

What's News

Business & Finance

Barclays said it is buying back a slug of structured notes at a loss of about \$591 million after selling too many of them. The bank said it is conducting a review of the matter. **A1**

◆ **Walmart** is ending cigarette sales in some U.S. stores after years of debate within the retailer's leadership ranks about the sale of tobacco products. **B1**

◆ **Tesla** said it would request shareholder approval for an increase in the number of the company's shares to enable a stock split. **B1, B4**

◆ **FedEx** founder Fred Smith is stepping down as CEO and will hand the role to operating chief Raj Subramaniam on June 1. **B1**

◆ **Former World Bank** chief Georgieva, who now leads the IMF, knew about a top official's sexual misconduct but failed to take any action, according to current and former bank staff. **A9**

◆ **U.S. lawmakers** asked Credit Suisse to hand over information related to the bank's compliance with sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **A7**

◆ **U.S. stocks** closed higher in a choppy session, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow adding 0.7%, 1.3% and 0.3%, respectively. **B10**

◆ **The Commerce Department** said it would investigate whether Chinese solar producers are illegally circumventing solar tariffs. **A2**

◆ **HP Inc.** agreed to acquire Poly, a maker of workplace communications products, for \$1.7 billion. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **Russia and Ukraine** prepared to hold cease-fire talks in Turkey to try to end more than a month of war while intense fighting continued, with Ukrainian forces pressing to retake territory north of the capital Kyiv after Russian forces fired missiles at several Ukrainian cities overnight. **A1, A6-8**

◆ **Russian oligarch** Roman Abramovich and Ukrainian peace negotiators suffered symptoms of suspected poisoning after a meeting in Kyiv this month, people familiar with the matter said.

◆ **Biden** called for the largest-ever level of military spending and increased funding for law enforcement in a \$5.8 trillion budget, playing down his proposals for expanding social programs in favor of backing initiatives generally favored by centrist lawmakers. **A1, A4**

◆ **A judge** said Trump and a law professor "more likely than not" committed a felony in their efforts to block the 2020 election results, in a ruling clearing the way for related emails to be turned over to congressional investigators. **A4**

◆ **The Justice Department** endorsed legislation for-bidding large digital platforms from favoring their own products and services over competitors'. **A3**

◆ **A federal tax investigation** into Hunter Biden, the president's son, is gaining momentum, according to people familiar with the matter. **A5**

◆ **Florida Republican** Gov. DeSantis signed into law a bill restricting teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools. **A2**

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Ukrainian troops pass by damage on Monday in the town of Trostyanets, in the northeast near the Russian border.

Leak Reveals Secret World Of Pro-Russia Hacking Gang

In a secret chat room run by a group of Russian-affiliated cybercriminals, a hacker expressed excitement about a plan to attack and disable more than 400 U.S.

By Robert McMillan,
Kevin Poulsen
and Dustin Volz

hospitals. "There will be panic," the hacker wrote, in Russian.

It was 2020, at a severe point in the pandemic, and the gang planned to hold hostage the computer systems of the hospitals, many of which were fight-

ing to save Covid-19 patients.

U.S. authorities and cybersecurity researchers foiled large parts of the plan, warning hospitals before the hackers' ransomware could be installed, but the hackers shrugged off the setback, according to a cache of data and documents leaked online in recent weeks.

The hacking enterprise, called the Trickbot Group by federal prosecutors, and its affiliates had already collected hundreds of millions of dollars by shutting down emergency rooms, city governments and

public schools since 2018.

"I find it all funny," wrote a Trickbot hacker who used the pseudonym "target," in a message, after the plan was thwarted, to "stern," the group's leader and paymaster.

This wide-open view of the inner workings of what is perhaps the world's biggest and most dangerous organized cybercrime group is a surprising consequence of the war in Ukraine. An anonymous researcher who had infiltrated the group's servers, and who identified himself as Ukrainian,

posted the data on Twitter on Feb. 27. "Ukraine will Rise!" he then wrote in a March 2 tweet.

Security researchers and U.S. officials say the internal conversations amount to the most complete and candid public look yet at the operations of a criminal ransomware enterprise. U.S. authorities have been tracking the Trickbot group, but little was known publicly about its operations and internal deliberations before the cache of documents surfaced.

More than 200,000 messages
Please turn to page A10

Talks Set As Kyiv Presses To Retake Ground

Russians, Ukrainians to meet in Turkey; Biden says Putin remark was show of 'moral outrage'

KYIV, Ukraine—Russia and Ukraine prepared to hold cease-fire talks in Turkey to try to end more than a month of war while intense fighting continued, with Ukrainian forces pressing to retake terri-

By Thomas Grove,
Evan Gershkovich
and Brett Forrest

tory north of the capital Kyiv after Russian forces fired missiles at several Ukrainian cities overnight.

Russian negotiators were due to arrive in Istanbul late on Monday, followed by a Ukrainian delegation, for cease-fire talks scheduled for Tuesday morning. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine outlined over the weekend the conditions under which Ukraine might accept neutral status as part of a peace settlement with Russia, saying his country could hold a referendum on neutrality, but only after Russian occupa-

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The Ukraine Crisis

- ◆ War divides Russian speakers in Latvia... A6
- ◆ Credit Suisse probed over sanctions compliance... A7
- ◆ Internet provider used by Ukraine military is hit... A8

Suspected Poisoning Sickened Abramovich

By Yaroslav Trofimov
and Max Colchester

Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich and Ukrainian peace negotiators suffered symptoms of suspected poisoning after a meeting in Kyiv this month, people familiar with the matter said.

Mr. Abramovich, Ukrainian lawmaker Rustem Umerov and another negotiator developed symptoms following the March 3 meeting in Kyiv that included red eyes, constant and painful tearing, and peeling skin on their faces and hands, the people said. Mr. Abramovich has shuttled between Moscow, Belarus and other negotiating venues since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Mr. Abramovich was blinded

for a few hours and later had trouble eating, a person familiar with the matter said.

Some of the people familiar with the matter blamed the suspected attack on hard-liners in Moscow who they said wanted to sabotage talks to end the war. A person close to Mr. Abramovich said it wasn't clear who had targeted the group.

Mr. Abramovich and others involved in the incident have since improved, and their lives aren't in danger, the people said. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, who has met with Mr. Abramovich, wasn't affected, they said. Mr. Zelensky's spokesman said he had no information about any suspected poisoning. "I'm fine," Mr. Umerov tweeted on Monday.

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INSIDE



OSCARS

Will Smith apologizes to Chris Rock as Academy investigates slapping incident. **A11**

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Walmart is ending cigarette sales at some of the retailer's U.S. stores. **B1**

President Proposes Military Spending Increase in Budget

By Amara Omedokwe
and Andrew Duerksen

WASHINGTON—President Biden called for the largest-ever level of military spending and increased funding for law enforcement in a \$5.8 trillion budget, playing down his proposals for expanding social programs in favor of backing initiatives generally favored by centrist lawmakers.

