

What's News

Business & Finance

European lawmakers reached an agreement on the main points of a new digital-competition law focused on the world's biggest tech companies, setting the stage for one of the most sweeping pieces of technology-regulation legislation to go into effect next year. **A1**

◆ **Uber reached an agreement** to list all New York City taxis on its app, an alliance that could ease the ride-hailing giant's driver shortage and temper high fares while directing more business to cabdrivers. **A1**

◆ **Europe's economic recovery** slowed in the first weeks of March after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while U.S. business activity picked up, business surveys showed. **A2**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with major indexes recouping most of Wednesday's losses. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq gained 1.4%, 1% and 1.9%, respectively. **B10**

◆ **European stock indexes** have largely clawed back losses suffered since Putin sent Russian troops into Ukraine, but that doesn't necessarily mean traders are feeling optimistic. **B1**

◆ **Fewer Americans** are leasing new vehicles because of higher prices and scarcity on dealer lots, a pullback that could crimp the supply of used vehicles and interested buyers in the coming years. **B1**

◆ **Credit Suisse** is expected to pay around \$500 million after losing a lawsuit brought by a billionaire who claimed the bank mismanaged his money. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden said Russia** should be expelled from the Group of 20 major economies and pledged the U.S. would take in up to 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine as he met with world leaders to discuss new sanctions and humanitarian aid in response to Moscow's invasion. **A1, A8-11**

◆ **Ukraine said it struck** the Russian-occupied port in the city of Berdiansk, igniting a large fire and hitting a warship at the site, which has become a major logistics hub for the invasion forces. **A1**

◆ **Biden, stepping back** from a campaign vow, has embraced a longstanding U.S. approach of using the threat of a potential nuclear response to deter conventional and other nonnuclear dangers in addition to nuclear ones, U.S. officials said. **A9**

◆ **North Korea said it** had successfully launched an intercontinental ballistic missile at the direct order and supervision of leader Kim. **A20**

◆ **Republican senators** indicated that they don't plan to take steps to significantly delay or block the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Jackson. **A4**

◆ **Arizona lawmakers** passed a bill banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The measure now goes to Gov. Ducey. **A3**

◆ **Trump filed a lawsuit** against Hillary Clinton, the DNC and others, alleging that they conspired before the 2016 election to tarnish the image of the then-Republican presidential candidate and his campaign. **A4**

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Biden Wants G-20 to Expel Russia



President Biden met in Brussels on Thursday with North Atlantic Treaty Organization leaders, as well as with those of the G-7 and the European Union. Mr. Biden stressed that NATO and European allies are united in their support for Ukraine.

President widens aid, sanctions, opens door to refugees as he, allies plot next Ukraine steps

BRUSSELS—President Biden said Russia should be expelled from the Group of 20 major economies and pledged the U.S. would take in up to 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine as he met with world leaders to discuss new sanctions and humanitarian aid in response to Moscow's invasion.

By Tarini Parti, Robert Wall and Catherine Lucey

Thursday's gatherings in Brussels came amid concerns that President Vladimir Putin of Russia could order the use of chemical or other unconventional weapons in Ukraine, a move Mr. Biden said would trigger a response. Mr. Biden stressed that NATO and European allies are united in their efforts. The U.S. outlined a new round of sanctions against political figures, oligarchs and defense companies and \$1 billion in humanitarian funding.

"The single-most important thing is for us to stay unified and the world to continue to focus on what a brute this guy is," said Mr. Biden, referring to Mr. Putin. "And all the innocent people's lives that will be lost and ruined."

Mr. Biden also said he thought Russia should be removed from the G-20, adding that the decision was up to the group. He said that issue was discussed on Thursday among leaders. He said if it wasn't possible to remove Russia, he had raised the idea that Ukraine should be allowed to attend the meetings and observe. A G-20 summit is scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in May.

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Ukraine Strikes Port, Enemy Ship

By Yaroslav Trofimov

Ukraine said it struck the Russian-occupied port in the Azov Sea city of Berdiansk on Thursday, igniting a large fire and hitting a Russian warship at the site, which has become a major logistics hub for Moscow's invasion forces.

Footage from the area showed smoke billowing from a ship and secondary explosions from detonating ammunition. Footage also showed two smaller Russian ships fleeing the port after the explosions, one of the ships on fire.

The attack in Berdiansk—50 miles west of the besieged port of Mariupol and nearly 100 miles from the main front line in southern Ukraine—is a sign Kyiv has retained significant military capabilities in its fight against larger Russian forces that are struggling to maintain supply lines in the country.

Russian officials didn't confirm the attack. Kyiv initially said the strike destroyed the Russian navy landing ship, Orsk. Ukrainian news reports named the targeted ship as Saratov, the same class of large landing ship as Orsk. The Ukrainian military said in a later statement that it had hit Russian landing ships in Berdiansk, and that one of them was engulfed in fire. It didn't provide the name.



A screen grab from a video shows a Russian ship gutted by flames in the Ukrainian port of Berdiansk.

Berdiansk, where pro-Ukrainian protests erupt regularly, is one of a handful of Ukrainian cities captured by Moscow in the month since President Vladimir Putin of Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Ukrainian officials haven't disclosed how Ukraine carried out the attack. Ukraine's new

Neptune antiship missiles have a range of about 200 miles and haven't been used in the conflict so far. Ukraine also has ballistic missiles with a known range of some 75 miles, though there may be modifications with a longer range.

Andrii Ryzhenko, a former Ukrainian navy captain now with the Center for Defense Strategies, a Kyiv think tank

with close ties to the military, said he believed Ukraine used one or more Tochka-U ballistic missiles to dent Russia's supply chain along the Azov Sea coast.

"For the Russians, this is the easiest way to bring and feed their contingent," Mr. Ryzhenko said. "These ships, they can carry a significant

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Uber to Add Taxis In NYC to Its App To Help Fuel Growth

By Preetika Rana

Uber Technologies Inc. is becoming friends with a former foe.

The company reached an agreement to list all New York City taxis on its app, an alliance that could ease the ride-hailing giant's driver shortage and temper high fares while directing more business to cabdrivers, whose livelihoods were affected by the emergence of car-sharing apps and the pandemic.

While Uber has formed partnerships with some taxi operators overseas, and riders

in several U.S. cities can use its app to book taxis if cabdrivers choose to be listed there, the New York City alliance is its first citywide partnership in the U.S. New York, one of Uber's most lucrative markets, has been a battlefield for the company and the city's iconic yellow taxis for years.

"It's bigger and bolder than anything we've done," said Andrew MacDonald, Uber's global mobility chief. The company expects to launch the offering to riders later this spring.

As part of the deal, the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission

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EU Reaches a Deal on Law To Curb Tech Firms' Power

By Kim MacKraiel and Sam Scheegher

BRUSSELS—European lawmakers reached an agreement late Thursday on the main points of a new digital-competition law focused on the world's biggest tech companies, setting the stage for one of the most sweeping pieces of technology-regulation legislation to go into effect next year.

The new law, known as the Digital Markets Act, is part of the biggest proposed expansion of global-tech regulation in decades. It seeks to impose new obligations and prohibitions on a small cadre of digital giants

the European Union defines as gatekeepers—backed by fines for noncompliance that, based on early drafts of the legislation, could rise into the tens of billions of dollars.

The legislation could affect many corners of the tech world. It is aimed broadly at limiting the ability of the biggest tech firms from taking advantage of their powerful presence in digital markets—including the app ecosystem, online shopping and online advertising.

Provisions in the text, if they get final approval, would allow developers to make their apps available to iPhone users without going through

Apple Inc.'s App Store and could limit how sites such as Google and Amazon.com can rank their own products and services ahead of those offered by smaller competitors in search results.

It also could have global reach. The EU has for years been at the forefront of creating regulation for a number of major tech markets. Brussels' moves have often been mirrored by other countries. At the same time, many big tech firms—forced to change practices by European rules—have made those changes global.

Tech-industry lobbyists

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INSIDE



OBITUARY
Edward Johnson III, 91, transformed Fidelity Investments into a financial behemoth. **B1**

ARTS IN REVIEW
A look ahead at the Oscars. Hollywood's big night. **A14-15**

In Inflation Hot Spot, Voters Are Restive

Sentiment in Phoenix is sour for Democrats with midterm elections on the horizon

By John McCormick

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—This year, with Democrats seeking to defend a narrow Washington majority, will see the first national election since Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter in 1980 where inflation will be a major issue.

