

What's News

Business & Finance

New Covid-19 lockdowns in China helped drag oil prices back below \$100 a barrel, casting yet more uncertainty on a global economic expansion hamstrung by war in Ukraine, rising inflation and the end of stimulus. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks jumped** as the drop in oil prices eased investors' concerns about inflation ahead of the conclusion of the Fed's policy meeting on Wednesday. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow rose 2.1%, 2.9% and 1.8%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **The SEC is conducting** a sweeping investigation into potential conflicts of interest at the nation's largest accounting firms. **A1**

◆ **Raskin withdrew** from consideration as the Fed's top banking regulator, the White House said, after Republicans and Democrat Manchin opposed her nomination. **A2**

◆ **The Senate confirmed** Shalanda Young as OMB director, the first Black woman to hold the position. **A2**

◆ **Intel said it would invest** \$36 billion in semiconductor production and research across Europe. **B1**

◆ **U.S.-listed companies** are unveiling plans to repurchase their own shares at a record pace. **B1**

◆ **Airlines said** travel demand is roaring back and believe fliers will pay up to cover carriers' rising fuel bills. **B1**

◆ **VW is close to deciding** whether to build an electric pickup truck in the U.S. **B3**

◆ **AMC is buying 22%** of mining company Hycroft, venturing away from its core movie-theater operations. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **European leaders** arrived in Kyiv to meet with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy as Russia lobbed more missiles at the embattled capital and fighting escalated in the city's outskirts. **A1, A6-8, A10-11**

◆ **Biden is expected to announce** more than \$1 billion in new military assistance to Ukraine's government as early as Wednesday, according to U.S. officials. **A6**

◆ **Russia walked back** recently made demands on Washington related to the Iran nuclear deal, clearing the way for Iran and Washington to revive the 2015 pact, senior Western diplomats said. **A12**

◆ **Military prosecutors** began plea negotiations at Guantanamo Bay with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four co-defendants accused of orchestrating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. **A3**

◆ **Pfizer and partner BioNTech** have asked the FDA to authorize a second booster dose of their Covid-19 vaccine for people 65 years and older. **A3**

◆ **The Senate passed** legislation to allow states to make daylight-saving time permanent. **A4**

◆ **Russian prosecutors** asked a court to extend opposition leader Navalny's prison sentence, accusing him of fresh offenses. **A8**

◆ **A man with a history of mental-health issues** was arrested in connection with a string of shootings targeting homeless people in Washington, D.C., and New York City. **A3**

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Russia Steps Up Assault on Kyiv



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, center right, met in Kyiv on Tuesday with, from left, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki (whose image is partially obstructed by Mr. Fiala) and Polish Deputy Prime Minister Jarosław Kaczyński.

European leaders travel to the capital to meet with Zelenskyy as missile attacks persist

By ALAN CULLISON
AND ISABEL COLES

KYIV, Ukraine—European leaders traveled to Kyiv to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine as Russia lobbed more missiles at the embattled capital and fighting escalated in the city's outskirts.

One missile destroyed a building associated with an arms maker in central Kyiv in a pre-dawn strike, blowing the windows out of buildings in a one-block radius. Separately, two apartment buildings were hit, setting fire to one of them.

At least two residents died and dozens were taken to a nearby hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. There were no fatalities at the arms facility, officials said.

Near the outskirts of Kyiv, two journalists working for Fox News were killed and a third was injured when their vehicle came under fire near Russian positions.

Pierre Zakrzewski, a cameraman for Fox News, and Aleksandra "Sasha" Kuvshynova, a consultant, were reporting alongside foreign-affairs correspondent Benjamin Hall when their vehicle was struck on Monday, network chief Suzanne Scott told employees Tuesday. Mr. Hall was hospitalized in Ukraine.

With Russian forces pushing to the city's limits, Kyiv's mayor said he was imposing a 36-hour curfew from late Tuesday and that the capital faced a "difficult and dangerous moment."

The White House said Tuesday that President Biden would head to Brussels on March 24 for meetings with allied leaders as the West wrestles with

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Oil Falls Below \$100, Stocks Soar

Crude has dropped 22% from last week, with new global uncertainty roiling market outlooks

By RYAN DEZEMER
AND JOSH MITCHELL

New Covid-19 lockdowns in China helped drag oil prices back below \$100 a barrel, casting yet more uncertainty on a global economic expansion hamstrung by war in Ukraine, rising inflation and the end of stimulus.

New York oil futures dropped 6.4% on Tuesday, extending their decline over the past week to more than 22%, though they were up about 1% early Wednesday in Asia. Last

week they exceeded \$130 a barrel for the first time since the financial crisis, reflecting expectations that a war-related supply shock could be lasting. The trade was unraveled by cease-fire talks, bargain-hunting buyers of Russian oil in Asia and a reminder from China that the pandemic isn't over yet.

Markets from stocks and bonds to lumber and wheat futures have been roiled by volatility this year, as central banks begin to wean economies from pandemic-era support and Russia's invasion of Ukraine threatens to upend the supply of critical raw materials. Expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates on Wednesday for the first time in more than

Front-month Brent crude-oil futures price this year



three years has reduced appetite for some of the riskier assets that took flight in the pandemic's easy-money environment.

Though they gained on Tuesday, technology stocks have paused years of outperformance to lead a 17% decline in the Nasdaq Composite this year. Chinese stocks have lost 7.4% this week as concerns mount about the health of the global supply chains and questions about growth there. Even energy shares, in which investors have sought protection from the highest inflation in a generation, have lost some luster lately.

The S&P 500 added 2.1% on Tuesday, despite a 3.7% decline in energy shares. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose

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◆ Oil's decline eases concerns of stock-market investors... B1

Economy Exposes Cracks in Xi's Power

China struggles with sharply slowing growth and Western pressure over Russia entente

By LINGLING WEI

Last year, President Xi Jinping seemed all but invincible. Now, his push to steer China away from capitalism and the West has thrown the Chinese economy into uncertainty and exposed faint cracks in his hold on power.

Chinese policy makers became alarmed at the end of last year by how sharply growth had slowed after Mr. Xi tightened controls on private businesses, from tech giants to property developers. China's stringent Covid lockdowns, part of Mr. Xi's ap-

proach to handling the crisis, have ramped up again as Covid cases surge, hurting both consumer spending and factory output.

Add to that a pact with Russia in early February, just weeks ahead of its invasion of Ukraine, that has widened a gulf between China and the West and underlined how high the costs could be for China of implementing Mr. Xi's agenda at home and in foreign policy.

As Beijing works to manage

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◆ Pandemic, war threaten China's economic targets... A14

In Chernobyl, Trapped Staff Work at Russian Gunpoint

By JOE PARKINSON
AND DREW HINSHAW

It was 10 a.m., 16 days into Russia's war on Ukraine, and a land-line phone rang inside the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The site of the world's worst nuclear-power disaster had become an impromptu prison, and an increasingly dangerous one.

The signalman on duty lifted the receiver and passed the call to shift supervisor Valentin Heiko, a veteran of the defunct facility. Mr. Heiko told managers on the other end of the line that the 210 technicians and support staff were in a desperate situation, held hostage while keeping watch over thousands of spent fuel rods.

The Ukraine Crisis

◆ Oligarch's investment vehicle shifts control... A6
◆ Cultural icons at risk from conflict... A7
◆ Prosecutors seek more jail time for Navalny... A8

The night before had brought another standoff between the exhausted technicians responsible for safeguarding the nuclear waste and the Russian soldiers who have been holding them on the job at gunpoint since the first hours of the war.

"The psychological situation is deteriorating," Mr. Heiko said, updating managers in an office 30 miles away, two people on that call recalled.

