATHAN SOLIS AND GREGORY YEE

Sometime around dusk on Tuesday, the celebrity mountain lion known as P-22 made his way along Silver Lake Boulevard without much fanfare. The 123-pound big cat managed to traverse 3 1/2 miles of residential neighborhoods from his usual stomping grounds around the Hollywood sign in Griffith Park to a spot not far from the Silver Lake Reservoir.

Whatever major roads or backyards P-22 crossed is unclear, but his route led him to Berkeley Circle in Silver Lake. That's where the big cat locked eyes with Chris Blim standing just a few yards away. He was talking to a friend when something triggered a light on his neighbor's doorbell camera.

At first, he thought the animal was a coyote, but he quickly realized it was a mountain lion.

"We're just standing there looking at each other and the light goes off," he said. "The only thing you see is the eyes, and that's when the heart drops. This is not a house cat."

Blim said he took a video of the itinerant feline on his phone. [See P-22, A12]

Pig heart transplant recipient dies

A 57-year-old Maryland man lived for two months after doctors' last-ditch experiment. **NATION, A12**

More baseball games canceled

M.L.B. loses another week of its regular season as the owners and players fail to reach a new labor deal in talks. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Clouds early, then sun. L.A. Basin: 68/47. **B6**

Disney opposes LGBTQ bill

CEO talks to Florida governor about a proposal some called "Don't Say Gay." **CALENDAR, E1**

7 85944 00200 5



THIS SHELL station on San Vicente Boulevard charged \$7.29 for top-grade gas Monday. Rich or desperate drivers aren't the only ones paying outlier prices.

Where a fill-up is a big drain

Some gas stations notorious for high prices charge upward of \$7 a gallon. Who's buying it and why?

By Sam Dean

Gas prices in Los Angeles have climbed to new heights this week, with Angelenos shelling out more than \$5.50 a gallon on average at the pump.

But for customers at a handful of notorious gas stations across town, \$5.50 would be a bargain.

These stations are the mysterious outliers of the L.A. petroleum landscape,

advertising \$6.95, \$6.99 or even \$7.05 for a gallon of regular grade, seemingly in defiance of economic sense.

Mention their intersections, and many Angelenos gravely nod, their eyes growing wide: How can that place at Fairfax and San Vicente, or La Cienega and Beverly, or downtown on Alameda right across from Olvera Street, charge such wild prices? What dark secrets do they hide? And who's des-

perate enough to buy gas there?

With a new federal ban on Russian oil nudging pump prices still higher, *The Times* set out to find answers at three of the priciest gas stations in town.

On a sunny Tuesday afternoon, the Mobil on La Cienega across from the Beverly Center had customers despite its \$6.95 price (\$7.55 for the many buying premium). Most were in a [See Expensive gas, A9]

BUSINESS INSIDE: A nurse practitioner's licenses are revoked after an actress' death. **A8**

The Washington Post

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Mostly cloudy 54/38 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 60/44 B3

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 • B2

Russian strike hits maternity hospital

THE BIG PICTURE
Isolation and economic pain: New iron curtain falls on Russia

BY PAUL SONNE,
JEANNE WHALEN
AND CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

An economic and cultural iron curtain is descending on Russia as President Vladimir Putin proceeds with his invasion of Ukraine, reversing decades of integration with Western economies and threatening to isolate Russians to an extent unseen since the Soviet era.

The dramatic severing is the result of punishing restrictions put in place by the United States and Europe, including bans on Russian aircraft flying in Western airspace and sanctions on the central bank. It has been compounded by a voluntary exodus of international companies from the Russian market.

But the isolation is also a function of the repressive measures Putin has taken at home. Those moves have curbed the free flow of information online, contained public protest and sent thousands of Russians fleeing abroad, fearing the possibility of martial law, conscription or closed borders in a country careening toward a more severe form of authoritarianism.

"As Putin tries to reduce Ukraine to rubble, he is also turning Russia into a prison," Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland said during testimony to Congress on Tuesday.

The result is the rise of a pariah state version of Russia, which has swiftly become a place many of its own citizens don't even recognize — one where money is subject to capital controls, where the radio

SEE IRON CURTAIN ON A11

@PKCapitol: In uncommon unity, Congress is rushing to send aid. **A2**

Disappointed: Ukraine hoped ties to China would spur support. **A14**



Emergency personnel and volunteers carry an injured pregnant woman from the damaged maternity hospital in Mariupol after a Russian airstrike Wednesday. The U.N. said it had recorded 516 civilian deaths so far but that the true toll was "considerably higher."

