

What's News

Business & Finance

Fed officials voted to raise the benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter percentage point and penciled in six more rate increases by year's end in an escalating effort to slow inflation. **A1, A2**

◆ **Stocks climbed** in a volatile session and bond yields jumped after the Fed meeting. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow rose 2.2%, 3.8% and 1.5%, respectively. **B1, B11**

◆ **A Senate panel advanced** Powell's nomination for a second term leading the Fed, along with three others for top posts at the central bank. **A2**

◆ **Americans increased** retail spending in February, though at a slower pace than at the start of the year. **A2**

◆ **Walmart wants** to hire tens of thousands of workers by the end of April as the company pushes to expand its retail and other businesses. **B1**

◆ **Howard Schultz** is returning to lead Starbucks for a third time, saying the coffee chain needs to reinvent itself once more. **B1**

◆ **Sycamore and Hudson's** Bay plan to submit bids for Kohl's that could value it at more than \$9 billion. **B1**

◆ **Tech shares led** a rebound in Chinese stocks as investors seized on supportive comments from top Chinese economic policy makers. **B1**

◆ **EQT AB struck** a \$7.5 billion cash-and-stock deal to buy private-equity firm Baring Private Equity Asia. **B10**

◆ **Former CNN anchor** Chris Cuomo is seeking at least \$125 million from his old employer over his firing. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Ukraine's Zelensky** pressed the U.S. Congress for further military assistance and new sanctions in a speech broadcast from Kyiv, making a personal plea to lawmakers and Biden to expand and accelerate shipments of weapons. Ukraine said its military launched a counter-offensive in the capital and other key cities. **A1, A8, A10-13**

◆ **Russia's finance minister** said the country paid what it owed on its foreign debts on Wednesday but wasn't sure if the payments would go through, blaming U.S. sanctions for setting Russia on the path toward default. **A10**

◆ **The Biden administration** can move forward on policies that incorporate an increased estimate of the cost of climate change, a panel of judges ruled. **A3**

◆ **Iran released** two imprisoned British nationals, a sign that an agreement to restore the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran could come soon. **A14**

◆ **A Honduran supreme court judge** ruled that former President Hernández can be extradited to the U.S. **A14**

◆ **The Justice Department** unsealed a series of complaints accusing Chinese agents of harassing dissidents living in the U.S. **A4**

◆ **The Biden administration** is offering a form of temporary humanitarian protection to thousands of Afghans living in the U.S. without a permanent legal status. **A4**

◆ **China reported** a drop in new coronavirus cases as authorities worked to contain outbreaks. **A14**

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'I call on you to do more.'

Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine, in an address to the U.S. Congress



Members of Congress, gathered at an auditorium at the Capitol, gave the Ukrainian leader a bipartisan standing ovation.

Zelensky Urges U.S. to Step Up Support in Impassioned Appeal

By LINDSAY WISE
AND ANDREW RESTUCCIA

WASHINGTON—President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine pressed the U.S. Congress for further military assistance and new sanctions in a speech Wednesday broadcast from Kyiv, making a personal plea to lawmakers and President Biden to expand and accelerate shipments of weapons.

"In the darkest time for our country, for the whole of Europe, I call on you to do more," said Mr. Zelensky to a rare bipartisan audience at the

Capitol complex.

Mr. Zelensky asked Congress to remember the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when Americans were targeted from the sky, saying his country is experiencing that terror every day three weeks into Russia's invasion. He asked for a no-fly zone over Ukraine, but said he would accept jet fighters and antiaircraft weapons as a fallback so the Ukrainians could defend themselves.

The Ukrainian president's emotional address energized a

The Ukraine Crisis

- ◆ Kyiv mounts counterattack in key cities.....A8
- ◆ Russia pushed toward default on debts.....A10
- ◆ War presents tough choices for Europe.....A11

push by lawmakers from both parties for the White House to do more, faster, to help Ukraine and punish Russia. The U.S. has imposed a wave of sanctions on Russian financial institutions and oligarchs, and banned Russian imports of oil, seafood and

alcohol. The Biden administration said it has committed \$2 billion in security assistance to Ukraine, including \$1 billion in the past week alone.

"We're going to give Ukraine the arms to fight and defend themselves through all the difficult days ahead," Mr. Biden said several hours after Mr. Zelensky's remarks, which he called a "convincing and a significant speech."

Mr. Biden said he was sending a new round of \$800 million in antiaircraft weapons and other military equipment. *Please turn to page A8*



A Ukrainian armed-forces member inspects a ruin where Russians rested in their advance on Voznesensk.

A Ukrainian Town Deals Putin One of His Most Decisive Routs

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

VOZNESENSK, Ukraine—A Kalashnikov rifle slung over his shoulder, Voznesensk's funeral director, Mykhailo Sokurenko, spent this Tuesday driving through fields and forests, picking up dead Russian soldiers and taking them to a freezer railway car piled with Russian bodies—the casualties of one of the most comprehen-

sive routs President Vladimir Putin's forces have suffered since he ordered the invasion of Ukraine.

A rapid Russian advance into the strategic southern town of 35,000 people, a gateway to a Ukrainian nuclear power station and pathway to attack Odessa from the back, would have showcased the Russian military's abilities and severed Ukraine's key commu-

nications lines.

Instead, the two-day battle of Voznesensk, details of which are only now emerging, turned decisively against the Russians. Judging from the destroyed and abandoned armor, Ukrainian forces, which comprised local volunteers and the professional military, eliminated most of a Russian battalion tactical group on March 2 and 3. *Please turn to page A12*

Halted Business In Russia Marks End of an Era

Western brands flocked to the former U.S.S.R., but the relationship was never easy

In 1990, about 30,000 Russians braved the January frost to line up in Moscow's Pushkin Square. The payoff for the hours-long wait was

By Stu Woo,
Georgi Kantchev
and Evan Gershkovich

the first taste of burgers and fries from the country's inaugural McDonald's restaurant.

In the years that followed, Western businesses flocked to Russia, seeking to profit from the country's lurch from communism to capitalism. They introduced American fast food, cars and fashion to a generation accustomed to Soviet-era shortages, and in many cases built sizable businesses. Starbucks, iPhones and IKEA became a part of daily life for middle-class Russians in Moscow and St. Petersburg. *Please turn to page A13*

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought that symbiotic relationship to a crashing halt.

Blistering sanctions and pressure from the U.S. and allied governments have made doing business in Russia almost impossible for many Western companies. Hundreds of businesses, including McDonald's Corp., auto makers, oil giants and banks, have said they are pausing or ending operations there. Western restaurants and stores have gone dark.

In response, Russian authorities have raised the idea of nationalizing assets Western companies leave behind. The Wall Street Journal reported this week that Russian prosecutors have issued warnings to Western companies inside the country and threatened to arrest corporate leaders there who criticize the war. *Please turn to page A13*

INSIDE



SPORTS
Picking the underdogs most likely to pull off surprises in the NCAA tournament. **A18**



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson steps down, handing reins back to Howard Schultz. **B1**



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Where to go to stream the best-picture nominees before Oscar night. **A16**

War in Ukraine



► The portable weapons hitting Russian weaknesses
AMBUSH TACTICS, PAGE 3

► So what does it really mean to be a Ukrainian?
MARINA LEWYCKA, PAGE 21

► Invaders plunder hardware as local journalists disappear
LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION, PAGE 2

Moscow and Kyiv explore neutrality plan in peace talks

► Scepticism over Putin's commitment
► Israel's Bennett acts as mediator

MAX SEDDON — RIGA
ROMAN OLEARCHYK — KYIV
ARASH HASSOUBI — LONDON
NERI ZILBER — TEL AVIV

Ukraine and Russia have made progress on a tentative peace plan including a ceasefire and Russian withdrawal if Kyiv declares neutrality and accepts limits on its armed forces, say five people briefed on the talks.

Negotiators discussed the proposed deal in full for the first time on Monday, according to two of the people. The 15-point draft would involve Kyiv renouncing its ambitions to join Nato and promising not to host foreign military bases or weaponry in exchange for protection from allies such as the US, UK and Turkey, the people said.

However, the nature of western guarantees for Ukrainian security — and their acceptability to Moscow — could prove to be a big obstacle, as could the status of Ukrainian territories seized by Russia and its proxies in 2014. A 1994 agreement underpinning Ukrainian security failed to prevent Russian aggression against its neighbour.

