

What's News

Business & Finance

Fed officials signaled they could raise rates by a half percentage point at their meeting next month and begin reducing their asset portfolio as part of an effort to curb price pressures, March meeting minutes show. **A1**

◆ **The yield on the 10-year Treasury note** soared above 2.6% in the wake of the minutes' release. Stocks fell, with the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow losing 2.2%, 1% and 0.4%, respectively. **B1, B11**

◆ **Google has pulled dozens of apps** from its Google Play store after determining that they include a software element that surreptitiously harvests data. **A1**

◆ **The SEC is probing** how Amazon has disclosed certain details of its business practices, including how it uses third-party-seller data for its private-label business, according to people familiar with the matter. **A1**

◆ **Biden plans to nominate Democrat Jaime Lizárraga** and Republican Mark Uyeda to serve as commissioners at the SEC. **A2**

◆ **Banks that own Zelle** are debating a plan to bring the money-transfer service to the checkout at big retailers. **B1**

◆ **Twitter's move** to add Musk to its board gives the company a new weapon to deploy in its hunt for user and revenue growth. **B1**

◆ **Twitter is developing** a feature that will allow users to edit tweets after they have been posted. **B4**

◆ **Samsung Electronics** forecast record quarterly revenue and a 50% rise in first-quarter operating profit. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **Ukraine urged** civilians to leave the eastern Donetsk, Luhansk and parts of the Kharkiv regions as it braced for a major new Russian offensive following Moscow's withdrawal from the north of the country. **A1, A7-9**

◆ **Top oil company executives** wrangled with House lawmakers over high gasoline prices, rejecting claims by Democrats that they are taking advantage of a global crisis to gouge consumers. **A4**

◆ **The House voted 220-203** to hold Trump allies Dan Scavino and Peter Navarro in contempt of Congress for failing to respond to subpoenas issued by the Jan. 6 panel. **A4**

◆ **A top U.S. health regulator** said asking people to frequently get Covid-19 boosters wasn't sustainable and that authorities needed to develop a long-term strategy to protect the public. **A3**

◆ **Biden extended** through Aug. 31 the pause on payments of federal student loans, setting up a decision on whether to resume them less than three months before midterm elections. **A3**

◆ **The Minneapolis police officer** who fatally shot Amir Locke, a Black man, while executing a no-knock warrant won't face criminal charges. **A3**

◆ **Israeli leader Bennett's** government faces a crisis after a lawmaker quit the ruling coalition, leaving it without a majority in parliament. **A10**

◆ **Hong Kong's No. 2 official** is poised to become the city's next leader after declaring his intention to run for the job. **A18**

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A building burns after shelling in Severodonetsk, in the Luhansk region, one of the areas where Ukraine called for evacuations.

Moscow Silences Dissenters: 'We Will Kill You Right Now'

By EVAN GERSHKOVICH

Alexander Teplyakov wanted to speak out against the war in Ukraine but feared landing in prison if he took part in a public protest. So the Russian activist designed an antiwar sticker featuring Russian and Ukrainian flags and the phrase "NO TO WAR" and posted and distributed thousands of them around Moscow.

He got into trouble anyway. Russian police hauled the 23-year-old into the Presnensky

district police station on March 1, according to a copy of his police records reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. Mr. Teplyakov said he was repeatedly beaten over the head by one officer while in custody. A second officer pressed a pistol to his leg and coerced him into divulging the name of a fellow activist, he said.

"He starts screaming at me to start writing," Mr. Teplyakov said in a telephone interview. He said the police officer threatened him, saying,

"We will kill you right now."

Mr. Teplyakov was sentenced to 10 days in jail after being convicted on a charge of disobeying the police, according to a copy of a court ruling. He left for Tbilisi, Georgia, the day after he was released from custody—joining tens of thousands of Russians who have fled the crackdown on dissent and the fallout of economic sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A new Russian law prohibiting referrals to the military

campaign in Ukraine as a war or an invasion and mass arrests of protesters have largely eliminated visible signs of dissent inside Russia against the war. Large numbers of Russians opposed to the war have chosen to be exiled.

The Kremlin has welcomed the departures of critics.

"Many people are showing themselves to be what we in Russia like to call traitors," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in mid-March.

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Google Yanks Apps With Hidden Code That Harvests Data

Google has yanked dozens of apps from its Google Play store after determining that they include a software element that surreptitiously harvests data.

By Byron Tau
in Washington
and Robert McMillan
in San Francisco

The Panamanian company that wrote the software code, Measurement Systems S. de R.L., is linked through corporate records and web registrations to a Virginia defense contractor that does cyberintelligence, network-defense and intelligence-intercept work for U.S. national security agencies.

The code ran on millions of Android devices and has been found inside several Muslim prayer apps that have been downloaded more than 10 million times, as well as a high-way-speed-trap detection app,

a QR-code-reading app and a number of other popular consumer apps, according to two researchers who discovered the behavior of the code in the course of auditing work they do searching for vulnerabilities in Android apps. They shared their findings with Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., federal privacy regulators and The Wall Street Journal.

Measurement Systems paid developers around the world to incorporate its code—known as a software development kit, or SDK—into their apps, developers said. Its presence allowed the Panamanian company to surreptitiously collect data from their users, according to Serge Egelman, a researcher at the International Computer Science Institute and the University of California, Berkeley, and Joel Reardon of the University of Calgary.

Modern apps often include

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Fed Signals a Faster Pace Of Rate Hikes, Bond Trims

By NICK TIMIRAO

Federal Reserve officials signaled they could raise rates by a half percentage point at their meeting early next month and begin reducing their \$9 trillion asset portfolio as part of their most aggressive effort in more than two decades to curb price pressures.

Minutes from the Fed's March 15-16 meeting, released Wednesday, showed many officials were prepared last month to raise rates by a half point but opted for a smaller quarter-point increase due to concerns from the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Stocks fell and bond yields rose Wednesday amid expectations of a more aggressive Fed policy tightening process than previously anticipated. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which rises when bond prices fall, rose to 2.606%, a three-year high, from 2.554% on Tuesday

10-year Treasury yield



Sources: Tradeweb (yield), FactSet (Nasdaq)

Nasdaq Composite



and 2.409% on Monday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 0.42%, the Nasdaq sank 2.22% and the S&P 500 shed 0.97%.