Fighting-age men leave with a mix of relief, regret

BY CHICO HARLAN

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA — He drove the final miles toward Ukraine's border bracing for the possibility that he was spending his last minutes with his family. Dmitri Alexeev, 34, told his two children he'd probably be prevented from leaving by Ukraine's border guards. His daughter, 12, said she didn't want to be separated. Alexeev could scarcely choke out another word until the checkpoint, when he handed over a medical slip noting a head injury he sustained as a child. A Ukrainian

guard looked at the document. And the next moment, Alexeev was in Moldova, still with his family, one of the rare men who made it out.

Rather than returning to a war zone, he was ushered by a volunteer to the Moldovan capital, where two days later, he was awaiting a bus ride toward Germany, his daughter nestling into his elbow, as he tried to describe everything he was feeling: fortune, relief, shame.

"I feel guilty," Alexeev said, "because we are safe."

SEE MEN ON A16

Zelensky rallied world leaders, now implores them to join fight

BY SHANE HARRIS,
ASHLEY PARKER
AND JOHN HUDSON

As Russia's assault on Ukraine enters its second week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has shifted from rallying world leaders — who have levied historic economic and financial sanctions against Russia — to shaming them for not doing more to hasten the war's end.

On Wednesday, Zelensky shared with his 5.1 million Twitter followers video of what Ukrainian officials said was the



President Volodymyr Zelensky: "We must return courage" to Western leaders.

aftermath of a Russian military strike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol. "People, children are under the wreckage. Atrocities!" Zelensky wrote. "How much longer will the world be an accomplice ignoring terror? Close the sky

SEE ZELENSKY ON A12

17 injured as concerns deepen over escalating civilian casualties

BY DAVID L. STERN,
MICHAEL BIRNBAUM,
KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
AND PAULINA FIROZI

MUKACHEVO, UKRAINE — A Russian airstrike hit a Ukrainian maternity hospital in the besieged coastal city of Mariupol on Wednesday, injuring at least 17 staff members and patients as leaders warned of the fast-rising civilian toll of the two-week-old conflict, officials said.

The blast tore the front off one of the buildings in the hospital complex and damaged several others. One pregnant woman was evacuated on a stretcher; a long, bleeding gash on her left hip was visible in images from the scene. Another pregnant woman, bleeding from her forehead, walked down a staircase, a faded rose-print blanket draped over her shoulders, her possessions in a purple plastic bag. A flaming car sat on a square that was punctuated with gnarled, burned trees.

"What kind of country is this, Russia, which is afraid of hospitals and maternity hospitals and destroys them?" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a late-night video, appearing close to tears. "Were pregnant women going to fire at [the Russian city of] Rostov? Did someone in the maternity hospital abuse Russian-speakers? What was that? Was it the de-Nazification of the hospital?"

The bombing punctuated another devastating day in Ukraine, where leaders made increasingly desperate calls for more Western help, while U.S. officials warned that Russia seemed to be launching more indiscriminate attacks and making small but strategic

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

The Debrief: Biden navigates how to ask Americans for sacrifices. **A15**

Graphic imagery: Journalists walk fine line to show war's brutality. **C1**

Colo. county clerk charged in plot to copy election data

BY EMMA BROWN

A county official in Colorado whose embrace of election-fraud conspiracy theories has made her a hero to election deniers nationwide has been indicted on state criminal charges stemming from her alleged efforts to secretly copy hard drives from Dominion Voting Systems equipment, officials said Wednesday.

Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters, who is now seeking the GOP nomination for Colorado secretary of state, is the first elections official to face criminal charges related to conspiracy theories surrounding the 2020 election, experts said. She is accused not of fixing the election but of breaking the law as she sought to investigate whether someone else did.

SEE PETERS ON A2



TYRONE SAU/REUTERS

'The elderly will pay a huge price': Hong Kong's covid struggles

A temporary bridge from Shenzhen, on the Chinese mainland, to Hong Kong carries materials and workers to the construction site of a coronavirus isolation facility in the Lok Ma Chau area of the territory. Hong Kong, hit hard by the omicron variant, especially among its elderly, now has the highest covid-19 death rate in the developed world. **Story, A8**

People of color inhale dirtier air, long after redlining's end

Discrimination of decades ago still affects 45 million, study finds

BY DARRYL FEARS

Decades of federal housing discrimination did not only depress home values, lower job opportunities and spur poverty in communities deemed undesirable because of race. It's why 45 million Americans are breathing dirtier air today, according to a landmark study released Wednesday.