Although Moscow and Kyiv both said that they had made progress on the terms of a deal, Ukrainian officials are sceptical that Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, is fully committed to peace, and worry that Moscow could be buying time to regroup and resume its offensive. Putin showed no sign of compromise yesterday, vowing to achieve all of Moscow's war aims in Ukraine.

"We will never allow Ukraine to become a stronghold of aggressive actions against our country," he said.

But a Russian source briefed on the talks said the proposed settlement, if agreed, could give both sides a credible way to declare victory in the war.

"Putin can say that we wanted to stop Ukraine joining Nato and putting foreign bases and missiles in its territory," the person said. "If they do that, he can say, 'I got it.'"

Naftali Bennett, Israel's premier, has been the primary global mediator, three people familiar with the matter said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, senior adviser to Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, said any deal would involve Russian troops "leaving the territory of Ukraine" captured since the invasion began on February 24. Dmitry Peskov, Putin's press secretary, said neutrality for Ukraine based on the status of Austria or Sweden was a possibility. "This option is really being discussed now, and is one that can be considered neutral," he said.

Ukrainian cities came under heavy shelling for a third night. Local officials in Mariupol said Russian troops had bombed and destroyed a theatre, where hundreds of people had taken shelter.

Joe Biden, US president, has approved a package of military aid for Ukraine including anti-aircraft weapons and drones. He said the \$800mn package showed America's "commitment to send in our most cutting-edge systems to Ukraine for its defence".

Additional reporting by Laura Pitol in Ankara and Henry Fox in Brussels

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FT View page 20
Megan Greene page 21

Finally free Zaghari-Ratcliffe released from Iran after UK pays \$530mn debt



Sam Sedgwick/Reuters

Nazanin Zahari-Ratcliffe was last night flying back to the UK after the Iranian-British dual national spent nearly six years under detention in Tehran, in a move that could boost western diplomatic efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear accord.

Her husband Richard Ratcliffe said her return marked "the beginning of a new life, a normal life" for the couple and their seven-year-old daughter Gabriella.

Zahari-Ratcliffe was set to land in the UK with Anoosheh Ashoori, an Iranian-British national who was also released. Morad Tahbaz, another dual national and environmental activist, was also released but was not allowed to leave Iran.

Liz Truss, UK foreign secretary, expressed her "admiration for the incredible resolve and determination shown by Nazanin, Anoosheh, Morad and their families".

Britain settled \$530mn of debt owed to Iran for the purchase of chieftain tanks that Tehran ordered before the 1979 Islamic revolution. Truss said the debt had been settled "in full compliance with UK and international sanctions".

Zahari-Ratcliffe, a media trainer, was arrested at Tehran airport while preparing to fly home from a family holiday with toddler Gabriella.

Nuclear deal hopes page 3

Briefing

► **Energy traders call on central banks**
Europe's biggest traders have urged governments and central banks to provide "emergency" help to avert a cash crunch amid sharp price shifts sparked by the Ukraine crisis. A trade body that counts BP, Shell and Trafigura as members said "time-limited liquidity support" was needed. — PAGE 8, LEX, PAGE 22

► **Default looms as Russia sends payment**
Moscow has sent interest payments due on its dollar bonds for processing but could not guarantee that investors would receive the cash, leaving it on the brink of its first debt default since 1998. — PAGE 8

► **Rare Chinese move to calm markets**
Liu He, President Xi Jinping's closest economic aide, has sought to reassure investors, saying that Beijing would support the economy after a sell-off that has accelerated after Russia's war in Ukraine. — PAGE 6

► **Oaktree Capital lines up Chelsea move**
The race to buy one of Europe's biggest football clubs has gained pace with the US asset manager preparing an offer as Roman Abramovich's tenure nears an end. — PAGE 8



► **North Korea missile failure hits capital**
A dangerous launch failure has resulted in debris crashing into Pyongyang, days after the White House warned North Korea against exploiting the Ukraine war to challenge the US. — PAGE 6

► **Powerful quake shakes Japanese coast**
A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake has hit the northeastern coast, rattling areas devastated by the 2011 quake and plunging 2mn households in Tokyo and the surrounding areas into a blackout. — PAGE 6

► **Trafigura and Blackstone in talks**
The commodity trader has held discussions with the largest alternative asset manager about an investment of up to \$3bn, as it seeks to broaden its funding sources. No deal was reached. — PAGE 12

Datavatch

Joining Nato and EU

% of respondents in Ukraine

In favour of membership

Nato EU

Against membership

Nato EU

Source: Ukrainian Rating Sociological Group

2014 16 18 20 22

Ukraine president

Volodymyr

Zelensky has

appealed for his

country's urgent

accession to the

EU. In February,

68 per cent of

Ukrainians backed

membership.

Some 62 per cent

backed joining

Nato, up from 51

per cent in a year



VW's reliance on China tested by global tensions

The prospect of Beijing sending arms to Russia for its war in Ukraine could expose vulnerabilities at Volkswagen. In profit terms, the carmaker is more Chinese than German so a call to leave the market would pose big questions. Herbert Diess, group chief, accepts the dependence. "China probably doesn't need VW but VW needs China a lot". But he makes the case for engagement because of the living standards improvements it has brought.

Big Read ► PAGE 19

Fed raises rates for first time since 2018 and signals six more increases this year

COLBY SMITH — WASHINGTON

The Federal Reserve lifted its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point, the first increase since 2018 and the start of what US central bank officials signalled would be a series of rises this year at all of the six remaining policy meetings.

At the end of its two-day meeting yesterday, the Federal Open Market Committee increased the federal funds rate to the target range of 0.25 to 0.50 per cent. It is the latest milestone for the US economy in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and the most forceful step to date to combat the highest inflation in four decades.

The FOMC was not unanimous in its support of the quarter-point increase, however, with James Bullard, president of the St Louis Fed and a voting member

on the committee this year, dissenting in favour of a larger half-point rise.

Jay Powell, Fed chair, has previously said raising interest rates by increments larger than a quarter point is possible at one or more meetings this year.

Fed officials sharply revised higher their projections for interest rates this year compared with three months ago, when they had forecast three quarter-point rate rises in 2022, followed by five more in 2023 and 2024.

According to the so-called dot plot of individual committee members' interest rate projections, policymakers expect six more interest rate increases in 2022, in addition to the March move.

At least three increases have been pencilled in for 2023, bringing the fed funds rate to 2.8 per cent, above a "neutral" position that neither boosts nor constrains growth.

Underscoring the enormity of a hawkish shift that has taken place in just a matter of months, officials were evenly split on the need for an interest rate rise this year as recently as September.

The Fed's embrace of much tighter monetary policy comes despite a sharp escalation in tensions stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which is broadly expected to dent growth and intensify price pressures. The European Central Bank also adopted a more aggressive stance this month, scaling back its bond-buying plan as the war boosted inflation expectations.

Fed officials also revised higher forecasts for inflation. The median estimate for this year's core inflation, which strips out items such as food and energy, rose to 4.1 per cent, up from 2.7 per cent in December. It is currently 5.2 per cent, well above the Fed's 2 per cent target.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Mar 16	Prev	%chg
S&P 500	4353.58	4282.45	1.67
Nasdaq Composite	13305.82	12940.82	2.76
Dow Jones Ind	33837.34	33544.34	1.17
FTSE 100	7151.01	7102.55	2.85
Euro Stoxx 50	3682.30	3738.11	4.13
FTSE 100	7291.88	7175.70	1.82
FTSE All-Share	4014.09	3989.12	1.87
CAC 40	6588.84	6595.00	3.88
Nikkei 225	14440.74	13917.27	3.75
Hang Seng	25782.01	25348.48	1.64
Hang Seng	20087.50	19415.08	0.88
MSCI World	2865.89	2826.49	1.39
MSCI EM	1026.77	1055.01	-2.68
MSCI ACWI	684.83	699.81	0.94
FT Worldex 2500	5254.87	5420.51	-3.06
FT Worldex 5000	41065.99	42349.06	-3.03