Some technicians, demanding to go home, were threatening to walk out, past the Russian tanks parked outside.

The supervisor said it was his duty to toil on as long as required. "Everyone wants to go home, but we know we need to stay."

Since Feb. 23, Chernobyl's technicians and support staff have been working nonstop. After arriving at 9 p.m. for a single night shift to monitor electrical transmission levels and the temperature inside the plant's gigantic sarcophagus housing radioactive waste, they're approaching 500 hours on the job—snatching sleep on chairs in front of beeping machinery and on piles of clothes next to workstations.

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NYU Shakes It Off With Swift Class

Two-month course let students study music star's career

By JOSEPH PISANI

Lydia Cohen was picking classes for her last semester at New York University when she saw it: an entire class about Taylor Swift.

"I was like, 'Oh, my God, I need to get into this class,'" said Ms. Cohen, a devoted fan of the musician who listens to her songs as soon as she wakes up. "How does this exist?"

For nearly two months, the 22-year-old media-culture-and-communication major joined 19 other NYU students for 2.5 hours every Wednesday night to study the superstar. They discussed her impact on the music industry, her song-

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Big Four in Accounting Face SEC Investigation

By DAVE MICHAELS

WASHINGTON—Regulators are carrying out a sweeping investigation of conflicts of interest at the nation's largest accounting firms, asking whether consulting and other nonaudit services they sell undermine their ability to conduct independent reviews of public companies' financials, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Securities and Exchange Commission probe highlights the agency's new focus on financial-market gatekeepers such as accountants, bankers and lawyers. These firms help companies raise capital and communicate with shareholders, but also have duties under federal investor-protection laws. Auditors are a shareholder's first line of defense against sloppy or dodgy accounting.

Speaking at a national conference of auditors in

December, SEC Enforcement Director Gurbir Grewal said: "You will see that we will have a firm commitment moving forward to continue to target deficient auditing by auditors, auditor independence cases, cases around earnings management."

The SEC's Miami office sent letters last year seeking information about client work that could cause auditors to violate rules requiring they be independent of clients whose finances they inspect, according to the people.

They said the letters were sent to some smaller accounting firms as well as the Big Four: Deloitte & Touche LLP, Ernst & Young LLP, KPMG LLP, and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Spokesmen for the SEC, KPMG and PwC declined to comment. A spokeswoman for Ernst & Young and a spokesman for Deloitte didn't re-

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The best way to defeat inflation is to outwork it.

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War in Ukraine



● The world has changed but the west can still prevail
MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 17

● Echoes of past crises combine to haunt markets
MOHAMED EL-ERIAN, PAGE 11

● Putin turns to Chechen warlord as campaign falters
ANALYSIS, PAGE 3

West turns up heat on Moscow with moves against oligarchs and military

◆ EU targets Abramovich ◆ UK curbs hit Fridman ◆ US action on defence chiefs ◆ Show of solidarity as leaders visit Kyiv

VALENTINA POP — BRUSSELS
JASHINE CAMERON-CHILLESSE AND
LAURA HUGHES — LONDON
AIME WILLIAMS — WASHINGTON

The EU and UK imposed fresh sanctions on Russians and the US took action against 11 of the country's military leaders as western allies ratcheted up pressure on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

The EU added names including Chelsea Football Club owner Roman Abramovich to an asset freeze and travel ban list alongside Alfa Group shareholders German Khan and Alexey Kuznetsov. Tigran Khudaverdyan, executive director of Yandex, one of Russia's leading tech groups, is also blacklisted over his ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin. The UK unveiled an additional set of sanctions on more than 370 oligarchs, including Mikhail Fridman, co-founder of Alfa-Bank, and Mikhail Mishustin, Russia's prime minister.

With Nato leaders still ruling out military intervention in Ukraine, they have instead relied on increasing economic and diplomatic pressure on Moscow.

In a show of European solidarity, the leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia arrived in war-torn Kyiv yesterday evening — even as Russian shelling continued on residential neighbourhoods in the Ukrainian capital.

Czech prime minister Petr Fiala said the group was travelling as representatives of the European Council and planned to hold talks with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Nato also said that US president Joe Biden and the leaders of the alliance's other 29 members would meet next week for an extraordinary summit in Brussels. "We will address the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, our strong support for Ukraine and further strengthening Nato's deterrence and defence in response to a new reality for our security," said Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary-general.

Michal Dworczyk, a senior aide to

Protest fine Russian TV news editor punished for antiwar video



Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at a state broadcaster who protested against the invasion during the evening news on Monday, leaves court after being fined 50,000 roubles (\$280) for breaching protest laws in a video recorded beforehand. She still faces investigation over the protest itself. Report, Page 2

Poland's prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki, said that while Stoltenberg had been informed about yesterday's trip by the leaders of three of Ukraine's close allies, it had "nothing to do with the activities of Nato".

Zelenskyy acknowledged there was only a dim prospect of his country joining Nato, while again urging the alliance to come to his country's aid by enforcing a no-fly zone. "It's understood that Ukraine is not a member of Nato. We understand this," he said. "For years we

have been hearing about so-called open doors. But we have also now heard that we cannot go there."

Regardless Russian bombing has laid waste to several Ukrainian cities and triggered a wave of sanctions that has left Russia's economy more isolated than at any time since the cold war.

Under the new measures announced yesterday, vodka imports from Russia will face a 35 per cent import tariff in the UK, which also introduced a ban on exports of luxury goods. This is likely to

include items such as vehicles, high-end fashion and works of art.

In the EU, the economic measures include a ban on transactions with state-owned Russian companies, except in the oil and gas sector. An EU import ban on steel products worth €5.5bn, as well as an EU export ban for luxury goods to Russia was also adopted by the bloc.

European companies will be banned from most new investments in the Russian energy sector. European credit rating agencies would also be banned from

rating Russian companies and the country's sovereign debt, Brussels said.

In Washington, the state department published a list of 11 individuals it said were in the defence sector, including Viktor Zolotarev, commander-in-chief of Russia's National Guard.

Russia hit back with sanctions on US president Joe Biden, his son Hunter, secretary of state Antony Blinken and former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, banning them from entry to Russia "on the basis of reciprocity".

Main developments

- Volkswagen said it would consider expanding outside Europe as it struggles to secure parts from Ukraine
- Eli Lilly said it would stop exporting non-essential medicines to Russia and suspend all investments
- China stocks fell as talk of Beijing's willingness to give arms to Russia added to nerves over Covid cases
- Pakistan said it planned to finalise a Russian-built gas pipeline despite global pressure to isolate Moscow
- RWE warned that a ban on Russian energy imports would cause lasting damage to German industry

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Wall St hubris abounds in Malaysia fraud testimony

Former Goldman Sachs partner Tim Leissner's testimony in the trial of an ex-colleague laid bare a tale of hubris, greed and ambition at one of the most hard-nosed banks on Wall Street. He gave evidence against Roger Ng, who denies conspiring to bribe officials and launder billions from Malaysian state fund TMOB. Leissner has admitted involvement and is co-operating in the hope of leniency. US officials label the case kleptocracy at its worst.

Fraud laid bare — PAGE 9

Iran nuclear talks receive lifeline after Russia says sanctions hurdle overcome

HAJMEH BOZORGMEHR — TEHRAN
JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON

Russia yesterday said it had received guarantees from the US that sanctions imposed on Moscow would not affect its trade with Iran, potentially removing a stumbling block that had complicated efforts to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear accord with global powers.

Western officials paused indirect talks between Iran and the US last week, warning that Russian demands for assurances from Washington over sanctions threatened to unravel discussions.

Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, said yesterday at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian: "We've received written guarantees. They're incorporated into the text of the agreement itself."