The budget, released Monday, also seeks higher taxes on businesses and the nation's wealthiest people, part of an emphasis on reducing the federal deficit that departs from last year's budget that laid out

ambitious spending increases.

The shift comes as much of Mr. Biden's agenda has been stalled in Congress, which ultimately will craft the government's spending and tax plans. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Biden's decline in opinion polls and decades-high inflation have combined to pull many Democrats toward issues they see as better resonating with voters in a mid-term election year.

"Here's what this all adds up to: Historic deficit reduction, historic investment in our security at home and abroad by modernizing our capabilities

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A Mayor's Tourism Plan: Risqué Statues

Ancient pottery inspires giant replicas in Peru

By Ryan Dube

MOCHES, Peru—One Sunday afternoon this month, Edson Padilla's family was visiting this country's archaeologically rich northern coast and stopped at the latest attraction—a 9-foot-tall statue of an ancient man with an oversized reproductive assemblage.

"Smile," said Mr. Padilla, a 39-year-old father of five, as he took a picture of his straight-faced daughter beside the sculpture. "This is definitely part of our culture."

It certainly was part of the local culture—more than 1,000 years ago. Aiming to bring back tourists, Moche's mayor tapped

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Debt-Sale Flub Costs Barclays \$591 Million

By Anna Hirtenstein

Barclays PLC said it is buying back a slug of structured notes at a loss of about \$591 million, or \$591 million, after selling too many of them.

Structured notes are a type of debt instrument that is linked to an underlying reference such as the S&P 500 or oil. The British bank had registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to sell up to \$20.8 billion of these notes. It exceeded the limit by \$15.2 billion, the company said.

Barclays said it is conducting a review of the matter. Regulators, too, are "conducting inquiries and making requests for information," the bank said. As a result, the bank plans to delay the start of its \$1 billion share-buyback program to the second quarter.

Barclays shares fell about 4% in London on Monday. The firm's American depositary receipts fell 11% in New York.

Expensive flubs are rare in the world of banking, which is built upon a web of technology, policies and procedures designed to nearly eliminate the risk of human error. But mistakes happen.

Citigroup Inc. accidentally sent \$900 million in 2020 to creditors of cosmetics company Revlon Inc. Last year, the U.K. arm of Banco Santander SA mistakenly paid out £130 million into thousands of random accounts.

Barclays is known for its large fixed-income business, so the mistake is especially surprising. Analysts and investors struggled to make sense of the announcement.

"I've seen a lot of structured note issuance but I've never seen this kind of matter before," said Joseph Dickerson, an equity-research analyst at

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◆ **Hearst on the Street:** Barclays trips itself up... B11

Accelerate insights where you need them.

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Rocking the boat

P&O shows UK must be tougher over worker rights — SARAH O'CONNOR, PAGE 19

The Finnish line

Russia's neighbour has been ready for conflict for decades — BIG READ, PAGE 17



Time to change

Hedge funds should resist buying Moscow assets — PATRICK JENKINS, PAGE 6

Driven back
Ukrainian forces
regain ground

Ukrainian troops drive a captured Russian military vehicle after retaking the village of Mala Rogan, east of Kharkiv, yesterday.

Ukraine yesterday claimed that its forces had also liberated Irpin, a strategically important suburb north of Kyiv that has been the scene of heavy fighting since the war began.

Russian forces have failed to make progress in Kharkiv and in the capital Kyiv, a senior US defence official said yesterday, adding that Ukrainians still held Mariupol.

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Helena Kent's Russia page 6

Rent woes at Russian offices page 10

Russia bond payments hit page 12

Gideon Rachman page 19



Arsa Meszian/AP via Getty Images

Biden plans military spending surge in \$5.8tn budget proposal

◆ 10% boost for Pentagon ◆ Tax crackdown on wealthy ◆ Lower prescription drug costs

COLBY SMITH AND JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON

US president Joe Biden has proposed increasing the country's military funding by almost 10 per cent as part of new measures to boost the Pentagon's response to Russia's war on Ukraine.

The proposal is part of a sweeping \$5.8tn budget plan that includes a tax crackdown on the richest Americans.

The White House said Biden would ask Congress to increase spending for the defence department by \$69bn in the coming fiscal year, to a total of \$773bn.

Of this, \$6.9bn would be specifically earmarked to support Ukraine and "enhance the capabilities and readiness" of the Nato alliance in the region, as well as additional funding to enhance US "deterrence" in the Indo-Pacific.

The budget also included a minimum tax on the investment income of the richest Americans as well as restrictions on share buybacks.

The new proposal on military spending underscores how the Biden administration has been forced to prioritise national security even as it tries to push through the rest of its economic agenda, with high inflation its biggest vulnerability heading into midterm elections.

In the projections accompanying the budget, the White House said the consumer price index would drop from its four-decade-high peak of 7.9 per cent to 4.7 per cent by the end of this year, before halving to 2.5 per cent next year.

No big fall in growth or employment is forecast, with the White House suggesting that the economy would continue to

expand. The jobless rate is expected to dip to 3.6 per cent in 2023 before settling at its current level of 3.8 per cent.

"It fights inflation and helps families deal with rising costs by growing our economy, making more goods in America and lowering the costs families face," Biden said in a letter to Congress.

Biden's budget seeks to resurrect initiatives at the heart of a massive social spending plan that has run into opposition from members of his own party, namely Joe Manchin, the moderate Democrat from West Virginia. It aims to lower costs for prescription drugs and other healthcare expenses.

It also calls for investments to combat climate change and includes extra policing funding in a bid to blunt criticism that the White House is lax on crime.



Joe Biden says his plan will 'fight inflation and help families deal with rising costs by growing our economy'

To pay for the plan, the blueprint aims to target the investment income of the wealthiest Americans to help cut the deficit. It will require households worth more than \$100m to pay a minimum 20 per cent tax on all income. That is forecast to cut the deficit by \$360bn in the next decade.

Combined with the other measures outlined in the budget, that total grows to \$1tn, the administration said.

The president also reiterated his plans to increase ordinary income taxes on households earning more than \$400,000 and raising corporate income taxes to 28 per cent.

Biden is also taking aim at share buybacks by top executives, with a proposal to ban them from selling shares in the years after those repurchases.