CURRENCIES

Pair	Mar 16	Prev	%chg
\$ per €	1.099	1.087	1.11
£ per \$	0.910	0.911	-0.11
¥ per \$	1.310	1.307	0.23
€ per \$	0.840	0.840	0.00
¥ per €	118.405	118.185	0.19
¥ per £	155.181	154.432	0.48
\$/¥ per €	1.035	1.033	0.20

COMMODITIES

	Mar 16	Prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	95.31	96.44	-1.17
Oil Brent \$	98.02	99.91	-1.89
Gold \$	1913.65	1954.05	-2.07

INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	144.87	2.18	0.05
UK Gov 10 yr	1.63	0.05	0.00
Ger Gov 10 yr	0.39	0.06	0.00
Jpn Gov 10 yr	110.55	0.20	-0.01
US Gov 30 yr	109.55	2.49	0.02
Ger Gov 2 yr	103.63	-0.34	0.00
Fed Funds Eff	0.00	0.00	0.00
US 3m Bills	0.46	0.45	0.01
Euro Libor 3m	-0.50	-0.50	0.00
UK 3m	1.04	1.02	0.02

Prices are latest for addition

Data provided by Morningstar

A Nikkei Company

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Zelensky Presses Congress to Help as Russia Pounds Cities



President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, addressing Congress on Wednesday, likened Russia's war to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

A Divided America Is Uniting To Support a Besieged Ukraine

This article is by **Audra D. S. Burch, Jennifer Medina, Jasmine Ulloa and Maya King.**

After two years of political divisions and economic disruptions bolstered by an unending pandemic, many Americans say they are coming together around a common cause: support for Ukraine, a country under daily siege by Russian forces.

The rare moment of solidarity is driven, in part, by the perception of America as a steadfast global defender of freedom and democracy. Many Americans say they see a lopsided fight pitting a great power against a weaker neighbor. They see relentless images of dead families and collapsed cities. They see Ukraine's president pleading for help.

In polls and interviews since the attack, Americans across the

Opinions Diverge Over What Action to Take

political spectrum said the nation had a duty to respond to President Vladimir V. Putin's brazen invasion—even if that means feeling, at least in the short term, the pinch of high gas prices and inflation.

"I understand we want to stay out of it, but what's happening is worse than anyone could imagine. We can do without gas when there are children there being killed," said Danna Bone, a 65-year-old retiree in McMinnville, Ore., and a Republican. "It's horrific what's happening there, and we need to be doing our part. I would like to see them doing more. What that

Continued on Page A10

After Ex-Judo Partner of Putin's Faced Sanctions, He Got Richer

By **MATT APUZZO**
and **JANE BRADLEY**

The first time the United States government slapped his family with sanctions and locked him out of the American financial system, Arkady Rotenberg waited about eight weeks, investigators say, before buying a \$7.5 million painting in New York City.

That was in 2014, after Russia annexed Crimea, and since then the sanctions have hardly slowed down Mr. Rotenberg, a lifelong friend and former judo partner of the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin. His estimated worth sits at about \$3 billion, and his brother, Boris, became a billionaire after sanctions were imposed on him. Investigators have tracked at least \$91 million passing into the American economy from accounts linked to the Rotenbergs family.

Squeezing Russian Elite Has Been Ineffective

Today, as Mr. Putin's soldiers lay siege to neighboring Ukraine, world leaders have responded by strangling the Russian economy. Major Russian banks have been cut off from the global financial system, the government faces default, and many multinationals are closing their Russian operations.

And a new raft of European and American sanctions has been announced, against Mr. Putin himself, as well as those considered close to him, including Boris Rotenberg and Arkady Rotenberg's son, Igor. The logic now is the same as it was in 2014:

Continued on Page A15

After a Battering, Ukraine Seeks Momentum

This article is by **Michael Schwartz, Valerie Hopkins and Carlotto Gall.**

ODESSA, Ukraine—Ukrainian forces carried out counteroffensives against Russian positions on Wednesday, seeking to inflict what one official called "maximum losses," even as the invading Russian military stepped up its lethal attacks on cities.

In Mariupol, an airstrike destroyed a theater where about 1,000 people had taken shelter, according to city and regional administrators, and photos and videos posted online showed the burning wreckage of the building.

Officials in Mariupol, the besieged southern city that has suffered the most intense bombardment, said they could not yet estimate the number of casualties among civilians, who might have been in a bomb shelter beneath the theater. The strike came as 11,000 residents evacuated the city on Wednesday, according to its City Council.

In a video address to Ukrainians early Thursday, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine called for more sanctions against Russia and said it was a "terrorist state."

"Our hearts are broken by what Russia is doing to our people," he said, "to our Mariupol."

After falling back under a relentless pounding over the war's first weeks, Ukrainian troops tried to gain some momentum with counterattacks on Russian positions outside of Kyiv and in the Russian-occupied city of Kherson, in Ukraine's south, a senior Ukrainian military official said.

Rather than seek to regain lost territory, Ukrainian forces tried to cause as much destruction and death as possible, attacking Russian troops and equipment with tanks, fighter jets and artillery, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military information.

"In the task of inflicting maximum losses, we've done excellently," the official said.

Continued on Page A14

THEATER ATTACKED Mariupol officials say the building sheltered hundreds of civilians. PAGE A9

Biden Announces \$800 Million in Added Aid

By **CATIE EDMONDSON**
and **MICHAEL D. SHEAR**

WASHINGTON — President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine invoked the memory of America's darkest days on Wednesday as he pleaded for more military aid to combat Russia's "inhumane destruction" of his country, directly challenging President Biden and members of Congress to help by showing a wrenching video of the carnage in Ukraine's cities.

Appearing before Congress by video link from Kyiv, Mr. Zelensky likened Russia's three-week onslaught in Ukraine to Japan's World War II air assault on Pearl Harbor, when "your sky was black from the planes attacking you," and to Sept. 11, when "innocent people were attacked, attacked from the air." Dressed in an olive green T-shirt and seated next to a Ukrainian flag, he urged the United States and its allies to fulfill a moral duty by imposing a no-fly zone over his country to prevent Russian attacks from the air.

"I call on you to do more," Mr. Zelensky said, describing the conflict raging in Ukraine as an assault on the world's civilized nations. Speaking directly to Mr. Biden, he added: "I wish you to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace."

The appeal and the explicit video of people wounded and killed by Russian attacks left some lawmakers in tears and brought members in both parties to their feet in lengthy standing ovations for the wartime leader. In his own remarks a few hours later, Mr. Biden praised Mr. Zelensky for demonstrating "remarkable courage and strength in the face of brutal aggression" and announced that the United States would soon deliver \$800 million worth of anti-aircraft and anti-air missiles, grenades, rifles, body armor and more.

Mr. Zelensky's appeals in recent weeks, capped by his emotional speech on Wednesday, have helped spur bipartisan action from Mr. Biden and members of Congress, including a nearly \$14 billion aid package that includes help for refugees, economic assistance and billions of dollars in military aid. Mr. Biden signed that

Continued on Page A15

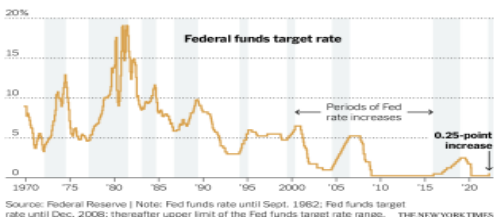
Fed Raises Interest Rates in Initial Step Toward Taming Inflation

By **JEANNA SMIALEK**

The Federal Reserve lifted its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point on Wednesday as policymakers took their first decisive step toward trying to tame rapid inflation by raising borrowing costs.

Fed officials have kept interest rates near zero since March 2020, when the pandemic began to shake the U.S. economy, and this week's decision was their first rate increase since 2018. Policymakers projected six more similarly sized moves over the course of 2022 as inflation has reached a 40-year high, signaling that they are prepared to pull back support for the economy markedly.

"The economy no longer needs—or wants—this very highly accommodative stance," Jerome H.



Source: Federal Reserve | Note: Fed funds rate until Sept. 1982; Fed funds target rate until Dec. 2008; thereafter upper limit of the Fed funds target rate range. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Powell, the Fed chair, said during his post-meeting news conference.

The central bank's assault on rapid price increases will force it to strike a delicate balance as poli-

cymakers try to slow the economy just enough to temper demand and allow price pressures to moderate without going so far that they plunge the United States into recession.