Both Iran and Russia put the onus back on US officials, saying Washington had to address Tehran's outstanding demands for a deal to be signed.

"The Americans are trying to say every day that we're hindering this agreement, but this is a lie," Lavrov said.

"The agreement has not yet been finally approved in some capitals, and the Russian capital Moscow is not among these."

The US state department said it had no comment on Lavrov's remarks. However, it said the US was "continuing to engage" with Russia on reviving the nuclear deal, and confirmed that it "would of course not sanction Russian participation in nuclear projects" that were part of returning the agreement to full implementation. The state department added that it could not provide further assurances to Moscow.

Iran and global powers have been

moving closer to an agreement to resurrect the 2015 nuclear agreement that would lead to Tehran reversing its nuclear programme in return for the US rejoining the accord and lifting many sanctions on the Islamic republic.

Western diplomats blamed Russia for creating an obstacle with its demands just as a deal was about to be struck after 11 months of negotiations. But Iran, which considers neighbouring Russia a crucial geopolitical partner, insists it is the US blocking an agreement by refusing to remove all sanctions against Iran.

"Russia will not be an obstacle to reach an agreement and there is no link between developments in Ukraine and the Vienna talks," Amirabdollahian said.

"If we reach a final agreement in Vienna with the US on some issues which are our red lines, Russia will remain by Iran's side until the end of negotiations."

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Mar 15	prev	%chg		Pair	Mar 15	Prev	Pair	Mar 15	Prev	price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4229.65	4173.11	1.33		\$ per €	1.057	1.058	€ per \$	0.911	0.911	US Gov 10 yr	144.97	2.13	0.02
Nasdaq Composite	12810.42	12591.22	1.82		\$ per £	1.307	1.309	£ per \$	0.765	0.766	UK Gov 10 yr	1.58	-0.02	
Dow Jones Ind	33268.28	32940.24	0.98		¥ per \$	0.040	0.042	€ per €	1.191	1.198	Ger Gov 10 yr	0.33	-0.03	
FTSEurofirst 300	1702.56	1705.28	-0.16		¥ per \$	118.106	118.010	¥ per €	129.690	129.590	Japan Gov 10 yr	110.56	0.21	0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3739.63	3741.10	-0.04		¥ per €	154.432	153.998	£ index	81.285	81.508	US Gov 30 yr	109.55	2.47	0.01
FTSE 100	7575.76	7583.47	-0.25		SFr per €	1.023	1.028	SFr per €	1.230	1.221	Ger Gov 2 yr	103.63	-0.43	-0.08
FTSE AEX Share	3999.12	4014.87	-0.38											
CAC 40	6395.00	6399.94	-0.23											
Xetra Dax	13917.27	13929.11	-0.08											
Nikkei	25348.48	25307.85	0.15											
Hong Kong	18475.06	18531.66	-0.32											
MSCI World \$	2926.49	2940.04	-0.46											
MSCI EM \$	1095.01	1095.66	-0.06											
MSCI ACWI \$	958.61	963.53	-0.51											
FT Wilshire 2500	5711.53	5751.64	-0.70											
FT Wilshire 5000	4493.15	4494.43	-0.02											

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Three Defiant European Leaders Visit a Kyiv in Flames



The aftermath of a Russian attack last week in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine is scheduled to speak to Congress via video on Wednesday.

Surprise Move as Bombardment Intensifies

By MARK LANDLER and MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF
LONDON — Three European leaders staged a defiant show of support for Ukraine on Tuesday, traveling to its besieged capital, Kyiv, even as a relentless Russian artillery bombardment left apartment towers in the city ablaze, forcing terrified residents to flee into the street with only the clothes on their backs.

The dramatic visit by the prime ministers of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia, which unfolded in tight secrecy as they crossed the Ukrainian border by train after dawn, was a strikingly personal gesture. But it caught other European leaders off guard, angering some and baring uncomfortable divisions in how best to demonstrate Western solidarity with Ukraine.

It also came as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia disparaged the second consecutive day of negotiations with Ukraine, undercutting the faint glimmers of hope raised from talks the day before that both sides were looking for a way to halt the war.

The Kremlin slapped retaliatory sanctions on President Biden and other senior American officials. Mr. Biden announced his own plans to travel to Europe next week to showcase the unity of the NATO alliance in the face of Russian aggression.

A spokesman for Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, said the three visitors were "de facto" representing the European Union in Ukraine. In Brussels, however, officials said the trio did not have the E.U.'s blessing, and some European diplomats complained that the trip was too risky, given the Russian forces encircling Kyiv.

Others said they admired the audacity of the group, which also included Prime Minister Petr Fiala of the Czech Republic and Prime Minister Janez Jansa of Slovenia, casting it as a powerful symbol of the backing for Ukraine among countries on Europe's eastern flank, where the specter of Russian aggression looms larger than in Paris or London.

Still, for all the symbolism of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine's leaders under the threat of Russian rockets, Ukraine was facing the devastating barrage largely on its own. The mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, dismissed the 35-hour curfew, starting on Tuesday evening, which suggested the capital was entering an even more difficult

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Europe Braces For High Costs Of Refugee Aid

By PATRICIA COHEN

Nearly everyone who crossed the Danube on the open-air ferry from Ukraine and landed in the frostbitten Romanian port city of Isaccea on a recent morning had a roller bag and a stopgap plan. One woman planned to join her husband in Istanbul. Another was headed to Munich, where her company has its headquarters. Others were meeting brothers, cousins, in-laws and friends in Paris or Sofia, Madrid or Amsterdam.

And then, they hoped to go back to Ukraine.

"I need to return," said Lisa Slavachevskaya, who traveled with her 10-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter from Odessa. "My husband, my mother and my grandmother are there." She said she planned to go home in a month.

Whether such quick turnabouts are possible is one of the many uncertainties hanging over Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II. No matter how the catastrophe in Ukraine ends, the costs of helping the millions of Ukrainians fleeing Russian bombs will be staggering. Some early estimates put the bill for housing, transporting, feeding and processing the flood of humanity at \$30 billion in the first year alone.

"This is a humanitarian and medical emergency in the next weeks," said Giovanni Peri, director of the Global Migration Center

Continued on Page A14

Standing in Russia's Way as the Bodies Pile Up and Life Goes On

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — Alla Ryabko stood in the courtyard of the city morgue, trembling with grief and rage. Her son, Capt. Roman Ryabko, had been killed in fighting on the first day of the war in Ukraine, but two weeks had passed and his body had not yet been prepared for burial.

"He's there lying in a bag," she said, gesturing to the covered bodies on the ground. "They're not even giving him to me so that I can wash him. I have to take him away in a bag, a garbage bag."

The morgue is overflowing. Bodies are being released to families in the state they arrived, half-dressed in shredded military uniforms, spackled with blood and blackened by fire. Bodies are in

the corridor, in the administrative offices, in the courtyard, in a storage shed nearby. They are soldiers and civilians, wrapped in sheets or carpets or nothing at all.

Even as Ms. Ryabko cried out her anguish, artillery strikes shook the ground beneath her feet. There were already 132 bodies in the morgue that day. More would be on the way.

There is shelling every day in Mykolaiv. It usually starts before dawn, as a rumble or a thud or a thwack. It electrifies the air and sends a jolt through the gut, and those who choose to stay in bed, rather than flee to a basement, can shut their eyes and let their ears paint a picture of the battle raging in the dark.

Russian forces want to take Mykolaiv because it stands in their way. The Varvarivsky

A City That Awakens to Bombs Maintains Its Routines

Bridge in the city is the only passage for miles across the wide mouth of the Southern Buh River. By seizing the bridge, Russian fighters can push along the Black Sea coast west to Odessa, the headquarters of the Ukrainian Navy and the country's largest civilian port.