Its prominence is clear in the southern half of Scottsdale's McCormick Ranch neighborhood in the Phoenix metropolitan area, which has seen the biggest inflation surge in the U.S. since President Biden took office. Nationwide, the inflation rate is 7.9%.

Jillian Birnbaum, a 37-year-old nurse and mother of two, says she is frustrated by the rising cost of groceries and diapers in her suburban neighborhood. It is one reason the politically independent voter says she is leaning toward Republicans in this fall's midterm elections.

"There must be some reason for why it's happening with this administration and not the last one," said Ms. Birnbaum, who blames increased federal spending in part for fueling inflation and favors divided government.

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In U.K. Version of the Jersey Shore, Rebranding Plan Strikes a Nerve

Essex, next to London, is a party scene; it doesn't need culture too, devotees say

By James Hookway

BRENTWOOD, England—A lot of people in England make fun of Essex the same way some New Yorkers do with parts of New Jersey.

Set just to the east of London, the county is filled with commuter towns, pockets of industrial blight and cheap-and-cheerful resorts, where big-city salaries combine with lower property prices to create a world where 20- and 30-somethings can afford to flaunt expensive high heels and sharp suits, and frequently do.

Before Covid-19, busloads of visitors would flock to the

town of Brentwood, made famous by "The Only Way Is Essex," a glitzy reality show recreating the spray-on tans and loosely scripted dramas of "Jersey Shore."

Now the county council has launched a half-million-dollar campaign to shift perceptions of Essex. It wants to bring a wider range of visitors, the kind of people who might be more interested in some of its Roman ruins, say, or the rural landscapes that inspire John Constable, the 19th-century English painter.

The stars of Towie—that's how "The Only Way Is Essex" is known here—aren't im-

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Gillian Tett

Why 'heartless' stock markets have shrugged off war — PAGE 17

Power and profits

The story of BP's three fraught decades in Russia — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Quantum leap

Tech sector edges closer to next big advance — RICHARD WATERS, PAGE 6

Biden warns China on economic fallout from backing Putin's war

◆ Call for unified response ◆ US offers to help ease EU gas crisis ◆ Chemical weapons fears

JAMES POLITI, VALENTINA POP AND SAM FLEMING — BRUSSELS

Joe Biden has warned China of "consequences" if it lent backing to Russia after its invasion of Ukraine as the US closed in on an agreement to supply the EU with additional liquefied natural gas.

Speaking after a first day of meetings with western allies yesterday, the US president stressed that he had "made no threats" in a recent call with China's president, Xi Jinping. But he "pointed out the number of American and foreign corporations" that have left Russia since its forces invaded Ukraine last month. "China understands that its economic future is much more tied to the west than it is to Russia," he added.

Biden said the west needed to "sustain" the pressure on Putin after Russia's attack on Ukraine, as he warned that America and its allies were prepared to respond "in kind" to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict.

"The nature of the response would depend on the nature of the use," he said, adding that "the single most important thing is for us to stay unified" to prevent Putin from believing that Europe's resolve would "crack" within a few months. He added the "maintenance of sanctions" and "increasing the pain" on Russia was crucial and the goal was to show that the west would "sustain what we're doing".

The US said it would welcome 100,000 refugees from Ukraine and provide more than \$1bn in new funding for humanitarian aid to people and communities affected by the conflict.

"While we expect many Ukrainians will choose to remain in Europe close to family and their homes in Ukraine, today the US is announcing plans to welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing Russia's aggression through the full range of legal pathways," the White House said.

The US is also finalising an agreement to provide 15bn cubic metres of LNG with the aim of helping the EU reduce its



Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary-general, left, together with US president Joe Biden, centre, and UK prime minister Boris Johnson in the front row (Reuters/Contrasto)

dependence on natural gas from Russia, with the bloc racing to curb Russian imports by two-thirds this year. Biden and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen hope to announce the agreement in Brussels today.

LNG deliveries from the US would go towards a goal, set by the EU this month, of replacing 50bn cubic metres of gas currently supplied by Russia with alternative supplies. In 2021, the US supplied Europe with 22bn cubic metres, according to EU data. The EU is under pressure to suspend imports of Russian gas, but German chancellor Olaf Scholz has warned against an immediate ban, saying the move could trigger a recession.

German officials say a steep reduction in Russian gas imports this year would achieve the same goal as sanctions.

The EU set out its plans to import an extra 50bn cubic metres of LNG from global producers including the US, Qatar and Egypt this month, but some analysts have warned that the plan is unrealistic. Officials briefed on the US plan stressed that the ultimate amount of LNG supplied to the EU would depend on commercial contracts.

Much of US LNG output is already committed to countries around the world, particularly in Asia. Mike Yardwood, senior research fellow at Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, said Europe would have to steel itself to pay higher gas prices for years to come to achieve its targets.

G7 leaders also moved to stop Russia from selling its gold reserves to support the rouble, seeking to hinder Moscow's

efforts to get round sanctions. A senior White House official said Russia's gold reserves were likely to be worth up to \$140bn and there were signs the country's central bank was seeking to use them to "prop up the rouble".

Biden's trip to Brussels is his third to Europe since taking office last year. He is scheduled to travel to Poland today to visit Nato's eastern flank that is most exposed to a Russian threat. The US has deployed thousands of additional troops to Poland in recent months.

Additional reporting by Harry Dempsey, Justin Jacobs and Myles McCormick. Ukraine news & analysis pages 26-3. Moscow's stock markets page 10.

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Briefing

► **Toshiba loses key vote on two-way split**
A pivotal vote by Toshiba shareholders has struck down managers' plans to split the conglomerate in two, a fresh defeat for a company that has been at loggerheads with investor for four years. — PAGE 6

► **Pyongyang tests longest-range missile**
North Korea has tested what appears to be its longest-range ballistic missile ever, breaking a self-imposed moratorium on long-range missile tests and raising tension in East Asia. — PAGE 4

► **Hacking costs Murdoch an extra £49m**
More than a decade after the UK phone-hacking scandal, the saga has cost Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire a further £49m, the media company's accounts showed. — PAGE 8



► **SMBC Nikko bankers arrested in Japan**
Prosecutors have arrested SMBC Nikko's vice-president and brought criminal charges against Japan's third-largest brokerage and five bankers over alleged market manipulation. — PAGE 8

► **China audit deal still 'unclear', says US**
Hopes of an imminent US-China deal that would allow audit inspections of US-listed Chinese groups and avert the delisting of \$2tn of shares are "premature", the US regulator has warned. — PAGE 4

► **Beijing nears South Pacific troops pact**
A leaked security deal has revealed that the Solomon Islands might allow Chinese military personnel to be deployed there. Such a foothold in the South Pacific would alarm the US and its allies. — PAGE 4

► **Georgia's ex-PM wins Credit Suisse case**
Georgia's ex-prime minister Bidzina Ivanishvili has won a long-running court fight with Credit Suisse to reclaim funds stolen by a former employee of the Swiss bank. — PAGE 9

Datavatch

Low confidence

Net economic optimism for the next 12 months (Q)



Public optimism

for Britain's economic performance over the next year is at its lowest point since the financial crisis. This month, three-quarters of respondents said they felt conditions would worsen over the next 12 months.

Source: Ipsos Mori



Alarm sounds over risks hidden in DeFi's rapid rise

The global organisation for securities regulators has compared the rise of decentralised finance, or DeFi, to the dotcom bubble, warning that one of the cryptocurrency market's fastest-growing corners contains myriad risks and hidden conflicts. Isosco's advice that it warrants "closer attention" by regulators adds to a chorus of concern, even as backers say DeFi provides cheaper, more accessible financial services than traditional institutions. Report — PAGE 9

Old foes of New York's streets in peace pact as Uber lists yellow cabs on its app

JOSHUA CHAFFIN — NEW YORK
DAVE LEE — SAN FRANCISCO

Uber will list New York City taxis on its ride-hailing app in a deal that promises to end years of rancour between the tech company and drivers of the famous yellow cabs in the biggest US city.

The agreement marks a big shift for the San Francisco-based technology company whose original purpose was to undermine the traditional taxi industry.

Under the agreement, taxi drivers who use the Creative Mobile Technologies customer payment processing system will be featured on Uber's app. Uber said drivers using Curb Mobility, a similar system used by cabs, would also be added to the Uber app at a later date.

Between the two dispatching companies, the vast majority of New York City's cab drivers will now be able to

accept Uber trips. The hope is that doing so will connect them to more passengers as the city recovers from shutdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic. The deal will also give Uber access to more drivers as it contends with nationwide shortages that have pushed up its prices and forced it to offer costly incentives to those who may have left the platform during the pandemic slowdown.