First Increase in 4 Years, With More Predicted

Mr. Powell said that, in his view, "the probability of a recession within the next year is not particularly elevated," and that "all signs are that this is a strong economy and, indeed, one that will be able to flourish" with less policy help.

"The economy, we think, can handle interest rate increases," he said.

In spite of the forecast for higher rates, stocks rose 2.2 percent on Wednesday, a possible signal that investors took heart in Mr. Powell's insistence that the economy was strong enough to with-

Continued on Page A20

Jackson's Record as Defender Likely to Be Target of Senators

By **CARL HULSE**

WASHINGTON — Senator Josh Hawley had a pointed question this month for a federal appeals court nominee who, as a public defender, helped get a man off death row despite a conviction for two murders.

"Do you regret trying to prevent this individual who committed these heinous crimes from having justice served upon him?" asked Mr. Hawley, Republican of Missouri, as he grilled Arianna Freeman, President Biden's pick for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Last month, Senator Tom Cotton, Republican of Arkansas, asked Nina Morrison, a nominee

G.O.P. May Try to Tie Nominee to Clients

for a Federal District Court seat in New York, whether she was "proud that you encourage such defiance in convicted murderers" when a man she represented declared to the prison warden that he would not be executed. Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, told Ms. Freeman she had devoted your entire professional career to representing murderers, to representing rapists, representing child molesters."

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, Continued on Page A19



INTERNATIONAL A4-16

Powerful Quake Rocks Japan

An undersea earthquake near the Fukushima region rekindled memories of the horrific tsunami and nuclear disaster 11 years ago. PAGE A16

Clues to Possible War Crimes

Two suspected mass graves are believed to hold the bodies of thousands of Syrians killed in government detention during the 11-year civil war. PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-8

Shake-Up at Starbucks

Kevin Johnson, who was named chief executive in 2017, will retire on April 4. Howard Schultz, a familiar face since the 1980s, will step back into the role as a unionization battle rages. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A17-21, 24

The Hunt for Shipping Hubs

An e-commerce boom is putting a premium on warehouse space, and that is transforming New York neighborhoods, home to the largest concentration of online shoppers in the country. PAGE A17

Biden's Son Pays a Tax Bill

Hunter Biden retired a significant liability, even as a grand jury continues a broad investigation of his international business dealings. PAGE A20

SPORTS B9-13

N.C.A.A. Tournament: Day 1

There will be games from midday to midnight, with would-be Cinderellas and maybe a buzzer-beater or two. We give you a few things to watch. PAGE B11



ARTS C1-8

How 'Dune' Got Its Crackle

The director Denis Villeneuve explains how Rice Krispies and other tricks made the sci-fi film sound right. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

A Lens on Inner Selves

The Ghanaian-British photographer, filmmaker and artist Campbell Addy is helping to redefine what, and who, is considered beautiful. PAGE D7

OPINION A22-23

Ross Douthat

PAGE A22



GRAFF
WILD FLOWER

SHOP AT GRAFF

Powerful plea in face of onslaught



A WOMAN kisses the forehead of a slain soldier at a funeral in Starychi, Ukraine, Wednesday. Similar scenes have been unfolding across the country as bodies from front lines are returned to the dead's hometowns.

Funeral brings war to a village

Starychi, largely insulated from the conflict, mourns 2 warriors

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

STARYCHI, Ukraine — They hoisted the coffins into a pair of beat-up Humvees, then began the slow trek from the church to the village cemetery, past a muddy stream, railroad tracks and a stretch of woods.

A couple of soldiers at the head of the procession held up a wooden cross and a Ukrainian flag. A man in a dark coat carried a picture of one of the fallen.

A military brass band, its members decked out in camouflage gear, played dirges as the cortege moved forward under overcast skies. Residents came out of their homes to line the roadway and pay their respects. Many made the sign of the cross. Some knelt. A few cried.

Tense expressions among the mourners betrayed a sense that this was only the beginning. More such scenes would come to Starychi, a village of 3,400 in western Ukraine where rise the gold domes of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, some 15 miles from the Polish border.

But on Wednesday it was the wooden coffins of soldiers Roman Ruck, 48, who left a wife and two sons, and Mykola Mykytyuk 54, survived by a wife and four daughters, that were low.

[See Funeral, A4]



U.S. LAWMAKERS give Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a standing ovation at the Capitol. His video appeals have galvanized support for Ukraine.

ANALYSIS

A leader's skillful wielding of words on the world stage

BY LAURA KING

WASHINGTON — The wartime optics were impeccable. Clad in olive drab, seemingly paler than the day before, unruly facial stubble thickening into a goatee, and

with his country's familiar cerulean-and-yellow banner by his side, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky launched into his latest appeal for help in the lopsided war against Russia.

This time, his audience was the U.S. Congress, and

Zelensky's speech by video link featured what has become a trademark blend of passion and defiance — a rhetorical flair that has propelled the Ukrainian leader to folk-hero status not only among his own people, but

[See Rhetoric, A6]

Zelensky's appeal to Congress prods Biden to help more

BY JENNIFER HABERKORN

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky appealed directly to U.S. lawmakers Wednesday with an emotional request for additional financial support, weaponry and a no-fly zone to help his country fend off the Russian invasion, in a rare speech that essentially circumvented the White House and went directly to the American people.

"Friends, Ukraine is grateful to the United States for its overwhelming support, for everything that your government and your people have done for us," Zelensky said, speaking mostly through an interpreter.

But he added: "I call on you to do more."

The first virtual address by a foreign leader to Congress — and certainly the first delivered by a T-shirt-clad leader in a war-torn capital — landed powerfully with lawmakers, who almost universally said that more needs to be done to help the Ukrainian people.

Zelensky's 17-minute speech had a deeply personal, emotional appeal. He likened the Russian invasion in Ukraine to some of America's darkest moments: Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11, 2001, in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon.

A video graphically depicted destroyed Ukrainian buildings and the escalating civilian suffering, much of it by children. Briefly speaking in English, he mourned that he sees "no sense in life if it cannot stop the deaths."

Zelensky asked Congress for an air defense system, new sanctions on every politician in the Russian Federation and a no-fly zone over his country.

"Is this a lot to ask for — to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to save people?" he said.

While the audience was lawmakers, the intended target was still mostly President Biden, who controls the levers of money and military supplies the U.S. can quickly send out the door.

The speech — aired in the [See Congress, A4]

Pressure growing, Biden responds

The president resists Zelensky's latest call for a no-fly zone but boosts military aid. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Russia strike on shelter is part of fierce assault on civilian areas

BY NABIH BULOOS, JAWOED KALEEM AND LAURA KING

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian airstrike hit a theater in Mariupol where hundreds of people had taken shelter in recent days as a siege of the southern port city tightened. Ukrainian officials said Wednesday, but there was no immediate word on casualties.

If large numbers of civilians were inside in the building — shown by satellite imagery earlier in the week to have the word "children" marked in large letters on the ground in front and at the back of it — it could prove one of the worst atrocities of the 3-week-old conflict.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba posted before-and-after photos of the state's white-columned Drama Theater in the heart of the Russian-encircled city, saying that "hundreds of innocent civilians were being" within its walls. Mariupol, under heavy bombardment, was already the venue for some of the war's most harrowing reports of suffering.

Writing on Twitter, Kuleba called the theater attack a "horrendous war crime," but he did not say whether those who had taken refuge were thought to have been inside when the building was hit or had managed to flee.

Earlier, the Mariupol City Council posted in a post on the messaging app Telegram that it was "still impossible to estimate the scale of this horrific and inhumane act."

Russia's Defense Ministry denied involvement and sought to cast blame on a right-wing Ukrainian militia, the state-run RIA news agency reported.

Earlier, an around-the-clock curfew brought the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, to a standstill and Russian forces stepped up fierce attacks on civilian areas across the country Wednesday. Casualties and damage were reported in Kyiv, Kharkiv and other Ukrainian cities.

President Biden on Wednesday echoed growing international condemnation. [See Ukraine, A6]

Fed interest rate hike is the first since 2018

Some experts worry the quarter-point move is too little, too late to tame inflation.

BY DON LEE

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve responded to the nation's surging inflation Wednesday by inching up interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point and signaling it plans more hikes in the months to come.

It was the Fed's first increase since 2018 and will lift the central bank's benchmark rate from near zero, where it has been the last two years of the pandemic.