Officials approved last month their first interest-rate increase in more than three

years, raising their benchmark rate to a range between 0.25% and 0.5%. They also penciled in a series of additional rate

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◆ Greg Ip: Financial crisis gives lesson about inflation... A2

INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Young men head back to the movies, and Hollywood responds in kind. **B1**

PERSONAL JOURNAL
Feeling inflation's pinch, more workers are emboldened to ask for raises. **A12**

A Greeting for Crypto Fans Goes Viral, Sparks Squabbles

Messages of 'gm' become a rallying call for blockchain enthusiasts, celebrities

By PREETIKA RANA

Two letters all over social media started as a jolly greeting among cryptocurrency fans and went on to inspire a new virtual currency, real-life tattoos and, naturally, online squabbles.

The catchphrase "gm"—or, to put it the old-fashioned way, good morning—is increasingly popping up on Twitter, Telegram and Discord channels, often alongside images of surf, sun-dappled flowers and sunsets.



To coin a phrase

The abbreviation is more than just a pleasantry for people who embrace blockchain, the technology underpinning virtual currencies like bitcoin. Blockchain enthusiasts are using it to signal that they are early to a technology whose future they believe is bright.

"gm! Here is a picture of a beautiful field full of flowers," Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin tweeted to his roughly four million followers last month. Fans reciprocated with

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SEC Probes Amazon's Disclosure of Practices

By DANA MATTIOLI
AND DAVE MICHAELS

Federal securities regulators are investigating how Amazon.com Inc. has disclosed some details of its business practices, including how it uses third-party-seller data for its private-label business, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is probing how Amazon—the largest U.S. e-commerce retailer and cloud-computing company—handled disclosures of its employees' use of data from sellers on its e-commerce platform, the people said. The SEC's enforcement division has asked for emails and com-

munications from several senior Amazon executives, according to one of the people.

A spokesman for Amazon declined to comment. In April 2020, a Wall Street Journal investigation, citing internal documents and interviews with former Amazon staffers, found the company's employees routinely used individual third-party-seller data to develop products for its own brands.

A company spokesman denied that such actions were taken, echoing an Amazon lawyer's congressional testimony a year earlier, saying the company does "not use their individual data when we're making decisions to launch

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Ukraine Urges Civilians To Flee In East

Kyiv warns of Russian offensive looming in region as focus of the invasion shifts

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

Ukraine urged civilians to leave the eastern Donetsk, Luhansk and parts of the Kharkiv regions as it braced for a major new Russian offensive following Moscow's withdrawal from the north of the country. "You need to evacuate now, while this possibility still exists," Ukraine's deputy prime minister and minister for occupied territories, Iryna Vereshchuk, said on Ukrainian TV on Wednesday. "Later, people will be under fire and under threat of death. We won't be able to help because it will be practically impossible to cease fire."

The sense of urgency by the Ukrainian government for civilians to flee comes days after reports emerged of executions, rape and other human-rights abuses of civilians by departing Russian forces as they retreated from the suburbs of Kyiv. Russia has denied

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The Ukraine Crisis

- ◆ EU keeps Moscow's oil and gas flowing... A7
- ◆ U.S. helps in effort to build war-crimes case... A7
- ◆ Kyiv residents are on edge despite Russia retreat... A9

Not welcome here

No refuge for non-Ukrainians fleeing Kyiv — NOTEBOOK, PAGE 16

Financial warfare

How the west unleashed 'shock and awe' on Russia — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Uncertain times

Putin's war has shaken up more than global security — EDWARD LUCE, PAGE 17

Western allies impose harshest sanctions yet on Russian banks

◆ Sberbank and Alfa-Bank hit ◆ Putin and Lavrov families targeted ◆ Finland seizes art haul

FT REPORTERS

The US, EU and UK are imposing the toughest sanctions yet against Russia's biggest banks and bankers as the western allies ramp up their economic punishment of Moscow in response to apparent atrocities committed by Russian forces in Ukraine.

Washington announced "full blocking sanctions" on Sberbank, Russia's largest financial institution, and Alfa-Bank, the country's biggest private lender, which will prevent them from dealing with any US institution or individual.

Janet Yellen, US Treasury secretary, said yesterday that the Treasury would hold "Russia accountable for its actions so it cannot benefit from the international financial system".

A senior US official said the latest measures were in response to "the sickening brutality in Bucha, the city near Kyiv from where gruesome images of the bodies of Ukrainian civilians have emerged in recent days, indicating a possible massacre by Russian soldiers".

As evidence grows of possible war crimes in areas abandoned by retreating Russian troops, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for Russia's leaders to be "brought to justice". Moscow has denied the allegations.

The mayor of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, which has been under siege by Vladimir Putin's forces since early March, said Russian mobile crematoriums had begun incinerating the bodies of people killed in the city.

"The killers are covering their tracks," Vadym Boichenko said yesterday.

The EU is set to add Herman Gref, the head of Kremlin-controlled Sberbank, and aluminium oligarch Oleg Deripaska to its sanctions list today, according to a draft document seen by the Financial Times. If approved by EU member states, those under sanctions will be subject to asset freezes and travel bans.

The UK also announced extra sanctions against Putin's regime, including



Pope Francis holds a Ukrainian flag sent to him from Bucha, the city near Kyiv that has been the scene of apparent war crimes. Vatican Media via Reuters

full asset freezes against Sberbank as well as a ban on imports of Russian iron and steel products. Both the US and UK have added a ban on any new outward investment to Russia.

Liz Truss, the UK foreign secretary, said the measures marked "the toughest sanctions yet".

The US also imposed sanctions on individuals including Putin's two adult daughters, Ekaterina Tikhonova and Maria Vorontsova, foreign minister Sergei Lavrov's wife and daughter, and members of Russia's Security Council including former president Dmitry Medvedev and prime minister Mikhail Mishustin. The EU is also targeting Tikhonova and Vorontsova.

The US official said the US and EU had chosen to target Putin's daughters

because they believed they were helping shield the Russian president's wealth. "We believe that many of Putin's assets are hidden with family members and that's why we're targeting them."

The EU's latest sanctions form part of a proposed fifth package of EU measures against Moscow, including new restrictions on Russian coal.

The western allies had hoped that the initial burst of hefty sanctions imposed in the wake of Russia's invasion in late February would be sufficient to isolate Russia without excessive spillover to the rest of the global economy. But they have been forced to consider additional targets as the conflict has worn on, widening their net to include groups and individuals in third countries doing business with Russian entities.