Briefing

◆ Shanghai enters extreme lockdown

China's financial centre has ushered in tough curbs that split it in two and blocked links to the rest of the country, as authorities tackled a wave of largely asymptomatic Covid cases. — PAGE 4; LEX, PAGE 20

◆ Barclays trading error delays buyback

The UK bank has put the brakes on its £1bn share buyback programme as it revealed that it would pay customers £450m for losses incurred through its US structured products business. — PAGE 12

◆ Credit Suisse quizzed over oligarchs

US legislators have asked the Swiss bank for details on its handling of sanctions against rich Russians after it asked investors to destroy documents related to the assets of its wealthiest clients. — PAGE 6

◆ BlackRock wins \$150bn AIG mandate

The US insurer has unveiled plans to hand over management of up to \$150bn of fixed income and private placement assets in one of the biggest such mandates of its kind. — PAGE 6



◆ Generali fires challenger ahead of vote

Italy's biggest insurer has dismissed Luciano Cirina, who was standing as a rival candidate at a crunch investor vote set for next month, as a battle over the direction of the company takes a new twist. — PAGE 8

◆ Opposition rises to Discovery chief's pay

Proxy adviser Institutional Shareholder Services has criticised a \$247m package for David Zaslav, setting up a showdown with investors as the media group finalises its WarnerMedia acquisition. — PAGE 8

◆ Ericsson boss faces investor censure

Activist group Cevian Capital, a big shareholder in the Swedish telecoms equipment maker, has added its voice to a move against Björje Ekholm over the handling of possible payments to ISL. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

In other words

■ % of internet users who speak language

■ % of websites in language



Source: W3Techs and Internet World Stats via Statista

English may be dominant among internet users, but English content is still dramatically over-represented online. Estimates say three-quarters of users who do not speak English cannot access 40 per cent of websites without a translation tool



Shale industry bottlenecks foil hopes for output surge

The Biden administration's hopes that shale drillers could open the taps and rescue drivers facing record petrol prices have crashed into the reality of industry bottlenecks. A shortage of essential labour and equipment as well as the need to persuade investors to target growth again means any big increase is a year away. A key problem is a lack of the sand used in the drilling process after the pandemic downturn bankrupted suppliers and shut mines. **Into the sand** — PAGE 10

Abramovich and Ukraine officials in suspected poisoning after peace talks

MAX SEDDON — RIGA ROMAN OLEARCHYK — KYIV

Roman Abramovich, the billionaire Russian owner of Chelsea Football Club, and two Ukrainian officials suffered poisoning symptoms in Kyiv in early March after peace talks with Russia, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Abramovich's eyesight "completely disappeared" for several hours while a member of the Ukrainian delegation, lawmaker Rustem Umerov, partially lost his sight, two of the people said.

"People became totally blind... the next day," said a person close to Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president. "We did not identify the substance. No idea who was behind [the attack] — but it looks like Roman was the main target."

Abramovich's suspected poisoning

came after a round of peace talks this month between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, which the oligarch helped broker with the approval of Russian president Vladimir Putin and Zelensky.

The Ukraine delegates met their Russian counterparts on Ukraine's border with Belarus on March 3, then travelled to Kyiv. Beginning that evening, the three men also suffered other symptoms including eye inflammation, severe pain in the eyes and peeling skin.

Abramovich and Umerov received medical treatment in Turkey where their eyesight recovered, two of the people said. Doctors and chemical weapons experts were unable to identify the substance used, the three people said.

"They couldn't work out who did it — the Ukrainians or the Russians," one of the people said, adding that it was "definitely not novichok" — referring to the

substance used to poison Kremlin opponents such as jailed dissident Alexei Navalny and former spy Sergei Skripal. Abramovich later travelled to Kyiv to meet Zelensky — who was not affected — a second time, two people familiar with the matter said.

The three first experienced symptoms after consuming only water and chocolate on the evening of the talks, according to investigative site Bellingcat, which said it had been asked to bring in chemical weapons specialists to examine the men.

"The experts concluded that the symptoms are most likely the result of international poisoning with an undefined chemical weapon," Bellingcat said.

Abramovich's poisoning was first reported by the Wall Street Journal. Representatives for Abramovich, Putin and Zelensky all declined to comment.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
Pair	Mar 28	prev	%chg	Pair	Mar 28	prev	%chg	Pair	Mar 28	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4521.21	4543.08	-0.48	\$ per £	1.097	1.099	-0.18	US Gov 10 yr	94.80	2.45	-0.03
Nasdaq Composite	14131.32	14189.30	-0.27	£ per \$	1.309	1.310	-0.08	UK Gov 10 yr	123.84	1.62	-0.08
Dow Jones Ind	34990.38	34981.24	+0.03	€ per \$	0.838	0.833	+0.20	Ger Gov 10 yr	94.40	0.58	-0.01
FTSE 100	7775.07	7773.23	+0.04	¥ per \$	123.545	121.885	+1.36	Japan Gov 10 yr	98.72	0.25	0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3992.06	3987.73	+0.09	₹ per \$	181.653	180.834	+0.45	US Gov 30 yr	93.03	2.58	-0.05
FTSE 250	7473.14	7483.35	-0.14	SGD per \$	1.028	1.022	+0.58	Gov Gov 2 yr	100.29	-0.14	0.01
FTSE All-Share	4194.50	4195.33	-0.02								
CAC 40	6599.11	6603.69	-0.64								
Xetra Dax	14417.37	14305.76	+0.78								
Nikkei	27943.89	28149.04	-0.73								
Hang Seng	21984.97	21404.89	+2.31								
MSCI World \$	3241.11	3241.48	-0.12								
MSCI EM \$	1125.01	1138.95	-1.05	Oil WTI \$	107.44	113.30	-5.67	US 3m Bill	0.55	0.52	0.03
MSCI ACWI	209.50	208.02	+0.11	Oil Brent \$	114.25	120.85	-5.30	Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
FT Wshare 2500	5936.39	5911.61	+0.42	Gold \$	1953.80	1965.20	-0.58	UK 3m	1.02	1.01	0.01
FT Wshare 5000	46373.30	46183.45	+0.41								

BOVET 1822
Engineering Brilliance

Awarded 'Hyper GT of the Year' - Top Gear

Battista Tourbillon

Unique Automobili Pininfarina Design. Battista Hyper GT Details Throughout. Brand-New Patented Double-Sided Flying Tourbillon Movement, 10-day Power Reserve with Patented Spherical Rewinding System, Double-Sided Box Sapphire Crystal, Asymmetrical Dial, Limited to 30 Pieces in Titanium.

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No: 40,975 ★

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Dubai



'I Make No Apologies,' Biden Says of Condemning Putin



Ukrainian soldiers in Kyiv after fighting on the front lines north of the capital Monday. Shelling continued in Irpin, a Kyiv suburb.

Biden's Budget Tilts Priorities Toward Center

This article is by Zolan Kanno-Youngs, Alan Rappeport and Emily Cochrane.

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Monday proposed a \$5.8 trillion budget that includes significant increases in funding for the military and police departments, along with higher taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

The request to Congress for fiscal 2023 reflects growing security and economic concerns at home and overseas, with Mr. Biden proposing a 7 percent increase in domestic spending that includes priorities like anti-gun violence initiatives, affordable housing and manufacturing investments to address supply chain issues that have helped fuel rapid inflation.

The White House also for the first time proposed a discrete stream of funding for Veterans Affairs medical care.

The most notable spending increase was Mr. Biden's \$773 billion military proposal, a 10 percent rise amid threats like Russia's invasion of Ukraine and concerns about China's ambitions.

The request included billions to detect and intercept missiles from hostile nations like North Korea and Iran, along with \$6.9 billion to help NATO counter threats from Russia and elsewhere amid the war launched by President Vladimir V. Putin.