But with consumer prices accelerating at a 40-year high and hitting American household budgets with painful and unsettling effects, economists decried

the central bank's action as too little, too late.

"The Fed is so far behind the curve, it's a little exasperating," said Dan North, chief economist at the trade credit insurer Euler Hermes.

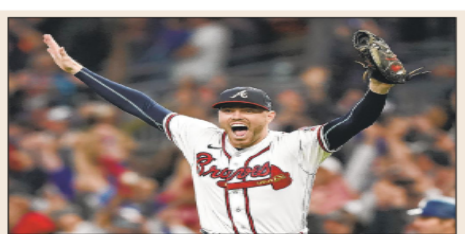
Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell, speaking at a video news conference Wednesday, defended the central bank's actions.

"We don't have the luxury of 20/20 hindsight," he said, adding that the Fed is committed to controlling inflation and will do all it can to achieve that.

"We're acutely aware of the need to restore price stability while keeping a strong labor market," he said.

But Powell and his colleagues face a challenge much like that of an airplane pilot flying through dense clouds with instruments that are hard to read.

Not that long ago, rising [See Interest rates, A11]



L.A.-BOUND

The Dodgers landed their main free agent target, signing longtime Atlanta star and Orange County product Freddie Freeman. **SPORTS, B12**

'Pork barrel' spending is back

Congressional earmarks will send \$766 million to California to fund transit, military and other projects. **NATION, A9**

Weather
Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 81/53. **B7**

'I can't breathe,' man says in video

Footage shows death of motorist in custody as CHP officers held him down. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

7 85944 00200 5

Rich cowboy's grudge bankrolls rural revolt

A former vintner who had a beef with Shasta County is financing far-right activists.

BY JESSICA GARRISON

SHINGLETOWN, Calif. — Reverge Anselmo, a former U.S. Marine, former novelist, ex-filmmaker, former vintner and guardian of a vast fortune, abandoned his stunning Shasta County estate in 2014 on a huff. He'd been battling the county over, among other things, his decision to construct a Catholic chapel without full permits on his vineyard, and after a legal setback decided to pack it in.

"It was time to go," Anselmo said, furious that officials were in his view wrongly interfering with his land-use rights. "Who fights

their way into Shasta County? Who does that?"

Then, in 2021, Anselmo learned that far-right activists were making a documentary about efforts to recall Shasta County elected officials. He summoned the film crew to his family home in Greenwich, Conn. — the one he calls "Marie Antoinette's house" because it is modeled after the Palace of Versailles — and began contributing to their efforts.

On Feb. 1, Shasta County voters stunned the state's political establishment by tossing Republican Supervisor Leonard Moty, a former police chief, on charges that he "wasn't" conservative enough. The recall backers — a populist coalition that includes anti-mask parents, business owners, California secessionists and militia members — say they are just getting started. They plan to [See Anselmo, A14]

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

Rain 60/50 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 76/59 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 • B2

"I am grateful to you for the resolution which recognizes all those who commit crimes against Ukraine, against the Ukrainian people, as war criminals. However, now it is true in the darkest time for our country, for the whole Europe, I call on you to do more."

Zelensky pleads for U.S. military aid

'Kamikaze' drones among weaponry rushed by Pentagon

BY DAN LAMOTHE

The Pentagon will expand the size and scope of weaponry being rushed to Ukraine, the Biden administration said Wednesday, including for the first time armed drones capable of inflicting significant damage to Russian ground units while U.S. officials continue to search for sophisticated anti-aircraft systems owned by European allies.

The disclosure coincided with President Biden's pledge of an additional \$800 million in security assistance for Ukraine, and after his Ukrainian counterpart, President Volodymyr Zelensky, made an emotional appeal to Congress for the United States either to establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine or to provide fighter jets and powerful surface-to-air weapons that would enable Zelensky's military to shoot down Russian aircraft themselves.

"I need to protect our sky," Zelensky said, calling on the United States "to do more" in "the darkest time for our country." He asked for the "S-300 and other similar systems" that can take out aircraft flying at high altitudes.

Hours later, in an address of his own, Biden thanked Zelensky for his "passionate message" and said that it had been "convincing" and "significant."

"This new package on its own is going to provide unprecedented assistance to Ukraine," Biden said, adding that the inclusion of drones "demonstrates our commitment to sending our most cutting-edge systems to Ukraine for its defense."

Biden has declined to provide **SEE WEAPONS ON A10**

Risking default: Sanctions hurt Russia's ability to pay debts. **A11**

Theater bombed: Hundreds of families had sheltered inside. **A12**

Neutral or Putin ally? China's fence-walking is looking shaky. **A14**



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, appearing via video link from Kyiv, addresses hundreds of members of Congress gathered in an auditorium at the Capitol. Many of the lawmakers said the presentation made a powerful case for further intervention.

Zelensky puts Biden on the spot: 'Be the leader of peace'

BY DAN BALZ

There has never been a speech to Congress by a foreign leader quite like the one Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered Wednesday. Short in length, powerful in words, graphic in imagery, the address was a pointed challenge to President Biden to do more to help Zelensky's beleaguered country.

What Zelensky asked for was not new — the establishment of a no-fly zone over his country to stop Russian attacks from the skies. But if the appeal was not new or unexpected, the forcefulness with which he made it, and

the way he singled out the president, was a step beyond where he had been before.

Zelensky closed his speech by addressing Biden directly and switching to English for emphasis: "You are the leader of your great nation. I wish you to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace."

THE TAKE The young leader's appearance highlighted the degree to which he and Biden are now inextricably linked at a moment of great peril, not just for Ukraine

SEE TAKE ON A9

President uses term 'war criminal' for Putin on a high-drama day

BY ASHLEY PARKER

President Biden explicitly called Russian President Vladimir Putin a "war criminal" on Wednesday, after weeks of avoiding the term and at a time when his administration is still determining whether that label officially applies.

Biden made the dramatic accusation seemingly off the cuff. In response to a reporter's shouted question at an afternoon event on an entirely different topic, "I think he is a war criminal," Biden said, after delivering comments on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The asseveration was emblematic of the day's high emotions and dramatic agenda, which were driven by a forceful speech to Congress delivered by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, rather than by Biden's own carefully laid plans and message.

Biden watched Zelensky's 9 a.m. address from the private library of his White House residence, absorbing an emotional plea that invoked both Pearl Harbor and 9/11 — two deadly attacks on the United States that came from the sky — and beseeched the president to close the skies above Ukraine.

SEE BIDEN ON A9

Ukrainian leader shows Congress graphic video of destruction

BY MIKE DEBONIS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, addressing Congress on Wednesday from a capital being attacked by Russian artillery fire and missiles, delivered a stark new plea for American military aid, making a moral case to hundreds of gathered lawmakers that the world's preeminent superpower must do more to prevent his nation's destruction.

In a 16-minute presentation, Zelensky cited the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — and played a searing video of the carnage inside Ukraine — as he sought to push President Biden and lawmakers to further action. He called on them to layer potent air-defense systems and new Russian financial sanctions on top of the military transfers, humanitarian aid and economic salvos that the United States has already delivered since Russia began bombarding Ukrainian cities last month.

"Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people," Zelensky said through an interpreter. "Russian troops have already fired nearly 1,000 missiles at Ukraine, countless bombs. They use drones to kill us with precision."

He followed up: "I need to protect our sky. I need your decision, your help."

Zelensky reiterated a call for a Western-enforced no-fly zone — a move Biden and other Western leaders have rejected as tantamount to starting a world war — but he quickly moved on to other

SEE ZELENSKY ON A5

Moment of peace: Thousands find refuge in the Carpathians. **A15**

Media muffled: Social platforms ban Russian state channels. **A16**

Stagecraft: Zelensky's appeal was captivating, Peter Marks writes. **C1**

Fed raises rates, signals hikes will come at faster clip

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

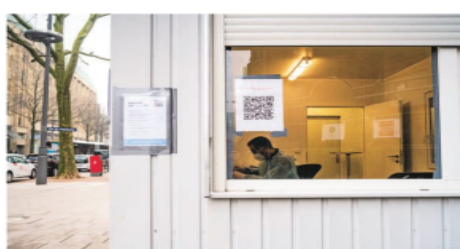
The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in the pandemic on Wednesday, while signaling far more hikes and warning that inflation would remain high through the rest of the year.