Edward Fishman, a former adviser on sanctions at the state department, called yesterday's measures "the most significant" taken since the Russian central bank sanctions were imposed.

Meanwhile, Finland has seized paintings and sculptures worth €42m bound for Russia. It stopped three shipments of art returning to Russia from museums in Italy and Japan at the Vaalimaa border, Finnish customs said.

Reporting by Courtney Weaver, James Politi and Colby Smith in Washington, Jasmine Cameron, Chile, in London, Henry Foy and Sam Fleming in Brussels, John Reed in Lviv and Richard Milne in Oslo

War in Ukraine pages 2 & 3
Oligarchs' playthings page 9
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Briefing

► **SEC backs Amazon shareholders on tax** Investors in tech giant Amazon that want it provide greater tax disclosure have been handed a victory after the SEC regulator, in a rare move, supported their demand for a shareholder vote. — PAGE 6

► **EU proposes tariffs in migrants tussle** Brussels is proposing to impose heavy tariffs on countries that do not accept the return of citizens who have illegally entered Europe, as the bloc steps up efforts to bolster its migration policy. — PAGE 4

► **VW to cut models and focus on luxury** Volkswagen will axe most of its combustion-engine cars by the end of the decade and focus on more profitable brands, in a reversal of the stance of former chiefs of the carmaker. — PAGE 8



► **Key investor turns up heat on Toshiba** Toshiba's second-largest shareholder, hedge fund 3D, is pushing for the \$17bn Japanese conglomerate to open talks on a take-private deal after it emerged that Bain was about to submit a buyout plan. — PAGE 8

► **Oklahoma passes strict abortion laws** An Oklahoma bill has banned abortion in almost every instance, the strictest measures yet in a wave of US laws against it. Punishments for performing the procedure include up to 10 years in jail. — PAGE 4

► **Fired Credit Suisse banker faced inquiry** The head of Credit Suisse's investment bank was under investigation for allegedly mistreating women when he was fired for his part in Archegos's collapse last year, which cost the bank \$5.5bn. — PAGE 6

► **Sri Lankan rupee plunges to record low** Sri Lanka's rupee has hit a record low, off 32 per cent this year, to become the world's worst-performing currency. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is struggling to contain an economic and political crisis. — PAGE 10

Datavatch

US exodus

% of large urban counties losing population



Source: The Economic Innovation Group

Urban counties are no longer magnets for house moves within the US as international migrants decline in number, young people move back in with their parents and the more affluent retreat to vacation homes.



Musk set to make his voice heard on Twitter's board

As Twitter's largest investor and newest board member, Elon Musk has been catapulted into a central position at one of the internet's most widely viewed news sources. The billionaire boss of Tesla and SpaceX — as well as one of the loudest voices on Twitter — comes with strongly held technocratic views that draw many critics and is expected to push for change at the social media site he has previously criticised for lacking free speech.

Pushy presence — PAGE 8

Facebook's owner plans 'Zuck Bucks' digital coins foray into the metaverse

HANNAH MURPHY — SAN FRANCISCO

Meta has drawn up plans to introduce virtual coins, tokens and lending services to its apps, as Facebook's parent company pursues its finance ambitions despite the collapse of a project to launch a cryptocurrency.

The company, led by Mark Zuckerberg, is seeking alternative revenue streams and features that can woo and retain users, as popularity falls for its main social networks Facebook and Instagram, which threatens its \$118bn-a-year advertising-based business model.

Meta Financial Technologies, Facebook's financial arm, has been exploring the creation of a virtual currency for the metaverse, which employees have dubbed "Zuck Bucks", according to several people familiar with the efforts.

This is unlikely to be a cryptocur-

rency based on the blockchain, some of the people said. Instead, Meta is leaning towards introducing in-app tokens centrally controlled by the company, similar to those used in gaming apps such as the Roblox currency in the popular children's game Roblox.

According to company memos and people close to the plans, Meta is also looking at creating "social tokens" or "reputation tokens", which could be issued as rewards for meaningful contributions in Facebook groups, for example. Another effort is to make "creator coins" that might be associated with particular influencers on its photo-sharing app Instagram.

Meta has also been exploring more traditional financial services, with a focus on providing small-business loans at attractive rates, say several people familiar with the initiative. While nothing

is immediately planned, the group has previously held talks with potential lending partners, one of the people said.

Most of the efforts are in the early stages and could change or be dropped, although its plans to integrate non-fungible tokens, NFTs, into its apps are more developed. Zuckerberg confirmed a previous Financial Times report that Instagram would soon support NFTs and plans to launch a pilot for posting NFTs on Facebook in mid-May, an internal memo says.

Meta's push into cryptocurrencies has been plagued by setbacks and regulatory scrutiny. This year Diem, the global cryptocurrency project that it spearheaded, was wound down and its assets sold to Californian bank Silvergate, after US regulators refused to give the green light over monetary stability and competition concerns.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Apr 6	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4473.54	4525.12	-1.14
Nasdaq Composite	12673.64	14024.17	-10.33
Dow Jones Ind	34427.53	34641.18	-6.62
FTSE100	7183.00	1080.96	-1.44
Euro Stoxx 50	3823.96	3917.85	-2.41
FTSE 100	7183.00	7613.72	-6.34
FTSE All-Share	4218.12	4238.74	-0.49
CAC 40	6486.83	6645.51	-2.21
Xetra Dax	14151.69	14424.36	-1.89
Nikkei	27550.30	27767.88	-1.58
Hang Seng	22046.52	22542.31	-2.21
MSCI World \$	3245.98	3301.38	-1.64
MSCI EM \$	1156.75	1161.85	-0.42
MSCI ACWI \$	711.83	718.80	-0.97
FT Wilshire 5000	5688.99	5894.09	-3.42
FT Wilshire 2000	48151.22	48921.09	-1.43

CURRENCIES

	Apr 6	prev	%chg
£ per €	1.082	1.084	-0.19
¥ per €	130.9	131.3	-0.31
€ per £	0.924	0.925	-0.11
¥ per \$	129.24	129.28	-0.03
€ per \$	1.078	1.082	-0.37
\$/¥	0.931	0.932	-0.11
\$/£	1.221	1.219	0.16

INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	94.03	2.60	0.04
UK Gov 10 yr	124.22	1.70	0.05
Ger Gov 10 yr	94.14	0.64	0.03
US Gov 10 yr	98.99	0.24	0.03
US Gov 30 yr	93.27	2.63	0.03
Ger Gov 2 yr	100.06	-0.05	-0.02

COMMODITIES

	Apr 6	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	99.57	101.86	-2.24
Oil Brent \$	104.23	106.64	-2.28
Gold \$	1944.05	1930.30	0.71

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Investigators on Wednesday in Bucha, Ukraine, where Russian forces are accused of committing atrocities during their occupation.