Guy Peterson, Uber's director of business development, described the pact as beneficial for both drivers and customers. "This is a real win for drivers. No longer do they have to worry about finding a fare during off-peak times or getting a street full back to Manhattan when in the outer boroughs," he said.

"And this is a real win for riders who will now have access to thousands of yellow taxis in the Uber app."

Uber will take a percentage cut of each

ride in the same way it siphons off a commission from its own drivers, it said, without specifying the precise rate.

From its own drivers, Uber's "take rate" is typically about 20 per cent.

New York City is Uber's largest market but it has been a rocky relationship. The NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) in 2018 capped the number of Uber and Lyft vehicles that could operate in response to rising city congestion and concern over drivers' wages.

The city's taxi drivers have long complained that Uber and Lyft have destroyed livelihoods and left them with crushing debts from licensing medallions that have plummeted in value.

Customers will pay roughly the same for the taxi rides as they would for Uber's standard UberX option, with minimum rates set by the TLC.

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World Markets

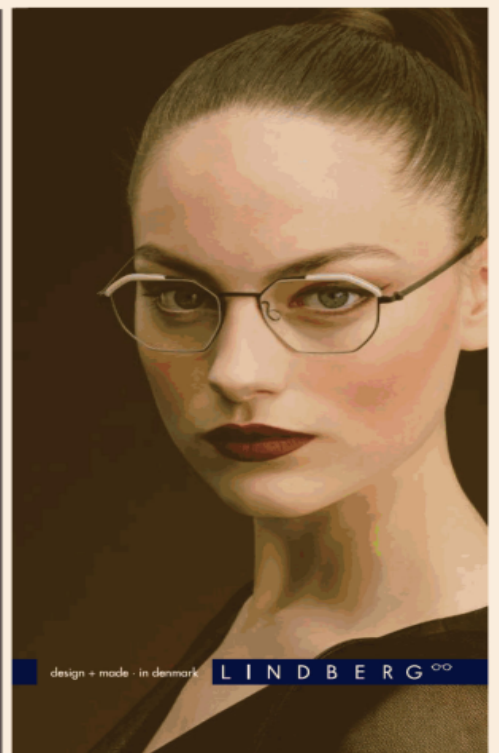
STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Mar 24	prev	%chg		Pair	Mar 24	Prev	Pair	Mar 24	Price	yield	chg		
S&P 500	4500.53	4456.24	+1.0	\$ per €	1.101	1.100		€ per \$	0.909	0.909			US Gov 10 yr	96.17
Nasdaq Composite	14875.45	13922.80	+1.10	\$ per £	1.319	1.321		£ per \$	0.759	0.757			US Gov 10 yr	124.60
Dow Jones Ind	34816.52	34356.50	+0.75	€ per ¥	0.835	0.833		¥ per €	1.190	1.201			Gov Gov 10 yr	95.54
FTSE100	1772.83	1775.93	-0.17	W per €	122.060	121.040		W per £	134.359	133.182			Gov Gov 10 yr	98.86
Euro Stoxx 50	3971.46	3969.22	+0.06	W per €	160.923	158.918		£ index	82.144	82.346			US Gov 30 yr	94.70
FTSE 250	2482.39	2480.63	+0.08	Sfr per €	1.025	1.028		Sfr per £	1.227	1.232			Gov Gov 2 yr	100.53
FTSE All Share	4155.88	4156.80	-0.02											
CAC 40	6955.77	6961.43	-0.38											
Nikkei 225	14273.79	14263.85	+0.07											
Korea Dax	28115.39	28040.16	+0.25											
Hang Seng	21545.95	22154.08	-0.94											
MSCI World \$	3012.79	3040.37	-0.91											
MSCI EM \$	1140.72	1131.41	+0.82											
MSCI ACWI \$	703.14	708.21	-0.72											
FT Volatility 2500	5629.80	5603.03	+0.24											
FT Volatility 5000	45544.71	46120.80	-1.25											

COMMODITIES				
	Mar 24	prev	%chg	
Oil WTI \$	112.88	114.93	-1.79	
Oil Brent \$	119.03	121.80	-1.46	
Gold \$	1891.75	1915.25	-0.86	

FIXED INCOME				
	Mar 24	prev	%chg	
Feed Funds \$	0.08	0.08	0.00	
US 3m Bills	0.50	0.51	-0.01	
US Gov 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00	
UK 3m	1.00	1.00	0.00	

Prices are latest for option. Data provided by Morningstar

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U.S. and Allies Rally Against Russia in 3 Urgent Summits



President Biden spoke with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada as leaders of the Group of 7 gathered on Thursday in Brussels.

A Vow of Sanctions and Refugee Aid, but New Options Appear Limited

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR and MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF

BRUSSELS — President Biden and leaders of more than 30 nations convened Thursday to demonstrate united opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, announcing new economic sanctions, aid for refugees, deployment of additional forces to Eastern Europe and grim preparations in case Russia uses chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

But the historic gathering of world leaders in a series of three summits on Thursday underscored how the United States and its allies have in some ways reached their self-imposed limits in crafting a united global response to the largest European conflict in more than a half-century. While they are sharpening the tools they are using against Russia, they appear to have few new ones to reach for.

Mr. Biden and the allies have moved with unexpected speed and authority over the past four weeks, rallying much of the world against President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

Yet the sense of stalemate on the battlefield is now also felt in the halls of diplomacy, where taking dramatic new steps to counter Mr. Putin's aggression is proving difficult. Europeans have said they are not willing to bear the consequences of new limits on the Russian energy. They depend on. And Mr. Biden has said he is not willing to commit troops to Ukraine and risk going to war against Russia.

As the allied leaders met in Brussels, the Ukrainian military, entering the second week of a counteroffensive, claimed on Thursday to have destroyed a Russian military landing ship in the southern port of Berdyansk. In the embattled towns around the capital, Kyiv, intense fighting had set so many fires on Thursday that the city was shrouded in a ghostly haze of white smoke.

Mr. Biden said the United States would accept 100,000 Ukrainian

refugees, and he and his counterparts announced a new round of weapons shipments for Ukraine, but not the fighter jets that President Volodymyr Zelensky has pleaded for.

They expressed in one voice their resolve to counter Russia's attempts to destroy the foundations of international security and stability. But they again declined to enforce a no-fly zone in the skies over Ukraine, which would mean readiness to shoot down Russian planes.

They vowed to tighten sanctions on Russia, but the Europeans stopped short of blocking imports of Russian oil and gas, as the United States has done. Europe is largely dependent on Russian energy, paying Mr. Putin the vast revenues needed to support his military — and giving him the power to wreak havoc on Europe by disrupting supplies.

"I think we're seeing a coordinated divergence between the European Union and the United States," said Mujtaba Rahman, managing director for Europe at Eurasia Group. "There's no rupture or even a split. Rather, there is an agreement that the U.S. will go more aggressively than the E.U. because they can afford to do so."

Speaking to reporters Thursday evening, Mr. Biden said that he had requested the emergency meetings — with leaders of NATO, the European Union and the Group of 7 industrialized nations — to show Mr. Putin that the allies will not "crack" in their determination to keep economic pressure on Russia to stay, weeks, months and more.

"We have to stay fully, totally, thoroughly united," he said, adding that he favors ejecting Russia from the Group of 20 industrialized and developing nations.

For Mr. Zelensky, though, none of it was enough. He has become more pointed in his criticism of

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WIFE OF JUSTICE URGED OVERTURN

Ginni Thomas Told Aide
to Trump to Void Vote

This article is by Danny Hakim,
Luke Waterman and Jo Becker.

In the weeks between the 2020 presidential election and the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Virginia Thomas, the wife of Justice Clarence Thomas, sent a barrage of text messages imploring President Donald J. Trump's chief of staff to take steps to overturn the vote, according to a person with knowledge of the texts.

In one message sent in the days after the election, she urged the chief of staff, Mark Meadows, to "release the Kraken and save us from the left taking America down," invoking a slogan popular on the right that refers to a web of conspiracy theories that Trump supporters believed would overturn the election.

In another, she wrote: "I can't see Americans swallowing the obvious fraud. Just going with one more thing with no fricken consequences." She added: "We just cave to people wanting Biden to be anointed? Many of us can't continue the GOP charade."

The contents of the texts were reported earlier by The Washington Post and CBS News. They were among about 9,000 pages of documents that Mr. Meadows turned over to the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack. The texts detailed Mr. Meadows's interactions with Republican politicians as they planned strategies to try to keep Mr. Trump in office in the weeks before the riot.