The practice known as redlining was outlawed more than a half-century ago, but it continues to impact people who live in neighborhoods that government mortgage officers shunned for 30 years because people of color and immigrants lived in them.

The analysis, published in the journal *Environmental Science*

and *Technology Letters*, found that, compared with White people, Black and Latino Americans live with more smog and fine particulate matter from cars, trucks, buses, coal plants and other nearby industrial sources in areas that were redlined. Those pollutants inflame human airways, reduce lung function, trigger asthma attacks and can damage the heart and cause strokes.

"Of course, we've known about redlining and its other unequal impacts, but air pollution is one of the most important environmental health issues in the U.S.," said Joshua Apte, a co-author of the study and an assistant professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley.

"If you just look at the number of people that get killed by air pollution, it's arguably the most important environmental health issue in the country," Apte said.

The federal Home Owners' **SEE REDLINING ON A4**

IN THE NEWS



GARY MCCALLOUGHY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wentz to Washington The Commanders solved their quarterback problem by reaching a deal with the Colts for Carson Wentz. **D1**

THE NATION Lawmakers debated whether to end the nation's "spring forward" and "fall back" policies, citing the health effects of shifting clocks, and most agreed it was about time. **A3**

The world's first person to receive a genetically modified pig's heart has died, two months after the transplant. **A3**

As police deploy more drones, license plate

readers and robots, complications include privacy and discrimination concerns. **A7**

THE WORLD *The Endurance*, which sank more than a century ago, has been found nearly 10,000 feet under the Antarctic ice. **A9**

South Korean voters elected conservative Yoon Suk-yeol as their next leader, in the most contested presidential election in the country's democratic history. **A17**

THE ECONOMY

Phlow Corp. won the Trump White House's backing to help revitalize domestic manufacturing of active drug ingredients, but its new products rely on foreign supplies. **A18**

More than 4 million Americans quit or changed jobs in January, slightly down from December but still in record-high territory amid a tight labor market. **A19**

THE REGION **With Mary M. Cheh** dropping out, the election to represent Ward 3

on the D.C. Council is suddenly wide open. **B1**

A MedStar doctor was hit by his own car and killed after a thief jumped in and sped off near Adams Morgan in D.C. **B1**

After an inspector ordered a free pantry removed in Takoma Park, a woman led a community fight to keep it open. **B1**

Maryland is poised to pass the second statewide ban in the country on declawing cats, a once-common process many see as barbaric. **B1**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Helping a loved one who hoards

The disorder has increased during the pandemic. Experts say it's important to approach your family member with empathy, not judgment.

BUSINESS NEWS **A18**
COMICS **C8**
OPINION PAGES **A21**
LOTTERIES **B3**
OBITUARIES **B6**
TELEVISION **B8**
WORLD NEWS **A8**

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0170628121100 3

PSG y Messi, otra caída traumática en la Champions

Ganaba 1-0 en Madrid (2-0 en el global), pero el Real se lo dio vuelta con un brillante Benzema (foto) y lo eliminó por 3-1; desde 2015 el argentino sufre en el gran torneo. Deportes



HALLAN UN BARCO HUNDIDO EN LA ANTÁRTIDA EN 1915

—sociedad

Los restos del Endurance, del explorador inglés Shackleton, fueron encontrados casi intactos a 3000 metros de profundidad en el Mar de Weddell. Página 22

EL NIÑO SUPERDOTADO AL QUE QUERÍAN HACER REPETIR DE GRADO

—sociedad

Con 5 años, Benjamín aprobó los primeros grados de primaria, pero al cambiar de escuela no lo avalaron; los padres lograron un amparo favorable. Página 24

LA NACION

JUEVES 10 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Acuerdo con el FMI: el Gobierno cedió para sumar a la oposición

DEUDA. El proyecto solo contendrá la refinanciación, pero no las medidas, como pedía Economía; hoy se votará en Diputados

El Gobierno finalmente debió ceder a las demandas opositoras para salvar en el Congreso el acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI). En una jornada cargada de reuniones y gestiones entre el presidente Alberto Fernández; el titular de la Cámara de Diputados, Sergio Massa, y los representantes legislativos de Juntos por el

Cambio, el oficialismo aceptó que el proyecto solo contenga un artículo resolutivo que simplemente avala la refinanciación de la deuda acordada por el Poder Ejecutivo con el Fondo, pero eliminó el artículo que se vinculaba con los anexos que detallan las medidas a adoptar para cumplir con el plan. Esta modificación implicó un revés

político muy fuerte para el ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán (de viaje en Estados Unidos), que había reclamado la aprobación sin cambios de la iniciativa.