EXODUS FROM EAST AS RUSSIANS SHIFT FOCUS OF ATTACKS

Outrage Over Atrocities Spurs Sanctions
Against Banks and Putin's Family

This article is by Megan Specia, Cora Engelbrecht and Eric Schmitt.

Spurred by reports of Russian atrocities outside Ukraine's capital, and alarmed at signs that Russia's invasion force is about to escalate assaults in eastern Ukraine, many civilians in that region are fleeing while they can, officials said Wednesday.

"The cities of the Luhansk region are in ruins," warned one eastern governor. "Thousands of residents have not yet left. Get out of the way!"

The exodus accelerated as Western nations moved to provide more weapons to Ukraine's military and further ostracize Russia economically with new sanctions, including restrictions on its leading banks and on the assets of President Vladimir V. Putin's children.

The new sanctions are a response to outrage and revulsion over the atrocities, including executions and torture, that appear to have been carried out by Russian

forces before they retreated from areas outside Kyiv in the past few weeks. Russia has denied responsibility, saying the atrocities were fabricated or were committed by the Ukrainians themselves.

The European Union also was weighing a ban on coal from Russia, the leading provider of fossil-fuel energy to Europe, and Russia appeared to move closer to default on its foreign debt because of U.S. currency restrictions.

"Together with our allies and our partners, we're going to keep raising the economic costs and ratchet up the pain for Putin, and further increase Russia's economic isolation," said President Biden, who has described Mr. Putin as a war criminal and suggested he should not remain in power.

More than 11 million Ukrainians — roughly one in four — have fled their homes since the Feb. 24 invasion, according to the United Nations, including more than four

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Kremlin Rushing to Reposition Its Forces for a Narrower Fight

This article is by Eric Schmitt, Julian E. Barnes and Helene Cooper.

WASHINGTON — As Russian troops retreat from northern Ukraine and focus operations on the country's east and south, the Kremlin is struggling to scrape together enough combat-ready reinforcements to conduct a new phase of the war, according to American and other Western military and intelligence officials.

Moscow initially sent 75 percent of its main ground combat forces into the war in February, Pentagon officials said. But much of that army of more than 150,000 troops is now a spent force, after suffering logistics problems, flagging morale and devastating casualties inflicted by stiffer-than-expected Ukrainian resistance, military and intelligence officials say.

There are relatively few fresh Russian troops to fill the breach. Russia has withdrawn the forces — as many as 40,000 soldiers — it

Trying to Reinforce and Rearm Troops

had arrayed around Kyiv and Chernihiv, two cities in the north, to rearm and resupply in Russia and neighboring Belarus before most likely repositioning them in eastern Ukraine in the next few weeks, U.S. officials say.

The Kremlin is also rushing to the east a mix of Russian mercenaries, Syrian fighters, new conscripts and regular Russian Army troops from Georgia and easternmost Russia.

Whether this weakened but still very lethal Russian force can overcome its blunders of the first six weeks of combat and accomplish a narrower set of war aims in a smaller swath of the country remains an open question, senior U.S. officials and analysts said.

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Body Bags and Death Notices Bring News of War to Russians

This article is by Anton Troianovski, Ivan Nechepurenko and Valeriya Safronova.

Ivan Kononov, a senior lieutenant in the Russian marines, loved to cook. He made Italian food for his unit in the field, his brother said, and traded rations for spices when he was serving in Syria.

The brother, Aleksandr Kononov, last saw him at the military hospital morgue in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don in March. Lieutenant Kononov had died in a firefight for a steel plant in the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. He was 34. Walking to the morgue, Mr. Kononov recalled, he passed the open gate of a warehouse and glimpsed dozens of black body bags lined up on the floor.

It was only with his brother's death, Mr. Kononov, 32, said in a phone interview, that he started paying attention to the war raging just over 50 miles from his home.

Official Toll Is Cloaked in Patriotism

And he realized, he said, that his brother had died in a war that "no one needs."

"If everyone learns everything, there will be protests," Mr. Kononov, who works in a freight business, said, referring to the awareness of the Russian public at large. "And I think that would be for the best. Because this war has to stop. There ought to be no wars at all."

Six weeks after President Vladimir V. Putin's invasion of Ukraine, many Russians remain in the dark about the depth of their country's losses — and about the carnage and brutal atrocities that their military is inflicting as it retreats in the North. But increasingly, the reality of war is intrud-

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Bread, Blood and a Park Bench: Traces of Lives Ended in a Blink

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF and NATALIA YERMAK

KHARKIV, Ukraine — A loaf of bread on a park bench, collecting snow. A puddle of blood nearby.

Those were the traces of two lives lost this past week, two people killed as they sat sharing a late lunch or an early dinner, or maybe just feeding pigeons. No one seemed to know their names.

They died at around 5:30 in the afternoon on Sunday in the southeastern Slobidskyi district of Kharkiv from a mortar strike, residents said, describing the victims as an older woman and a middle-aged man.

It was overcast and cold, and the ambulance came quickly.

Random Attack Shakes Quiet Neighborhood

"I was in the kitchen, putting the kettle on," said Tetiana Stepanenko, 55, who lives in the apartment building that overlooks the park. "Suddenly the windows shattered."

"Then we heard the screams," she said.

She looked out the window from the fourth floor; the bodies were motionless.

Wars often inflict violence at random on people just trying to

Continued on Page A11

As Cases Climb, New Yorkers Ask if It's Time to Worry Again

By JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN and SHARON OTTERMAN

Driven by an Omicron subvariant, Covid-19 cases have been ticking up steadily across Manhattan, Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn, threatening New York City with a fifth wave of coronavirus cases just weeks after the city lifted many mask and vaccine requirements.

The city is registering about 1,500 new cases a day and a positivity rate of nearly 3 percent, both figures more than double what they were a month ago. In Manhattan, where the last wave also first emerged, the positivity rate is above 6 percent in some neighborhoods.