The committee obtained 29 texts between Ms. Thomas and Mr. Meadows — 28 exchanged between Nov. 4 and Nov. 24, and one written on Jan. 10. The text messages, most of which were written by Ms. Thomas, represent the first evidence that she was directly advising the White House as it sought to overturn the election. In fact, in her efforts to keep Mr. Trump in power, Ms. Thomas effectively toggled between like-minded members of the executive and legislative branches, even as her husband, who sits atop the judiciary branch that is supposed to serve as a check on the other branches of government, heard election-related cases.

Justice Thomas has been Mr. Trump's most stalwart defender on the court. In February 2021, he wrote a dissent after the majority declined to hear a case filed by Pennsylvania Republicans that sought to disqualify certain mail-in ballots. And this past January, he was the only justice who voted against allowing the release of records from the Trump White

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In Retaliating, Ukraine Sends Signal to the World

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

KYIV, Ukraine — A month into a war that began with widespread expectations of a quick Russian rout, Ukraine's military is undertaking a counteroffensive that has altered the central dynamic of the fighting: The question is no longer how far Russian forces have advanced, but whether the Ukrainians are now pushing them back.

Ukraine has blown up parked Russian helicopters in the south, and on Thursday claimed to have destroyed a naval ship in the Sea of Azov. Its forces struck a Russian resupply convoy in the Northeast.

Western and Ukrainian officials also have claimed progress in fierce fighting around the capital, Kyiv.

The asserted gains in territory are hard to quantify, or verify. In at

Strategy of Skirmishes Exploits the Flaws in Russia's Approach

least one crucial battle in a suburb of Kyiv, where Russian troops had made their closest approach to the capital, brutal street fighting still raged on Thursday and it was not clear that Ukraine had regained any ground.

But even this muddled picture of Ukrainian progress is helpful for the country's messaging to its citizens, and to the world — that it is taking the fight to a foe with superior numbers and weaponry, and not just hunkering down to play defense. And it underscores the flawed planning and execution that has bedeviled Russian forces

from the start, including supply shortages and demoralizing conditions for its soldiers. Those missteps have enabled Ukraine to unexpectedly go on the offensive.

In particular, by preventing Russian troops from capturing Irpin, a suburban town about 12 miles from the center of Kyiv, Ukraine showed that its strategy of sending small units out from the capital to engage the Russians, often in ambushes, has had success, at least for now.

Western governments have issued cautiously optimistic assessments of the counteroffensive. In an intelligence report released Wednesday, the British Ministry of Defense said the Ukrainian moves were "increasing pressure" on the Russians to the east of Kyiv, and that Ukrainian soldiers "have probably retaken

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Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson during her Supreme Court confirmation hearings this week.

A Broken Confirmation Process on Full Display

By CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON — The Republican manhandling of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson this week was convincing evidence that the Senate's Supreme Court confirmation process is irredeemably broken.

The aggressively hostile interrogation of Judge Jackson, featuring political dog-whistling and relentless re-litigation of Supreme Court feuds of the past, marred what could have been not only a reset for the Senate, but a significant national moment in seeing the first Black woman ascend to the pinnacle of American jurisprudence with

NEWS ANALYSIS

strong support.

Instead it was an escalation of what has come before it in recent years: toxic partisanship, bitter attacks and nasty questioning full of innuendo about the supposed character failings of a nominee who will likely carry the scars across the street to the high court.

"Do you believe child predators are misunderstood?" Senator Marsha Blackburn, Republican of Tennessee, asked in one of the many loaded queries aimed at defining Judge Jackson as some sort of pedophile enabler, despite years of lauded service

on the bench.

"Could you fairly judge a Catholic?" asked Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, one of Judge Jackson's main antagonists despite the fact that he had voted to promote her to a highly influential appellate court just last year, one of only three Republicans to do so.

"Do you agree with this book that is being taught with kids that the babies are racist?" asked Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, who also took it upon himself to lecture Judge Jackson, whose parents had attended segregated schools, about the teachings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Continued on Page A14

Europe Agrees On Law to Curb Big Tech's Might

By ADAM SATARIANO

GÖTTINGEN, Germany — The European Union agreed on Thursday to one of the world's most far-reaching laws to address the power of the biggest tech companies, potentially reshaping app stores, online advertising, e-commerce, messaging services and other everyday digital tools.

The law, called the Digital Markets Act, is the most sweeping piece of digital policy since the bloc put the world's toughest rules to protect people's online data into effect in 2018. The legislation is aimed at stopping the largest tech platforms from using their interlocking services and considerable resources to box in users and squash emerging rivals, creating room for new entrants and fostering more competition.

What that means practically is that companies like Google will no longer be able to collect data from different services to offer targeted ads without users' consent and that Apple may have to allow alternatives to its App Store on iPhones and iPads. Violators of the law, which will take effect as early as later this year, could face penalties of up to 20 percent of their global revenue — which could reach into the tens of billions of dollars — for repeat offenses.

The Digital Markets Act is part of a one-two punch by European regulators. As early as next month, the European Union is expected to reach an agreement on a law that would force social media companies such as Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, to police their platforms

Continued on Page A12



STEPHAN LEE/GETTY IMAGES
Mayor Eric Adams at Citi Field.

Adams Relents On Vaccination Of Pro Athletes

By JEFFERY C. MAYS
and DANA RUBINSTEIN

Less than two weeks ago, Mayor Eric Adams had a quick response to a heckler who implored him to drop the vaccine requirement that kept the Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving from playing in New York City.

"Kyrie can play tomorrow," Mr. Adams retorted. "Get vaccinated."

But privately, efforts were already underway by the owners and executives of some of the wealthiest and most influential sports franchises in the country to persuade Mr. Adams to change his mind.

The Yankees president, Randy Levine, personally reached out to the mayor's team and encouraged officials to consider that baseball is played outdoors where Covid transmission rates are lower than indoors.

Steven A. Cohen, the hedge fund manager and Mets owner who last year gave \$1.5 million to a super PAC supporting Mr. Ad-

Continued on Page A19

NATIONAL A13-19

Your Uber May Soon Be Yellow

The ride-hailing giant is teaming up with two taxi technology companies in New York City to offer cabs at upfront fares based on Uber's pricing. PAGE A18

SPORTS B6-11

Arkansas Ousts No. 1 Gonzaga

In the round of 16 in men's basketball, the Razorbacks ended the Bulldogs' bid for a first national title. Villanova also moved on, beating Michigan. PAGE B6

WEEKEND ARTS C1-16

The Projectionist's Oscar Picks

Kyle Buchanan shares some very well-educated guesses on who will leave the Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday holding golden statuettes. PAGE C9

OBITUARIES A22

'Visionary' Who Ran Fidelity

Edward C. Johnson III expanded his family's small wealth management firm into one of the largest investment companies in the world. He was 91.

OPINION A20-21

Kaja Kallas

K



PAGE A21

COUNTY BEGINS DEPUTY CLIQUES INQUIRY

Civilian commission's move is a major step forward in scrutinizing the gang-like groups.

BY ALENE TCHERMEDYAN

The civilian commission that oversees the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is launching an independent investigation into "deputy gangs" that have been entrenched within the agency for decades.

The move represents a major step in efforts to scrutinize the groups, which a succession of elected sheriffs have failed to root out despite members being linked to allegations of violence and corruption.

The investigation will be conducted by a team of heavyweight attorneys working pro bono, including at least six former federal prosecutors and two former federal public defenders, Sean Kennedy, chair of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, told The Times.

"The sheriff has repeatedly challenged anyone to come up with the evidence of deputy gangs, and our intention is to conduct a completely independent investigation," said Kennedy, a Loyola Law School professor and former head of the Central District federal public defender's office.

The team will be led by [See Panel, A7]

Villanueva sings a familiar tune

In sit-down with Gustavo Arellano, the sheriff taps into a vein of resentment politics. CALIFORNIA, B1

What census data say for state

Remote work and rising home prices contribute to a shift away from cities.

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND SARAH PARVINI

Los Angeles and San Francisco saw sizable declines in population during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, new census data show, underscoring how California's housing crisis and other demographic forces are reshaping two of its largest cities.

In terms of total numbers, Los Angeles County lost about 160,000 residents — more than any other county in the nation, the data show. But L.A. County has about 10 million people, so the per capita loss was slightly more than 1%, compared with 6.7% in San Francisco and 6.9% in New York.