Anoche, el plenario de comisiones de Diputados aprobó el dictamen con las últimas modificaciones y se definió que hoy será tratado en el recinto. Página 10

EL ESCENARIO

El Presidente priorizó a Massa sobre Guzmán

Santiago Dapelo
Página 10

Gestiones del ministro de Economía en Houston por la crisis energética

Francisco Jueguen
Página 12

El kirchnerismo duro se movilizó contra el Fondo

Página 12

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 14

Rusia atacó un hospital de niños

Bombardeó una maternidad en Mariupol; hoy se reunirán los cancilleres de Kiev y Moscú en Turquía



Una mujer embarazada es evacuada de la maternidad atacada por Rusia en Mariupol

EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Luisa Corradini
CORRESPONSAL EN FRANCIA

PARÍS.— Fiel a la brutal estrategia practicada en Siria, y quebrando la tregua humanitaria anunciada la víspera, Rusia bombardeó ayer un hospital de niños en Mariupol, que dejó por lo menos 17 heridos e inmensos

daños materiales. En medio de temores a un ataque con armas químicas o biológicas, y de un corte de energía en la central atómica de Chernobyl, que plantea el riesgo de un escape radiactivo, hubo signos alentadores de "progreso" en las negociaciones, según reconocieron tanto Kiev como Moscú. Continúa en la página 2

Lviv prepara la resistencia

Elisabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

LVIV, Ucrania.— "Militares rusos, váyanse a la m... Los ciudadanos de Lviv". Es el cartel de "bienven-

nida" a la entrada de Lviv, ciudad ucraniana famosa por su deliciosa arquitectura austrohúngara, que se prepara para resistir el avance cada vez más cruento de las fuerzas rusas. Continúa en la página 3

OPINIÓN

Putin no tiene salidas fáciles, y eso aterra

Thomas L. Friedman
Página 4

Mundo A14

Enfim, eis o Endurance

Uma equipe de resgate divulgou imagens dos destroços do navio *Endurance*, do célebre explorador irlandês Ernest Shackleton, que naufragou na Antártida em 1915 e estava perdido a 3.000 metros.



Imagem do *Endurance*, obtida pela expedição de busca na Antártida

Saúde B4

Projeto da USP vai monitorar evolução de 500 crianças nos três primeiros anos

SP deixa de exigir máscara ao ar livre; medida inclui escolas

Com recuo da Covid no estado, Doria libera lotação total de eventos esportivos

O governador João Doria (PSDB) anunciou ontem que, após 22 meses de obrigatoriedade, o uso de máscara em locais ao ar livre passa a ser opcional no estado de São Paulo. A medida é de efeito imediato e inclui espaços abertos em escolas, como quadras e pátios.

Em ambientes fechados, a proteção continua obrigatória, e a desobediência da regra, punida com multa. A decisão segue a redução de mortes e hospitalizações decorrentes da Covid no estado, que registrou em média 146 dos 505 óbitos diários no país nos últimos sete dias.

Doria, que fez seu anúncio depois do Rio de Janeiro e outros estados, também liberou eventos esportivos para ocupar 100% da plateia, contanto que exijam comprovante de vacinação. Estádios de futebol vinham recebendo, até então, no máximo 70% do público.

O tucano avalia abolir a máscara também em locais fechados até o fim do mês. De acordo com o governo, 89% da população acima de cinco anos está com o esquema vacinal completo. Mas a cobertura ainda é desigual entre as cidades, sobretudo para as crianças. **Saúde B1**



Grávida é retirada de maca em meio a escombros após ataque atribuído à Rússia contra uma maternidade em Mariupol, alvo de bombardeios no sul da Ucrânia. Forças Armadas da Ucrânia/Eyepress/AFP

Esporte B9

Impunidade explica aumento da violência no futebol, dizem especialistas

Turismo C8

Praia de Barra Grande, no Piauí, oferece sossego e natureza preservada

Ucrânia acusa Rússia de atacar maternidade

A Ucrânia acusou ontem a Rússia de ter bombardeado uma maternidade e hospital infantil em Mariupol, cidade portuária no sul do país que está sob cerco. O ataque teria ocorrido durante cessar-fogo para permitir a saída de civis da cidade. Segundo o governo local, 17 mulheres e crianças se feriram.