To get to the bridge, they have to go through the Ukrainian fighters who so far have not budged. And so the Russian troops bomb, randomly and indiscriminately, striking neighborhoods, hospitals

and supermarkets, opting for terror in the absence of military gain. At least a dozen civilians were killed by airstrikes over the weekend, according to the local authorities.

Yet there is also a refusal to succumb. Trash is still being collected, and city workers have embarked on an aggressive tree-pruning campaign, though the shelling is knocking down some of those trees.

There is the family who closed down a high-end interior design business and now drives around the city all day delivering food to needy residents, pausing only on occasion to dash into a basement for cover.

There is the group of local guys who banded together to try to fix a

Continued on Page A12



Alla Ryabko trying to find her son, who died in battle, at the morgue in Mykolaiv.



Citizens tried to start a damaged Russian tank so Ukrainian forces could take it.

Pfizer Is Seeking a 2nd Booster for Older Adults

By SHARON LAFRANIÈRE

WASHINGTON — Pfizer and BioNTech said on Tuesday that they had sought emergency authorization for a second booster shot of their coronavirus vaccine for adults 65 and older.

The companies' request to the Food and Drug Administration was based heavily on data from Israel, where such shots are authorized for a somewhat broader group. Their move could further inflame a tortuous debate among

Experts Still Clash Over Benefit of Extra Shot

scientists over when and how the vaccines' protection should be bolstered, and for whom.

Pfizer's chief executive, Dr. Albert Bourla, said repeatedly over the past week that he believed an additional dose would be necessary to counteract waning protection after the third dose, now au-

thorized for all Americans 12 and older.

"The protection that you are getting from the third, it is good enough, actually quite good for hospitalizations and deaths," he told CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "It's not that good against infections."

Previous requests last fall for a booster shot set off a fierce public debate. Some public health experts vigorously opposed a third dose for the general population

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California Cannabis Sellers Face a Bleak Reality

By MICHAEL CORKERY

OAKLAND, Calif. — Across from where the Athletics play baseball sits a two-story concrete building painted bright orange and white. It is home to a cannabis dispensary called Blunts and Moore.

A pair of inflatable "tube guys" flap crazily on the roof, beckoning customers with their windblown gyrations. A food truck sells tacos in the parking lot under a bright California sun.

Thefts and High Taxes Stymie Businesses

But there are signs that all is not well here. Bullet holes etched by an assault rifle dot the entrance. Three security guards, dressed in military fatigues, screen customers as they pass through a metal detector. One of the guards, a former infantryman, wears a camouflage Kevlar vest and mir-

rored sunglasses. A 9-millimeter pistol and 50 rounds of ammunition are strapped to his waist.

"It's crazy to think we need all of this war stuff to protect our business," said the store's owner, Alphonso Blunt, who is known as Lucky. "But that's where we are today."

In May 2020, Blunts and Moore was ransacked by thieves with automatic weapons, incurring losses of nearly \$1 million, much of which insurance would not cover. The

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INTERNATIONAL A4-14

An Afghanistan Road Trip

Times reporters traveled the 300-mile stretch from Kabul to Kandahar, the country's two largest cities, to see how things have changed.

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NATIONAL A15-21

Arrest in Homeless Shootings

A 30-year-old with a history of mental illness is accused of killing two homeless men and wounding three others in New York and Washington.

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BUSINESS B1-7

Biden Drops Fed Nomination

Sarah Bloom Raskin did not appear to have the votes for confirmation as the Fed's top bank regulator after a Senate Democrat withheld support.

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ARTS C1-6

African Architect Is Honored

The Pritzker Prize was awarded to Francis Kéré of Burkina Faso, who designs buildings that serve the community he came from.

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OPINION A22-23

Thomas L. Friedman

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State's water savings dry up

Californians' usage increased in January, alarming officials amid a historic drought.

By HAYLEY SMITH

California will end winter in a perilous position as record-shattering dryness converges with lagging water conservation efforts in nearly every part of the state, officials said Tuesday. After months of cutting back, new data from the State Water Resources Control Board show that rather than conserving water, Californians increased urban water use 2.6% in January, compared with the same month in 2020 — the baseline year against which current savings are measured. The cumulative savings from July — when Gov. Gavin Newsom called on Californians to voluntarily cut water use by 15% — to the end of January were just 6.4%, less than half the target. Officials said more must be done to prevent worst-case drought scenarios, including increased restrictions and mandatory water cuts.

"These numbers are a good wake-up call that we need to buckle up and get going," conservation supervisor Charlotte Ely told reporters Tuesday morning.

The numbers bring to mind California's punishing 2012-2016 drought, when then-Gov. Jerry Brown ordered a mandatory 25% reduction in urban water use. Californians came close to meeting that goal, and many of their water-saving habits remain.

But conditions today are more extreme than even in those dire times. January and February, typically the heart of California's wet season, were the driest ever recorded, with only about three-quarters of an inch of precipitation, said state climatologist Michael Anderson. The next driest, 2013, saw about twice that amount.

Despite the dwindling numbers, some experts said the state's water managers haven't done enough to prepare for and respond to the current conditions.

"I think mandatory cuts are not only warranted — I [See Water, A11]

Europeans' visit boosts Ukraine



CHRIS McGRATH Getty Images

As shelling kills more civilians, three NATO leaders offer their support in the capital.

By NABH BULOS, JAWED KALEEM AND TRACY WILKINSON

KYIV, Ukraine — As Russian forces pressed their deadly assault Tuesday on Ukraine's capital, the besieged country received new gestures of important international support: the arrival in Kyiv of leaders of three European nations and a planned trip to Brussels next week by President Biden for an emergency summit at NATO headquarters.

The White House announced that Biden will attend an emergency session of NATO next week as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pushed his call for urgent military aid in a virtual speech to the Canadian Parliament, a message he is expected to repeat Wednesday to the U.S. Congress.

Biden's presence at the NATO summit is intended to showcase U.S. commitment to stopping Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and reassure European allies that Washington is a reliable partner. But one shattered notion that was damaged during the Trump administration's favoring of an "America first" policy that often seemed to abandon traditional multilateral cooperation.

It follows high-profile trips by Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken to Poland and other Eastern European countries that are experiencing the brunt of a massive exodus of refugees from Ukraine. Polish media speculated that Biden would also travel to Poland, but the White House did not confirm that.

The prime ministers of Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, which all belong to NATO as well as the European Union, traveled by train Tuesday into the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, where they met with Zelenskyy, who posted a video of the encounter on social media.

It was the first high-level visit by officials from either alliance since Russia invaded. [See Ukraine, A4]



FELIPE DANA Associated Press

FIREFIGHTERS, top, battle a blaze after an apartment building was shelled in Kyiv, Ukraine. Above, police assist a woman after she was rescued. Four people were killed in the attack in Kyiv's Sviatoshynskiy district.

Ukrainian Jews escaping to Israel

Thousands have been resettled in a rescue operation led by the Jewish community.

By LEILA MILLER

The bombing of Ukraine had already begun, but Ilya and Yulia Tregubov could not quite bring themselves to leave.

The couple, both 40, lived

in Dnipro, a picturesque city in central Ukraine, with their 14-year-old daughter, Asya. Ilya was a psychiatrist and Yulia managed business centers.

They enjoyed a tranquil life strolling the city's riverbank or simply watching Netflix together. They vacationed in a summer home just outside Dnipro, where they'd pick fruit from apricot, apple and cherry trees.

As the war intensified,

the Tregubovs turned down offers to help them evacuate.

"We thought one more day and it will be stopped. All this horror will be stopped," Ilya said.

But then Russia began bombing civilian areas in Kharkiv and Kyiv. Ilya, whose grandmother was a medic with the Soviet army that liberated Auschwitz, thought about the Jews who did not flee during the Holocaust.