"We are in this new demographic era for California of very slow or maybe even negative growth," said Hans Johnson, a demographer with the Public Policy Institute of California. "And it does have implications for everything in our state — from how we live our lives to which schools are getting [See Population, A7]

A united front against Putin



BORIS ROMANTSCHENKO'S funeral drew just four mourners amid a lull in the bombing. The 96-year-old survivor of Nazi camps during World War II refused to flee his home in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Photographs by MARCUS YAM Los Angeles Times

A life bookended by wars

Holocaust survivor killed in Ukraine is buried in haste

BY MARCUS YAM AND LAURA KING

KHARKIV, Ukraine — In a city stalked by death and bombardment, only four mourners gathered Thursday in a blustery chill for a final farewell to Boris Romantschenko.

But in the six days since the 96-year-old survivor of Nazi concentration camps was killed by a Russian missile strike in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, the world came to know his story.

As Hitler's darkness descended on Europe in the 1940s, Romantschenko, still a teenager, was captured by the Nazis and deported from Ukraine to Germany as a forced laborer. An attempted escape yielded capture and incarceration at Buchenwald — the first of four concentration camps [See Funeral, A4]



WORKERS fill in Romantschenko's grave at a cemetery in Kharkiv on Thursday after members of the mourning party tossed in handfuls of soil.

NATO "will respond" if Russia uses chemical weapons, Biden warns. U.S. announces more aid and sanctions.

BY ELI STOKOLS AND TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — President Biden and leaders of NATO allies agreed to double the organization's troop presence in Eastern Europe during a flurry of wartime summitry Thursday in Brussels, an effort to keep the alliance united in its effort to isolate and punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

The White House also announced new sanctions against more than 400 Russian elites, Duma lawmakers and defense companies — one more turn of the screw in the West's economic pressure campaign against Moscow. The Group of 7 leading industrialized nations, which joined in the new sanctions, disclosed initiatives aimed at cracking down on efforts by Russia to evade sanctions and preventing its central bank from using gold reserves to shore up the country's sagging economy.

The U.S. also plans to accept 100,000 Ukrainian refugees into the country and to donate \$1 billion to help European nations flooded with Ukrainians fleeing the war, Biden said at a news conference where he declared that NATO has "never been more united than it is today."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Biden said, "was banking on NATO being divided" and "is getting exactly the opposite what he intended to have, as a consequence of going into Ukraine." While stressing that the U.S. and its allies hadn't expected their actions alone to be enough to deter Putin, Biden said the "most important thing is for [See NATO, A4]

Ukraine reports gains in fighting

Russian forces enter the heart of a key port city but see setbacks in Kyiv and elsewhere. WORLD, A3

Tijuana's new lure: Bargain gas prices

Californians are heading south of the border, where fuel is about \$2 less a gallon.

BY LEILA MILLER AND ALEXANDRA MENDOZA

TIJUANA — Claudia Jessica Villarreal used to fill up her gray Nissan Pathfinder near her home in Chula Vista, Calif. Then Russia invaded Ukraine and gasoline prices went bonkers.

The 54-year-old psychologist soon discovered a bargain.

A dozen miles south, just across the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana, regular gas sells for an average of \$3.96 a gallon — nearly \$2 less than in California.

She was in Tijuana on

Wednesday to take her children to a doctor's appointment, so it wasn't a big deal to swing by the Santa Fe gas station on Salinas Boulevard to fill up.

But she's also been making special trips.

"I swear, I've been coming once a week," she said. "I cross when I can."

She can thank one man for the discount: Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

As the war in Ukraine triggered a run-up in world oil prices, his administration vowed to keep prices under control by providing subsidies to Mexican oil companies and refineries.

"The state should not neglect its social responsibility, and the state is here to protect people," the populist president, who faces a recall [See Gas, A9]



MADELINE HORDINSKI Los Angeles Times

AN ORTHOTIST takes measurements for Efrain Ordóñez Hernández's prosthesis. The boy was born with a rare condition affecting his right leg.

COLUMN ONE

Counting his blessings

After 10 years, boy can walk on his own

BY SOUDI JIMÉNEZ

Their condition could be described, generously, as ramshackle — a plastic kiddie car and a battered pair of crutches.

Until last year, both were essential props for Efrain Ordóñez Hernández, a boy from Mexico who in his 10 years has known both extraordinary trials and extraordinary blessings.

Born with a rare congenital condition

that twisted his right leg and rendered it nearly 11 inches shorter than his left, Efrain relied on the car and crutches to get around, to keep up with friends, to not fall further behind in life. Although his world has spun in a dramatically different direction since December, the toy car remains in his grandparents' house, and the crutches are stowed under his bed — totems, so Efrain won't forget his past.

"I'm not going to throw them away,"

[See Efrain, A12]

U.S., Mexico net scoreless draw

Americans move into position to all but clinch a World Cup berth with win against Panama this weekend. SPORTS, B10

Weather Sunny and warm. L.A. Basin: 80/58. **B6**

Keanu Reeves' movies scrubbed

Streaming platforms in China remove his films after he showed support for Tibet. CALENDAR, E1



The Washington Post

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Partly sunny 62/46 • Tomorrow: Showers 56/39 B10

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022 • B2

Thomas pressed Meadows on 2020

In texts on vote, wife of justice decried 'greatest Heist of our History'

BY BOB WOODWARD
AND ROBERT COSTA

Virginia Thomas, a conservative activist married to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, repeatedly pressed White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to pursue extreme efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election in a series of urgent text exchanges in the critical weeks after the vote, according to copies of the messages obtained by The Washington Post and CBS News.



The messages — 29 in all — reveal an extraordinary pipeline between Virginia Thomas, who goes by Ginni, and President Donald Trump's top aide during a period when Trump and his allies were vowing to go to the Supreme Court in an effort to negate the election results.

On Nov. 10, after news organizations had projected Joe Biden the winner based on state vote totals, Thomas wrote to Meadows: "Help The Great President stand firm, Mark!!... You are the leader, with him, who is standing for America's constitutional governance at the precipice. The majority knows Biden and the Left is attempting the greatest Heist of our History."

When Meadows wrote to Thomas on Nov. 24, the White House chief of staff invoked God to describe the effort to overturn the election. "This is a fight of good versus evil," Meadows wrote. "Evil always looks like the victor until the King of Kings triumphs. Do not grow weary in well doing. The fight continues. I have staked my career on it. Well at least my time in DC on it." Thomas replied: "Thank you!! Needed that! This plus a conversation with my best friend just now... I will try to keep holding on, America is worth it!" It is unclear to whom Thomas was referring.

SEE THOMAS ON A20

Leaders add Russian sanctions



A house in Kharkiv, Ukraine, is reduced to rubble. As the invasion enters its second month, destruction and bloodshed are unrelenting.

A Russian editor clears a path for truth

BY PAUL SONNE
AND MARY ILYUSHINA

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, editor of the Russian independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, convened an emergency staff meeting minutes after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his war against Ukraine.

"We are in grief," Muratov said in a video address after the meeting at the paper's Moscow headquarters. "Our country, on President Putin's orders, has started a war with Ukraine, and there is no one to stop the war. Therefore, along with grief, we bear shame." Muratov channeled his newspaper's agony into defiance. "Russia is Bombing Ukraine" ran in huge letters across the front of the next issue of the newspaper. Stories were printed side-by-side in

SEE EDITOR ON A10



Hundreds of people wait to cross into Poland on March 6. A month of war with Russia has forced every fourth Ukrainian out of their home. Others who stayed are adapting yet defiant. Story, A8

Upgrade: Ukrainians in Calais stay in a hostel, not tents. A6

'Secondary sanctions': U.S. weighs use of powerful tool. A14

The 'fixer': Death points to risks of often-thankless media job. C1

G-7 WARNS AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS

U.S. says it will accept 100,000 refugees

BY ASHLEY PARKER,
TYLER PAGER
AND EMILY RAUCHALA

BRUSSELS — The United States and its European allies reinforced their tough stand against Russia on Thursday, sharply warning Moscow against using chemical weapons in Ukraine and announcing new sanctions on Russians. The White House also announced the United States will accept 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine.

The statement on chemical weapons issued by the Group of Seven nations reflects growing concern among the world's democracies that Russian President Vladimir Putin, facing setbacks on the battlefield and abroad, would resort to more extreme actions.

The Biden administration, along with the G-7 and the European Union, also unveiled Thursday a new set of sanctions targeting more than 400 individuals and entities, including the Duma, or legislature, and its members; SEE BIDEN ON A9

A bit of drone training, then flying into fray

BY STEVE HENDRIX

KUJAWY-POMERANIA PROVINCE, POLAND — Olex Krushchenko, a clean-cut Ukrainian helicopter pilot, stood elbow-to-elbow with Chase Bailey, a bearded Las Vegas hipster, and learned how to fly drones in war zones.