Grávidas foram removidas no meio do entulho fumegante do lado de fora do prédio, e as imagens geraram condenação dos principais países ocidentais e da ONU. Kiev voltou a pedir à Otan uma zona de exclusão aérea sobre o país. O Kremlin disse que suas ações não miram locais civis.

Uma porta-voz da chancelaria russa declarou que não há o objetivo de derrubar o presidente ucraniano, Volodymyr Zelenski, e que a operação tem saído como planejado, contrariando analistas que veem dificuldades maiores do que as previstas por Moscou. A ofensiva completou ontem duas semanas.

Mariupol era uma das quatro cidades, ao lado de Kiev, Tchernihiv, Sumi e Kharkiv, em que os dois lados teriam concordado com trégua, que teria sido descumprida por Moscou. A frente sul da guerra se tornou crucial para a Rússia estabelecer um corredor da Crimeia às províncias separatistas. **Mundo A10**

Thiago Amparo

Putin, criminoso de guerra

A força da lei internacional reside em tencionar a hipocrisia de seu caráter universal de aplicabilidade seletiva. Mesmo frustrados com sua incapacidade em punir Putin, é a mesma lei que nos permite chamá-lo de criminoso de guerra. **Opinião A2**

EDITORIAIS A2

Tremor global

Sobre impacto de sanção dos EUA ao petróleo russo.

Tragédia ucraniana

Acerca de número impressionante de refugiados.

Globo boicota russos e para de exportar novelas **C4**

Regra de concessão de rodovias mudará com alta do petróleo **A16**

Postos de controle barram imprensa perto de Kiev **A11**

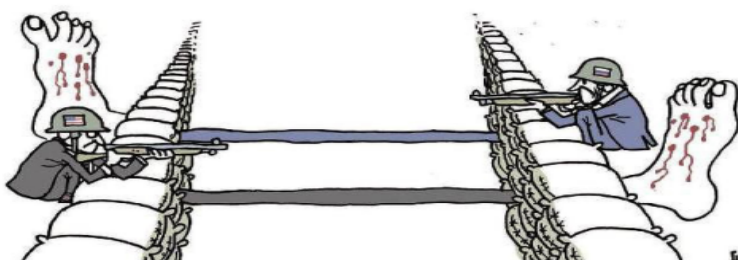
PT, PC do B e PV decidem formar federação sem PSB

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Laerte



Caetano encabeça protesto contra debate ambiental

Artistas sob a batuta de Caetano Veloso protestaram ontem em Brasília contra o afrouxamento das leis ambientais. Foram recebidos com líderes de movimentos do setor por ministros do STF e pelo presidente do Senado, Rodrigo Pacheco. **Ambiente B8**

Votação de projetos sobre combustíveis é adiada pela 3ª vez **A15**

Pacheco desiste de concorrer à Presidência
Presidente do Senado, Rodrigo Pacheco (PSD-MG) anunciou que desistiu de concorrer à Presidência da República. Ele disse que não há como conciliar seu cargo com a campanha. **A8**



Informe de Seprelad revela nexo de diputado con condenado por lavado

SET investiga dudosas movidas financieras de Erico Galeano

Titular del Fisco confirmó a Monumental que están verificando si el legislador cartista cumplió con tributos. Fiscalía por fin abrió pesquisa. Sospechado se atornilla a su banca.

PÁGINA 2 a la 5

Poco a poco la pesadilla cede terreno
Se cumplen dos años de que el coronavirus paralizó al Paraguay

PÁGINA 17

Hasta el domingo en la Costanera
Buena expectativa en Encarnación por Expo 0 Km que arranca hoy

PÁGINA 14

Planta solar de Puerto Esperanza
Esperan luz desde hace 40 años y ANDE igual les hace sufrir

PÁGINA 20



Peligrosos y contaminantes

De terror. La ciudadanía, cuando va en ómnibus, padece las chatarras que son una amenaza. Cuando anda a pie o en auto soporta el tóxico humo negro.