The quarter-point interest rate hike was expected and considered modest, but the Fed more than doubled the number of rate hikes anticipated this year — for a total of seven — to help rein in the highest inflation in 40 years. Wednesday marked the first rate hike since 2018.

The Fed Board has faced criticism that it has underestimated inflation over the past year, and now even more uncertainty lurks. Energy prices are spiking because of the war in Ukraine, and coronavirus surges are shutting down major Chinese manufacturing hubs, worsening global supply chain snarls that are pushing prices higher.

"Inflation is likely to take longer to return to our price stability goal than previously expected," Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said during a news conference Wednesday. Later he added,

SEE FED ON A18



A health worker at a coronavirus testing facility in Hamburg on Tuesday. Germany plans to let most nationwide covid restrictions expire on Sunday, even though a subvariant of omicron has brought about an increase in cases once again.

Yet another surge in Europe has U.S. bracing once again

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN AND JOEL ACHENBACH

A surge in coronavirus infections in Western Europe has experts and health authorities on alert for another wave of the pandemic in the United States, even as most of the country has done away with restrictions after a sharp decline in cases.

Infectious-disease experts are closely watching the subvariant of omicron known as BA.2, which appears to be more transmissible than the original strain, BA.1, and is fueling the outbreak overseas. Germany, a nation of 83 mil-

lion people, saw more than 250,000 new cases and 249 deaths Friday, when Health Minister Karl Lauterbach called the nation's situation "critical." The country is allowing most coronavirus restrictions to end Sunday, despite the increase. Britain had a seven-day average of 65,894 cases and 79 deaths as of Sunday, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Research Center. The Netherlands, home to fewer than 18 million people, was averaging more than 60,000 cases the same day.

In all, about a dozen nations **SEE SURGE ON A4**

IN THE NEWS



JAMES A. PARCELLI/THE WASHINGTON POST

John T. 'Til' Hazel Jr., 1930-2022 The lawyer and developer played key roles in building the Capital Beltway and in transforming Northern Virginia into an economic powerhouse. **B1**

THE NATION

Plea negotiations are underway for five Guantánamo Bay prisoners charged in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, among them alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. **A2**

A federal judge in Stephen K. Bannon's contempt case ordered the Justice Department to turn over its policies on prosecuting former White House aides. **A3**

Officials with the Department of Home-

land Security said it will grant temporary protections to Afghan nationals without permanent legal status. **A4**

Five people were charged with acting on behalf of Chinese secret police to spy on and harass U.S. residents critical of Beijing. **A5**

THE WORLD China's "zero covid" policy is wavering as complaints over lockdowns spread. **A6**

British Iranians who

spent years imprisoned in Iran returned to the United Kingdom, striking hope that the 2015 nuclear deal could be revived. **A7**

THE ECONOMY Apple made it possible to unlock an iPhone while wearing a mask, among other updates released this week. **A17**

THE REGION D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser proposed a \$19 billion spending plan that would boost the police force's budget and spend a half-billion on new housing. **B1**

A mask, gloves and bullet casings were among the evidence tying Gerald Brevard III to attacks on homeless men, police said. **B1**

Members of the Alexandria City School Board are split on whether and how to form an advisory group to review policing in schools. **B1**

Amid high gas prices, D.C. regulators approved a temporary \$1 fee on taxi fares, joining ride-hailing companies that have added nationwide fuel surcharges to help drivers. **B5**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Lessons in grit Strategies to empower children to take on and succeed at difficult tasks.

STYLE Still living in fear The Atlanta spa killings rattled Asian American women. A year later, their guard remains up. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A17
COMICS.....C6
OPINION PAGES.....A19
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B6
TELEVISION.....B8
WORLD NEWS.....A6

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“Diego era más genial que Messi; nunca se rendía antes del final”

El brasileño Antonio Careca compartió cuatro años con el Diez en el Napoli; cuenta por qué necesita pararse frente a la tumba de su “hermano” Maradona. **Deportes**



LA CORTE DEFINE SI APLICA EL DERECHO AL OLVIDO EN INTERNET

—sociedad

En la causa Denegri vs. Google, convocó a audiencias públicas, hoy y mañana, para escuchar a las partes, a juristas y expertos en medios digitales antes de resolver. **Página 22**

LOS HIJOS DE NORA DALMASSO ACUSARON A “UN CONOCIDO”

—seguridad

Ambos jóvenes defendieron a su padre, juzgado como investigador del crimen, y apuntaron a Michel Rohrer, que ahora los demandará por difamación. **Página 26**

LA NACION

JUEVES 17 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Fernández busca relanzar su gestión y convoca a un pacto de precios y salarios

CRISIS. Les adelantó a la UIA, la CGT y la CTA que las reunirá la próxima semana para avanzar

Después de anunciar que mañana le declararía la “guerra” a la inflación, el presidente Alberto Fernández prepara un relanzamiento de su gestión con el anuncio de una serie de medidas. La más sorpresiva la transmitió ayer a un grupo de sindicalistas y empresarios: la próxima semana habrá una convocatoria

a ambos sectores para avanzar en un nuevo intento de acordar un esquema de alineamiento de precios y salarios.

Fernández les anticipó su idea al titular de la UIA, Daniel Funes de Rioja; al secretario de la CGT, Héctor Daer, y a su par de la CTA, Hugo Yasky, con quienes se reunió ayer.

El Gobierno busca aprovechar la sanción del acuerdo con el FMI, que hoy sería ley en el Senado, para hacer una gran puesta en escena de cara a lo que queda de la gestión. Si bien hubo versiones de que incluiría un cambio de gabinete, en la Casa Rosada desmintieron esa posibilidad. **Página 10**

CARNE

Tras la amenaza del Gobierno de prohibirles exportar, los frigoríficos garantizaron “cortes cuidados”. **Página 16**

EL ANÁLISIS

Cristina, en una encerrona sin salida

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

Alberto Fernández debió soportar una catarata de burlas cuando prometió comenzar la guerra contra la inflación a partir del viernes. ¿Por qué no antes? En el contexto actual, ¿conviene agregar guerras? Trivialidades. Al fijar la fecha, hablaba su inconsciencia. Hasta el viernes la única batalla importante es la que libra contra Cristina Kirchner, en el Senado. Continúa en la página 14

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 21

Cruenta ofensiva rusa sobre civiles

La artillería destruyó un teatro convertido en refugio en Mariupol; tibio avance diplomático



El Teatro del Drama, donde se refugiaban centenares de civiles de Mariupol, fue destruido ayer por la artillería rusa

TWITTER

Elisabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

LVIV. — ¿La luz al final del túnel? Aunque ayer trascendió un borrador de un posible acuerdo entre las partes

en pugna en esta guerra que cumplió tres semanas, que implicaría la renuncia de Ucrania a sus ambiciones de adherir a la OTAN a cambio de garantías de seguridad, reinaban la cautela en ámbitos diplomáticos y

escepticismo sobre el terreno. “¿Qué nos importa la OTAN y cómo podemos pensar en un acuerdo cuando los rusos nos siguen masacrando?”, se preguntaban los ucranianos de a pie, en otro día marcado por cruen-

tos ataques contra civiles en Kiev y Mariupol. Continúa en la página 2

Biden llama “criminal de guerra” a Putin

Rafael Mathus Ruiz **Página 4**

Atacantes del Congreso cobraban planes por \$33.000

DETENIDOS. Tres de los imputados por arrojar una bomba molotov percibían el subsidio

Ayer detuvieron al acusado de arrojar una bomba molotov contra policías, y ya son siete los aprehendidos por los hechos de violencia registrados la semana pasada en los alrededores del Congreso. Los tres que están imputados por arrojar la molotov integran el Movimiento Teresa Rodríguez y eran beneficiarios de planes sociales, por los cuales cobraban, cada uno, 33.000 pesos mensuales. **Página 12**

Mendoza elimina el uso del barbijo en las aulas

COVID. A partir del próximo lunes, será optativo entre docentes y alumnos. **Página 23**

Ilustrada C1 e C2

Não fale com a motorista

Em 'Drive My Car', longa de Ryusuke Hamaguchi com quatro indicações ao Oscar, o amor surge do silêncio numa trama que mistura as obras de Haruki Murakami e de Tchekhov.