In another potentially worrisome indicator, the prevalence of fevers across the city — which can offer a forewarning of Covid trends — has reached levels last seen at some of the worst points of the pandemic, according to data from internet-connected thermometers.

And anecdotal signs of spread-

Potential for New Wave Threatens Return to Coveted Normalcy

ing infection are evident across the region. On Broadway, the actors Matthew Broderick and Daniel Craig have recently tested positive, as have New Jersey's governor and at least three members of the New York City Council.

"We may be done with the virus, but the virus isn't done with us," Brad Lander, the city's comptroller, said after he tested positive last week.

The Omicron subvariant BA.2, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now estimates makes up 84 percent of cases in the New York region, is even more contagious than its predecessor.

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Growing Religious Fervor Suffuses Politics of the American Right

By ELIZABETH DIAS and RUTH GRAHAM

PHOENIX — They opened with an invocation, summoning God's "hedge of thorns and fire" to protect each person in the dark Phoenix parking lot.

They called for testimonies, passing the microphone to anyone with "inspirational words that they'd like to say on behalf of our J-6 political prisoners," referring to people arrested in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, whom they were honoring a year later.

Then, holding candles dripping wax, the few dozen who were gathered lifted their voices, a cappella, in a song treasured by millions of believers who sing it on Sundays and know its words by heart:

Way maker, miracle worker,
promise keeper
Light in the darkness, my God
That is who you are . . .

This was not a church service. It was worship for a new kind of congregation: a right-wing political movement powered by divine purpose, whose adherents find



Dozens cheered the anti-mandate People's Convoy when it passed through Yavapai County, Ariz.

spiritual sustenance in political action.

The Christian right has been intertwined with American conservatism for decades, culminating in the Trump era. And elements of Christian culture have long been present at political ral-

lies. But worship, a sacred act showing devotion to God expressed through movement, song or prayer, was largely reserved for church. Now, many believers are importing their worship of God, with all its intensity, emotion and ambitions, to their political life.

At events across the United States, it is not unusual for participants to describe encountering the divine and feel they are doing their part to install God's kingdom on earth. For them, right-wing political activity itself is becoming a

Continued on Page A16



SPORTS B9-14

13 Coaches, No Waiting

San Francisco Manager Gabe Kapler has surrounded himself with talented coaches. A lot of them. PAGE B9

Attorneys General Warn N.F.L.

Officials from six states threatened an inquiry, citing "grave concerns" about the treatment of women. PAGE B10

INTERNATIONAL A4-14

An Edge for the French Right

Even before the presidential vote, right-wing and far-right candidates, and their themes and talking points, have dominated the political debate. PAGE A4

Israel's Government in Crisis

The resignation of Idit Silman, a senior lawmaker, left the coalition without a majority in Parliament. PAGE A6

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Off Camera, She Plays Her Part

Jennifer Venditti, a casting director for films and TV, has written a book on how she matches roles and actors. PAGE D5

NATIONAL A15-23

An Appeal for Voters in Ohio

Tim Ryan, the House Democrat running for the Senate, has been listening to working-class whites. Whether they are listening to him is the question. PAGE A15

House Urges Jan. 6 Charges

The vote recommends the Justice Department charge two Trump allies with criminal contempt of Congress for defying subpoenas in the inquiry. PAGE A17

Cult Leader Is Convicted

Lawrence V. Ray, who exploited students at Sarah Lawrence College, was found guilty of trafficking. PAGE A20



ARTS C1-6

A Lens on Street Culture

Photos taken by Jamel Shabazz, above, of stylish, young Black New Yorkers are displayed in a new exhibition. PAGE C1

Olivia Rodrigo on the Road

Backed by a roaring all-female band, the pop star began her first tour with a show in Portland, Ore. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-7

Invasion Tempered Fed Actions

Notes from the March meeting showed "many" Federal Reserve officials favored a bigger rate increase. PAGE B1

Will Boom Lead to Bust?

A recession doesn't seem imminent, but high demand and supply shortages are testing the economy's limits. PAGE B1

OPINION A26-27

Jamelle Bouie

PAGE A26



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WRECKED tanks line a street in Bucha, Ukraine, where the horrors of Russian occupation have come to light. FELIPE DANA Associated Press



RESIDENT Tetiana Ustyomenko weeps over the grave of her son in the garden of her house in Bucha. RONALDO SCHEMIDT AP/GETTY IMAGES



AUTHORITIES gather information on the bodies found in Bucha before they are taken to the morgue. CHRIS MCGRATH GETTY IMAGES

Ukraine tells civilians in east to flee before Russian assault

Even as West tightens sanctions, Moscow dismisses evidence of its army's atrocities.

By PATRICK J. McDONNELL, LAURA KING AND KURTIS LEE

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces carried out punishing strikes against key Ukrainian cities on Wednesday, as Ukrainian authorities urged residents of an imperiled eastern region to flee while they still could.

With the fighting showing signs of intensifying in the country's south and east, Ukrainian officials told residents of the Luhansk region to evacuate before the onslaught. Luhansk's governor, Serhiy Haidai, said Wednesday on Facebook that people were escaping "under the roar of enemy guns."

In suburbs around the capital, Kyiv, Ukrainian investigators pressed ahead with the grim task of documenting evidence of war crimes in the form of mass graves and mutilated bodies as Ukrainian troops and mine clearers worked to defuse booby traps and explosives left behind by retreating Russian forces.

Moscow continued to brush aside mounting world outrage over the apparent execution-style killings of civilians even as Washington and its Western allies moved to impose sharp new sanctions.

Ukrainian officials accused Russia of trying to cover up war crimes in other occupied areas, saying that Moscow is now aware that haphazard efforts in the Kyiv region had left an abundance of evidence behind.

In the southern port city of Mariupol, where munici-

MORE COVERAGE

Renewed push for Russia sanctions

U.S. secretary of State seeks to rally support from key allies who have not joined efforts to punish Moscow. **WORLD, A3**

Lawmakers confront oil firms

At a House hearing, Democrats demand answers from energy executives about skyrocketing fuel prices. **NATION, A7**

GUN IN CAPITAL MAYHEM HAD BEEN MODIFIED

Illegal but increasingly common 'switch' turned handgun into automatic weapon.