Within days, Krushchenko hoped, some of the 10 specialized quadcopters donated by an American manufacturer would be angling into the treacherous gaps of bombed-out apartments and high-rises, giving Ukrainian rescuers a better chance to reach victims.

"A little more throttle," said Bailey, gently touching the joystick controller. "Watch the screen, not the drone."

"Da, yes," said Krushchenko, 25, as he mastered the subtle SEE DRONES ON A10

Race hovered over confirmation hearings

BY SEUNG MIN KIM
AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

As Ketanji Brown Jackson this week set through several days of hearings in her bid to join the Supreme Court, Democrats proudly took turns reflecting on the historic example she sets and the need for the judiciary — much like other institutions — to better reflect the diverse public it serves.

At the same time, some Republicans repeatedly suggested that the first Black female high court nominee was soft on crime and

Praise, doubts raised by senators framed Jackson beyond judicial realm

questioned whether critical race theory — an academic framework centered on the idea that racism is systemic — influenced her thinking as a judge.

The disparate treatment underscored the extent to which race hovered over the four gruel-

ing days of Jackson's confirmation hearings, serving as both a source of ebullience for the judge's supporters and an avenue for contentious questions that sometimes carried racial undertones.

"This confirmation hearing has been a reminder — and in some ways, a new Exhibit A — that for people of color, particularly those who have the audacity SEE JACKSON ON A4

On track: Judge appears headed for confirmation, senators say. A4

New spike in illegal crossings from Mexico

BY NICK MIROFF
AND MARIA SACCHETTI

The number of migrants crossing the U.S. southern border illegally has jumped again in recent weeks, stretching capacity and stirring fears that the Biden administration will face an even larger influx if it lifts pandemic restrictions next week.

According to preliminary U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data obtained by The Washington Post, authorities are on pace to make more than

Numbers could rise more if pressured Biden lifts pandemic restrictions

200,000 detentions along the Mexican border in March, the highest monthly total since August.

Of greater concern to CBP officials, the agency has been holding more than 15,000 migrants per day at border stations

and tent facilities, exceeding capacity limits. Last month, CBP averaged fewer than 7,500 in custody per day, records show.

When the Border Patrol runs out of capacity and agents are too overwhelmed to process migrants and conduct patrols, authorities have reverted to releasing large numbers of migrants, asking them to self-report to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Such releases are viewed as a major incentive for migrant smugglers and are SEE BORDER ON A5

IN THE NEWS



THE NATION
The Supreme Court boosted religious rights of death row inmates, ruling in favor of a man who wants "laying on of hands" by his pastor at his execution. A2

The Food and Drug Administration authorized tobacco-flavored vaping products from Logic and signaled it would decide soon on other big brands. A3

The Justice Department indicted four Russian government employees, alleging they were part of a years-long hacking campaign targeting energy firms. A5

A panel of federal judges scrutinized House Democrats' demand to see former president Donald Trump's tax returns. A16

THE WORLD
North Korea tested an ICBM that Japanese officials say is its most powerful to date and capable of reaching the U.S. East Coast. A7

Prince William expressed his "profound sorrow" for enslavement during a trip to Jamaica, stopping short of a formal apology. A7

THE ECONOMY
Several popular res-

taurant chains announced plans to phase out "forever chemicals" found in their food packaging. A15

THE REGION
Metro unveiled a plan that would gradually ease a train shortage through the summer. B1

A judge ruled that a handful of schools in Virginia could mandate masks to protect a dozen children. B1

One of the cousins charged in the 2018 fatal attack on D.C. honor student Tyshon Perry was led away to prison for about 3½ years, while the other headed home on probation. B1

A new D.C. task force

will prioritize equity and economic opportunity when deciding on projects using federal infrastructure money. B1

Survivors of the Parkland, Fla., shooting returned to D.C. to mark the fourth anniversary of the March for Our Lives rally. B2

D.C. Council member Robert C. White Jr. and another mayoral hopeful, former teacher Andre Davis, took part in an education-focused debate. B3

OBITUARIES
Air Force Gen. Charles G. Boyd, 83, was the only former Vietnam POW promoted to a four-star rank. B8

INSIDE



WEEKEND
Bars in bloom
As D.C.'s cherry blossoms take center stage, here's where to find the best sunny happy hours and Japanese drinks.

STYLE
Less-steamy soap
"Bridgerton" returns with a different heir at its center and a much more conventional take, says TV critic Inko Kang. C1

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espectáculos**Camino al Oscar:
dónde ver las diez
películas favoritas**

La mayoría de las nominadas para el domingo están en las plataformas de streaming.

**EL CENTRO CÍVICO DE
BARILOCHE, TOMADO
POR EL VANDALISMO**

—sociedad

Es un ícono del turismo nacional, pero se encuentra degradado por ataques a su patrimonio y una notoria falta de mantenimiento. **Página 24**

**UNA CAMPAÑA PARA
QUE LOS MÉDICOS NO
PESEN A LOS PACIENTES**

—sociedad

"Por favor, no me pese" es el lema que impulsa una ONG para que hablar del peso con el médico no sea una tortura; creen que la mirada debe ser más integral. **Página 26**

LA NACION

VIERNES 25 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

La Cámpora condenó el acuerdo con el FMI y volvió a distanciarse del Gobierno

24 DE MARZO. Máximo Kirchner encabezó una fuerte movilización donde se criticó al Presidente

La Cámpora hizo ayer una demostración de fuerza en la conmemoración de un nuevo aniversario del golpe de Estado de 1976 y en medio de la división interna que mantiene en vilo al oficialismo. En el cierre de la movilización, los organismos de derechos humanos afines al kirchnerismo leyeron un documento con

fuertes críticas a la gestión del presidente Alberto Fernández.

Fue el cierre de una marcha donde Máximo Kirchner cuestionó el acuerdo con el FMI y dijo que "el Gobierno tiene que ser con la gente adentro". En ese mismo marco, el referente camporista Andrés "el Cuervo" Larroque calificó al Presi-

dente como el "jefe de campaña de un espacio que sacó 4 puntos en la provincia". En la marcha se mostraron también el exvicepresidente Amado Boudou y la exministra Felisa Miceli.

Fernández encabezó un acto aparte, donde volvió a pedir la unidad del Frente de Todos. **Página 12**

EL ESCENARIO

Un pacto con armas
sobre la mesa

Claudio Jacquelín

Página 16

Máximo vinculó el voto de los porteños con la dictadura

"Tienen tendencia a votar a los que quieren ocultar lo que se hizo" en esos años, dijo

Máximo Kirchner embistió ayer contra los ciudadanos de la ciudad de Buenos Aires por sus decisiones electorales: "Tienen la tendencia a votar a aquellos que quieren ocultar lo que hizo la dictadura", dijo en la movilización por el aniversario del golpe de Estado de 1976. "Cruzó un límite inaceptable", le respondió Rodríguez Larreta. **Página 13**

Italia, otra vez fuera del Mundial

deportes— El tetracampeón del mundo, nuevamente de rodillas. Italia, que no se había clasificado para Rusia 2018, tampoco estará en Qatar porque Macedonia del Norte la derrotó por 1-0 en el minuto 92.

**Messi y una función
de despedida en Boca**
Página 4



El dolor de los futbolistas italianos en Palermo; la *Azzurra* nunca había perdido un partido como local por las eliminatorias **AP/ANTONIO CALANCI**

La inflación complica la fabricación de billetes de \$1000

EMISIÓN. Cada vez más, el país demanda un insumo que está en falta

Un inesperado problema con la fabricación de billetes de \$1000 se desató en los últimos meses. El país consume cada vez más papel, tintas e hilo de seguridad, un insumo importado crítico muy demandado en el mundo y que está en falta. Según especialistas, podría haber dificultades para abastecer los cajeros automáticos en junio, con el pago del aguinaldo. Fuentes oficiales, en cambio, lo descartan.

