

What's News

Business & Finance

Putin's war in Ukraine and the wave of Western sanctions in response are starting to hit Russia's oil-and-gas industry, the country's economic engine. **A1**

◆ **A federal jury found an ex-Boeing pilot not guilty of** deceiving air-safety regulators about a 737 MAX flight-control system later blamed for two fatal crashes. **A1**

◆ **Identity-verification provider Okta said that a** January data breach revealed by hackers this week may have affected hundreds of customers. **B1, B2**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell, with the** S&P 500 losing 1.2% and the Dow and Nasdaq both retreating 1.3%. Brent crude futures climbed 5.3%. **B11**

◆ **Toshiba's shareholders** rejected a management plan to split the company into two parts. **B1**

◆ **The Biden administration** said it would renew tariff waivers for 352 categories of goods from China whose previously granted exemptions had expired. **A2**

◆ **Meta Platforms' management** team is scattering to locations far from its Silicon Valley headquarters, in an extreme test of the limits of remote work. **B1**

◆ **A federal judge ruled** that ZTE's probation for violations of U.S. sanctions on Iran could end, freeing the Chinese tech company from some oversight. **B4**

◆ **China's Tencent Holdings** said that its revenue growth in the fourth quarter slowed to the weakest pace in nearly two decades. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **NATO estimated Russia** has lost as much as one-fifth of its combat forces sent to Ukraine in about a month of fighting, as Biden and alliance leaders gathered in Brussels to discuss providing further support to Kyiv to repel the Russian invasion. **A1, A8-A11**

◆ **Republicans aggressively** questioned Supreme Court nominee Jackson over her sentences for convicted criminals, while Senate Democrats decried GOP tactics they said were disrespectful. **A4**

◆ **Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine** safely induced robust immune responses in children ages 6 months to 5 years in a new study, the company said, though the shot had modest efficacy against Omicron. **A3**

◆ **Trump rescinded an endorsement** for Alabama Senate candidate Mo Brooks, saying the congressman had moved on from pushing claims about a stolen 2020 presidential election. **A4**

◆ **An ex-Manhattan prosecutor** who investigated Trump said in a resignation letter last month that he believed the former president committed numerous felonies. **A4**

◆ **Idaho's governor signed** into law new abortion limits modeled on a Texas law, even as he expressed reservations about the legislation. **A3**

◆ **Rescuers recovered** one of the black boxes from the Boeing 737 that crashed in southern China. **A12**

◆ **The Taliban halted a** plan to reopen secondary schools for girls, reneging on an earlier pledge. **A12**

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Russian Casualties Are Mounting



A funeral service was held Wednesday in Sevastopol, Crimea, for Andrei Paliy, a deputy commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, who was killed in fighting with Ukraine forces Sunday in the Sea of Azov port of Mariupol.

Biden is in Brussels for talks with allies; NATO says Moscow has lost up to fifth of its forces

NATO estimated Russia has lost as much as one-fifth of its combat forces sent to Ukraine in about a month of fighting

By Daniel Michaels, Isabel Coles and Georgi Kantchev

as President Biden and alliance leaders gathered in Brussels for a summit to discuss providing further support to Kyiv to repel the Russian invasion.

Between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine and up to 40,000 Russian troops in total have been killed, wounded, taken prisoner or are missing, said a senior military official from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Russia might also have lost 10% of its equipment, impairing Moscow's ability to maintain its pace of operations, said another NATO official.

The casualty count would underscore how much Russia's attack on Ukraine, which began in February, has cost.

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Moscow Feels Sting Of Sanctions on Oil

By Georgi Kantchev

President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine and the wave of Western sanctions in response are starting to hit Russia's economic engine: its prodigious oil-and-gas industry.

The U.S. and Canada have barred the little Russian oil they import, while the European Union is considering a ban. But for the most part, Western sanctions have so far avoided directly limiting most of Russia's energy exports. U.S. and EU restrictions, though, have already cut off Russia's access to funding and advanced technology to develop and maintain its aging fields.

An exodus of Western energy companies, meanwhile, is disrupting major projects from

the Arctic to the Pacific Ocean. Traders and banks, meanwhile, have been shunning Russian oil cargoes in recent weeks. All that is threatening Russian oil production, which represents one in every 10 barrels pumped globally. Other sanctioned petrostates, like Iran and Venezuela, have struggled to recover from the big hit to production such restrictions have caused. Analysts warn Russia could, too.

"This will set back the industry many years," said Mikhail Krutikhin, a partner at independent consulting firm RusEnergy who advises Russian oil companies. "It means loss of competitiveness."

Any decline of its energy industry could blunt one of

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Exchange Is Set to Reopen

Russian stocks are to partially resume trading Thursday. **A9**

Russia's benchmark stock index, the MOEX



U.S., Allies Race To Resupply Arms As Kyiv Runs Low

RZESZOW, Poland—Day and night, truck convoys rumble through once quiet Polish border towns and villages. Giant military-transport planes land

By Drew Hinshaw, Joe Parkinson and Nancy A. Youssef

several times an hour on the single runway at a local airport. Their cargo: weapons for the Ukrainian forces fighting to beat back Russia's invading army.

The U.S. and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies have been racing for weeks to deliver antitank missiles, air-defense batteries and other ar-

maments in one of the largest international arms transfers since World War II. Hundreds of millions of dollars of weaponry have been shipped.

Now, pressure is growing to ramp up the pace further, as Ukraine said it is running out of weapons, ammunition, antitank and antiaircraft missiles are in especially short supply, Ukrainian defense officials said. During this week's NATO summit and meeting of the European Union, President Biden is expected to press allies to give Ukraine more, particularly air-defense systems, U.S. officials said.

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French Firms Stay Put in Russia, as Others Retreat

By Nick Kostov and Stacy Meichtry

PARIS—Companies across the West are retreating from Russia in the wake of President Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. Some of France's biggest firms are

hanging on. Russians shopping for sporting goods, groceries, tools and hardware can find them at French retailers that continue to operate in Russia.

French bank Société Générale SA's local lender is processing transactions for Russian cli-

ents. Energy giant TotalEnergies SE is clinging to huge investments in Russian oil-and-gas fields.

Auto maker Renault SA, which is 15%-owned by the French state, has been in a logistical scramble to restart its assembly lines in Russia,

where it owns the country's biggest car maker. The firm has tried to reorganize its Russian supply chain to replace parts it is missing because of sanctions, according to people familiar with the matter. French firms say they are trying to go about their busi-

ness in Russia, abiding by sanctions rules and heeding to guidance from the government of President Emmanuel Macron. France has an outsized presence among the biggest foreign firms in Russia, with roots established in the wake of World War II.

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U.S. says Russia is guilty of war crimes **A8**

Moscow will expel more U.S. diplomats **A8**

Zelensky asked U.S. to spare oligarch from sanctions **A9**

Putin says Europe must pay for natural gas in rubles **A9**

Nestlé set to pare back its operations in Russia **A11**

Madeleine Albright Dies at Age 84

The first woman to serve as the nation's top diplomat, she renegotiated the U.S. relationship with Russia in the aftermath of the Cold War. The Czech-born Ms. Albright advocated for the expansion of NATO by including ex-Soviet states. **A2**



Idaho Needs Potatoes, So Maine Is Chipping In

State's deep roots with tubers pay off as demand sprouts

By Jennifer Levitz

VAN BUREN, Maine—When it comes to spuds, top producers Idaho and Washington grab all the attention.

Now, Maine is knocking some starch out of the competition.

In a state more famous for lobsters, Maine's humble spud, cultivated mostly far north near Canada, is having its moment in the spotlight after drought and heat reduced yields in the West. To help meet the national appetite for

french fries and hash browns, and to jump-start future spud crops, Maine growers are shipping millions of potatoes to Washington and Idaho. Local farmers say it feels like selling ice to Anchorage. "I take great

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Ex-Boeing Pilot Found Not Guilty in MAX Case

By Andrew Tangel

FORT WORTH, Texas—A federal jury found a former Boeing Co. pilot not guilty of deceiving air-safety regulators about a 737 MAX flight-control system later blamed for two fatal crashes.

The decision in the four-day trial was reached after less than two hours of deliberation and acquitted Mark Forkner on all four counts of wire fraud. Mr. Forkner was accused of misleading a training official at the Federal Aviation Administration about an automated cockpit feature to reduce how much training pilots would need to fly the plane, thus making the jet more attractive to airlines.