The White House budget proposal put far less emphasis on the types of grand social, climate and economic policies that Mr. Biden announced last year but have since run into resistance from moderate Democrats.

Instead, the budget continued the president's pivot from his State of the Union address, where he reframed a domestic agenda that focused less on the sweeping aspirations of his first year in office and more on issues worrying swing-state Democrats ahead of the midterm elections — including rising consumer prices, crime and health care.

That shift is a nod to centrists in

POLITICS AT PLAY The budget addresses the main attack lines used by Republicans. PAGE A16

Federal Judge Signals Trump Committed Crimes

This article is by Luke Broadwater, Alan Feuer and Maggie Haberman.

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled on Monday that former President Donald J. Trump and a lawyer who had advised him on how to overturn the 2020 election most likely had committed felonies, including obstructing the work of Congress and conspiring to defraud the United States.

The judge's comments in the civil case of the lawyer, John Eastman, marked a significant breakthrough for the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on

Boost for Jan. 6 Panel as It Weighs Referral to Justice Dept.

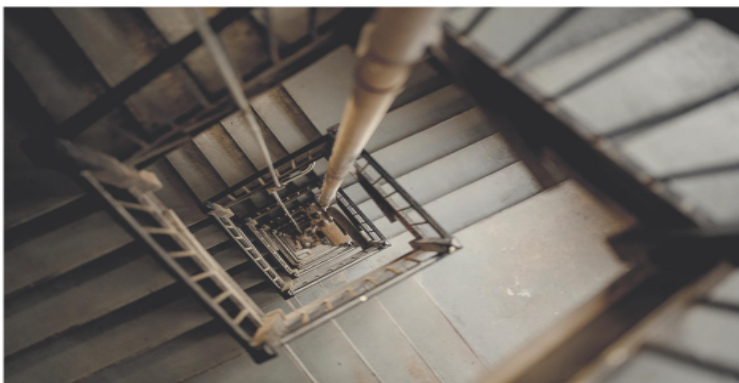
the Capitol. The committee, which is weighing making a criminal referral to the Justice Department, had used a filing in the case to lay out the crimes it believed Mr. Trump might have committed.

Mr. Trump has not been charged with any crime, and the judge's ruling had no immediate, practical legal effect on him. But it essentially ratified the commit-

tee's argument that Mr. Trump's efforts to block Congress from certifying Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s Electoral College victory could well rise to the level of a criminal conspiracy.

"The illegality of the plan was obvious," wrote Judge David O. Carter of the Central District of California. "Our nation was founded on the peaceful transition of power, epitomized by George Washington laying down his sword to make way for democratic elections. Ignoring this history, President Trump vigorously campaigned for the vice president to single-handedly determine the re-

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Since November, the stairs have often been the only option for residents of 20 Exchange Place.

Elevator Outages Turn Life Into 'High-Rise Hell'

By KAREN ZRAICK and ASHLEY WONG

When it was completed in 1931, the City Bank-Farmers Trust Company Building towered over the financial district as one of the tallest buildings in New York City. It was, in fact, the tallest with a stone-clad facade, which featured 14 Assyrian-style busts, called "giants of finance," watching over the narrow streets from their perch on the 19th floor. Replicas of coins

From Luxury Building to 59-Story Walk-Up

from around the world adorned the entrance, representing countries where National City Bank — which would later become Citibank — had branches.

The 59-story building, at 20 Exchange Place, is now a bustling residential high-rise with more

than 750 apartments, featuring luxury amenities, stunning harbor views and some rent-stabilized units. Tenants breeze into the lobby, with its soaring ceilings and elaborate marble mosaics, and into Art Deco-style elevators to reach their homes.

Or they used to, anyway. Since November, the skyscraper has been plagued by long elevator outages that have turned daily life upside down and trapped

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Ukraine Says It's Retaken Land Near Kyiv

By ANDREW E. KRAMER and STEVEN ERLANGER

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainians on Monday reported that they had pushed back invading Russian forces in fierce fighting around Kyiv and in northeastern Ukraine, while the Russians moved to encircle and cut off Ukrainian forces in the east, making a diplomatic resolution to the war seem as far away as ever.

Ukrainian counterattacks around Kyiv reportedly retook more ground, with the mayor of Irpin, a fiercely contested suburb on the northwestern edge of the capital, saying that most Russian troops had retreated, though fighting continued in some districts. If Ukrainian soldiers can maintain control of Irpin, it would be strategically important to keeping their hold on Kyiv.

"Our Irpin is liberated from Moscow's evil," Mayor Oleksandr Markushin of Irpin posted on Telegram on Monday. But the deputy police chief, Oleksandr Bogai, offered a more skeptical account in a telephone interview, noting that fighting continued even as most Russian troops appeared to have pulled back, and that the Russians continued to shell the town.

Diplomacy between the warring countries continued, with Russian and Ukrainian delegations arriving in Istanbul for another round of talks set to begin on Tuesday.

While Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, has said that he is open to discussing the future neutrality of Ukraine, if he can get security guarantees for his country and only after a national referendum, he has refused to concede territory to Russia or to the self-declared republics in the south-eastern region known as the Donbas, as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has demanded.

In Washington, President Biden on Monday stood by comments he made Saturday about Mr. Putin, "for God's sake, he cannot remain in power." Speaking to reporters, Mr. Biden said the remark, apparently ad-libbed in a speech he delivered in Warsaw, was an expression of his personal outrage, not a statement of U.S. policy that the Russian leader should be toppled.

On the battlefield, in addition to gains around Kyiv, the Ukrainians also reported important progress in the Sumy region, northwest of Kharkiv, near the border with

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Voicing Outrage — No Shift in U.S. Policy

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Monday stood by his comment that Vladimir V. Putin should not remain president of Russia, but he said it was an expression of his own horror over the invasion of Ukraine and not a change in American policy aimed at seeking to remove Mr. Putin from office.

"I was expressing the moral outrage that I feel, and I make no apologies for it," Mr. Biden told reporters at the White House, rejecting criticism from around the globe in the last two days about the potential diplomatic consequences of his words. The president said no one should have interpreted his comments as calling for Mr. Putin's ouster.

"It's ridiculous," he said of the questions about his speech in Warsaw on Saturday, when he said, "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power." On Monday, Mr. Biden said, "Nobody believes I was talking about taking down Putin."

The fallout over Mr. Biden's words in Warsaw underscored the dilemma that he and the NATO allies face about how to condemn the war in Ukraine and pressure Russia without shutting down any relationship with Moscow that might help end the invasion.

The West will also have to decide whether Moscow would be allowed back into the global economy, whether to lift sanctions and how to resume diplomatic relations if Russia pulls back its forces.

Mr. Biden's remark drew some praise for its toughness and clarity but also warnings from lawmakers and President Emmanuel Macron of France, who said on Sunday that "I wouldn't use this kind of words" when asked about Mr. Biden's speech. Mr. Macron said he hoped to obtain a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine through diplomacy.