By LIBOR JANY, RICHARD WINTON AND KEVIN RECTOR

As state and federal authorities continue to piece together how so many people were killed and wounded in Sunday's shooting in downtown Sacramento, their attention has turned to a small, seemingly innocuous culprit: A gun accessory that quickly and cheaply turns many handguns into weapons capable of spraying dozens of rounds with a single pull of the trigger.

At least one of the guns police say were recovered from the massacre that left six people dead and twice as many injured had been modified with a so-called "auto-sear" or "switch" to boost its firepower. The conversion devices are illegal, and authorities say they are turning up at crime scenes across the U.S. with alarming frequency.

Semiautomatic handguns and rifles require shooters to pull the trigger each time they want to fire a shot. [See Gun, A12]

Shootout involved at least 5 gunmen

Sacramento authorities blame gang rivalries that have plagued the city for years. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

No charges in no-knock killing

The police shooting of Amir Locke in a Minneapolis apartment is deemed justified under state law. **NATION, A6**

Film set safety panel formed

Move by the Directors Guild of America is the latest in response to the "Rust" shooting tragedy. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather
Sunny and hot.
L.A. Basin: 94/67. **B6**



Caruso's cash redefines the race

Developer has lent \$10 million so far to his mayoral campaign

By JULIA WICK AND DAVID ZAHNISER

To paraphrase F. Scott Fitzgerald, the very rich are different from you and me: They can bankroll their own campaign for mayor.

Billionaire real estate developer Rick Caruso put \$4 million into his mayoral bid this week, bringing the total that he's lent his campaign to \$10 million. His willingness to tap his own fortune has profoundly reshaped

the race since he officially entered two months ago.

While the other big-name candidates have not yet begun airing TV commercials, Caruso's messages have blanketed the airwaves. His campaign has also purchased 30-second radio spots, sent voters glossy foldout mailers and paid for advertising on YouTube and other social media.

"They're buying name identification," David Gould, a veteran campaign consultant who served as former Mayor Richard Riordan's cam-

paign treasurer, said of the Caruso campaign.

At City Hall, there is no recent precedent for the amount of money Caruso has put into his campaign at such an early date. The June 7 primary is still nine weeks away and the general election — which will feature the top two vote-getters — is set for Nov. 8.

By the end of the week, Caruso's campaign will have spent \$8.95 million on advertising, according to data from the analytics firm AdImpact. That to-

[See Caruso, A9]

D.A. won't charge officers in killings

Decisions cover two cases: a couple shot in car in Inglewood and a man in Pasadena.

By JAMES QUEALLY AND RICHARD WINTON

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office will not file charges in the controversial shooting deaths of an Inglewood couple who were gunned down by police inside their car in 2016, according to a report made public Wednesday.

Prosecutors said they had insufficient evidence to charge the five Inglewood police officers who opened fire on Kisha Michael and Marquintan Sandlin in February 2016.

The office's legal conclu-

sion laid out in the 36-page document is largely centered on the determination that prosecutors could not disprove that the officers had a reasonable fear that either Michael or Sandlin would reach for the loaded gun that officers saw inside the car.

In a separate report also made public late Wednesday, prosecutors said they would not charge the Pasadena police officer who shot and killed Anthony McClain as he fled from a traffic stop two years ago. The Aug. 15, 2020, shooting spurred protests by Black Lives Matter in the streets of Old Pasadena and gained the attention of nationally renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump.

The decisions could engender political backlash. [See Officers, A12]



TITUS LOW, out on bail, is Singapore's most recognizable creator on a platform known for offering private porn to subscribers. He faces up to 21 months in prison. AMRITA CHANDRADAS For The Times

Case against OnlyFans star sparks debate in Singapore

Erotic creator challenges his city-state's taboo on sex

By DAVID PIERSON

SINGAPORE — The young man of wealth, tattoos and TikTok glamour rolled into the neighborhood in a Tiffany-blue Mercedes. Patrons inside a cafe stole glimpses. His future in question, the man, an unabashed erotic exhibitionist, has attracted renown in a country where fame is usually reserved for government

ministers and top badminton players.

Titus Low has stubbornly challenged one of this city-state's enduring taboos: sex. The 22-year-old bisexual man is Singapore's most recognizable creator on OnlyFans, the online site known best for offering private porn to paying subscribers. He made headlines last year after he was ordered off the platform and arrested for violating strict obscenity

laws by transmitting images and videos of his "private parts."

Out on bail, Low is facing up to 21 months in prison. His case has sparked conversations about social mores and the limitations of sexual expression in a country where sex between men is technically illegal.

Muscular, bare-chested and generously tattooed, Low, who speaks in a [See Titus Low, A4]



PROTESTERS gather at Inglewood City Hall on Feb. 21, 2017, a year after police shot a couple in a car. GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

BUSINESS INSIDE: Disney dominated in Florida, until now, Michael Hiltzik writes. **A8**

BASEBALL PREVIEW

A fresh start for the revamped Nationals
SPECIAL SECTION



METROPOLIS

The history you never knew
SPECIAL SECTION



A MATTER OF TIME

Older Americans reflect on the costs of covid
EXPANDED LOCAL LIVING

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Rain, 1-storm 56/47 • Tomorrow: Showers 61/43 BS

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 • \$3.50

Ukraine's east braces for onslaught

U.S. government, energy companies close ranks amid cyberattack fears

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA

DES MOINES — In February, as Russian troops massed on Ukraine's border, executives with a major energy firm here worked with U.S. energy and homeland security officials to draw up a playbook and help prepare the electricity sector to deal with potential cyberattacks by Russia.

Berkshire Hathaway Energy officers were among the small group that wrote the guidelines, which stressed the importance of quickly sharing cyberattack information between industry and government.

With President Biden warning last month of evolving intelligence that Russia is exploring possible cyberattacks against American critical industries, companies such as Berkshire Hathaway Energy and the U.S. government are on high alert. After years of what critics saw as lip service, cybersecurity collaboration between the federal government and some critical industries has taken root, officials and industry leaders say, and it could be put to the test as Russian government hackers probe the defenses of American power plants, banks and telecommunications networks.