PÁGINA 19

Con USD 100 millones buscan estabilizar en algo el mercado
Petropar capitalizará fondo estatal para parar constante suba de naftas

PÁGINA 10

Operaba en Puerto Elsa con una flota de vehículos pequeños
Cae contrabandista que metía varios cientos de kilos de carne por día

PÁGINA 12

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DE CONDUCIR
PARA UNA VIDA
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TOYOTOSHI



TOYOTOSHI

LE FIGARO

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

Le Figaro
littéraire
spécial
collection

LE MEILLEUR DU PRIX GONCOURT
DÉCOUVREZ NOTRE COLLECTION EXCEPTIONNELLE.
PREMIER VOLUME : « LES RACINES DU CIEL »
DE ROMAIN GARY. EN KIOSQUE DÈS AUJOURD'HUI
PAGES 13 À 16



FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

Truffaut :
les noces
heureuses
du cinéma
et de la
littérature
NOTRE
SUPPLÉMENT

Énergie, défense : l'Europe cherche la riposte à Poutine

Les vingt-sept États membres de l'Union se retrouvent jusqu'à vendredi à Versailles pour un sommet consacré aux réponses à apporter à l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie.

Emmanuel Macron avait rêvé d'un sommet pour lancer les fondations, après la crise du Covid, d'un nouveau modèle de croissance européen. La guerre

en Ukraine a bousculé l'agenda de ce Conseil européen convoqué au château de Versailles. La présidence française entend faire avancer des dossiers par-

fois enlisés depuis des décennies que l'invasion russe a transformés en autant d'urgences. L'ordre du jour est chargé : examen de la demande d'adhésion de

l'Ukraine, de la Moldavie et de la Géorgie à l'Union européenne, nouvelles sanctions contre la Russie, renforcement de la défense du Vieux Continent,

fonds d'investissement pour la résilience face au conflit. Autrement dit, faire de l'Europe-puissance une réalité et non plus un slogan.

→ MACRON PROPOSE UN NOUVEAU PLAN DE RELANCE COMMUN AUX VINGT-SEPT → RENFORCER VINGT-SEPT ARMÉES POUR SOUTENIR UNE DÉFENSE COMMUNE
→ LE CHEF DE L'ÉTAT HÉRAUT CONSTANT D'UNE EUROPE-PUISSANCE → PENDANT LES COMBATS, LA DIPLOMATIE EXPLORE SES PROPRES PISTES PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

SÉCURITÉ
La Corse toujours sous tension après l'agression de Colonna
PAGES 10 ET 11

FOOTBALL
Le Real Madrid élimine le PSG
PAGE 20

ÉCONOMIE
La BCE face au spectre de la stagflation
PAGE 28

CHAMPS LIBRES

- La saga des livres pillés par les nazis dans la bibliothèque du « Figaro »
- Les chroniques d'Alexandre Devecchio et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- Un grand entretien avec Régis Debray
- L'analyse de Sébastien Falletti

PAGES 22 À 25

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi:
Pétrole, gaz : êtes-vous prêt à réduire votre consommation ?

NON 31% OUI 69%
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 240771

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
L'Ukraine, la Moldavie et la Géorgie ont-elles vocation à intégrer l'Union européenne ?

ULF ANDERSEN/AURIMAGES VIA AFP;
JEAN-MARIE MARCEL / ADOCC-
PHOTOS/DIPLATIA/AFIP;
JOEL SAGET/AFP



En Ukraine, ces artistes qui s'engagent pour leur pays

À Kiev, des musiciens organisent des spectacles en plein air malgré le froid et les sirènes annonçant des raids aériens. Tandis que des rock stars ont annulé leurs tournées internationales pour rejoindre les forces armées. PAGES 6 ET 7

GLEB GARMACH/REUTERS

Ben Judah : « Poutine est plus solitaire que ne l'était Staline »

Auteur d'un récent livre sur la Russie de Vladimir Poutine, le journaliste britannique Ben Judah explique que les Occidentaux ne se sont pas rendu compte à quel point l'épidémie de Covid avait transformé ce pays. Cette pandémie a eu « un impact sur Poutine » et sur le pouvoir russe, qui est passé « d'un régime autoritaire à une dictature où une seule personne règne sans aucun lien avec la société et prend seule les décisions ». PAGE 4

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Terrain miné

Il aura fallu l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine, devenue le plus grand champ de bataille en Europe depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, pour que le pow-wow périodique des vingt-sept chefs d'État et de gouvernement se mue en quelque chose de l'ordre du conseil de guerre. Avec le général Macron à la manœuvre, d'autant plus volontariste qu'il est en campagne... électorale, l'« Europe de la défense » est censée franchir « une nouvelle étape », ces jeudi et vendredi, sous les ors de Versailles. Pour les opinions publiques des pays membres, le concept a tout du serpent de mer : depuis le temps qu'on en parle sans vraiment le concrétiser, il semble que ce chantier en soit perpétuellement au stade de l'ébauche.