Some critics said Mr. Biden's declaration could make it more difficult to negotiate an end to the five-week-old war, which has killed thousands in Ukraine and driven millions from their homes.

Mr. Biden insisted on Monday that was not the case, although Mr. Putin has told Russians for years that he believes the United States and the C.I.A. are conspiring to remove him from power. Dmitri S. Peskov, the Kremlin's

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Putin's Brutal Playbook Honed On Chechnya's Ravaged Streets

By CARLOTTA GALL

KYIV, Ukraine — In Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, amid the deadly rumble of heavy Russian artillery, there is much that feels familiar. Not least a terrible feeling of dread.

Nearly 30 years ago, I was in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, a territory in southern Russia that dared declare independence from Moscow as the Soviet Union was breaking apart. The Chechens paid heavily for their presumption. The Russian Army twice invaded and twice flattened the city in what has become a familiar Russian playbook for imposing control over outlying regions of the former Russian empire and bludgeoning people into submission.

Ukraine is very different from Chechnya, which was a small territory of just one million people in the North Caucasus.

Ukraine is a sovereign nation with a population of more than 40 million, an armed force of over 200,000 troops and a capital city of three million or more inhabitants.

But Chechnya's experience is worth recalling, as it was the first time we saw Vladimir V. Putin develop his game plan to reassert Russian dominion wherever he wanted. His methods are brute force and terror: the bombing and besieging of cities, the deliberate targeting of civilians and the abduction and jailing of local leaders and journalists and their replacement by loyal quislings. The tactics are straight out of Stalin's playbook, as former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright wrote shortly before her death.

The war in Chechnya began

Continued on Page A14



INTERNATIONAL A4-14

Worsening Floods in Australia
Government agencies are struggling to respond to stronger and more frequent climate-fueled storms. PAGE A8

Summit in Israeli Desert

The meeting of diplomats from Israel, the U.S. and four Arab countries helped cool tensions over Ukraine. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A15-21, 24

Aftermath of a Mass Shooting

A festival in Dumas, Ark., had united scattered friends and family. But organizers now say the community's future is uncertain. PAGE A15

\$1.4 Billion Stadium for Bills

A deal calls for \$850 million in public funds, the largest taxpayer contribution ever for an N.F.L. facility. PAGE A21

SPORTS B11-14

UConn Women Win a Thriller

The Huskies advanced to their 14th straight Final Four, edging top-seeded N.C. State in two overtimes. PAGE B13



BUSINESS B1-10

New Supply Chain Risk

The prospect of a labor impasse with union dockworkers threatens another shock to the global economy. PAGE B1

Academy Condemns Smith

A day after striking Chris Rock onstage at the Oscars, Will Smith offered the comedian an apology. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-8

#MeToo Haunts 'Plaza Suite'

Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick star in a revival of a Neil Simon comedy that time has tarnished and that they are unable to rescue. Jesse Green has the review. PAGE C1

A Bout of Warhol-mania

Andy Warhol is now the subject of a documentary series on Netflix, an exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum and multiple theatrical works. PAGE C2

OPINION A22-23

Michelle Goldberg

PAGE A23



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

Africa's Covid Mystery

The virus was expected to devastate the continent, but the death rate is much lower than elsewhere. Above, a 2020 vigil in Johannesburg. PAGE D1



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Mostly sunny 49/35 • Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy 58/54 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022 • \$2

Trump probably broke law, judge finds

Assertion about efforts to block Biden's win comes in ruling on emails issue

BY MATT ZAPOTOSKY
AND JOHN WAGNER

A federal judge said Monday that then-President Donald Trump "more likely than not" committed federal crimes in trying to obstruct the congressional count of electoral college votes on Jan. 6, 2021 — an assertion that is likely to increase public pressure on the Justice Department to investigate the former commander in chief.

The determination from U.S. District Judge David O. Carter came in a ruling addressing scores of sensitive emails that Trump ally and conservative lawyer John Eastman had resisted turning over to the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot and related efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election result.

Eastman wrote key legal memos aimed at denying Democrat Joe Biden's victory. The judge was assessing whether Eastman's communications were protected by attorney-client privilege and was analyzing in part whether Eastman, Trump and others had consulted about the commission of a crime.

"Based on the evidence, the court finds it more likely than not that President Trump corruptly attempted to obstruct the Joint Session of Congress on January 6, 2021," wrote Carter, who is based in California and has jurisdiction because that is where Eastman filed the case.

Trump spokesman Taylor Budowich called the ruling "absurd and baseless" and said it was an example of "how the left is weaponizing every branch of government against President Trump."

SEE TRUMP ON A7

Jan. 6 committee: Panel to seek interview with Ginni Thomas. A6

Ukraine claws back territory in north



CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Firefighters in Kharkiv, Ukraine, respond to a warehouse blaze caused by Russian shelling. Intelligence officials say Moscow seems to be changing tactics to focus most intensely on the eastern Donbas region after attempts to topple Kyiv and other key cities have stalled.

Historic synagogue and its rabbi help tens of thousands find safety in Kyiv

BY HEIDI LEVINE
AND SIOBHAN O'GRADY

KYIV, UKRAINE — A fleet of white vans pulled up to central Kyiv in darkness just after 9 p.m.

The passengers stepped out bleary-eyed, clutching their luggage, pets and young children. They had survived the last two weeks in catastrophic conditions in the besieged city of Chernihiv — then endured an hours-long journey on dangerous roads to the capital.

Now, at the historic Brodsky Synagogue, they had finally reached safety.

The curfew and sabbath were well underway, but at the door to greet the hundreds of civil-

ians pouring out of the convoy was the bearded jovial man who helped arrange their journey: Rabbi Moshe Azman.

"Some said they didn't eat for three days," Azman said.

The evacuees from Chernihiv, many of whom had lived underground to avoid an aggressive Russian shelling and bombing campaign, are among the tens of thousands of people Azman said he has helped to move from dangerous areas in the past month. On the night of March 18, they shuffled through the synagogue, passing by a large silver menorah before settling in the prayer hall, where they rested and warmed up before being relocated to the

SEE SYNAGOGUE ON A10



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Rabbi Moshe Azman greets civilians arriving at the Brodsky Synagogue in Kyiv, Ukraine, from Chernihiv on March 18.

Russian press: Last independent newspaper halts operations. A12

12-day absence: Missing Russian defense minister reappears. A13

NEGOTIATORS SET TO MEET IN TURKEY

Stalled near Kyiv, Russia seems to shift focus east

BY CATE CADELL,
DAN LAMOTHE
AND MARIANA ALFARO

Ukrainian forces have reclaimed control of a few small fronts in the country's north, officials said Monday, as Russia appears to be directing its fiercest attacks on besieged areas in the country's east and south, including Mariupol.