"The collaboration between government and the private sector has seen exponential improvement over the last couple of years," said Bill Fehrman, president and chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE), which provides electricity, generated by wind, solar, natural gas and coal to 12 million customers in the United States, Canada and Britain. "The main benefit," he said, "is the more efficient transfer of information from the front line — the companies — to the government, and getting usable information back from the government in a

SEE CYBERSECURITY ON A14

In India: Popular media voices paint the U.S. as the bad guy. **A11**

Going home: Refugees promise to return, even if it's changed. **A12**



PADEL SERPNA/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Complex militia with an ugly past defends a nation

BY SUDARSHAN RAGHAVAN, LOVEDAY MORRIS, CLAIRE PARKER AND DAVID L. STERN

KYIV, UKRAINE — Inside a warehouse, in a bustling section of this capital, the incessant cracking sound of gunfire echoed off walls. Men in olive-colored camouflage were training for war. Most wore helmets and bulletproof jackets. Some wore high-top sneakers. All clutched AK-47 rifles and waited for their turn to shoot at a round target 50 yards away.

It was centered with Russian President Vladimir Putin's face — and peppered with bullet holes.

Invisible, yet palpable, was the shadow cast over this new regiment, like every unit of the Azov Battalion.

SEE MILITIA ON A15



ALIKS KONSTANTINOVSKI/REUTERS

TOP: Residents near a burning building struck by shelling in Severodonetsk, in the eastern Luhansk district, on Wednesday. ABOVE: Serhii Lahovskiy, 26, on Wednesday at the grave of his friend Ihor Lytyvenko, who residents say was killed by Russian soldiers in Bucha.

RUSSIA REGROUPS AFTER KYIV FAILURE

3 provinces urged to flee amid renewed shelling

BY DAVID L. STERN, JOBY WARRICK, LOUISA LOVELUCK AND MAX BEARAK

MUKACHEVO, UKRAINE — Ukrainian officials called Wednesday for evacuations in three provinces near the Russian border amid new signs that President Vladimir Putin's troops are escalating their assault on eastern and southern cities following a failed attempt to take the country's capital.

Local officials reported renewed Russian shelling in the eastern Donetsk region, killing at least five people, and as many as 10 high-rise apartment buildings on fire in Severodonetsk, in the neighboring Luhansk district. U.S. analysts said Moscow has begun gradually shifting the focus of its military operations to the eastern border provinces after withdrawing thousands of troops who previously encircled the capital, Kyiv.

The continued violence came amid fresh reports of human rights atrocities in Ukrainian cities and towns that had been under Russian control. Accounts of rape and summary executions of civilians by Russian occupiers prompted the United States and several allies to announce new economic sanctions, including measures targeting two of Russia's largest banks and Putin's adult children.

"We're going to further increase Russia's economic isolation," President Biden said in a speech announcing the sanctions at a meeting of North America's Building Trades Unions. "The United States will continue to stand with the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom."

Biden again accused Russia of

SEE UKRAINE ON A13

Sanctions: New measures target banks and Putin's daughters. **A16**

Businesses: Some still wrestle with exiting Russia. **A18**

Covid took their coaches, but not their dream

The Lady Trojans had suffered an unimaginable loss. Could they pull off an unprecedented win?

BY KARIN BRULLIARD

TERRA AMARILLA, N.M. — The Mesa Vista Lady Trojans had ridden their black-and-gold bus for nearly two hours, past snow-smudged hills and red-rock cliffs, to play their main rivals. Over 32 minutes of basketball, the girls had been outpassed and outrun and outscored by the Escalante Lobos. They lost by 40 points.

"We gotta get out of this funk," Jesse Boles, a cross-country coach who had only recently become head of varsity girls' basketball, told the teens gathered in a circle on a gym floor, some still catching their breath behind face masks. "We are good, ladies! This team right here is legit!"

It wasn't just a pep talk: No one expected the team to do well this year; it hadn't in years. But the Lady Trojans had roared into the season with seven straight wins. They won a local tournament in December. Now, with a record of

SEE COACHES ON A8



ADRIA MALCOLM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Mesa Vista players pray before the quarterfinals in the New Mexico state tournament in March.

For Black women, break from loan burden 'feels like a raise'

Extension of moratorium on education payments is a boon to a key group

BY DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

For millions of Americans who took out loans to pay for college, the past two years have offered a chance to live without the burden of their education debt.

The pause on federal student loan payments introduced and extended during the pandemic meant borrowers could redirect money — potentially hundreds of dollars a month — that would have gone toward repaying their debt to other needs. On Wednesday, President Biden extended the reprieve through the end of August, giving borrowers more time to prepare for the restart.

"It almost feels like a raise," said

Lisa Jackson, 56, who owes \$175,000 for her son's and daughter's college educations. "With the money I would have given towards the loans, I paid off a little outstanding tax debt, which I don't know I could have done otherwise."

The payment moratorium has touched the lives of many Americans, but it has perhaps meant the most to the group who stood to gain the most from it — Black women, like Jackson, who shoulder a disproportionate share of the \$1.7 trillion student debt burden.

Women hold two-thirds of education debt, an analysis of federal data by the American Association of University Women shows, but Black women have the highest average total at \$41,466 for undergraduate and \$75,085 for graduate school one year out from graduation. The study found that

SEE LOANS ON A19

Sixth extension: Biden's move draws mixed reviews on Hill. **A18**

IN THE NEWS

A-list outbreak More than a dozen guests at Saturday night's Gridiron Club dinner have tested positive for the coronavirus. **C1**

THE NATION The police officer who fatally shot Amir Locke will not face charges. **A3**

THE WORLD Hopes of solving an Australian vanishing case were revived. **A10**

THE REGION

A firsthand civics lesson An 18-year-old is running for the Ward 3 seat on the D.C. Council. **B1**

STYLE

Hey, aren't you ... A Maryland man turned his resemblance to Bruce Willis into a gig as the actor's stand-in. **C1**

BUSINESS	A18
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LOTTERIES	B6
OBITUARIES	B6
OPINION PAGES	A1
SPORTS	D1
STOCKS	A20
TELEVISION	C3
WORLD NEWS	A10

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deportes

River, con el pie derecho

Le ganó a Alianza Lima en el debut de la Libertadores

Con gol de Suárez, el equipo de Gallardo se impuso 1 a 0 de visitante y abrió la Copa a paso firme.



Tigermanía en marcha

Woods se prueba en Augusta con la huella de su pasado imborrable

A 25 años de la gesta de 1997, y tras el accidente sufrido en 2021, el ex N°1 del mundo reaparece en el torneo que ganó cinco veces.