After U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor read the verdict, Mr. Forkner became emotional as his lawyers put their arms around him. Crying, he smiled and hugged his wife who was in the courtroom with other supporters.

Mr. Forkner, 50 years old,

declined to comment. His attorneys said they were grateful to jurors for their independence in weighing the Justice Department's case. "They saw through it, and we're very grateful," said David Gerger, one of Mr. Forkner's attorneys. A Justice Department spokesman said the agency stands by prosecutors and law-enforcement officials' efforts to investigate and try the case. "While we are disappointed in the outcome, we respect the jury's verdict," the spokesman said.

Mr. Forkner has been the only person charged in relation to the crashes, seen as part of the Justice Department's effort to hold individuals accountable for their roles in corporate misdeeds.

Mr. Forkner's attorneys had argued federal prosecutors targeted him as a scapegoat for the accidents, which claimed 346 lives. They noted Mr. Forkner wasn't an engineer and that many others were involved

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'Shrinkflation' alert

Sneaky moves to get you paying the same for less — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 17

The Wirecard file

Prosecutors' 470-page indictment against 'Doktor Braun' — BIG READ, PAGE 17



Russian lessons

Western business should reassess its China reliance — PEGGY HOLLINGER, PAGE 7

Chubais becomes most senior Putin aide to quit since invasion

Architect of privatisations departs Kremlin • Nato lines up additional help for Ukraine

MAX SEDDON — RIGA

Anatoly Chubais has quit as Vladimir Putin's special climate envoy, making him the highest-ranking official to leave the Kremlin since Russia's war on Ukraine began.

Dmitry Peskov, the Russian president's spokesman, told the Financial Times that Chubais had resigned from his position, without specifying when he had done so or whether he had quit in protest over the invasion of Ukraine.

Russian newspaper Kommersant claimed Chubais was in Istanbul and published a photograph of him in a baseball cap withdrawing money from a cash machine. Chubais and his wife could not immediately be reached for comment. News of the resignation was first reported by Bloomberg.

Chubais, an architect of Russia's post-communist privatisation, is the most senior figure to leave a government post since the invasion on February 24.

Putin said last week Russia needed to "purify itself" by "distinguishing true patriots from scum and traitors" who made up a "fifth column" of elites who, "in their very nature mentally, exist over there, and not here, with our people, with Russia".

Chubais remains widely reviled in Russia for the economic turbulence when Boris Yeltsin was president in the 1990s. He played a key role in the infamous loans-for-shares scheme that privatised enormously valuable state industrial assets to a small clique of oligarchs on the cheap.

When Chubais was Yeltsin's chief of staff in 1996, he gave a then unknown Putin his first job in the Kremlin.

Gradually, he lost his reputation as a modernising liberal as he found his feet under Putin, who appointed him to a series of posts leading state companies before appointing him climate envoy in 2020.

Chubais's resignation comes a month into Russia's assault on Ukraine amid



Vladimir Putin and Anatoly Chubais in 2005: as Boris Yeltsin's chief of staff, the climate envoy gave the future president his first Kremlin job
Yuri Kuchevskiy/RIA

signs that the advance of Putin's forces has stalled. Ukraine has mounted a fierce resistance, aided in part by weaponry provided by western allies. Nato leaders said yesterday they were also preparing to send equipment to Ukraine for use in defending themselves against chemical and nuclear weapons.

Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary-general, said the alliance was expected to agree to providing Ukraine with "additional support", including equipment to "protect against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats".

Nato leaders are to discuss extending Stoltenberg's term as secretary-general today beyond his planned departure

this summer, as allies fret over the potential ramifications of changing leadership during the Ukraine war.

Meanwhile, oil exports from a crucial pipeline on Russia's Black Sea coast were fully halted yesterday, pushing crude

prices higher amid fears that Moscow would interrupt energy supplies just as US president Joe Biden arrived in Europe to discuss the Ukraine war.

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium, the Moscow-headquartered group running a line linking Kazakh oilfields with Russia's Novorossiysk port, said it was shutting down all three units used to load oil from the more than 1,500km artery on to tankers, blaming storm damage.

"The loading is fully stopped due to objective reasons because of abnormal storms," said Nikolay Gorban, CPC's chief executive. The full closure comes as EU leaders prepare to discuss deeper sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

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Briefing

► **Russian-favoured Cypriot lender to shut** RCB Bank, used by Russian expats living in Cyprus, is planning to close its retail business, making it the first lender to return money to depositors in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. — PAGE 8

► **Toshiba investors push for buyout talks** Big shareholders have said they are confident they can force the industrial conglomerate to reopen talks with private equity groups as they head into a showdown meeting of investors today. — PAGE 7

► **Brussels to publish digital markets law** The EU is poised to unveil long-awaited legislation designed to rein in the power of Big Tech this week, after a deal was struck on crucial details such as the size of companies to be targeted. — PAGE 6

► **Taliban block reopening of girls' schools** Desperate students have been left stranded outside campuses in Afghanistan after leaders went back on a pledge to allow resumption of education for teenage girls. — PAGE 6

► **Evergrande bondholders call in lawyers** A group of investors has moved closer to formal legal action after the most indebted property group made the surprise disclosure that mystery lenders to a subsidiary had claimed \$2bn in cash. — PAGE 10

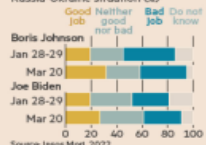
► **Wall Street bonuses rise more than 20%** The average payout has leapt to a record \$257,500, according to figures for last year. Including bonuses, the average salary was \$438,470 — five times the average for the rest of the private sector. — PAGE 7

► **First female US secretary of state dies** Madeleine Albright, the first woman to serve as US secretary of state and a grande dame of foreign policy for the Democratic party, has died of cancer at the age of 84.

Datawatch

War effect

Opinion on handling of Russia-Ukraine situation (%)



Source: Ipsos Mori, 2022

► **Britons' support for prime minister** Boris Johnson's handling of the Russia-Ukraine situation has grown, though it is some way from unanimous. Their views of US president Joe Biden have also registered a positive shift



Dimon's reputation faces stress test over spending

Jamie Dimon, the JPMorgan chief who has built his reputation on pursuing growth while keeping the lid on costs since taking over in 2005, is facing rare shareholder criticism. Concern centres on a multibillion-dollar plan to update technology and enter a tough UK retail market. Investors cite transparency failures that mean Dimon's reputation for fiscal discipline now has a question mark after it, says one analyst.

Under fire ► PAGE 8
Lex ► PAGE 18

Egypt asks IMF for support as Ukraine crisis affects wheat and crude imports

HEBA SALEH — CAIRO

Egypt has asked the IMF for support as the country struggles to weather the economic impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Arab nation is facing mounting pressure on its public finances from the Russian assault sent grain prices soaring and increased the price of oil.

Egypt, which is the world's biggest wheat importer, is heavily reliant on supplies from Russia and Ukraine and has a subsidised bread programme that feeds 70m people.

Its predicament underscores how Russia's invasion of Ukraine is rippling across Arab and African states that rely on food and energy imports.

"The rapidly changing global environment and spillovers related to the war in Ukraine are posing important chal-

lenges for countries around the world, including Egypt," said Celine Allard, IMF mission chief for Egypt, yesterday.

"In that context, the Egyptian authorities have requested the IMF's support to implement their comprehensive economic programme."

Egypt has benefited from previous IMF loans and programmes. In 2016, it secured a \$12bn loan over three years after a foreign currency crisis that followed its 2011 revolution.

It also received \$8bn in 2020 to deal with the pandemic, making it one of the biggest borrowers from the fund after Argentina.

At the time of the 2016 agreement it devalued the currency, which lost half its value against the dollar.

Analysts were expecting Egypt to request IMF support after it devalued its currency on Monday in a move seen as a

prelude to discussions with the fund on a potential loan. Egypt also announced a package of tax breaks and increases in social spending amounting to \$7bn.

"The devaluation 'smooths the path for an IMF programme which we believe will help anchor confidence in Egypt's fiscal and reform trajectory", said Goldman Sachs.

The war has also delivered a blow to tourism, a main source of foreign currency, because it stopped the flow of visitors from Russia and Ukraine.