La trama detrás de ese contratiempo tiene varios factores: la emisión desenfrenada para afrontar el déficit del Estado y la pérdida de valor del peso. **Página 19**

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 30

Los aliados estrechan el cerco a Rusia

Con Biden en Europa, se anunciaron más sanciones y mayor presencia militar de la OTAN

Luisa Corradini
CORRESPONSAL EN FRANCIA

PARÍS.— Occidente protagonizó ayer una maratón diplomática destinada a ratificar la inquebrantable determinación de transformar a Rusia en

un auténtico paria de la comunidad internacional. En tres reuniones sucesivas en Bruselas, los miembros de la OTAN, del G-7 y de la Unión Europea (UE) ampliaron sanciones contra Moscú, aumentaron la ayuda a Ucrania y fortalecieron la presencia mili-

tar en el flanco este de la alianza. Vladimir Putin "apostaba a la división de la OTAN", pero la OTAN "nunca estuvo más unida que hoy", declaró en Bruselas el presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, tras asistir a las cumbres. Continúa en la página 2

**Familias separadas,
resistencia y angustia,
en un mes de guerra**

Elisabetta Piqué

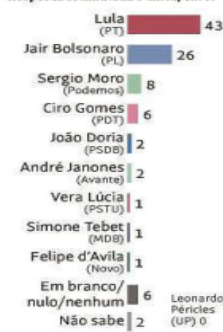
Página 8

Flexibilizan los requisitos para ingresar en Uruguay

COVID. Desde abril no se pedirá PCR ni pruebas de antígenos. **Página 27**

Intenção de voto

Resposta estimulada e única, em %



Fonte: Pesquisa Datafolha

Reprovação ao governo cai, e Bolsonaro reduz desvantagem

Dianteira de Lula sobre presidente em eventual 2º turno recua de 29 a 21 pontos, mostra Datafolha

Pesquisa feita pelo Datafolha em 22 e 23 de março mostra que a avaliação negativa do governo Jair Bolsonaro (PL) — pessoas que o consideram ruim ou péssimo — caiu de 53% para 46%, e que a vantagem de Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) sobre o atual ocupante do Planalto encolheu.

Foram ouvidos 2.556 eleitores em 181 cidades, e a margem de erro é de dois pontos para mais ou menos. O resultado de primeiro turno não pode ser comparado ao das últimas pesquisas porque houve mudança de candidatos. No novo levantamento, Bolsonaro tem 26% em todos os cenários.

Lula mantém a liderança, com 43% — vai a 44% no cenário que exclui Eduardo Leite (PSDB) e Simone Tebet (MDB). Em terceiro lugar vem o ex-juiz Sergio Moro (Podemos), com 8% das preferências, em empate técnico com Ciro Gomes (PDT), que tem de 8% a 6% conforme os adversários.

O levantamento mostra a melhora da performance de Bolsonaro em um eventual segundo turno contra todos os rivais, embora o atual presidente perca de Lula, Moro e Ciro. No caso do petista, a derrota seria por 55% a 34% — na última pesquisa, em dezembro, era 59% a 30%.

O ex-juiz fica com 42% a 34% (era 48% a 30%) e o pedetista, 46% a 37% (ante 53% a 32%). O desempenho reflete a avaliação do governo: a aprovação foi de 22% para 25%, e os que acham razoável, de 24% a 28%. Coincide ainda com o pacote de benesses econômicas lançado pelo Planalto. **Política A4**

Bruno Boghossian

Datafolha mostra que parte dos eleitores de 2018 retornou para presidente **Opinião A2**

Competição afunila, e terceira via definha com 'migalhas' de intenção de voto pulverizadas **A5**

Vinicius Torres Freire

Titular e Lula empatam entre famílias com renda acima de 2 mínimos **Mercado A22**

guiafolha

Conheça o melhor do cinema

Reportagem percorre 878 km e avalia 107 salas para listar as mais bem avaliadas **p. 2 a 15**



+ Lollapalooza reabre palcos com ares de festival pós-pandêmico **p. 16 e 17**
+ Roteiro cultural da Folha faz 25 anos na vida do paulistano **p. 20 e 21**



Lalo de Almeida - 18.mar.2022/Folhapress

FOTÓGRAFO LALO DE ALMEIDA, DA FOLHA, É PREMIADO PELO WORLD PRESS PHOTO

Projeto Distopia Amazônica venceu a categoria regional do concurso; na imagem, Jasson Nascimento abre caminho na vegetação em Boca do Acre (AM)

Esporte B7

Itália está fora da Copa

Pela segunda vez seguida a Itália não jogará a Copa. Ontem o país perdeu para a Macedônia do Norte por 1 a 0. A equipe balcânica decidirá com Portugal, que bateu a Turquia (3 a 1), uma vaga no Qatar.

Empresas param a produção de máscaras no país

Lupo, a maior fabricante nacional de máscaras contra a Covid, Malwee e Fiber Knit suspenderam a produção do acessório. Já a 3M cortou a fabricação em 25%. A queda da obrigatoriedade das máscaras e nas vendas motivou a decisão das empresas. **Mercado A22**

Telegram vira base para rede espalhar dados antivacina

Pesquisa da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais monitorou, por seis meses de 2021, o debate digital sobre imunizantes no Brasil e revelou que o Telegram foi o palco da organização da rede antivacina que foi levada a outras plataformas. **Saúde B1**

Ministro manteve repasses a pastores após denúncia à CGU

O governo Bolsonaro destinou verba a pastores levados ao Ministério da Educação pelo pastor Arilton Moura mesmo após Milton Ribeiro ter supostamente recebido denúncia de propina envolvendo o religioso. O ministro diz que vetou a presença do pastor no MEC.

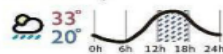
A declaração veio após a Folha revelar áudio no qual ele dizia priorizar pedidos intermediados por Arilton e Gilmar dos Santos. Mas, segundo a agenda oficial, Ribeiro recebeu ao menos três prefeitos com Arilton. O STF aprovou inquérito para apurar o caso. **Política A7**

Desonerar diesel pode tirar R\$ 16,6 bi da arrecadação

A lei que desonera tributos sobre diesel, biodiesel e gás de cozinha deve fazer a perda de receita superar os R\$ 16,6 bilhões informados pelo governo porque não só zera PIS e Cofins como vai gerar crédito tributário para quem compra os produtos. **Mercado A13**

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



A pandemia em 24.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)	74,3%
Dose de reforço	34,7%

Nos estados			
	Ao menos uma dose	1º ciclo completo	Dose de reforço
SP	91,6%	83,8%	48,2%
PI	94,0%	81,3%	37,8%
CE	86,7%	77,2%	37,8%
PB	86,2%	77,2%	38,7%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA



EDITORIAIS A2

Distância menor
Sobre números de Lula e Bolsonaro no Datafolha.

Saúde oculta
Acerca de "open health" proposto por Queiroga.

Após 7 anos, andar de táxi fica mais caro em São Paulo
As tarifas dos táxis subirão até 48,5% em São Paulo a partir de 2 de abril. O valor inicial da corrida (bandeirada) passa de R\$ 4,50 para R\$ 5,50, e o custo por quilômetro rodado, de R\$ 2,75 para R\$ 4. **Cotidiano B3**



Llama la atención la exigua pena dictada por la Justicia estadounidense

Tarragó es condenada a solo 33 meses de cárcel en EEUU

Ex diputada fue detenida junto con su marido por conspiración de lavado de dinero, delito que conlleva una pena máxima de 20 años de prisión y una multa de 500.000 dólares.

PÁGINA 49

Embajador con titular de la Corte
USA pidió al Poder Judicial combatir la corrupción e impunidad

PÁGINA 6

Marcha Campesina pidió paz social
En el Senado no hay votos para derogar la Ley Riera-Zavala

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Documentos son contundentes
Nenecho sabía que la cesión de humedales era para gasolinera

PÁGINA 23

Durante el tiempo en que el usurero y su hijo estaban inhihidos
RGD usaba la cuenta del Frigorífico Concepción para hacer negocios

PÁGINA 49

Economista alerta que es insostenible financieramente
Diputados sancionó la ley para el subsidio de combustibles de Petropar

PÁGINAS 8, 10 y 11

RODRIGO VILLAMAYOR ROA

Privados denuncian competencia desleal

Reacción. Varias estaciones de servicio ya no atendieron desde las 14:00 de ayer. Medida aplican tras subsidio solo a Petropar para precio más bajo del combustible.