As the war grinds into its second month, Ukrainian and Russian delegations are set to meet in Turkey on Tuesday for in-person negotiations. Kremlin officials have delivered icy remarks ahead of the talks, however, dampening prospects of a meaningful outcome. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

Russian gas still flows in the pipes of war-torn areas

BY STEVEN MUFSON

Yuriy Vitrenko, the chief executive of Ukraine's natural gas utility Naftogaz, had just made it down to an air raid shelter Saturday, along with three of his board members. He wouldn't disclose the location because he wanted to avoid Russian troops or missiles — three of which had just landed within earshot.

One month into the war, the state-owned gas company provides a window into the conflict's geopolitics and the extent of Ukraine's destruction. Naftogaz serves 12 million households. Vitrenko said, but it has been forced to cut off 300,000 that have been heavily damaged by Russian missiles.

"If we cannot repair them, we have to shut them down," Vitrenko said of the gas from the shelter. "Sometimes an entire block [can be affected]. It can be also dangerous."

SEE GAS ON A9

Cruz's last-ditch battle to keep Trump in power

Senator's effort alienated allies, led to questions about ties to lawyer

BY MICHAEL KRANISH

Sen. Ted Cruz was dining near the Capitol on the evening of Dec. 8, 2020, when he received an urgent call from President Donald Trump. A lawsuit had just been filed at the Supreme Court designed to overturn the election Trump had lost, and the president wanted help from the Texas Republican.

"Would you be willing to argue the case?" Trump asked Cruz, as the senator later recalled it.

"Sure, I'd be happy to" if the court granted a hearing, Cruz said he responded.

The call was just one step in a

collaboration that for two months turned the once-bitter political enemies into close allies in the effort to keep Trump in the White House based on the president's false claims about a stolen election. By Cruz's own account, he was "leading the charge" to prevent the certification of Joe Biden as president.

An examination by The Washington Post of Cruz's actions between Election Day and Jan. 6, 2021, shows just how deeply he was involved, working directly with Trump to concoct a plan that came closer than widely realized to keeping him in power. As Cruz went to extraordinary lengths to court Trump's base and lay the groundwork for his own potential 2024 presidential bid, he also alienated close allies and longtime friends who accused him of abandoning his principles.

Now, Cruz's efforts are of interest

SEE CRUZ ON A4

Academy launches 'formal review' of Smith slap



ROBYN BECK/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Will Smith speaks with actor Denzel Washington, left, and actor-producer Tyler Perry, right, at the Oscars on Sunday night. Smith's onstage slap of Chris Rock overshadowed the rest of the evening.

BY EMILY YARR
AND SONIA RAO

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday afternoon that it will conduct a formal review of the shocking incident from Sunday's Oscars broadcast on ABC in which actor Will Smith slapped presenter Chris Rock across the face onstage after the comedian made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Late Monday, Will Smith apologized to Rock on social media.

"Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive. My behavior at last night's Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable," Smith wrote in an Instagram post. "I would like to publicly apologize to you, Chris. I

SEE SMITH ON A7

End of an era: For years, Will Smith had striven toward vulnerability. C1

Monica Hesse: Misguided chivalry wasn't about Jada Pinkett Smith. C1

IN THE NEWS



ALEX PLAVEVSKY/EPIC/SHUTTERSTOCK

Reversing course Despite weeks of denying it would lock down, Shanghai imposed blanket restrictions as covid cases surged in China. A8

THE NATION A Senate panel scheduled a vote on Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court for Monday, triggering a timeline that would put the judge on track to be confirmed by the end of next week. A3

Clinics and hospitals braced for the wind-down of a federal program that provides coronavirus care for the uninsured. A18

THE WORLD U.S. officials are re-evaluating whether North Korea actually tested its new ICBM after analysts raised doubts. A5

THE ECONOMY Younger women have closed the pay gap or are outpacing their male counterparts in nearly two dozen U.S. metropolitan areas, new research found. A14

The president pivoted to reducing future borrowing and the

deficit in his \$5.8 trillion budget proposal. A16

President Biden's budget plan doubled as a midterm blueprint for Democrats as they seek to head off attacks portraying them as soft-on-crime free spenders. A17

THE REGION A Fairfax County jury sentenced a woman to life in prison for killing her mother and sister in a staged murder-suicide scheme. B1

D.C. is poised to take a

significant step toward replacing its jail, amid increased scrutiny of detention conditions and years after calls for a new facility began. B1

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser is set to have three challengers in the June 21 Democratic primary after a preliminary determination of who will appear on the ballot. B1

One eaglet at the U.S. National Arboretum died, while its sibling egg has started to hatch. B3

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE Fear of the dark: Five tips for parents to help kids overcome a common phobia. E1

STYLE Still tuned in: Radio Free Europe navigates Russian crackdown. C1

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The Washington Post / Year 145, No. 124



deportes

El mágico invicto

La selección de Scaloni busca el récord de Basile

En Ecuador, desde las 20.30, la Argentina puede alcanzar 31 partidos sin derrotas en el cierre de las eliminatorias.



¿PUEDE SER EL DUELO PROLONGADO UNA ENFERMEDAD?

—sociedad

Según la Asociación de Psiquiatría de EEUU., afecta a quienes, por la pérdida de un ser querido, padecen nostalgia y aislamiento durante más de un año. **Página 21**

VENDÍAN CACTUS ALUCINÓGENOS A TRAVÉS DE LA WEB

—seguridad

Detectives federales allanaron viveros en los que se ofrecían a precios desde \$2500 a \$30.000; las plantas contienen alcaloides que alteran la conciencia. **Página 22**

LA NACION

MARTES 29 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Cristina Kirchner impulsa un polémico blanqueo para pagarle al Fondo

DEUDA. Gravaría con un 20% los bienes en el extranjero no declarados; críticas de especialistas

La vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner, a través del bloque de senadores del Frente de Todos, presentó dos proyectos que impulsan un nuevo blanqueo de bienes y cuentas en el extranjero no declarados, con el anunciado objetivo de generar un fondo para pagarle la deuda al FMI. El segundo proyecto propone modi-

ficar el secreto bancario para facilitar el rastreo de esos bienes.

Con el nombre de "aporte especial de emergencia", propone gravar con un 20%, a pagar en dólares, los bienes y capitales radicados en el exterior que sean repatriados en los primeros seis meses de vigencia de la ley. Desde el kirchnerismo ase-

guraron que los proyectos surgieron de la vicepresidenta.