Foreign debt investors have also pulled billions of dollars from Egypt in recent months adding to pressure on the Egyptian currency.

"There were around \$5bn of net outflows in September-December, and further outflows accompanied news of the Ukraine conflict," said Fitch Ratings agency last week.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Mar 23	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4494.48	4511.61	-0.38
Nasdaq Composite	14130.39	14108.82	0.15
Dow Jones Ind	34540.39	34507.48	-0.17
FTSE 100	1175.93	1178.17	-0.96
Euro Stoxx 50	3895.45	3902.12	-1.55
FTSE 100	1480.63	1476.72	-0.22
FTSE All-Share	4156.60	4167.69	-0.26
CAC 40	6561.43	6568.41	-1.17
Xetra Dax	14263.65	14475.28	-1.31
Nikkei	29040.16	27224.11	3.98
Hang Seng	22154.99	21886.28	1.21
MSCI World	3043.79	3010.08	1.10
MSCI EM	1131.41	1115.26	1.45
MSCI ACWI	708.21	700.82	1.05
FT Wilshire 2500	5603.03	5603.07	1.39
FT Wilshire 5000	46120.95	45574.44	1.25

CURRENCIES

	Mar 23	prev	%chg
£ per \$	1.190	1.182	0.67
€ per \$	0.908	0.907	0.11
¥ per \$	1.321	1.326	-0.37
₹ per \$	0.833	0.831	0.24
₹ per \$	121.040	120.885	0.13
₹ per \$	133.162	132.596	0.43
₹ per \$	81.856	81.682	0.21
₹ per \$	1.028	1.028	0.00
₹ per \$	1.232	1.237	-0.41

COMMODITIES

	Mar 23	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	113.91	108.27	4.25
Oil Brent \$	120.75	115.48	4.58
Gold \$	1915.25	1905.05	1.02

INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	95.30	2.34	-0.03
UK Gov 10 yr	123.71	1.63	-0.08
Ger Gov 10 yr	95.17	0.46	-0.04
Jpn Gov 10 yr	98.88	0.22	0.01
US Gov 30 yr	92.04	2.54	-0.05
Ger Gov 30 yr	100.45	-0.27	-0.04
Feed Funds ER	0.08	0.08	0.00
US 3m Bill	0.51	0.54	-0.03
Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
UK 3m	1.00	0.99	0.01

Prices are latest for edition

Data provided by Bloomberg

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Aiming to Limit Russia, Allies Boost Forces Near Ukraine



Vladimir Bogdanov, 80, narrowly escaped injury when shrapnel from a rocket attack tore through his Kyiv home on Wednesday.

Biden in Europe to Meet With NATO — Fear That Conflict Will Spread

This article is by **Matina Stevis-Grigneff, David E. Sanger and Rick Gladstone.**

BRUSSELS — NATO announced a doubling of its military presence near Ukraine on Wednesday and said the alliance would help the country prepare for possible chemical, biological and even nuclear threats from the Russian invaders, which would be a once-unthinkable expansion in the month-old war.

The announcement by Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary general, came hours before President Biden landed in Europe for an extraordinary strategy session with the alliance, created in 1949 to contain the Soviet Union. The warnings underscored the urgency of efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading beyond Ukraine's borders and entangling NATO in a direct fight with Russia.

The possibility that Russia might resort to weapons of mass destruction also reflected the Russian military's failure — even with the use of indiscriminate weapons aimed at terrorizing civilians — to achieve more than a stalemate so far in the face of an unexpectedly tenacious Ukrainian resistance.

Mr. Biden's NATO meeting on Thursday will be followed by a session with counterparts from

the Group of 7 industrialized powers, and then with the European Union. The last will include an appearance by President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, via a video link from an embattled Kyiv. That discussion is expected to explore ways to further tighten the already-severe Western economic sanctions on Russia that are aimed at pressuring its president, Vladimir V. Putin, into halting the war.

Those punishments, which have crashed the ruble's value and begun to cause severe shortages inside Russia, have erased decades of its financial integration with the world in the space of a few weeks. Russia's decision to strictly control how the Ukraine conflict is reported domestically — it is a criminal offense to call the conflict a war or invasion — has further raised repression in the country.

Mr. Biden wants to steel the allies for the likelihood that the conflict lasts for months or years, requiring a long-term commitment to economic and military confrontation, administration officials say.

But the Europeans are unwilling to follow the United States in stopping purchases of Russian oil

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Trump 'Guilty,' Ex-Prosecutor Says in Letter

This article is by **William K. Rashbaum, Ben Protess and Jonah E. Bromwich.**

One of the senior Manhattan prosecutors who investigated Donald J. Trump believed that the former president was "guilty of numerous felony violations" and that it was "a grave failure of justice" not to hold him accountable, according to a copy of his resignation letter.

The prosecutor, Mark F. Pomerantz, submitted his resignation last month after the Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg, abruptly stopped pursuing an indictment of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Pomerantz, 70, a prominent former federal prosecutor and white-collar defense lawyer who came out of retirement to work on the Trump investigation, resigned on the same day as Carey R. Dunne, another senior prosecutor leading the inquiry.

Mr. Pomerantz's Feb. 23 letter, obtained by The New York Times, offers a personal account of his decision to resign and for the first time states explicitly his belief that the office could have convicted the former president. Mr. Bragg's decision was "contrary to the public interest," he wrote.

"The team that has been investigating Mr. Trump harbors no doubt about whether he committed crimes — he did," Mr. Pomerantz wrote.

Mr. Pomerantz and Mr. Dunne planned to charge Mr. Trump with falsifying business records, specifically his annual financial statements — a felony in New York State.

Mr. Bragg's decision not to pursue charges then — and the resignations that followed — threw the fate of the long-running investigation into serious doubt. If the prosecutors had secured an indictment of Mr. Trump, it would have been the highest-profile case ever brought by the Manhattan district attorney's office and would have made Mr. Trump the first American president to face criminal charges.

Earlier this month, The Times reported that the investigation was

Continued on Page A19

Moscow and U.S. Far Right Share Talking Points

By **SHEERA FRENKEL and STUART A. THOMPSON**

After President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia claimed that action against Ukraine was taken in self-defense, the Fox News host Tucker Carlson and the conservative commentator Candace Owens repeated the assertion. When Mr. Putin insisted he was trying to "denazify" Ukraine, Joe Oltmann, a far-right podcaster, and Lara Logan, another right-wing commentator, mirrored the idea.

The echoing went the other way, too. Some far-right American news sites, like InfoWars, stoked a longtime, unfounded Russian claim that the United States funded biological weapons labs in Ukraine.

Russian officials seized on the chatter, with the Kremlin contending it had documentation of biological weapons programs that justified

A Two-Way Stream of Conspiracy Theories and Falsehoods

its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

As war has raged, the Kremlin's talking points and some right-wing discourse in the United States — fueled by those on the far right — have coalesced. On social media, podcasts and television, falsehoods about the invasion of Ukraine have flowed both ways, with Americans amplifying lies from Russians and the Kremlin spreading fabrications that festered in American forums online.

By reinforcing and feeding each other's messaging, some right-wing Americans have given credibility to Russia's assertions, and vice versa. Together, they have

created an alternate reality, recasting the Western bloc of allies as provokers, blunderers and liars, which has bolstered Mr. Putin.

The war initially threw some conservatives — who had insisted no invasion would happen — for a loop. Many criticized Mr. Putin and Russia's assault on Ukraine. Some have since gone on to urge more support for Ukraine.

But in recent days, several far-right commentators have again gravitated to narratives favorable to Mr. Putin's cause. The main one has been the blowback conspiracy theory, which has provided a way to talk about the war while focusing criticism on President Biden and the U.S. government instead of Mr. Putin and the Kremlin.

"People are asking if the far right in the U.S. is influencing the war or if Russia is influencing the

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Griner Detention Poses Dilemma For U.S. as Tensions Keep Rising

This article is by **Jason Horowitz, Jonathan Abrams and Ivan Nechepurenko.**

One of the last times Brittney Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and seven-time All Star center for the women's professional basketball team in Phoenix, appeared in public, it was on a Russian airport security video.

She wore a Black Lives for Peace sweatshirt and rolled her luggage through security, where officers with Russia's Federal Customs Service said they had found in her bag illegal vape cartridges that contained hashish oil. The authorities detained her on drug charges.