Turismo C8

Miami quer oferecer mais do que compras e mira turistas 'descolados'

Delator diz que Ecovias deu a Alckmin R\$ 3 milhões

Citado na delação premiada do executivo Marcelino Rafart de Seras, um suposto pagamento de R\$ 3 milhões ao ex-governador paulista Geraldo Alckmin (então no PSDB) pela concessionária rodoviária Ecovias é investigado pela Polícia Federal. Alckmin, provável vice na chapa presidencial de Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), nega a acusação e a relação à campanha eleitoral deste ano. **Política A6**

Morre Cabo Anselmo, agente duplo na ditadura
O ex-militar José Anselmo dos Santos, o Cabo Anselmo, morreu na terça (15), aos 80 anos. Mais conhecido agente duplo da ditadura militar, dizia que delatou militantes da esquerda para não ser morto. **A10**

Brasileira está desaparecida há 14 dias após ataque

A artesã paraibana Silvana Pilipenko, 54, que mora na Ucrânia há 27 anos, está desaparecida desde o dia 2, segundo sua irmã. O prédio em que ela estava com o marido em Mariupol foi parcialmente bombardeado. O Itamaraty não dá detalhes do caso. **Mundo A16**

EDITORIAIS A2

Sinais trocados

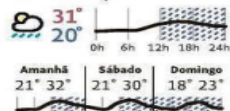
Sobre negociações para um cessar-fogo na Ucrânia.

Pedágio tucano

A respeito de investigação em torno de cartel em SP.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



Cena do filme japonês 'Drive My Car' Divulgação

BC sobe juros para 11,75%, e taxa atinge ápice em 5 anos

Medida contra inflação deve se repetir em maio; EUA também promovem alta

O Copom, comitê de política monetária do Banco Central, elevou ontem a taxa de referência do mercado, Selic, em mais 1 ponto percentual. Com isso, os juros básicos chegaram a 11,75% ao ano, o patamar mais alto desde 2017 e com a perspectiva de crescer mais 1 ponto.

A série de aumentos iniciada há um ano para conter a pressão inflacionária continuará, indicou o colegiado, que volta a se reunir em maio. As incertezas geopolíticas advindas da guerra na Ucrânia e seu efeito sobre o petróleo e outros produtos básicos agravam o quadro.

Nos Estados Unidos, o Federal Reserve (BC local) elevou sua taxa de referência pela primeira vez desde 2018, em 0,25 ponto percentual, para a faixa de 0,25% a 0,5% ao ano, e pôs fim ao período de barateamento do crédito para estimular a produção abalada na pandemia.

A escalada de juros no Brasil, que tirou a Selic do mínimo histórico de 2% em março passado, é a maior entre as principais economias do mundo: foram 9,75 pontos percentuais em nove elevações consecutivas. É o maior ciclo de aperto monetário desde 1999. **Mercado A17 e A18**



Rubens Cavallari/Folhapress

SUPERMERCADO EM SÃO PAULO TRANCA COM CADEADO GELADEIRA DE CARNES

Loja da rede Dia na região central orienta clientes a ir ao caixa para conseguir comprar carnes; empresa depois mudou prática e destrancou freezer, mas limitação de acesso ao produto tem ocorrido em outros mercados ante alta de preços **Mercado A22**

Lula volta a atacar teto e diz que gasto é investimento

Política A6

“Vamos fazer o que for necessário para melhorar a vida do povo. Vamos gastar o que for preciso gastar”

Lula, ontem, em entrevista a uma rádio na Paraíba

Juliano Spyer

Como nasceu as empregadas

“Dar o filho” é a solução culturalmente aceita para algumas famílias que se veem incapazes de alimentá-lo. Para mulheres que viveram isso, o trauma vem de estar longe de casa na infância e ser tratada como ser humano de segunda. **Corrida B8**

Rússia e Ucrânia afirmam ter avançado por cessar-fogo

Rússia e Ucrânia anunciaram avanços nas negociações por um cessar-fogo na invasão promovida por Vladimir Putin no país vizinho, que hoje completa três semanas. Pela primeira vez, houve contato entre o Kremlin e a Casa Branca desde o início da guerra.

Em discurso ao Congresso dos EUA, o líder ucraniano, Volodimir Zelenski, evocou o 11 de Setembro e Pearl Harbor para pedir ajuda militar. O dia teve ataques russos na capital e em cidades como Kharkiv e Mariupol, o que reforça a estratégia de pressão. **Mundo A13 e A14**

Toque de recolher em Kiev amplia cerco à informação

Um toque de recolher de 35 horas em Kiev, imposto na terça, impediu civis, inclusive jornalistas credenciados, de andarem pela cidade, conta André Liohn. Um assessor militar incitou milícias a atacarem até a imprensa em áreas sob controle russo. **Mundo A13**

Espiões ofereceram ao Brasil segredos dos EUA, diz jornal

Um engenheiro naval americano e sua esposa procuraram o Brasil em 2020 para vender o segredo da tecnologia dos reatores nucleares instalados na frota de submarinos dos EUA, revelou o The New York Times. O FBI os prendeu após alerta de autoridades brasileiras.

A resistência de Washington em ajudar no projeto do submarino nacional levou Jair Bolsonaro a pedir apoio de Vladimir Putin em sua recente ida a Moscou. A guerra da Ucrânia, porém, pôs em xeque a negociação. Nenhuma das partes quis comentar. **Mundo A14 e A15**



Volodimir Zelenski é aplaudido de pé por congressistas dos EUA em discurso virtual ontem **J. Scott Applewhite/AFP**

SP dará 4ª dose a pessoas com 80 anos ou mais a partir do dia 21

Saúde B1

A pandemia em 16.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)	73,7%
Dose de reforço	33,0%

Crianças de 5 anos são excluídas da vacina contra gripe

Saúde B2

Con prepotencia llevaron adelante sesión sin quórum para archivar juicio político

Cartistas y procesados fracasan en salvar a cuestionada Quiñónez

En el libelo la acusan de favorecer la impunidad de Darío Messer, al sindicado como traficante de cigarrillos Zero Um, a intendentes y gobernadores acusados de corrupción, entre otros cargos.

PÁGINA 2 a la 5

Alertan sobre riesgo de desabastecimiento
Paro de camioneros sigue pese a que Petropar bajó precio de dos productos

PÁGINA 10 a la 13

Se introducirían varios cambios
El Senado tiene previsto tratar la criticada ley de comercio fronterizo

PÁGINA 16

Optimizará infraestructura educativa
Plantean direccionar los recursos del Fonacide hacia escuelas céntricas

PÁGINA 19

CON ESTA EDICIÓN	COMPRA OPCIONAL
 INTELIGENCIA EMOCIONAL E INTELIGENCIAS MÚLTIPLES 4 Diario + fascículo	 CONSTITUCIÓN DE LA REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY LIBRO CONSTITUCIÓN NACIONAL + BANDERIN PARAGUAY G. 25.000



FERNANDO CALISTRO



Gracias a los penales Olimpia avanza en la Copa

El inicio. El gol de Jorge 'El Pollo' Recalde abrió el camino para una gran victoria del Decano en el estadio Defensores del Chaco.

PÁGINA 56

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



LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

JACK KEROUAC, LE PROPHÈTE
ROMANTIQUE DE LA BEAT
GENERATION NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



RÉCIT
L'ODYSSÉE FANTASTIQUE
DU VOILIER DE JACQUES
BREL PAGES 30 ET 31

PRÉSIDENTIELLE
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CHAMPS LIBRES
• Les Finlandais
en première
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• Les
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avec Georges
Nivat
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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de mercredi :**
Êtes-vous favorable
à un statut d'autonomie
pour la Corse ?

OUI 40% NON 60%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 252 593

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Faut-il plafonner le prix
des carburants ?

FRANÇOIS BOUCHON / LE FIGARO-
SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS

Sur le front de Kiev avec les Tchétchènes pro-ukrainiens



Notre envoyée spéciale a rencontré Muslim Cheberloyevsky, commandant d'un des deux bataillons tchétchènes qui combattent aux côtés des Ukrainiens - tandis que d'autres Tchétchènes, affiliés au président Kadyrov, participent à l'invasion du côté russe. Cheberloyevsky dit « partager la rage du peuple ukrainien contre Poutine ». PAGES 8 ET 9

VERONIQUE DE VIGIERE POUR LE FIGARO

Autonomie de la Corse : l'exécutif sème le trouble

En envisageant une évolution du statut de l'île, Gérald Darmanin, sous la critique, espère apaiser les tensions.