"We know that those who

did not escape, who decided to stay in their cities, they are not alive ... and I thought that this is the time," he said.

More than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since the war started. The Tregubovs are among thousands of Jews who have moved to Israel in a rescue operation launched by the Israeli government and the greater Jewish community.

Under the Law of Return, which gives foreign-born [See Israel, A4]

Journalist slams war on Russia TV

An editor crashes a live broadcast with a sign reading, "They are lying to you here." **WORLD, A3**



NICK AGRO For The Times

L.A. COMPOST volunteers add food scraps, much of it collected from farmers markets, to a pile at the organization's regional hub in Griffith Park.

COLUMN ONE

Dirty hands, clean consciences

Composting is creating a new generation of environmentalists

By JAMES RAINEY

Teresa Leong had known for years that her kitchen scraps weren't really trash. But at first, she wasn't sure what to do with them. Sometimes she'd just toss a bell pepper into the bushes, figuring it would decompose and feed the greenery. But

that wasn't a comprehensive solution. Then she tried washing unused veggies down the drain, knowing they'd be converted to reusable gas at the city's sewage treatment plant. But massive downloads of greens, even ground up in a blender, clogged the drain in her Studio City apartment. Another round of "aggressive Googling" led [See Compost, A7]

Anger erupts as fire official who looked drunk is cleared

Minority and female firefighter groups say it shows white men get special treatment.

By PAUL PRINGLE

Last spring, a high-ranking official in the Los Angeles Fire Department alleged that its top administrative commander, Chief Deputy Fred Mathis, appeared to be intoxicated while he was overseeing the agency's operations center during the Palisades fire.

The official reported that Mathis admitted to her that he had been drinking, ac-

cording to LAFD records.

Now, The Times has learned that a private law firm hired by the city to investigate the May 18 episode found that Mathis was likely intoxicated at the department's headquarters at City Hall East.

But the investigation cleared Mathis through a rationale that has outraged department insiders: The law firm concluded Mathis "was technically off duty while he was likely intoxicated as he had put himself out sick" that day, according to a summary of the findings the department provided The Times. The newspaper reported in July that an entry was made in Mathis'

timekeeping record four days after the incident to show he was on sick leave the day he was reported to be drunk on duty.

Mathis told The Times in an email that he did nothing wrong and was treated unfairly by the department.

The heads of three organizations for Black, Latino and female firefighters say the Mathis case is just the latest example of the department granting special treatment to senior officers, especially if they are men or white, as Mathis is. And the leaders of the groups say that treatment is often accompanied by a cover-up, sometimes with the help of [See Cleared, A5]

A fourth dose of COVID vaccine?

Pfizer seeks U.S. authorization for an additional booster shot for people age 65 and older. **NATION, A6**

Daylight saving time bill advances

Senate sends House the bipartisan Sunshine Protection Act to end twice-yearly changing of clocks. **NATION, A7**

Weather
Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 76/57, B6



BUSINESS INSIDE: A worker accuses Google of retaliating against her for activism. **A10**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington



Mostly sunny 72/52 • Tomorrow: Rain 59/49 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 • B2

E.U. premiers go to Kyiv to stand with Zelensky

Ukrainian leader may use speech before Congress to pressure Biden

BY ASHLEY PARKER, MIKE DEBONIS AND SHANE HARRIS

President Biden has repeatedly rejected the idea of more air cover for Ukraine in its war with Russia, warning that sending Polish fighter jets to Ukraine — or enforcing a no-fly zone above it — could lead to a global conflagration with a nuclear-armed foe.

“That’s called ‘World War Three,’” Biden told Democratic lawmakers Friday.

Biden’s reluctance to provide Ukraine with some kinds of military assistance that the Eastern European country has requested will face its biggest and most emotional test Wednesday morning, when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addresses Congress as part of a virtual tour of Western capitals this month.

Zelensky’s speech to U.S. lawmakers is expected to be equal parts beseeching and defiant, asking the Biden administration — as he has other Western allies — to “please close the sky” above Ukraine. The speech is also likely to provide an opening for Repub-

SEE ZELENSKY ON A12

In Mariupol, ‘blood, bitterness and despair’

BY GREG JAFFE AND MEG KELLY

In the more than two weeks that it has been cut off from the outside world, Mariupol, the southern Ukrainian port city, has become synonymous with the horror of the Russian invasion.

It is a place of overflowing morgues, newly dug mass graves and bodies in some cases buried under rubble or left in the streets where they fell.

Hundreds of people fled Mariupol for the second straight day via a humanitarian corridor on Tuesday, but Ukrainian officials told Reuters that those who escaped were a small fraction of the 200,000 trapped in the city and in need of urgent assistance. Russian forces have continued to block a much-needed aid convoy from getting in, Ukrainian officials said.

As conditions in the city have grown more dire and the death count has surged, word of the humanitarian catastrophe has

SEE MARIUPOL ON A14



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



FABRI SERRA/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

A firefighter, clockwise from top, walks through the scene of a suspected Russian missile attack on a high-rise apartment building in Kyiv, Ukraine, early Tuesday that killed at least four people and set the building ablaze. Residents watch as firefighters work to put out the fire caused by the strike, one of at least three suspected Russian attacks on Kyiv’s residential areas over two days. A person sifts through the remains of her Kyiv apartment.

Kyiv’s outgunned fighters exploit Russian weaknesses to hold on to capital

BY SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN

IRPIN, UKRAINE — The bodies of Russian soldiers were scattered by the wreckage of charred military vehicles and shelled buildings. Twenty feet away, behind tanker trucks, Ukrainian volunteers stood watch, their eyes on a cement mixer about 500 yards away. Behind it were Russian troops on the edges of Bucha, the next town over.

This front line in Irpin, on Kyiv’s northwestern outskirts, had not

moved in two weeks despite the Russian military superiority. That itself was a victory for Commander Casper and his fighters.

“The Russians were trying to push forward,” said the short, burly unit leader who did not give his full name for security reasons but goes by a nom de guerre. “But they didn’t expect that the Ukrainians were waiting for them.”

When Russian forces seized control of a military airport in Hostomel, a few miles north of Irpin, on the first day of the war,

many military observers expected a rapid takeover of Kyiv. But more than two weeks later, Russian troops have struggled to advance.

A visit to two active front lines — Irpin and near Brovary, northeast of the capital’s center — offered insights into the strategies, tactics and capabilities of Ukrainian forces defending Kyiv as well as apparent Russian tactical errors and miscalculations about Ukraine’s resistance.

On Tuesday, Kyiv’s mayor, Vitali Klitschko, announced a city-

wide curfew until early Thursday in what he called a “difficult and dangerous moment” as Russian forces intensify attacks.

The United States and as many as 20 other nations, mostly NATO and European Union members, have pledged to send Ukrainian forces significant shipments of weaponry, including Javelin anti-tank missiles, Stinger surface-to-air missiles, machine guns and sniper rifles. It’s unclear how many of these additional arms

SEE KYIV ON A16

UKRAINE’S CRIES FOR HELP GROW LOUDER

No pause in bloodshed; Biden set for NATO talks

BY MATT VISER, ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER, ANNABELLE TIMSIT AND EMILY RAUHALA

The heads of three governments in the European Union traveled Tuesday to Kyiv to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in an extraordinary attempt to demonstrate support for Ukraine as Russian attacks raged across the country and targeted the besieged capital.

The dramatic visit from top officials in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia to a city that was shaken Tuesday morning by new blasts came amid a spiraling humanitarian crisis and a new push to isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin. As many as 3 million people have fled the war-torn country in the three weeks since the Russian invasion began, according to new estimates.