Tras conocerse, la propuesta fue avalada por el presidente Alberto Fernández. Los proyectos fueron duramente cuestionados por la oposición, y por tributaristas y constitucionalistas, que los consideraron "jurídicamente inviables". **Página 8**

OPINIÓN

El kirchnerismo y el problema de la verdad

Luciana Vázquez

Página 9

Crisis energética: advierten que faltan gasoil y GNC

En el interior aplican cupos; el desabastecimiento podría alcanzar a las garrafas

El salto de los precios internacionales del petróleo y el gas puso en alerta al sector energético. En el interior, ya se aplican cupos a la venta de gasoil y hay faltantes de GNC en las provincias del norte, que podrían extenderse. También se espera que el desabastecimiento alcance a las garrafas, mientras la industria anticipa cortes de gas para el invierno. **Página 17**



Las fuerzas ucranianas desplegaron en las playas de Odesa defensas para evitar el desembarco de tropas rusas

TWITTER

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 34

La legendaria Odessa, lista para el ataque

Entre bolsas de arena y bloques de cemento, el estratégico puerto resiste el avance ruso

Elsabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

ODESSA.— El silencio impacta en la plaza del Teatro del Ballet y la Ópera de Odesa, una de las grandes joyas de la antigua arquitectura de esta

legendaria, cosmopolita y normalmente llena de vida ciudad portuaria del sur de Ucrania, que hoy luce semivacía y totalmente militarizada. Bolsas de arena apiladas, cubiertas, bloques de cemento, trincheras y los famosos erizos checos —como

se denomina a los obstáculos de defensa antitanques formados por barras metálicas angulares y que aquí se ven por decenas— han transformado el centro histórico de la "perla del mar Negro" en un escenario de guerra. Continúa en la página 2

Abramovich
y otros negociadores
podrían haber sido
envenenados

Página 4

Bofetada. Un debate que interpela a Hollywood

Will Smith le pidió perdón a Chris Rock, pero analizan sanciones

Incredulidad, polémica y un debate profundo sobre las contradicciones de Hollywood y las responsabilidades de los protagonistas. La impactante escena de la bofetada de Will Smith al humorista Chris Rock en plena ceremonia de los Oscar tuvo repercusiones de todo tipo. Mientras algunos intentaban justificar la reacción de Smith, otros se mostraron abiertamente críticos. La Academia dijo que investigará lo sucedido y no descarta sanciones contra el actor, que anoche se disculpó con Rock. "Estoy avergonzado", dijo. **Especiales**

LA NACION EN LAS ISLAS

Malvinas. Se ahonda el malestar hacia la Argentina

Texto Hugo Alconada Mon
Enviado especial

Página 16

Escândalo derruba Ribeiro do MEC

Ministro deixa cargo após suspeita de que, a pedido de Bolsonaro, pastores tenham criado balcão de negócios na Educação



Milton Ribeiro chega ao prédio onde mora, em Brasília, após ser exonerado da Educação. Pedro Ladeira/Folhapress

Sob pressão há uma semana, Milton Ribeiro (Educação) foi exonerado ontem, em tentativa de reduzir o desgaste sobre Jair Bolsonaro. Terceiro a chefiar a pasta neste governo, Ribeiro cai após indícios de esquema informal de obtenção de verbas dentro do ministério, envolvendo dois pastores sem cargo público, o que incluiu pagamento de propina. Em carta, o ministro se disse inocente.

Prefeitos apontam que o balcão de negócios seria operado por Gilmar Santos e Arilton Moura, ligados a Bolsonaro, e priorizava liberar valores para gestores próximos a eles e a prefeituras indicadas pelo centrão.

Escolhido por ser pastor, Milton Ribeiro fez gestão ideológica B1

No último dia 21, a Folha revelou áudio no qual o ministro dizia privilegiar amigos de Gilmar Santos a pedido do presidente e sugeria haver uma contrapartida supostamente direcionada à construção de igrejas.

Bolsonaro chegou a dizer que punha a "cara no fogo" por Ribeiro, que é pastor, mas foi convencido por aliados a mudar de ideia após a bancada evangélica se afastar do titular do MEC. O escândalo também enfraquece o discurso de que não há corrupção no governo.

Por ora, a pasta fica sob o comando do secretário-executivo, Victor Godoy Veiga, mas aliados do centrão cobijam o cargo. Política A4 e A5

Análise João M. Borges Ministro ilustra governo que une descaso e mitomania B1

Bolsonaro demite presidente da Petrobras

O presidente da Petrobras, general Joaquim Silva e Luna, recebeu ontem a comunicação de que deixará o comando da estatal e será substituído por Adriano Pires, diretor do Centro Brasileiro de Infraestrutura (CBIE).

A saída se dá após desgaste com Jair Bolsonaro (PL) por causa do mega-aumento de preços dos combustíveis.

Em quase um ano da gestão de Silva e Luna, a gasolina subiu 27%, e o diesel, 47%. A empresa chegou a segurar por quase dois meses o repasse da alta do petróleo no mercado internacional para evitar reajustes aos consumidores. O militar vinha sofrendo pressão pública de Bolsonaro para revisar os valores nas bombas.

A demissão por causa dos preços repete o desfecho do antecessor, Roberto Castello Branco, indicado por Paulo Guedes para chefiar a petroleira e tirado do cargo em fevereiro de 2021.

O nome de Adriano Pires não foi bem aceito pela ala militar, que é ligada ao ministro Bento Albuquerque (Minas e Energia).

Economista, Pires já era conselheiro do governo e agradava por ter defendido não repassar aos postos a volatilidade das cotações globais. Também é a favor da reforma do ICMS sobre combustíveis. Mercado A13

Análise V. Torres Freire Presidente joga para a galera ou quer estatal cúmplice A14

Para 68%, governo tem papel na alta dos combustíveis

Na visão de 68% dos brasileiros, o governo de Jair Bolsonaro (PL) tem responsabilidade pela alta no preço dos combustíveis, aponta pesquisa Datafolha. O aumento da inflação é atribuído em maior ou menor grau à gestão federal por 75% dos entrevistados. Mercado A15

Chefe do Exército deve assumir pasta da Defesa

Jair Bolsonaro planeja alçar Paulo Sérgio Nogueira de Oliveira, atual chefe do Exército, a ministro da Defesa — o titular, Braga Netto, se filiou ao PL e deve ser vice na chapa de Bolsonaro. A troca abriria espaço a um nome mais alinhado ao Planalto à frente da Força. Política A6 e A7

Ministros veem censura do TSE na decisão do Lollapalooza

A decisão do ministro Raul Araújo, do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral, a favor de Jair Bolsonaro no Lollapalooza surpreendeu a corte eleitoral e o STF. Magistrados buscaram derrubar a determinação o quanto antes. Ontem, o presidente do TSE, Edson Fachin, disse que levará o caso a plenário assim que Araújo liberar o processo e indicou ser contrário à determinação do colega. Política A6

EDITORIAIS A2

Rechaçar a censura
Sobre decisão de ministro do TSE contra festival.

Uruguai dividido
Acerca de vitória apertada do governo em referendo.

ATMOSFERA



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



Trabalhadores realizam o plantio de cana-de-açúcar no interior de São Paulo. Joel Silva/Folhapress

Cecília Machado O Brasil a ser decidido por elas

Mulheres fazem parte de um eleitorado mais indeciso: pelo Datafolha, 39% delas não sabem em quem irão votar (ante 25% dos homens). Esse gap de gênero na intenção de voto é uma novidade que deve passar a ser explorada nas campanhas dos presidenciais. Mercado A28

agrofolia Depois da 'vaca louca'

China amplia compra de carne bovina do Brasil após pausa no ano passado A18

+ Petróleo e clima vão ditar os preços do álcool na safra 2022/2023 A18

+ Feiras agro retornam, e fabricantes projetam crescimento no ano A22

Ilustrada B3 e C1

Do tapa à desculpa

Tapa de Will Smith em Chris Rock na cerimônia do Oscar mostrou que astros de Hollywood também carregam estresse da pandemia. Ator pediu desculpas ao apresentador: "Não há lugar para violência."