Now, a month later, as Ms. Griner — too tall at 6-foot-9 for her top-bunk mattress — languishes in a cell she shares with two Rus-

Basketball Star Held in Russia for a Month

sians also accused of drug trafficking in a pretrial detention center near Moscow, U.S. officials have finally been able to see her.

"A consular official was able to visit Brittney Griner today and found her to be in good condition," Jennifer L. Palmer, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said Wednesday. "We will continue to do everything we can to see to it that she is treated fairly throughout this ordeal."

Some supporters in Moscow and Washington are wary of raising Ms. Griner's profile too high, or linking her case to the war in

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On Hearing's Last Day, Jackson Faces Growing G.O.P. Hostility

By **CARL HULSE and JONATHAN WEISMAN**

WASHINGTON Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson emerged on Wednesday from two grueling days of testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee having weathered escalating Republican attacks on her record but leaving Democrats confident that she would become the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

Questioning of President Biden's nominee by Republicans grew increasingly hostile as they stepped up their criticism of what they portrayed as a pattern of leniency in her sentencing of child sex abusers and tried to paint her as a liberal on issues of race, gender, guns and abortion rights.

Despite early pledges from Republican leaders that the process would be marked by decorum and respect, the hearings were a bruising affair for the Senate, no less bitter or partisan than their immediate predecessors.

Even Senator Ben Sasse, Republican of Nebraska, vented his exasperation at "the jackassery



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's hearings were a bruising affair.

we see around here" of "people mugging" for the cameras.

But notwithstanding the grilling Judge Jackson endured, there was no indication that Republicans had succeeded in derailing a confirmation that could be approved along party lines as

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From Refugee to First Female Secretary of State

By **ROBERT D. MCFADDEN**

Madeline K. Albright, a child of Czech refugees who fled from Nazi invaders and Communist oppressors and then landed in the United States, where she flourished as a diplomat and the first woman to serve as secretary of state, died on Wednesday in Washington. She was 84.

The cause was cancer, her daughter Anne said. Enveloped by a veil of family secrets hidden from her for most of her life, Ms. Albright rose to power and fame as a brilliant analyst of world affairs and a White House counselor on national security. Under President Bill Clinton, she became the country's representative to the United Nations (1993-97) and secretary of state (1997-2001), making her the highest-ranking woman in the history of American government at the time.

It was not until after she became secretary of state that she accepted proof that, as she had long suspected, her ethnic and religious background was not what

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT, 1937-2022



Madeline K. Albright in Washington in 1997. "Everybody has their own style," she once said, "and mine is people to people."

she had thought. She learned that her family was Jewish and that her parents had protectively converted to Roman Catholicism during World War II, raising their children as Catholics without telling them of their Jewish heritage. She also discovered that 26 family members, including three

grandparents, had been murdered in the Holocaust.

With her father, a diplomat, probably facing execution, the family's odyssey from a Europe on the brink of World War II to safety in America took 10 years and two escapes to London. The first came

Continued on Page A22



INTERNATIONAL A4-14

China Keeps Crash a Mystery
Officials recovered a flight recorder but have revealed little else about the China Eastern Airlines disaster. PAGE A6

Israel Blocked Sale of Spyware
Ukraine and Estonia had sought to buy a tool to carry out intelligence operations against Russia. PAGE A14

NATIONAL A15-21

'I Bet It Didn't Take 15 Seconds'
Tornadoes ripped through the New Orleans area, killing at least one resident, knocking out power and heavily damaging homes. PAGE A15

Former Ally Feuds With Trump
After losing the backing of ex-President Donald J. Trump, Representative Mo Brooks said Mr. Trump had asked him to "rescind" the 2020 election. PAGE A18

A Shot for Young Children
Moderna seeks emergency F.D.A. approval for its vaccine for children, saying it produces a strong immune response in those under 6. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-6

Weighing a Leap Into Crypto
Investors and financial firms, urging caution even as they increasingly embrace digital currency, talk about what you need to know. PAGE B1

Europe's Russian Gas Habit
A Soviet pipeline that President Ronald Reagan opposed set up the reliance that now helps fund Russia's war. PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-11

A Retiree at 25 Years Old
Ashleigh Barty was on a track to be the dominant tennis player of her time, except she says her time is up. PAGE B7



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Bigger Than Ever
The pandemic seemed to increase an interest not just in balloons, but also in how they are displayed. PAGE D6

Still Going Strong
For the 100-year-old businesswoman Natalie Harley, living intensely has been the best revenge. PAGE D4

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Inspiring a Musical
"Bhangin' It" explores complex identity issues through an intensely competitive North American dance scene. PAGE C1

Ruling in Ex-Child Star's Case
A judge in California freed Amanda Bynes from a conservatorship that had been governing her life. PAGE C4

OPINION A24-25

Ross Douthat PAGE A24



NEWSOM DETAILS PLAN TO OFFSET GAS HIKE

Proposal would give up to \$800 to vehicle owners and savings for public transit use.

BY TARYN LUNA
AND MACKENZIE MAYES

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday released the long-awaited details of his tax refund plan to send \$400 to Californians for each registered vehicle, a move that would put more money in the pockets of families who own more cars — even the state's highest-income residents — and exclude those without cars from receiving the payments.

Newsom's \$11-billion proposal is designed to offset the rising prices consumers are paying at the pump and also includes savings for those who rely on public transportation. The plan would include \$750 million in grants for free or substantially reduced public transit fare, but Californians who don't own a registered vehicle would otherwise not receive a refund.

The governor, who is up for reelection this year, would cap payments at \$800 for any person with more than one vehicle registered under their name, though households with multiple

[See Newsom, A1]

Move to roll back vaccine checks

L.A. takes step to lift mandate for indoor businesses despite subvariant concerns.

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES,
LUKE MONEY AND
RONG-GONG LIN II

Los Angeles on Wednesday took another step toward rolling back its COVID-19 vaccine verification requirements for indoor restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and other businesses even amid concerns that circulation of the "stealth" Omicron subvariant, BA.2, might fuel an increase in cases this spring.

The City Council voted 13-1 to make it voluntary for such businesses to verify that people patronizing their indoor areas are vaccinated. The changes would also remove such requirements for big outdoor events.

Because the vote was not unanimous, the proposed ordinance altering the city rules will undergo a second, procedural vote next week. Councilman Mike Bonin, the lone vote against the measure, said he was concerned about lifting the requirements in indoor spaces at this time.

"I know it feels like we're

[See Verification, A9]

L.A. Unified lifts school mask order

Under new policy, some take off their face coverings; others opt to keep them on. CALIFORNIA, B3

U.S. accuses Russia of war crimes



IN MARIUPOL, Ukraine, a siege by Russia has left an estimated 100,000 people trapped without food, water or medication. Above, bodies are placed in a mass grave because heavy shelling prevents burials by families. EVGENIY MALOLETRA Associated Press

Declaration comes as fighting continues in Ukraine. Biden travels to key NATO summit.

BY PATRICK J. MCDONNELL,
JAWEED KALEEM
AND TRACY WILKINSON

LVIV, Ukraine — As President Biden headed Wednesday to Europe with large-scale battles raging at its edge, his government formally declared that Russian forces have committed war crimes in their brutal attacks on civilians and others in Ukraine.

The besieged port of Mariupol was cited as one of the main pieces of evidence. On Wednesday, Ukraine said Russian forces hijacked aid missions headed to the devastated city, where one of the worst humanitarian crises of the escalating conflict has unfolded with hundreds of civilians killed and scarce supplies of food, water and medicine.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin has unleashed unrelenting violence that has caused death and destruction across Ukraine," Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said in announcing the U.S. government's determination in a statement released as he flew to NATO headquarters in Brussels with Biden.

Blinken noted deadly Russian attacks on apartment buildings, hospitals, schools and shopping malls and, in Mariupol, on a maternity ward and theater said to be sheltering children. He cited United Nations statistics of nearly 5,000 civilians killed in the monthlong war, almost half of those in Mariupol alone. The actual figures are believed to be much higher.