PÁGINA 9

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LE FIGARO

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



ENTRETIEN

PIERRE BROCHAND :
« NOUS SUBISSONS UNE IMMIGRATION
SANS PRÉCÉDENT » PAGE 18

PATRIMOINE

NOS CONSEILS POUR PAYER
MOINS DE DROITS
DE SUCCESSION NOTRE CAHIER SPÉCIAL



ENTRETIEN

Jean-Louis Borloo :
« Ce quinquennat
peut être celui
d'un nouveau
souffle » PAGE 7

PRÉSIDENTIELLE

Le désarroi
des candidats face
à la campagne
impossible PAGES 8 ET 9

NATIONALISME

La Corse se prépare
à inhumer
Colonna PAGE 10

JUSTICE

Un conducteur au
tribunal pour avoir
fumé du CBD
au volant PAGE 12

NUTRITION

L'aspartame est-il
dangereux
pour la santé ?
PAGE 13

DÉFENSE

La Grèce achète
six Rafale
supplémentaires
PAGE 26

JARDIN

Les fêtes des
plantes, toujours
plus populaires
PAGE 38

• Notre série
Voix de France,
à Hayange
• Débats autour
du monde :
un entretien
avec
Constantin
Sigov

• Le bloc-notes
d'Ivan Rioufol
• L'analyse
de Sébastien
Faletti
PAGES 16, 17 ET 19

FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses
à la question de jeudi :
Les entreprises françaises
doivent-elles se retirer
totale de Russie,
comme le demande
Volodymyr Zelensky ?

OUI 48% NON 52%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 184 633

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sur lefigaro.fr
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campagne présidentielle ?

DESSIN : FABIEN CLAIREFOND

Les entreprises françaises dans le piège russe

Le gouvernement leur laisse officiellement le choix de rester ou non dans le pays, mais, inquiètes pour leur réputation, elles sont de plus en plus nombreuses à le quitter.

La situation devient de plus en plus compliquée pour les entreprises françaises installées en Russie, à qui le président ukrainien, Volodymyr Zelensky, demande instam-

ment de quitter le pays. Bien que le gouvernement ne relaie pas cette exigence, un certain nombre d'entre elles ont décidé d'interrompre leurs activités. C'est notam-

ment le cas de Renault, propriétaire du groupe AvtoVAZ, constructeur des célèbres Lada. Sous la pression des ONG et des réseaux sociaux, d'autres entreprises, inquié-

tes pour leur réputation, songent à leur tour à se replier. Dans un entretien au *Figaro*, le président du Medef, Geoffroy Roux de Bézieux, affirme que les entreprises françaises

suivront à la lettre les directives du gouvernement. Le conflit ukrainien fragilise certains secteurs et de nombreuses PME à travers une explosion des prix de l'énergie.

→ RENAULT TIRE UN TRAIT SUR QUINZE ANS D'AVENTURE EN RUSSIE → CES PETITS PATRONS QUI SUBISSENT DE PLEIN FOUET L'IMPACT DE LA GUERRE EN UKRAINE
→ GEOFFROY ROUX DE BÉZIEUX : « LES ENTREPRISES SE PLIERONT AUX CONSIGNES DU GOUVERNEMENT » PAGES 22 À 24 ET L'EDITORIAL



L'Otan va déployer des renforts sur son flanc oriental

Lors d'un sommet extraordinaire hier en présence de Joe Biden, l'Alliance atlantique a renouvelé son engagement de soutenir l'Ukraine sans devenir « cobelligérante », et déployé huit bataillons dans les pays voisins de la Russie. PAGES 2 ET 3

Un mois de guerre en Ukraine, le récit de notre envoyé spécial

Incrédulés, les Ukrainiens ont vu leur pays basculer dans la guerre le 24 février, après le lancement de l'offensive de Vladimir Poutine. Jusqu'alors divisés, ils se sont unis dans l'adversité et se sont dressés face à l'envahisseur. Leurs villes ont été transformées en forteresses pour barrer la route aux chars russes. Engagés pour la survie de leur nation, ils résistent chacun à leur façon sous les bombes de l'ennemi. PAGE 4

ÉDITORIAL par Gaëtan de Capèle gdecapelle@lefigaro.fr

Punir Poutine ou les Russes ?

Volodymyr Zelensky a frappé fort, mercredi, devant les parlementaires français, contre les entreprises toujours présentes en Russie. Mal à l'aise depuis le début du conflit, les voilà accusés par la principale victime de soutenir « la machine de guerre de Poutine » et sommés de se retirer sine die. On comprend sans peine la colère du président ukrainien, héroïque à la tête d'un pays dévasté par les bombes russes, cherchant par tous moyens à asphyxier son envahisseur. On voit, hélas, aussi, même si l'on a le souci de lui apporter un soutien sans faille, les limites d'une telle exigence.

Les entreprises, si puissantes soient-elles, restent des acteurs privés, qui n'ont pas en charge - c'est heureux - la police du monde. Il leur est aujourd'hui demandé de se conformer scrupuleusement aux sanctions inédites infligées par l'Occident à Vladimir Poutine. Doivent-elles, au nom de la morale, aller au-delà de ce qu'exigent les plus grandes démocraties de la planète ? Plier bagage pour ne revenir que lorsque l'ogre russe sera rentré dans sa tanière ? C'est la vision manichéenne des sempiternels lobbies anticapitalistes, auxquels a cru bon de se joindre un Yannick Jadot trop heu-

reux de ferrailler avec TotalEnergies. Un raisonnement simpliste résout rarement un problème complexe. Fermer du jour au lendemain des usines et des magasins, jeter des milliers de gens au chômage, de familles dans la misère, les priver de denrées alimentaires créerait à coup sûr un grand chaos. Mais sanctionnerait-on Vladimir Poutine ou punirait-on les Russes ?

Un boycott de la Russie par les entreprises dépend des États et d'eux seuls

Nourrirait-on un sentiment de révolte contre le dictateur du Kremlin ou contre l'injustice de l'Occident ? Vendre les participations que nos entreprises ont patiemment tissées déstabiliserait sans doute d'importantes sociétés locales. Au profit de qui, si ce n'est d'intérêts russes proches du « tsar » ? Il reste toutes sortes de leviers économiques à actionner pour accentuer encore la pression sur Vladimir Poutine. Dont l'arme suprême d'un arrêt des achats de gaz, que certains exigent aujourd'hui de TotalEnergies. Mais cette décision, comme celle d'un boycott général de la Russie par les entreprises, dépend des États et d'eux seuls. ■

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Biden's warning to Putin over chemical weapons

Dan Sabbagh and Jessica Elgot Brussels

Joe Biden raised the stakes with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine yesterday by giving a warning that Nato would be forced to respond if the Kremlin resorted to using chemical weapons.

Speaking after the emergency Nato and G7 summits in Brussels, the US

president insisted any response would be proportional, though he would not confirm whether he would insist on military action. "We would respond," Biden said after a question about what Nato would do. "We would respond if he uses it. The nature of the response would depend on the nature of the use."

Western leaders fear Russia may try to end Ukraine's resistance with a chemical, biological or nuclear

attack. This week it emerged the White House had set up a special "Tiger team" to work out how the US would respond to such an attack. Yesterday Biden said: "It would trigger a response in kind" - meaning it would reflect what had taken place.

Concern about a Russian chemical or biological attack dominated the Nato summit. Speaking before Biden, Boris Johnson warned of disastrous consequences for Russia should

'The nature of the response would depend on the nature of the use'

Joe Biden
On how Nato would react

Putin use chemical weapons. "You have to have a bit of ambiguity about your response, but I think it would be catastrophic for him if he were to do that, and I think that he understands that," he told a press conference.

All 30 Nato leaders warned Russia against using chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine, arguing in a final summit statement that any such use "would be unacceptable and result in severe



▲ The Japanese PM, Fumio Kishida; Justin Trudeau of Canada; the US president, Joe Biden; Germany's Olaf Scholz; Boris Johnson; France's Emmanuel Macron; and Italy's Mario Draghi in Brussels

Sunak faces storm over failure to aid poorest

**Richard Partington
Aubrey Allegretti**

Rishi Sunak has sought to defend his mini-budget against accusations he failed to shield Britain's poorest families from the worst hit to living standards in six decades, as economists say 1.3 million more people will fall into absolute poverty next year.

Amid heavy criticism of Wednesday's spring statement from

opposition leaders and his own backbenches, experts from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and Resolution Foundation thinktanks said the chancellor could have done more to help those most at need.

With those on the lowest incomes bearing the brunt of Britain's cost-of-living crisis, the Resolution Foundation said absolute poverty was now on course to hit almost one-fifth of the population. It said half a million more children were expected

to fall below the headline this financial year, bringing the total number of people affected to 12.5 million across the UK, up from 11.2 million.

The rise in absolute poverty - where households have less than 60% of the average income - would be the first time such a rise has been recorded outside of a recession, showing the scale of the shock to family budgets as the war in Ukraine adds to a pandemic-induced surge in living costs.

**Contracts row
Private emails
show Gove's
role in firm's
PPE deals**

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