Sous la pression de l'ogre russe, il se peut que l'on préfère cette fois l'efficacité aux plans sur la comète. Un groupe d'experts suggère de commencer par la montée en puissance d'un solide pilier européen au sein de l'Otan, façon de dépasser une concurrence qui n'a pas lieu d'être, puis de développer une politique industrielle volontariste, afin de réduire un état de dépendance contraire au principe même de souveraineté. Jusqu'ici, on a bricolé à grand-peine des bataillons euro-

péens qui se sont révélés presque inutilisables, tant les procédures d'engagement restent lourdes et complexes. Les citoyens européens voudraient tout simplement que leurs armées nationales soient suffisamment fortes pour les protéger et assez coordonnées pour se battre efficacement au côté de leurs alliés. Est-ce si difficile ?

Mais la défense européenne reste un terrain miné. À quoi l'Allemagne, partenaire « primordial » longtemps assoupi à l'ombre du bouclier américain, va-t-elle consacrer ces 100 milliards d'euros

soudain mis sur la table pour sa défense ? Acheter, toujours, des équipements aux États-Unis ? Rebâtir son industrie de défense disparue ? Les ambitions industrielles et commerciales rivalisent déjà avec les objectifs stratégiques... Du moins Vladimir Poutine, en brandissant une menace existentielle, devrait-il faciliter l'adoption d'une « boussole stratégique », formule éloguement appliquée à des partenaires qui n'ont pas toujours vu le même péril à leur porte. ■

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Photo de Max Via sur Unsplash

'Some families were politely puzzled. After a 4,000-mile round trip, Krzysztof was furious'

Amelia Gentleman with the Ukrainians stranded in Calais by Home Office red tape
Page 8 →

'Genocide': Russia bombs Ukraine children's hospital



● Zelenskiy again calls for no-fly zone after explosion leaves patients trapped in rubble

● Mariupol's mayor says 1,170 citizens have been killed in rocket, bomb and artillery attacks

● Bodies 'lie unburied in street' as Red Cross describes conditions in port city as apocalyptic

Luke Harding Lviv
Julian Borger Washington
Jon Henley

Russian bombs "completely destroyed" a children's and maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities said yesterday, as shelling again halted evacuations from several cities, including the devastated southern port, where conditions were described as "apocalyptic".

As Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmitry Kuleba, accused Russia of "holding 400,000 people hostage" in Mariupol, the president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, denounced the attack as "genocide" and said patients, including children, were under the wreckage.

"A children's hospital, a maternity ward. How did they threaten

▲ An injured pregnant woman is rescued from Mariupol's maternity hospital after yesterday's bombing
PHOTOGRAPH: EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

the Russian Federation? What is this country that is afraid of hospitals, maternity wards and is destroying them?" Zelenskiy said.

"Hospitals and schools are destroyed. Churches and ordinary buildings are destroyed. People are killed. Children are killed. The aerial bombing of a children's hospital is the ultimate evidence that genocide of Ukrainians is happening."

Amid western warnings that Moscow's invasion was about to become even more brutal as the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, sought to regain momentum, local authorities described the damage to the hospital – a combined 600-bed complex with

children's and maternity wards – as "colossal" and said at least 17 people had been wounded, including women in labour.

Mariupol's deputy mayor, Sergei Orlov, said the shelling was continuous and 1,170 residents had died, 47 of whom were buried in a mass grave yesterday. "It's medieval," he said. "It's pure genocide. The attack isn't simply treacherous. It's a war crime."

The Guardian was unable to fully verify the Ukrainian officials' accounts, but video published by the Associated Press showed multiple injured people at the site of the hospital attack.

The Red Cross has described conditions in the port city as apocalyptic, while the deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, said the situation was "catastrophic" and Zelenskiy compared

Diplomacy Putin is leading his country to defeat – US secretary of state [Page 6](#) →

Fuel crisis Tories pile pressure on Sunak as war puts new strain on prices [Page 12](#) →

Boycott Moscow faces new reality as global firms pull out over conflict [Page 15](#) →