"Putin's forces used these same tactics in Grozny, Chechnya, Aleppo,"

[See Ukraine, A4]

In Lviv, open arms, hearts, rooms

Volunteers and aid pour in to comfort the displaced in Ukraine

BY PATRICK J. MCDONNELL

LVIV, Ukraine — She laddered out one serving after another from a steaming cauldron, savoring how patrons relished the comfort-in-a-bowl elixir, all free of charge.

Vladyslava Ladysheva, 64, a great-grandmother in a quilted coat, was serving chicken soup at a food stand outside the main train station in Lviv, a city in western Ukraine.

"I get a lot of satisfaction being here," Ladysheva said this week. "People feel safe and are taken care of.... Easter is coming and we want this to be over soon."

She is among the army of volunteers mobilized to aid the many displaced by war

[See Lviv, A4]



A VOLUNTEER at the Art Palace in Lviv, Ukraine, sorts through donated clothing for the displaced. The palace is serving as a distribution center for shelters. WALLY SKALIF Los Angeles Times

ANALYSIS

Voters are offered striking contrasts at mayoral debate

BY DAVID ZAHNISER,
JULIA WICK
AND DAKOTA SMITH

Rep. Karen Bass and businessman Rick Caruso showed up to Tuesday night's mayoral debate with two sharply different messages — about leadership and, to an extent, the current state of the city.

Caruso cast Los Angeles as a dystopian Gotham City, one so beset by crime that every last resident is scared to walk outdoors. He cast his

opponents as "career politicians" — saying the word a bit like one might handle week-old fish — and told the audience those rivals were offering "a lot of empty promises."

Bass pushed back on that assertion, giving the real estate developer and former police commissioner a polite lecture on city government. She advised Caruso, whom she described as a friend, to stop denigrating people who have "devoted their life to public service."

"Any of us could become

mayor," she said. "You have to work with the City Council."

Of the five mayoral candidates who stood onstage Tuesday at USC's Bovard Auditorium, Caruso and Bass provided some of the most vivid contrasts.

Bass presented herself as a collaborative presence, someone who brought together people from opposing camps in Sacramento — where she served as Assembly speaker during a devastating recession — and later

[See Debate, A9]



JAE C. HONG Associated Press

TOUGH AND ASSERTIVE

As secretary of State, Madeleine Albright pressed for military intervention in the conflict in Kosovo.

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT,
1937 - 2022

First female U.S. secretary of State

BY MATTHEW LEE

A child of wartime, Madeleine Albright and her parents escaped to London ahead of the advancing Nazi troopers only to return to Czechoslovakia years later and flee again — this time as communist forces seized control of her homeland.

In the U.S., Albright grew into a bright student with aspirations of becoming a journalist before she began her ascent in the Democratic Party, climbing forever upward, her keen intellect and astute insights into the nation's global interests a valued commodity among politicians.

She was a foreign policy advisor to presidential hopefuls, a counselor to President Carter and then secretary of State in the Clinton administration — at the time, the highest-ranking woman in the history of U.S. government. For a refugee, it was a remarkable climb.

Yet she typically reduced her [See Albright, A6]

Cal State system drops SAT, ACT

The university permanently removes the standardized tests from its admissions process. CALIFORNIA, B1

A sit-down with Villanueva

Gustavo Arellano interviews L.A. County's outspoken sheriff in the first of a three-part series. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather

Sunny, very warm.
L.A. Basin: 87/59. B6



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

JACKSON RESISTS ATTACKS

Despite tense exchanges with GOP senators, the Supreme Court nominee emerges from hearings firmly on the path to confirmation. NATION, A8

The Washington Post

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Rain 69/49 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 62/45 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 • B2

U.S. accuses Moscow of war crimes

Russian military leaders declined calls from U.S., Pentagon says

BY JOHN HUDSON

Repeated attempts by the United States' top defense and military leaders to speak with their Russian counterparts have been rejected by Moscow for the past month, leaving the world's two largest nuclear powers in the dark about explanations for military movements and raising fears of a major miscalculation or battlefield accident.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have tried to set up phone calls with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Gen. Valery Gerasimov, but the Russians "have so far declined to engage," said Pentagon spokesman John Kirby in a statement Wednesday.

The attempted calls by Austin and Milley, which have not previously been reported, come as Russia conducts operations near the borders of NATO members Poland and Romania while the United States and its European allies conduct air-policing operations over the Baltic Sea and pour weapons and equipment into Ukraine by ground transport.

Moscow and Washington maintain a deconfliction channel, but current and former officials say contact from higher-ranking military leaders is needed to avoid unnecessary escalation or confusion.

"There is a high risk of escalation without the firebreak of direct contact between the most senior officials," said James Stavridis, who served as the supreme allied commander at NATO from 2009 to 2013. "Very young people are flying in jets, operating warships and conducting combat operations in the Ukrainian wilderness. They are not seasoned diplomats, and their actions in the heat of operations can be misunderstood."

"We must avoid a scenario of NATO and Russia sleepwalking into war because senior leaders see Russia on A11



The body of Danil, who died two days before his 18th birthday, is moved from the morgue in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, on Monday.

Biden, allies to increase pressure with energy shift

BY TYLER PAGER, ASHLEY PARKER, JOHN HUDSON AND JEFF STEIN

BRUSSELS — President Biden and European leaders are expected to announce a major initiative to direct shipments of liquefied natural gas to Europe during his visit to Brussels this week, part of a broader effort to help reduce Europe's dependence on Russian energy, according to three U.S. officials familiar with the plan.

The announcement, a dramatic effort to deprive Russia of leverage as it continues to batter Ukraine, would mark an unusual move to reorder the world's energy flow — see BIDEN ON A17



A Ukrainian firefighter tries to extinguish flames inside a house destroyed by shelling in Kyiv on Wednesday. President Biden is expected to announce initiatives Thursday meant to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian energy.

Liberation? Despite boasts, Makariv is still a front line. A14

No spyware for Kyiv: Fearing to upset Russia, Israel balked. A15

Sanctions: Oil and gas exports continue to benefit Moscow. A16

Deterrence: NATO members are split on the best approach. A17

Mykolaiv stands its ground at a devastating cost

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN

MYKOLAIV, UKRAINE — Sergey was at the morgue to pick up the body of his baby brother. Then he walked into a room with corpses organized in rows on the floor. Most were dressed in military fatigues and mangled. Some were missing limbs. He wondered if he knew some of them, he said, but it's hard to keep track of who is alive and who is dead these days.

"There must have been 200 in there," said Sergey, a Ukrainian soldier. Like others in this report, The Washington Post is only identifying him by first name for security reasons and in keeping with military rules. see MYKOLAIV ON A13

EFFORT TO ENCIRCLE KYIV IS SLOWED

Strikes on civilian sites bolster claim of atrocities

BY MISSY RYAN, SUBRAN RAGHAVAN, DAN LAMOTHE AND JORY WARRICK

U.S. intelligence agencies see concrete evidence of war crimes by Russian troops in Ukraine, the Biden administration said Wednesday, as President Biden arrived in Europe to rally NATO support for ramping up economic and military pressure against Moscow.

Russia launched fresh missile strikes against residential neighborhoods in Kyiv and other key cities as the war reached the four-week mark, while Ukrainian troops pressed ahead with a counteroffensive that liberated parts of Makariv, a strategic suburb west of the capital that came under attack by Russian forces three weeks ago.

The counterattack dealt a blow to Moscow's efforts to encircle Kyiv. But journalists visiting the enclave witnessed savage shelling and said Russian occupiers continued to hold parts of the town.

Russian troops have suffered heavy losses in Ukraine, including between 7,000 to 15,000 deaths since start of the invasion, according to a new estimate by a senior NATO military official.

Airstrikes and shelling by Russia have devastated civilian infrastructure across large swaths of the country, including schools and hospitals. The World Health Organization on Wednesday said it had confirmed 64 attacks on health-care facilities, patients and medical workers during the nearly month-old war, killing 15 people and wounding 37.

"Health systems, facilities and health workers are not — and should never be — a target," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a news conference.

Such attacks are partly behind the White House's claim of war crimes by Russian troops. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, citing a "careful review" see UKRAINE ON A12

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT 1937-2022

Trailblazing diplomat took on brutality in Europe

BY JOHN OTIS

Madeline K. Albright, who came to the United States as an 11-year-old political refugee from Czechoslovakia and decades later was an ardent and effective advocate against mass atrocities in Eastern Europe while serving as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the first female secretary of state, died March 23 in Washington. She was 84.