Trouver les conditions d'un apaisement après deux semaines de violences en Corse consécutives à l'agression d'Yvan Colonna. Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Gérald Darmanin, qui a entamé mercredi une visite de deux jours sur l'île de Beauté, a multi-

plié les contacts avec les responsables politiques locaux. Objectif : ouvrir un processus de dialogue sur le statut de l'île pouvant « aller jusqu'à l'autonomie », selon les mots du ministre. Un geste à l'encontre des autonomistes qui a suscité un certain scepticisme

sur l'île et des réactions courroucées dans l'Hexagone. À moins d'un mois de la présidentielle, plusieurs candidats ont reproché à Emmanuel Macron et à son ministre de « céder à la violence » sur fond de « manœuvres électorales ».

→ LA QUESTION CORSE S'INVITE DANS LA CAMPAGNE → DANS LES RUES DE BASTIA, UNE HYPOTHÈSE RECUE AVEC SCEPTICISME → L'AGRESSION DE COLONNA AUSCULTÉE PAR LES DÉPUTÉS → PLUSIEURS MODELES D'AUTONOMIE PRÉVUS PAR LA CONSTITUTION PAGES 2, 4, 18 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Le candidat Macron promet de réduire les droits de succession

Le président sortant présente ce jeudi, lors d'une conférence de presse, les contours de son programme. Une centaine de propositions parmi lesquelles figure, selon nos informations, une baisse des droits de

succession en ligne directe et indirecte. Une volte-face par rapport à ses positions de 2017 sur un sujet qui s'est imposé, notamment à droite, comme un thème structurant de la campagne. PAGE 6

ÉDITORIAL par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

Fébrilité d'État

Autonomie ! Le mot a été lâché. En des temps si lents, à été reposée, il ne serait pas illégitime de poser la question. Les Corses sont majoritairement pour, et la perspective, pour être périlleuse, n'est pas forcément une emprise. Mais enfin ! Pourquoi cette annonce après une telle succession de défaillances ? Reprenons : dans une prison française, un djihadiste a voulu tuer, à mains nues, pendant huit minutes un détenu qui avait « blasphémé ». Yvan Colonna, condamné pour l'assassinat du préfet Érignac, est entre la vie et la mort. Cela faisait des années qu'il demandait à être rapatrié dans une prison en Corse. Demande rejetée, jusqu'à ce que Jean Castex, après le drame, l'accorde. Depuis, la Corse s'embrase, les cocktails Molotov volent dans le ciel de Bastia, Colonna devient le symbole de la défiance insulaire vis-à-vis de Paris. L'institution judiciaire est parvenue à transformer un assassin en martyr, bientôt en héros : on attend la cascade de démissions...

C'est ce moment délétaire qu'a choisi Emmanuel Macron, à trois semaines d'une élection présidentielle, pour aborder une question institutionnelle aux conséquences vertigineuses.

Cette fois, la grandiloquence qui accompagne habituellement la faiblesse de l'État ne viendra pas à dissimuler sa très grande fébrilité. La Corse, comme souvent dans son histoire, est le révélateur de maux qui minent depuis des décennies la puissance publique. Des technocrates incapables de comprendre les attachements viscéraux qui, sur l'île de Beauté plus encore qu'ailleurs, façonnent l'être humain ; la jurisprudence Notre-Dame-des-Landes qui entraîne le pouvoir à céder face à la violence ; le mépris, à peine dissimulé, pour toute province un peu éloignée de Paris ; l'ignorance de l'Histoire, qui nous enseigne

que, quand la France est forte, la Corse est fière de son appartenance nationale ; la légèreté, enfin, qui autorise à proposer le bouleversement de l'intégrité du territoire entre deux promesses de campagne. Le « bon débarras » que l'on entend, mezza voce, chez ceux qui confondent la Corse et sa caricature couronne cette défaite de la volonté. Si la Corse dérive, c'est que la France se disloque. ■

**La Corse
révèle les
maux qui
minent la
puissance
publique**

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OUVERTURE EXCEPTIONNELLE CE DIMANCHE 20 MARS

Liste des magasins Roche Bobois de France participant à l'opération sur www.rocke-bobois.com

Zaghari-Ratcliffe released after six years in Iran jail

Second dual national Anoosheh Ashoori also freed - but third prisoner let out only temporarily

Patrick Wintour
Jamie Grieron

The six-year ordeal for the British-Iranian prisoners Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori finally ended yesterday after they were released by Iran to return home and reunite with their families.

A third dual national accused of spying, the businessman and wildlife conservationist Morad Tahbaz, was freed from prison on furlough, but his family said he felt abandoned in Iran by the British government.

News of the two detainees' release, the subject of months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy and the payment of a £400m debt, was formally announced by the foreign secretary, Liz Truss.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 43, and Ashoori, 67, were released from the control of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps just before noon UK time at Tehran international airport before being flown to Oman and then on to an RAF base to be greeted by their relatives and Truss.

Nazanin's husband, Richard Ratcliffe, standing beside their smiling seven-year-old daughter, Gabriella, said he was looking forward to becoming a normal family again.

His wife's greatest ambition after a period of recuperation was to sit down on the sofa, make a cup of tea and just be in the living room together, he said, adding: "Homecoming is a journey and not an arrival."

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was arrested in 2016 in Tehran after working as a charity project manager. Ashoori, a retired civil engineer, was in prison for almost five years, while Tahbaz has been held for four. All three denied charges of spying.

Truss told MPs their release was "the result of years of tenacious British diplomacy". The UK struck the deal after paying a decades-old debt via a Swiss humanitarian channel. Britain says it has guarantees that the money will be used only for food and medical purposes.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe's MP, Tulip Siddiq, tweeted a congratulatory message and photo of her.



▲ Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe on the plane home to the UK yesterday. Below, Anoosheh Ashoori

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: TWITTER



The former prime minister David Cameron, who was in No 10 when Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in Iran, told Channel 4 News her release was "a piece of good news that we've all been waiting to hear for so long".

In a dramatic day of tense emotions, Iranian state media reported that Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Ashoori had been handed over to a British team yesterday, but a two-hour delay at Tehran's airport suggested there was a last-minute hitch, largely over the fate of Tahbaz.

Iran is treating Tahbaz, 66, as an

American citizen even though he was born in west London, and holds US, UK and Iranian citizenship. Disagreements over his fate have proved to be an obstacle to a deal in the past.

The Tahbaz family told the Guardian: "We have been let down and betrayed by the British government. He was the only one of the three with a British birth certificate, and he has been left behind."

"We were not told about this arrangement except in a short phone call with the foreign secretary when it was too late to

Russia raid hits theatre 'sheltering hundreds'

Lorenzo Tondo Lviv
Isobel Koshiw Kyiv

Ukrainian officials have accused Russian forces of further atrocities in the besieged city of Mariupol, including an airstrike on a theatre where hundreds of displaced people were believed to have been sheltering and the shelling of a convoy of cars carrying civilians fleeing the city.

Mariupol has been facing a humanitarian catastrophe for days, and Russia continued to rain down fire on it and other Ukrainian cities yesterday, even as the two sides projected optimism over efforts at peace talks to negotiate an end to the fighting.

There was no immediate confirmation of numbers of deaths or injuries in what Mariupol city council said was a "bomb on a building where hundreds of peaceful Mariupol residents were hiding".

"We don't know if there are any survivors," one witness said. "The bomb shelter is also covered with debris ... there are both adults and children there."

About 1,000 civilians were said to have been hiding inside. It was designated as a shelter for the displaced, including children and elderly people.

Later Pavlo Kyrylenko, the head of Donetsk regional administration, claimed Russians had also targeted the Neptune swimming pool.

It is impossible to establish the number of casualties from these strikes. A witness who posted a video of the aftermath of the attack said the pool had been destroyed and efforts were under way to rescue one pregnant woman trapped in the rubble.

As Joe Biden called Vladimir Putin a "war criminal", local authorities in Mariupol

'Stay and die, or risk the shelling' Ukrainians attempt to flee villages

News Page 4 →