The White House announced Tuesday that President Biden will travel to Brussels next week to meet with European leaders for a NATO summit, a trip meant to reinforce the U.S. commitment to the alliance as worries grow about Russian aggression creeping up to Ukraine’s boundaries.

The scene Tuesday was eerily familiar: widespread death and destruction, coupled with scant signs that the conflict would soon abate.

A suspected Russian missile attack on an apartment building Tuesday killed at least four people in Kyiv, where the mayor announced a curfew, citing a “difficult and dangerous moment.” Officials were once again struggling to get humanitarian aid to the besieged southern port city of Mariupol, which is surrounded by Russian troops. Videos captured blasts in at least three locations in the heart of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, on Monday night.

A Fox News cameraman, Pierre Zakrzewski, was killed in an attack Monday alongside a Ukrainian colleague, Oleksandra Kuvshynova, the news network announced Tuesday. Zakrzewski

SEE UKRAINE ON A15

Food: War is driving up prices and worsening shortages abroad. **A9**

Town digs in: Mykolaiv’s stand delays an attack on Odessa. **A10**

Journalists killed: Cameraman, consultant hit by incoming fire. **A11**

The Take: Zelensky meets the moment for his country. **A13**

Pfizer asks FDA to authorize second booster

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY, TYLER PAGER AND CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its partner, BioNTech, filed Tuesday for emergency authorization of a second booster shot of their coronavirus vaccine for people 65 and older, an effort to bolster waning immunity that occurs several months after the first booster, the companies announced.

Citing added protection, it lobbies for fourth shot for those 65 and older

The submission to the Food and Drug Administration includes “real world data” collected in Israel, one of the few countries that has authorized a second booster for older people. The decision

suggested that Moscow is ready to resume stalled talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal. **A7**

An Indian court ruled that schools in Karnataka state can ban the hijab, a ruling that comes as religious tensions are mounting in the majority-Hindu nation. **A8**

THE ECONOMY A proposal from the Securities and Exchange Commission would require all companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks. **A18**

Arrest made in attacks on homeless people

BY PETER HERMANN, FREDRICK KUNKLE, EMILY DAVIES AND SHAYNA JACOBS

A D.C. man whose family said he struggles with mental illness and sometimes lived on the streets was arrested Tuesday and charged in a series of attacks on homeless men that rattled vulnerable communities in the District and New York.

Gerald Brevard III, 30, had

Suspect allegedly shot 5 in D.C. and New York, resulting in two deaths

been in and out of jail in D.C., Virginia and Maryland on varying charges including assaulting a police officer and shoplifting, court records show. Most recently he served several months in

Fairfax County jail after he was arrested on an abduction charge that was reduced to misdemeanor assault in a plea agreement.

Now, police in D.C. said they charged Brevard with first-degree murder, assault with intent to kill and assault with a dangerous weapon in connection with attacks on three homeless men in Northeast Washington between March 3 and March 9. One of those men died.

SEE ARREST ON A7

IN THE NEWS



BILL CLARK/OQ ROLL CALL

Nominee withdraws Sarah Bloom Raskin was under consideration to serve as the Federal Reserve’s banking cop, but Senate opposition doomed her confirmation. **A4**

THE NATION

The Biden administration released a plan to reposition the veterans’ health-care system to confront demographic changes and shifts in medicine. **A2**

U.S. generals warned a Senate committee that the country is less effective at countering terrorist threats since American troops withdrew from Afghanistan and Somalia. **A4**

THE WORLD Comments from Russia’s foreign minister

suggested that Moscow is ready to resume stalled talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal. **A7**

THE ECONOMY A proposal from the Securities and Exchange Commission would require all companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks. **A18**

The Dow Jones industrial average soared 600 points as oil fell below \$100 a barrel, fueling a rally on Wall Street. **A20**

Intel announced it will invest at least \$36 billion in new semiconductor manufacturing and research facilities in Europe. **A20**

THE REGION Judges are sentencing Jan. 6, 2021, rioters to probation for three years — through the 2024 presidential election — because of fears of future violence. **B1**

A deal for a new stadium, the team is running into reluctance over financing and sexual harassment allegations. **B1**

A federal planning commission recently unveiled three concepts that re-envision Pennsylvania Avenue in the District and are up for public review starting this week. **B1**

Maryland moved its gubernatorial primary elections to July 19, a three-week delay, to allow time to resolve a legal challenge to redraw legislative districts. **B1**

INSIDE



FOOD

Comfort food Recipes from the Ukrainian kitchen. **E1**

STYLE

A history lesson Ralph Lauren’s new collaboration with HBCUs recognizes the fashion heritage of Black students. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS **A18**
COMICS **C18**
OPINION PAGES **A21**
LOTTERIES **B3**
OBITUARIES **B6**
TELEVISION **B8**
WORLD NEWS **A8**

CONTENT © 2022
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1943-2022

Arturo Bonín. El actor que rompió moldes

—espectáculos

Fue uno de los actores populares con mayor trayectoria, querido por el público y el medio; fue figura esencial en más de 50 películas, más de 60 obras teatrales y más de 40 ciclos televisivos.

**DESDE HOY SE PUEDE COMPLETAR EL CENSO EN FORMA DIGITAL**

—sociedad

El formulario estará en una página virtual para responder las 61 preguntas; hay plazo hasta el 18 de mayo; ese día, en la visita presencial, se entregará el código. **Página 24**

ATACAN A TIROS EN LA ARAUCANÍA A UNA MINISTRA DE BORIC

—el mundo

Izka Siches, integrante del gabinete de Chile, se dirigía a la localidad de Temuicui para iniciar el diálogo con los mapuches. **Página 7**

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 16 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Precios sin freno: el país ya tiene la inflación más alta de América Latina

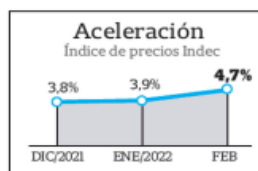
ÍNDICE. Alcanzó el 4,7% en febrero, con una estampida de los alimentos, que subieron 7,5%; acumula 52,3% en 12 meses

El mismo día en que el presidente Alberto Fernández anunció para el próximo viernes el inicio de la "guerra contra la inflación", el Indec difundió un dato lapidario: en febrero el costo de vida aumentó 4,7%. Acumula 8,8% en apenas dos meses del año y 52,3% en los últimos 12 meses. Pero el dato más destacado fue la dis-

parada del rubro alimentos y bebidas, que subió 7,5% e impacta de lleno en los consumos más populares. El indicador de febrero ubicó a la Argentina como el país con mayor inflación de América Latina. Superó incluso a Venezuela, donde el Banco Central de ese país registró, para el segundo mes del año, una inflación del 2,9%,

por encima, incluso, de las estimaciones de consultoras privadas.