The cause was cancer, her family said in a statement.

Before Dr. Albright, the inner sanctum of U.S. foreign policymaking had been an almost exclusively male domain. In many ways, her politically fraught early life — enduring Nazi and communist repression — impelled her rise to the



Madeline K. Albright, the first female secretary of state, came to the United States as a refugee from Czechoslovakia in 1948. She was the Clinton administration's chief hawk on Kosovo.

highest levels of international politics.

Her family, which was Jewish, narrowly avoided extermination at the hands of the Nazis. They fled to England shortly after Hitler's tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia in 1938.

Several of Dr. Albright's relatives, including three grandparents, died in the concentration camps of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. After the war, Dr. Albright's father, a Czech diplomat wary of communism, feared he would be arrested following a 1948 coup by hard-line Stalinists in Prague. The family escaped once more, this time to the United States.

"I had this feeling that there but see ALBRIGHT ON A8

Senate's high court hearing takes turn toward bitterness

Republicans joust with Jackson, accusing judge of obscuring her record

BY ANN E. MARIMOW, SEUNG MIN KIM AND ROBERT BARNES

Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson sparred with Republican senators Wednesday in a series of charged, sometimes caustic encounters over their assertions she is a judicial activist who is soft on crime, insisting that she would not be a policymaker on the bench. Lawmakers raised their voices

and repeatedly interrupted Jackson during the final day of questioning in a confirmation process that turned surprisingly bitter. Republicans charged that she was obscuring her record and refusing to answer basic questions about her judicial philosophy. Wednesday's hearing ended with Jackson defending her sentencing decisions as a trial court judge and having said for the first time that, if confirmed, she would sit out an upcoming affirmative action case because of her ties to Harvard see JACKSON ON A5

The Take: Queries from GOP senators have racial overtones. A6

Supporters: Around D.C., groups gather to cheer for nominee. C1

IN THE NEWS



'All too familiar' After a powerful tornado ripped through the suburbs of New Orleans, residents begin to pick up the pieces again. A2

Complicated study Moderna said its pediatric vaccine is safe, but effectiveness is mixed for kids up to 5 due to omicron challenges. A4

THE NATION The Supreme Court threw out Democratic-drawn legislative maps for Wisconsin that were favorable to Black residents. A2

THE WORLD The Taliban reopened Afghan schools but, in a last-minute reversal, turned away girls beyond sixth grade. A9

megachurch Hillsong, quit amid complaints of unwelcome behavior toward women. A10

THE ECONOMY Google said it would create ways for employees to control what personal data is shared with Equifax after complaints about the arrangement. A18

THE REGION

Two people were arrested in the sale of a deadly batch of fentanyl that police said killed nine people. B1

Trayon White Sr. raised to gather donations and signatures for a spot on the Democratic mayoral primary ballot in D.C. B1

Georgetown Day School, the prep school where Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson serves as a trustee, is known for its focus on social justice and diversity. B1

Thousands of visitors crowded D.C.'s Tidal Basin for the first National Cherry Blossom Festival after two years of pandemic cancellations. B1

Howard University will spend \$785 million on new buildings and renovations, the largest real estate investment in its history. B1

OBITUARIES Tony Walton, 87, an art director and stage designer who was married to Julie Andrews in the 1960s, won an Oscar, an Emmy and three Tony Awards. B6

SPORTS WNBA star Brittney Griner, who has been detained in Russia since mid-February, "is doing as well as can be expected," said a U.S. official who visited her. D1

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Personal touches In decorating, inspiration is everything. It can come from a toy, a dress or, yes, a beloved ginger cat. C

STYLE A monodrama with a mission Madeline Sayet's show "Where We Belong" goes on tour to coast with an unusual rider: Native Americans get in free. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A18
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OPINION PAGES.....A21
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B6
TELEVISION.....A9

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1937-2022

Madeleine Albright.

La otra dama de hierro

—el mundo

Fue la primera mujer en llegar al máximo cargo de la diplomacia de EE.UU.; promovió la intervención militar en Kosovo y lidió con Corea del Norte; honores de los Clinton. **Página 10**



DISCÍPULO Y MAESTRO: SCALONI, CARA A CARA CON PEKERMÁN

—deportes

Cuando las eliminatorias entran en su etapa decisiva rumbo a Qatar, mañana, en Argentina-Venezuela habrá un especial duelo de entrenadores.

“LLAMÁ A LA POLICÍA, ME VOY A MORIR”: EL RUEGO DEL EXPUMA

—deportes

Según testigos, fueron las últimas palabras de Martín Aramburú, asesinado en París; ayer detuvieron al principal sospechoso, Loik Le Priol. **Página 3**

LA NACION

JUEVES 24 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Feletti quiere otra suba de retenciones y ataca a los empresarios

INFLACIÓN. Apuntó contra el campo y el sector alimentario: “Quieren comprarse más 4x4 y departamentos en Miami”; habló de aumentar el impuesto a los granos

Camila Dolabjian
LA NACION

El secretario de Comercio Interior, Roberto Feletti, dijo ayer que, frente al alza del precio internacional de los granos por la guerra en Ucrania, procura que el Gobierno aumente las retenciones al maíz, el girasol y el trigo para “desacoplar” los precios en el mercado local.

La afirmación fue hecha durante el anuncio de una canasta de 60 productos de Precios Cuidados para comercios de cercanía y almace-
n. En ese marco abundaron las críticas al campo y a los empresarios, y quedó claro que el kirchnerismo duro mantiene la idea de subir las retenciones a otros

granos, pese a que el ministro de Agricultura, Julián Domínguez, y el de Economía, Martín Guzmán, negaron esa posibilidad.

Feletti cargó contra los empresarios—principalmente del sector alimentario—y acusó por la alta inflación a los “especuladores” que “quieren comprarse más departamentos en Miami, más 4x4, y salen a la ruta a exhibir el lujo”.

“El sector agropecuario primario nunca tuvo un proyecto de país; de la generación del 80 solo queda el Teatro Colón. Este país necesita de la industria”, sentenció. Los dirigentes del campo rechazaron las críticas, igual que los empresarios de la alimentación. **Continúa en la página 19**

Hubo más muertes por Covid de las que se sabía

PANDEMIA. Un análisis oficial mostró que los fallecidos por Covid-19 en la Argentina durante el primer año de la pandemia fueron un 14,8% más de lo que los números provisionales registraban, al pasar de los 46.380 que detectó el Sistema Nacional de Vigilancia en Salud (SNVS) a los 53.259 que mostraron las Estadísticas Vitales 2020, dadas a conocer ayer por la ministra de Salud, Carla Vizzotti. **Página 23**

Ortega fue acusado en la OEA por su embajador

NICARAGUA. WASHINGTON (AP).—En un inesperado discurso, el embajador de Nicaragua ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA), Arturo McField, denunció ayer a su propio gobierno, al que calificó de “dictadura”. **Página 8**

La izquierda jurídica
Por Sergio Ramírez
Página 29

EL ESCENARIO

Atisbos de una tregua para preservar el poder peronista

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

La noche del martes los principales intendentes del peronismo bonaerense celebraron una reunión y emitieron una declaración que debe ser observada con detenimiento. Allí hay detalles sobre la dinámica que domina el conflicto interno del Frente de

Todos. Allí hay novedades. Son los primeros atisbos de una tregua entre Alberto Fernández y Cristina Kirchner. Nada indica que el vínculo entre ellos se vuelva, de pronto, rozagante. Pero en ambos lados de la contienda ha comenzado a prevalecer la prudencia. Nadie calcula, al

menos por ahora, que la ruptura sea una forma de aumentar su propio monto de poder. Lo primero que hay que mirar es la identidad de quienes se encontraron en la municipalidad de La Matanza. Son los principales dirigentes del territorio crucial del kirchnerismo. **Continúa en la página 14**