Novas práticas para educar crianças dividem pais e avós

Lista do que mudou na educação das crianças nos últimos 40 anos inclui alimentação, castigos e até cuidadores. As novas práticas têm causado divergências entre pais e avós, provocando estranheza nos mais velhos. Equilíbrio B4

Folha reestrea Equilíbrio, com foco em bem-estar e qualidade de vida

Elisabete Junqueira, criadora do portal Avoasidades, com o neto Rafael, 7



Karlme Xavier/Folhapress

Flórida veta 'ideologia de gênero' e ameaça docente Lei de Direitos dos Pais na Educação, apelidada de Don't Say Gay e sancionada ontem, permite a pais processarem professor que fale de sexualidade. A12



PLACEMENTS
COMMENT PROTÉGER SON
ÉPARGNE FACE À L'INFLATION
PAGES 20 ET 21

UKRAINE
KHODORKOVSKI : « POUTINE
EST DÉJÀ EN GUERRE
CONTRE L'OTAN » PAGE 8



PRÉSIDENTIELLE
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le cauchemar de
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par de nombreuses
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PAGE 7

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Les accords
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s'étoffent d'un volet
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RÉGIONS
En Corse,
les nationalistes
maintiennent
la pression PAGE 10

RÉSEAUX
Culture, sport :
TikTok étend
son influence PAGE 26

Essence: la flambée des prix bouleverse la vie des Français

Alors que les carburants continuent de s'envoler, des millions de consommateurs sont contraints de s'adapter, tant bien que mal. Un sujet devenu crucial, à quelques jours de la présidentielle.

Certains baissent la température dans le salon, d'autres s'équipent d'un vélo ou privilégient le covoiturage pour leurs trajets quotidiens. Les tensions sur les marchés internationaux continuent de

faire grimper les prix du pétrole, du gazole et du gaz et perturbent, par ricochet, le quotidien de millions de Français. Certes, le gouvernement a annoncé son plan de résilience de près de 6 mil-

liards d'euros, qui financera notamment la remise de 15 centimes par litre de carburant à partir du 1^{er} avril. Mais le pouvoir d'achat reste une préoccupation majeure. À deux petites semaines du

premier tour, les candidats à la présidentielle ne s'y trompent pas : Marine Le Pen veut « rendre aux Français leur argent », Emmanuel Macron souhaite que « le travail paye plus » et Valérie Pécresse pro-

pose « un choc de pouvoir d'achat dans le pays ». En attendant ces jours meilleurs, le gazole se vend 2,11 euros le litre. De quoi en décourager beaucoup de partir en week-end...

→ 30 MILLIARDS D'EUROS D'AIDES PUBLIQUES POUR LES ENTREPRISES ET LES MÉNAGES → PRÉSIDENTIELLE: LE POUVOIR D'ACHAT, THÈME MOBILISATEUR DE LA CAMPAGNE
→ LES CANDIDATS RIVALISENT DE PROPOSITIONS POUR LE PORTEFEUILLE PAGES 2, 3 ET L'EDITORIAL



Philippe Lançon
et Michel Houellebecq
au restaurant Laperouse,
à Paris, le 9 mars.

**La littérature, la souffrance, la vie...
la rencontre Lançon-Houellebecq** PAGE 14

Macron descend dans l'arène et fustige Zemmour

Cette fois, le chef de l'État est bien en campagne. Forêts de micros, bains de foule, échanges avec les Français et tacles aux adversaires. Il a réagi avec ironie à une question sur Éric Zemmour, dont les militants présents au Trocadéro dimanche avaient scandé : « Macron, assassin ! » Puis, flanqué de sa dernière recrue, l'ancien ministre et maire ex-PS de Dijon, François Rebsamen, et de François Patriat, le patron des sénateurs LREM, il s'est adressé à son aile gauche. PAGES 4 ET 5

ÉDITORIAL par Gaëtan de Capèle gdecapelle@lefigaro.fr

Les marchands d'illusions

Depuis le spectaculaire retour de l'inflation dans le champ économique, les plus grands experts se perdent en conjectures. Faisons-nous face à un soubresaut, certes brutal, mais temporaire, lié au redémarrage en trombe de l'activité après la pandémie, auquel s'ajoute désormais la guerre en Ukraine ? Ou bien, entre crises à répétition et transition énergétique, sommes-nous entrés dans un nouveau cycle, durable, qui nous impose d'apprendre à vivre avec des prix élevés ? Convenons-en humblement : personne, aujourd'hui, n'en sait rien. Et, pour tout dire, les Français n'ont cure de ces querelles de spécialistes. En revanche, ils constatent, en réglant leur facture d'électricité ou en faisant leur plein de carburant, que les fins de mois deviennent plus difficiles. Comme les petites entreprises et les artisans, qui encaissent tout aussi durement le choc.

La politique du chèque peut-elle résoudre un problème - la flambée des prix du pétrole et du gaz - qui trouve ses racines à des milliers de kilomètres de Paris et sur lequel la France n'a aucune prise ? Non, mais cela n'impressionne pas les marchands d'illu-

sions. À commencer par le gouvernement, qui, après avoir pris en charge tous les effets de la crise sanitaire, et même davantage, a déjà consacré près de 30 milliards d'euros (!) à la lutte contre l'énergie chère. Ce n'est plus ici un coup de pouce pour passer un mauvais cap comme il en a existé dans le passé, c'est un changement d'univers. L'État-providence se mue en État-nounou.

La puissance publique, cette nouvelle assurance tout risque qui pourvoit à tout

Aucun aléa ne saurait désormais assombrir la vie quotidienne. La puissance publique, cette nouvelle assurance tout risque, règle tout, pourvoit à tout. Les candidats à l'élection n'ont pas de mots assez durs pour critiquer cet électoralisme, mais promettent d'amplifier le mouvement au nom du pouvoir d'achat. Les « chèques inflation » ont de beaux jours devant eux. Pour quel résultat ? Résumons : l'État creuse ses déficits, les prix continuent de grimper, l'État creuse ses déficits, les prix continuent de grimper... ■

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CHAMPS LIBRES

- Pourquoi les prix de l'électricité s'envolent-ils en France ?
- La tribune de Jean-Louis Thiériot
- La tribune d'Agnès Verdier-Molinie
- La chronique de Renaud Girard
- L'analyse de Jean-Marc Leclerc

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de lundi :
Avez-vous arrêté votre choix pour le premier tour de la présidentielle ?

NON 23% OUI 77%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 190 411

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Êtes-vous prêt à faire des économies d'énergie dès maintenant ?

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