El Gobierno adjudica el alza de la inflación al impacto de la guerra en Ucrania en la economía global. El viernes anunciará medidas que no estarían lejos de otras ya puestas en práctica sin éxito, como precios cuidados y precios máximos. **Página 16**

**EL ESCENARIO**

Recetas que siguen fracasando

José Luis Brea
Página 16

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 20

Feroces bombardeos en Kiev

Rusia intensificó la ofensiva en varias ciudades; Zelensky dijo que no ingresará en la OTAN



Edificios civiles fueron atacados ayer en zonas residenciales de Kiev por misiles rusos

VADIM GHIRDA/AP

Elisabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

LVIV. Mientras recrudeció ayer la brutal ofensiva de las fuerzas rusas contra Kiev, la capital de Ucrania, acercándose cada vez más a su corazón, la emblemática Plaza Maidan, el presidente ucraniano, Volodimir

Zelensky, hizo una declaración que marcó un giro. En un discurso online ante la Joint Expeditionary Force de Londres, citado por la agencia Unian, por primera vez dejó de lado una de sus máximas ambiciones—ingresar en la OTAN—, objetivo desde siempre considerado inaceptable por Vladimir Putin. En medio de los

bombardeos, los primeros ministros polaco, checo y eslovaco desafiaron el cerco ruso y llegaron en tren a la capital ucraniana para brindar su apoyo a Zelensky. El objetivo de la visita es "reafirmar el apoyo inequívoco de la Unión Europea a Ucrania", dijo el premier polaco, Mateusz Morawiecki. Continúa en la página 2

EL ESCENARIO
Pablo Siruén

La insólita línea prorrusa de la agencia oficial Télam

Página 15

EL ANÁLISIS

El Macondo cantinflasco del kirchnerismo

Joaquín Morales Solá

LA NACION

“Nadie piensa la política. Cada uno hace su juego”. La frase fue dicha por un funcionario del Gobierno que prefiere no meterse en la refriega entre Alberto Fernández y Cristina Kirchner. Y agrega: “Lo que importa ahora es ser al menos mínimamente eficientes si queremos tener una esperanza para 2023. Las actitudes testimoniales y los errores políticos nos están condenando antes de tiempo”. La actitud testimonial es el berriño de la vicepresidenta por el acuerdo con el FMI, sea sincera o hipócrita. Los errores políticos son la sucesión de desastrosos que tuvo la administración de Alberto Fernández justo cuando el Senado debe darle sanción definitiva al acuerdo. Continúa en la página 12

Nicolás Pino:
“Si vuelven con la 125, en la ruta nos van a encontrar”

RETENCIONES. El titular de la Rural afirmó que en el campo hay mucho malestar. **Página 19**

Ilustrada C5

Pritzker africano

De estilo oposto ao espetáculo, o arquiteto Francis Kéré, de Burkina Fasso, é o 1º negro e africano a levar o prêmio Pritzker, considerado o Nobel da área.

Ilustrada C1 e C2

Capital tem cenário inédito com 3 feiras de arte que disputam colecionadores

Governo tenta censurar filme que acusa de pedofilia

A Secretaria Nacional do Consumidor determinou que os serviços de streaming devem suspender a exibição de "Como Se Tornar o Pior Aluno da Escola", de 2017, sob pena de multa diária de R\$ 50 mil.

O filme, baseado em livro de Danilo Gentili, foi acusado por bolsonaristas de pedofilia. Gentili apontou censura. A Globo não removerá a obra. Ilustrada C8

Fuzileiros navais e Interpol treinam segurança do STF

Política A5

Painel do CNJ omite 60 mil contracheques

O painel criado pelo Conselho Nacional de Justiça para divulgar a remuneração dos magistrados omite 60.179 contracheques de juízes e desembargadores de todo o país, revela a Transparência Brasil.

O fornecimento dos dados cabe aos Tribunais de Justiça, diz o CNJ. Política A5

Bolsonaro decide antecipar 13º de segurados do INSS

Mercado A18

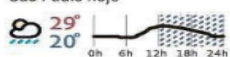
Paulistanos usam redes sociais ante insegurança
Moradores de São Paulo têm usado grupos virtuais para compartilhar vídeos com episódios de violência para alertar vizinhos. B1

Vacinação contra gripe começa no dia 4 de abril

Saúde B5

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



ISSN 1414-3723
9 771414 372049 33950

A pandemia em 15.mar

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose) **83,5%**

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **73,6%**

Dose de reforço **32,8%**

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

Média móvel

388 ↓ -35,1%*

Em 24 h

323

Total

655.649

Casos ↓ -37,2%* (desacelerado)

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Covid na China derruba petróleo e assusta mercados

Nova onda de casos na segunda maior economia do mundo ressuscita temores

Uma nova onda de Covid na China quando boa parte do planeta elimina restrições para frear a pandemia derrubou as Bolsas de valores pelo planeta e, diante da perspectiva de um crescimento menor no país asiático, o valor do barril de petróleo.

A cotação, que vinha em escalada com a guerra na Ucrânia, recuou para menos de US\$ 100 pela primeira vez no mês. A adoção de lockdowns na segunda maior economia global nutre temor de reativar hiatos na cadeia de suprimentos.

Com o recuo, o presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) voltou a pressionar a Petrobras para reduzir o preço dos combustíveis — a empresa anunciou um mega-aumento na semana passada que ressoará por toda a economia em ano de campanha eleitoral.

A China, sob a diretriz de Covid zero, decretou lockdown no polo econômico e tecnológico de Shenzhen, no sul do país. Mercado A13

BC pode repetir alta de 1,5 ponto no juro básico, dizem ex-diretores A14



Moradora de Kiev, capital da Ucrânia, lamenta bombardeio russo que atingiu prédio residencial André Liohn/Folhapress



Karlme Xavier/Folhapress

POBREZA MENSTRUAL SE AGRAVA NO CÁRCERE

Batia Shinzato, que ficou presa de 2008 a 2010, conta que recebia um pacote de absorvente por mês, insuficiente para ela; detentas convivem com falta de itens de higiene cotidiano B2

Ataque a prédio indica cerco mais próximo do centro de Kiev

Três grandes bombardeios atingiram ontem bairros de Kiev no caminho para a vizinha Irpin. Um dos alvos foi um prédio residencial, o que trouxe pânico a civis, relata André Liohn. O cerco se aproxima do centro da capital. A11

Sob pressão, Zelenski sinaliza abdicar da Otan

Em meio à crescente ofensiva russa, o presidente da Ucrânia, Volodimir Zelenski, disse que seu país precisa entender que "a porta da Otan não está aberta". Mesmo com Kiev sob ataque, líderes da Polônia, República Tcheca e Eslovênia foram à capital dar apoio a Zelenski. Mundo A10

Jairo Marques A deficiência e a guerra

Em uma realidade em que milhares precisam se apressar para fugir e tentar salvar a própria pele e a de familiares, é simples imaginar que quem se desloca em cadeira de rodas ou precisa de bengala para se guiar pode estar enfrentando o desespero e o isolamento total. Cotidiano B3

EDITORIAIS A2

Demagogia em alta
Sobre reação política ao reajuste de combustíveis.

Censura de volta
Acerca de proibição de filme pelo governo federal.

Justicia selectiva y parcialidad manifiesta son dos de las acusaciones

Diputados definen hoy juicio político a Sandra Quiñónez

En sesión extraordinaria la Cámara Baja trata hoy el libelo acusatorio. Habría los votos necesarios para que prospere. Son 13 las causales por las que quieren destituir.

PÁGINA 2

ANDRÉS CATALÁN

Sigue en suspenso la suba de combustibles



PARO. Los ciudadanos continúan movilizados e indignados en las rutas por la intención de encarecer las naftas y el gasoil. **PÁGINAS 10 y 11**

CON ESTA EDICIÓN
AHORRAR EN CASA 14
Dinero + Escondido

COMPRA OPCIONAL 1
COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA CG
MIN G. 50.000

COMPRA OPCIONAL 2
COLECCIÓN COCINA SALUDABLE N° 1
+ 1 UTENSILIO
G. 35.000

Salpicado en A Ultranza
La Fiscalía no investiga a Erico Galeano pese a las evidencias

PÁGINA 8

Atenta contra formalidad
Los importadores piden el rechazo de la ley para el comercio fronterizo


PÁGINA 14

Es más cara la producción
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MARCEL GAUCHET
« PLUTÔT QU'À UNE RECOMPOSITION, NOUS ASSISTONS À UNE DÉCOMPOSITION POLITIQUE » **PAGE 18**

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mardi :

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La France confrontée au choc de l'inflation

Alimentée par la guerre en Ukraine, la hausse des prix pourrait dépasser 4 % cette année. Un phénomène qui aigüise les tensions sociales et fait peser un risque sur la croissance.