Un sector de Mariupol, arrasado por la artillería pesada de las fuerzas rusas

CAPTURA DE VIDEO

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 29

Putin sufre deserciones y la OTAN despliega más tropas

Renunció el asesor climático y padre de las privatizaciones

Luisa Corradini
CORRESPONSAL EN FRANCIA

PARÍS.—A medida que su ofensiva parece empantanarse y sus apoyos internos comienzan a abandonarlo, Vladimir Putin aumenta el nivel de

amenaza internacional y la violencia en Ucrania, exactamente un mes después de haber lanzado su invasión. El autócrata del Kremlin fue abandonado por Anatoly Chubais, su consejero en cuestiones climáticas y padre de las privatizaciones ru-

sas. La OTAN, por su parte, aumenta la presión militar con el despliegue de más tropas. “Sí, Chubais renunció. Pero si se fue o no [de Rusia], es su problema”, declaró el vocero del Kremlin, Dimitri Peskov, a la agencia rusa Interfax. **Continúa en la página 2**



Pedro Ladeira/Folhapress

ALCKMIN SE FILIA AO PSB E DIZ QUE LULA É ESPERANÇA

Geraldo Alckmin e Gleisi Hoffmann, presidente do PT, durante cerimônia de filiação; provável vice de Lula, ex-tucano disse que petista 'representa a própria democracia' Política A8

PGR quer investigar ação de ministro e pastores no MEC

Aras pede aval do STF para apurar conduta de Milton Ribeiro, que diz ter procurado CGU para falar de suspeitos

O procurador-geral da República, Augusto Aras, pediu ao STF autorização para investigar o ministro da Educação, Milton Ribeiro, disse em conversa gravada privilegiar demandas de prefeituras intermediadas por dois pastores sem cargo público ao destinar verbas do Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento da Educação.

Pressionado pelo áudio em que cita pedido do presidente para favorecer os religiosos, revelado pela Folha, e pelo relato de um prefeito sobre o suposto achado de um deles, noticiado por O Estado de S. Paulo, o ministro procurou congressistas para tratar da crise e deverá prestar esclarecimentos na próxima semana.

Disse ainda ter acionado a Controladoria-Geral da União após ser alertado para uma suposta atuação indevida de pastores em agosto de 2021, mas que continuou a receber os dois para "não levantar suspeitas". Política A4

Bolsonaro evita falar de suspeita no MEC e é criticado por rivais A5



Micro-ônibus transporta civis que tentam retornar a Mariupol a partir de Zaporijia para resgatar parentes e amigos sob cerco de tropas russas André Liohn/Folhapress

Bruno Boghossian

Os recados de Alckmin para a centro-direita

A função do ex-tucano será suavizar a imagem de Lula e persuadir parte do eleitorado de que a reeleição de Bolsonaro representa risco maior. Alckmin já disse que o ex-presidente "representa a própria democracia" (ante a imagem de petismo autoritário) e está habilitado a retomar o desenvolvimento econômico. Opinião A2

Centrão eleva pressão para trocar chefe da Petrobras

Presidente da Petrobras, o general Joaquim Silva e Luna corre o risco de ser trocado no próximo mês caso Jair Bolsonaro reforce acordo com o centrão, que defende um nome mais flexível ao controle de preços dos combustíveis.

Até Paulo Guedes já chancelou um substituto para Silva e Luna, que resiste graças a militares de alta patente próximos a Bolsonaro. Mercado A13

Civis tentam voltar a Mariupol para resgatar parentes

Marcados com a palavra "crianças" em sulfite no para-brisa, centenas de carros com ucranianos formavam em Zaporijia uma fila rumo a Mariupol, cerca de 47, tentaria resgatar de lá o filho, a ex-mulher e outros dois parentes, relata André Liohn. Mundo A11

ANÁLISE

Igor Gielow

Guerra faz 1 mês sob sombra de virar conflito prolongado

Antes projetada como uma guerra breve, a invasão russa da Ucrânia completa 1 mês em meio à resistência ucraniana e a erros táticos de Moscou. Os atores se adaptam à perspectiva de um conflito mais prolongado. Mundo A10

A pandemia em 23.mar

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)	83,8%
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)	74,2%
Dose de reforço	34,5%

Nos estados

	Ao menos uma dose	1º ciclo completo	Dose de reforço
SP	91,6%	83,7%	48,0%
PI	94,0%	81,2%	37,5%
PB	86,2%	77,2%	38,7%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

	Média móvel	Em 24 h
	295	294
	-41,6%*	658.067

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Morre Albright, 1ª mulher a chefiar diplomacia dos EUA

Secretária de Estado de 1997 a 2001, Madeleine Albright articulou ação contra sérvios na Guerra do Kosovo e tentou encerrar programa nuclear norte-coreano. Símbolo da emancipação feminina, morreu de câncer, aos 84. A12

Esporte B7

Tenista nº 1 se aposenta

Australiana Ashleigh Barty, 25, fala em exaustão e abandona esporte com 15 taças

Ilustrada C1 a C3

O estouro da bolha

De BBB a streaming, artistas trans e drags tentam extrapolar universo LGBTQIA+

Turismo C8

Vila Nova de Gaia ganha complexo que exalta vinho do Porto e história local

EDITORIAIS A2

Guerra, mês 1

Acerca de perspectiva de confronto prolongado.

Gato e rato na cracolândia

Sobre dispersão de usuários no centro de São Paulo.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Toda la Región Oriental del país sufrió cuantiosos daños materiales

Temporal dejó tres muertos, destrozos y raudal de excusas

RODRIGO VILLAMAYOR ROA

- Lluvia puso en evidencia la falta de infraestructura
- Nenecho se autoabsolvió: Los impuestos no alcanzan
- Fallecimientos fueron en CDE, Villeta y San Lorenzo

PÁGINAS 24, 25 y 27

Luque. La escuela San Roque González quedó destechada como consecuencia del temporal, que también echó el tinglado. Innumerables daños dejó a su paso la tormenta en varias zonas del país.



Hecho ocurrió en barrera irregular
CIDH acepta la denuncia contra el Estado de víctima de gatillo fácil

PÁGINA 48

APF PARAGUAY vs ECUADOR

EN VIVO POR TELEFUTURO HOY A LAS 20:30 Hs. SENTI LA PREVIA DESDE LAS 20:00 Hs.

Qualifiers

JEM notificó a los fiscales de aprietes
RGD prestó al Frigorífico Concepción unos USD 27 millones a tasas usurarias

PÁGINA 49

Los camioneros atacan la comisaría en Caaguazú

PÁGINA 9

Combustibles: Aprueban subsidio para Petropar, mientras estaciones de Apesa solo despacharán de 06:00 a 14:00

PÁGINAS 8 y 10

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LE FIGARO

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

LE MEILLEUR DU PRIX GONCOURT

« LA CONDITION HUMAINE »,
DEUXIÈME VOLUME DE NOTRE COLLECTION
EN KIOSQUE DÈS AUJOURD'HUI PAGES 13 À 16EXPOSITION
JEAN GABIN, LE RETOUR
D'UNE LÉGENDE
DU CINÉMA PAGE 39L'Ukraine contraint Biden
à revenir vers l'Europe

Concentré jusqu'ici sur la rivalité avec la Chine, le président américain participe aujourd'hui à Bruxelles à trois sommets avec ses alliés, retrouvant le rôle de garant de la sécurité européenne.

Joe Biden participe ce jeudi à trois sommets consécutifs aux airs de conseils de guerre sur l'agression russe contre l'Ukraine. Avec les Vingt-Sept de l'Union européenne, les

trente membres de l'Otan et les pays du G7, le chef de la Maison-Blanche s'attachera à consolider le front uni des Occidentaux face à la Russie de Vladimir Poutine, qui pourrait

être frappée à cette occasion de nouvelles sanctions. Alors qu'ils voyaient dans la montée en puissance de la Chine leur principal défi stratégique au XXI^e siècle, les États-Unis se

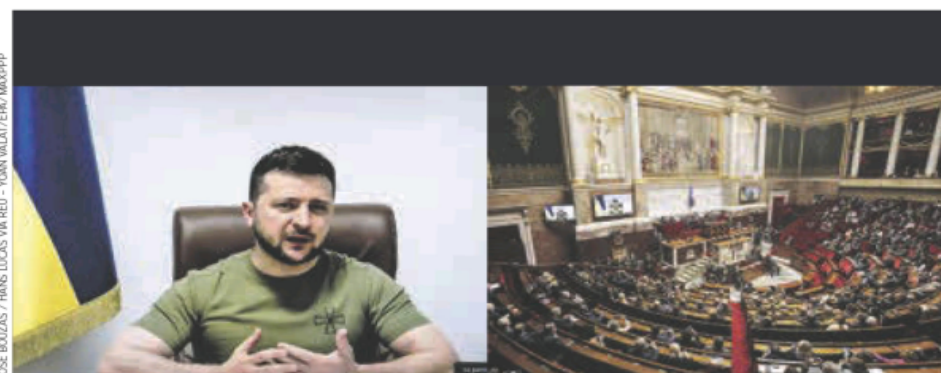
retrouvent forcés de répondre, une fois de plus, aux convulsions de la Vieille Europe. La fermeté de leur posture vis-à-vis de Moscou et la solidité de l'engagement de défense col-

lective de l'Otan vont être testées. Aux yeux des Européens, l'Amérique redevient l'allié essentiel, ciment de l'union et garant ultime de la stabilité du continent.