L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie a provoqué un véritable choc sur les marchés du pétrole, du gaz et des matières premières, dont les cours s'envolent. Partout dans le monde, l'inflation a redémarré dans des proportions inconnues depuis des années : 7,9 % aux États-Unis, 5,8 % en Europe et 3,6 % à ce jour en France, où les prix des carburants battent des records (2,10 euros pour un litre de gazole ou de sans-plomb). Alors que la grogne gagne certains secteurs, comme la pêche et les transports routiers, le gouvernement multiplie les mesures pour atténuer l'impact de cette flambée. Il a déjà déboursé 26 milliards d'euros, annoncé un dégel du point d'indice des fonctionnaires et présente ce mercredi un plan de résilience. Le retour de l'inflation, qui pèse sur les ménages et sur les entreprises, remet en question les perspectives de croissance.

→ FONCTIONNAIRES : UN DÉGEL DU POINT D'INDICE AU NOM DE LA HAUSSE DES PRIX → UN EFFET INCERTAIN MAIS MASSIF SUR LES FINANCES PUBLIQUES → DES BAISSSES DE PRODUCTION SUR CERTAINS SITES INDUSTRIELS → LES ÉPARGNANTS À LA RECHERCHE DE LA MARTINGALE CONTRE L'ÉROSION DES RENDEMENTS → BRUXELLES VA VOLER AU SECOURS DES MÉNAGES ET DES ENTREPRISES → BIDEN DANS LE PIÈGE DE L'INFLATION PERSISTANTE → LA HAUSSE DE TAUX DE LA FED ARRIVE TROP TARD PAGES 22 À 24 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Resté dans sa capitale bombardée afin de diriger la lutte de tout le peuple contre l'envahisseur russe, le président ukrainien s'est hissé en trois semaines à la hauteur d'un enjeu historique pour son pays et pour l'Europe. **PAGES 10 ET 11**

ÉDITORIAL par Gaëtan de Capèle gdecapèle@lefigaro.fr

La facture arrive

Il est toujours hasardeux, en économie, de se risquer à l'art de la prévision. Souvenons-nous, c'était il y a quelques mois à peine : la crise sanitaire surmontée, on nous promettait que les choses rentreraient dans l'ordre sans tarder. La croissance reviendrait et la flambée des prix, alimentée par des goulots d'étranglement bientôt résorbés, s'estomperait rapidement. On pouvait rêver... Jusqu'à ce que surgisse le cygne noir de la guerre en Ukraine. Le scénario féérique d'une reprise sans accroc fait désormais place au spectre de la stagflation : un ralentissement de la croissance et un emballement de la machine inflationniste. Le pire n'est jamais certain, mais, aujourd'hui, tout le monde se trouve pris à la gorge. Les entreprises, qui voient leurs coûts exploser au rythme des prix de l'énergie et des matières premières. Les ménages, qui en subissent le contrecoup en faisant le plein de leur voiture ou en remplissant leur Caddy. Les revendications salariales se généralisent. Des mouvements sociaux commencent à poindre. Bienvenue en terra incognita. Confronté à cette situation à un mois d'une élection présidentielle placée sous le signe

du pouvoir d'achat, le gouvernement fait ce qu'il sait faire de mieux : des chèques en bois. Près de 26 milliards d'euros pour alléger la seule facture énergétique, en attendant le « plan de résilience » et une revalorisation cet été des salaires des fonctionnaires. La France ne disposant d'aucune marge de manœuvre budgétaire, cette débauche d'argent public vient instantanément gonfler un endettement déjà hors de contrôle. À ceux qui s'inquiètent de l'inevitable dérive des comptes nationaux, on oppose une réponse désarmante : il suffira de récolter les fruits de la croissance pour boucher les trous. L'irruption de l'inflation et le ralentissement attendu de l'activité rendent ce calcul plus que douteux. La perspective d'une hausse des taux d'intérêt, déjà enclenchée aux États-Unis, assombrit encore l'avenir de ceux qui, comme nous, croulent sous les dettes. Après des années d'un argent magique dont nous n'avons rien fait, la facture arrive. ■

Macron brise le tabou de l'autonomie de la Corse

C'est dans une île soumise à une flambée de violence depuis l'agression, début mars, d'Yvan Colonna par un codétenu djihadiste que Gérard Darmanin doit arriver ce mercredi. Le ministre de l'Intérieur a été chargé par le président de la République d'engager avec les élus autonomistes des discussions qui devraient permettre d'ouvrir la voie à leur revendication historique, qu'Emmanuel Macron refusait depuis son arrivée à l'Élysée. **PAGES 2, 4 ET 5**

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Russian in court over 'stop the war' protest on live TV

→ Page 7



Ukraine's Nato concession as airstrikes batter capital

Isobel Koshiw Kyiv
Jon Henley Paris
Julian Borger Washington

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, acknowledged yesterday that Ukraine would not become a Nato member, in a significant concession on a day when Kyiv was pounded by shells and missiles as Russia tightened its grip on the capital.

At least five people were killed in the latest Russian artillery barrage on Kyiv, prompting its city hall to impose a 35-hour curfew from last night amid

further signs that the focus of the invasion has shifted to the destruction of residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

Zelenskyy made his remarks about Nato while addressing leaders from the new Joint Expeditionary Force, a UK-led initiative bringing together 10 north Atlantic countries to create a capability for responding rapidly to crises. "It is clear Ukraine is not a member of Nato; we understand this," said Zelenskyy. "For years we heard about the apparently open door, but have already also heard that we will not enter there, and these are

truths and must be acknowledged." One of Vladimir Putin's demands before unleashing his offensive on Ukraine was that its membership of Nato should be ruled out indefinitely.

However, the size of the invasion force Putin amassed and his own justifications for the attack have been widely seen as evidence he would have settled for nothing less than regime change and Russia's unchallenged dominance of its neighbour.

The White House announced yesterday that Joe Biden would travel to Europe next week to attend an extraordinary Nato summit on

'Fortress Odesa' City's tense preparations for a Russian attack [Page 4](#) →

Refugee plan More than 120,000 sign up to give someone a home [Page 8](#) →

Addicted to oil PM says west hooked on Moscow energy supplies [Page 10](#) →

24 March "to discuss ongoing deterrence and defence efforts" in the face of the invasion, and also join a scheduled European Council summit. There were reports Biden would also visit eastern Europe.

As the Polish, Czech and Slovenian prime ministers arrived in Kyiv yesterday, the city's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said it faced "a difficult and dangerous moment".

After repeated bombardments, about half of Kyiv's 3.5 million pre-war residents have fled, officials have said, with many of those who remain spending

After six years, hope that Iran will release Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

The British-Iranian dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe could be freed and allowed to return to London within days under a deal in which the UK agrees to repay a £400m debt and release an Iranian prisoner.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe has for months been at her parents' home in Tehran awaiting news of whether she would have to serve a further one-year sentence in Iran handed down on top of the five years she has already served.

Iranian diplomatic sources leaked news of the possible deal yesterday, which would also free a second British-Iranian dual national, Anousheh Ashoori.

Tehran said the UK had agreed to pay the debt, something London would only be doing if it had the agreement of the US. The UK has previously said the debt payment could not be made because of sanctions on Iranian state banks.

On Sunday, Zaghari-Ratcliffe was unexpectedly given her British and Iranian passports, a preliminary to her likely release. She has also been summoned to see officials at Tehran's ministry



▲ Richard Ratcliffe, husband of Nazanin, and their daughter, Gabriella, protest outside Iran's embassy in London last year PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW BOYERS/REUTERS