→ CIMENTER LE FRONT ANTI-POUTINE → L'AMÉRIQUE CONTRAINTE D'OPÉRER UN REVIREMENT STRATÉGIQUE → JOE BIDEN, CHEF DE GUERRE MALGRÉ LUI DU CAMP OCCIDENTAL → COMMENT LES ALLIÉS SURVEILLENT ET RENSEIGNENT LE CONFLIT AU PROFIT DES TROUPES UKRAINIENNES PAGES 2, 4, 5 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

PRÉSIDENTIELLE
Ce que révèlent
les déplacements
des candidats
PAGES 8 ET 9SÉCURITÉ Sur fond
de défiance, Macron
profite de l'effet
« chef de guerre »
PAGES 18 ET 25CHAMPS LIBRES
• Notre série
Voix de France,
à Foix
• Les
chroniques
de Jacques
de Saint Victor
et de Luc Ferry
• Le tête à tête
de Charles
Jaigu
• Les tribunes
de Claude
Habib et
de Thibault
de Montbrial• La tribune
de Jean-
François
Colosimo
PAGES 22 À 25FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NONRéponses à la question
de mercredi :
Êtes-vous favorable
à une dissolution
de l'Assemblée nationale
après la présidentielle
pour avancer la date
des législatives ?OUI
41%
NON
59%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 147 201

Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.frLes entreprises françaises
doivent-elles se retirer
totalement de Russie,
comme le demande
Volodymyr Zelensky ?DESSIN : FABIEN CLAIREFOND -
GUY FERRIER/ARCHIVES FAMILIALES
ÉDITIONS DE LA MARTINIÈREVolodymyr Zelensky demande aux entreprises
françaises de quitter la RussieDevant le Parlement, hier, le président ukrainien a nommé accusé certains groupes présents en Russie de « *sponsoriser la machine de guerre* » contre son pays. Avec de gros intérêts en jeu, leurs dirigeants marchent sur des œufs. PAGES 6 ET 7

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Président de guerre

Un sommet extraordinaire va discuter ce jeudi de la « *réponse potentielle* » de l'Otan en cas de recours à l'arme nucléaire par la Russie. Un « *aléa* » que les États-Unis prennent « *on ne peut plus* » à la sécurité nationale, Jake Sullivan. On se pince en l'écrivant : un mois exactement après que Vladimir Poutine a donné l'ordre d'envahir l'Ukraine, voilà où en est l'Europe. Non seulement à contempler la possibilité d'une guerre atomique, mais à exhiber son désarroi, sa peur viscérale et son impréparation chronique en cherchant la « *bonne réponse* ». Espérons que Joe Biden n'a pas franchi l'Atlantique juste pour rassurer ses alliés avec quelques promesses rituelles et des tapes dans le dos. Qu'il le veuille ou non, c'est en président de guerre qu'il va marcher sur un tapis de braises. Le voilà chef d'un pacte de défense au bord d'un conflit ouvert avec la Russie – non par volonté, mais par un risque croissant de contagion. À Moscou, le ton monte contre la Pologne et les pays Baltes, qu'on veut punir de leur « *insolence* ». Poutine brûle de tester la « *solidarité* » del'Otan, dont il doute depuis longtemps. Comme son prédécesseur, Donald Trump, Joe Biden ne voulait pas sauver le monde, encore moins l'Europe. Avec la Chine, il s'était choisi un adversaire sur mesure, deuxième économie mondiale et contre-modèle en compétition avec la démocratie. Il n'avait pas de temps à perdre avec cette « *puissance régionale* » qu'est devenue la Russie – dixit Obama –, ni avec ce Vieux Continent éternellement accroché au bouclier sécuritaire américain. Aujourd'hui sonne l'heure de vérité : l'Amérique va-t-elle revenir en Europe, quitte à délaissier un peu le défi chinois ? Ou va-t-elle faire comprendre à ses alliés qu'il est temps de se débrouiller sans elle ? L'Otan joue ici sa raison d'être : quel est l'avenir d'une alliance militaire qui a peur de la guerre au point de ne fixer aucune ligne rouge à l'adversaire ? Ce serait pourtant la meilleure façon de nous protéger : faire comprendre à Poutine qu'il n'est pas seul maître du jeu. ■Céréales,
énergie :
l'UE prépare
un plan
d'urgence

Pour doper la production agricole européenne et éviter les pénuries, Bruxelles libère 4,5 millions d'hectares de jachères, soit l'équivalent de la surface des Pays-Bas. Sur le front de l'énergie, la Commission met sur la table, à la veille du sommet européen, une nouvelle série d'options pour réduire les prix, mais peine à trouver un consensus. Les États sont ainsi plutôt divisés sur l'instauration d'un prix plafond du gaz. PAGE 30

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'I've nothing more to give, I am spent'

World No 1 Ash Barty quits tennis aged 25

→ **News and Sport**



Cost of living surges: and Sunak squeezes poorest

Chancellor condemned over package of tax and duty cuts that fails to help the most vulnerable

Larry Elliott
Heather Stewart

Britain's most vulnerable households will face the full force of the biggest squeeze on living standards on record after Rishi Sunak targeted better off workers for help in his £9bn mini-budget package of tax and duty cuts.

The chancellor responded to the highest inflation in three decades with a 5p a litre cut in fuel duty and a £3,000 increase in the threshold for national insurance contributions (NICs) but faced immediate and widespread criticism for failing to shield pensioners and those dependent on state benefits from the impact of a cost of living crisis.

In what he boasted was the biggest package of tax cuts in a quarter of a century, Sunak cut fuel duty by 5p a litre - taking prices back to their level of a week ago - and said the NICs change would benefit the average worker by about £6 a week.

In the most surprising move, the chancellor then announced a 1p cut in income tax to 19p, which will come into force in April 2024, the month before the day earmarked by the government for the general election.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said the spring statement had given back only a sixth of the tax increases announced by Sunak during his two years as chancellor and that even



▲ The chancellor, Rishi Sunak, leaving 11 Downing Street for the Commons to deliver his spring statement yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

Forecast Standard of living 'to fall at fastest rate since 50s' **Page 4** →

At the food bank 'It's as if the government lives in a bubble' **Page 6** →

The measures How will the chancellor's changes affect you? **Page 9** →

Leader comment 'This is a strategy for inequality' **Journal, page 2** →

US pledges to pursue Russia for war crimes

Julian Borger
 Washington

The US has formally accused Russian forces of committing war crimes in Ukraine and said it would pursue accountability "using every tool

available". The announcement came as Joe Biden left for a trip to Europe to bolster western unity in the face of an increasingly brutal invasion.

The secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said that the US had come to its conclusion using both public and intelligence sources.

"Today, I can announce that, based on information currently available, the US government assesses that members of Russia's forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine," Blinken said.

"As with any alleged crime, a court of law with jurisdiction over the crime is ultimately responsible for determining criminal guilt in specific cases," he added, saying the US would continue its efforts to gather evidence and share it with international institutions.

"We are committed to pursuing

accountability using every tool available, including criminal prosecutions," Blinken said.

The announcement follows a week after President Biden's off-the-cuff remark that he considered Vladimir Putin a war criminal, triggering an official protest from the Kremlin which warned that the comment could cause a breach in bilateral relations.

Asked if the state department designation applied specifically to Putin, Beth Van Schaack, the newly confirmed ambassador at large for

global criminal justice, said it would be up to the courts to decide.

But she added: "There are doctrines under international law and domestic law that are able to reach all the way up the chain of command."

The state department did not give details of



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