LA FERIA DEL LIBRO, PREPARADA PARA LAS POLÉMICAS

—cultura

El nuevo director de ese gran encuentro cultural, Ezequiel Martínez, dice que las controversias y el debate son parte de la diversidad y el pluralismo. **Página 25**

LA NACION

JUEVES 7 DE ABRIL DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Cada vez son más cortos los acuerdos salariales por la aceleración de la inflación

GREMIOS. Crece la presión sindical para renegociar las paritarias antes del vencimiento

La aceleración de la inflación desató una carrera salarial con acuerdos paritarios a plazos cada vez más cortos, con pedidos de renegociación antes de tiempo. Andrés Rodríguez, jefe del gremio UPCN y número dos de la CGT, fue uno de los que suscribieron el martes el acuerdo tripartito entre el Gobierno, la UIA y la central obre-

ra para adelantar el calendario de las paritarias. Apenas unas horas después de firmarlo, Rodríguez pidió reabrir las negociaciones.

Los reclamos se multiplicarán. La decena de acuerdos sellados en los primeros meses del año muestran que las paritarias dejaron de ser anuales. En la mayoría se estableció

un 45% de aumento como referencia, con revisiones en septiembre y noviembre. Por ejemplo, el Sindicato de Empleados y Obreros de la Enseñanza Privada logró un 25% por cuatrimestre y podría alcanzar un 75% anual. Comercio, el más numeroso del país, busca replicar el mecanismo con subas trimestrales. **Página 10**

INGRESOS

El ingreso promedio de los argentinos mejoró en 2021, pero es el más bajo desde 2006. **Página 18**

Como una búsqueda del tesoro, pero por gasoil

economía— Osvaldo Recchi sufre como muchos contratistas rurales la falta de gasoil. Para no parar la cosecha, ayer recorrió 600 kilómetros—entre Cañada Seca (Buenos Aires) y Arminda (Santa Fe), ida y vuelta— para comprar 2000 litros del combustible. **Página 19**



Osvaldo Recchi, con sus vehículos; en el camino se le rompieron dos neumáticos del tanque acoplado

Educación. Solo el 16% termina el secundario en tiempo y forma

Un estudio advierte que, por la pandemia, los próximos resultados serán peores. **Página 22**

En la provincia, ya no es obligatorio ir a la escuela ni al trabajo con barbijo

POSPANDEMIA. Rige desde hoy en aulas, espacios laborales y recreativos

A partir de hoy, el uso de barbijo ya no será obligatorio en las escuelas de la provincia de Buenos Aires. Tampoco en los espacios laborales ni recreativos. El único ámbito

en el que se mantendrá la exigencia de tapabocas será en el del transporte público. Así lo anunció ayer el ministro de Salud bonaerense, Nicolás Kreplak, quien fundamen-

tó la flexibilización en la mejora de todos los indicadores epidemiológicos. De esta manera, la provincia se suma a medidas similares ya adoptadas en la ciudad. **Página 24**

LA NACION EN UCRANIA
—DÍA 43—

Regreso a Kiev, la capital que aún respira la guerra

Las tropas invasoras no lograron entrar pese al brutal cerco en el norte

Elisabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

KIEV— Me había ido en la gélida mañana del 3 de marzo. Kiev era una ciudad fantasma, militarizada, en guerra, bajo sitio, donde sonaban todo el tiempo las sirenas que indicaban que había que bajar a los refugios por los bombardeos, donde los estruendos a lo lejos hacían temblar las paredes, donde había miedo a un asalto del Ejército ruso. Volví un mes y tres días después y reina un silencio impactante. Una ciudad que sigue siendo fantasma, militarizada, plagada de checkpoints. Continúa en la página 6

EE.UU. aplica más sanciones a Moscú y suma a las hijas de Putin

Rafael Mathus Ruiz
Página 2

La Argentina votará la suspensión de Rusia del Consejo de DD.HH.

Jaime Rosenberg
Página 8

Sputnik V: errores en un informe argentino

COVID. Un estudio sobre la efectividad de las vacunas Sputnik, AstraZeneca y Sinopharm, firmado por la ministra Carla Vizzotti y publicado en la revista *The Lancet*, recibió duras críticas de un científico italiano por inconsistencias y datos erróneos. "Son errores de tipo en algunos porcentajes", argumentan en Salud. **Página 24**

3ª via opta por união, e nome é prometido para maio

Os partidos União Brasil, MDB, PSDB e Cidadania chegaram a acordo ontem para apresentar candidatura única à Presidência, que prometem anunciar em 18 de maio. A emedebista Simone Tebet e os tucanos João Doria e Eduardo Leite disputam a vaga. Na União Brasil, ainda falta consenso sobre propor Sergio Moro. **Política A9**

Deputados falam em usar armas após fala de Lula

Parlamentares bolsonaristas dizem que reagiriam armados se suas famílias fossem abordadas por militantes, como sugeriu petista caso seja eleito. **A8**

Planalto ofereceu cargo por morte de Adriano, diz irmã

Escuta telefônica feita pela Polícia Civil do RJ há dois anos mostra uma irmã de Adriano da Nóbrega acusando o Palácio do Planalto de oferecer cargos em troca da morte do ex-PM ligado aos Bolsonaro. Procurados, a Presidência e a defesa da irmã não se manifestaram. **Política A6**

Taxa extra para térmicas na conta de luz acaba dia 16

Mercado A15

Ilustrada C1

Centro-oeste nas telas

Cinema da região floresce, critica Brasil de Bolsonaro e ataca conservadorismo

Guia C7

Musicais lotam teatros paulistanos em abril e retomam ritmo pré-pandemia

Turismo C8

Restrições mais leves barateiam viagem internacional, mas passagem encarece

A pandemia em 6.abr

Dados das 20h

População vacinada no Brasil

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **75,2%**

Óbitos Média móvel Em 24 h 196

173 -41,3%*

Total 660.782

Casos -39,1%* (desacelerado)

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

ISSN 1413-5723 33972 9 771414 572050



Obra de uma creche abandonada há vários anos, na região central da cidade de Flexeiras (AL), que recebeu verba para kits de robótica **Pedro Ladeira/Folhapress**

Governo dá R\$ 26 mi em kit de robótica a escolas sem água

Material é vendido por aliados de Lira; instituições no interior de Alagoas carecem de internet e sala

Escolas onde faltam água encanada e acesso à internet no interior de Alagoas receberam R\$ 26 milhões do Ministério da Educação sob Jair Bolsonaro para adquirir kits de robótica de uma empresa de aliados do presidente da Câmara, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), informa Paulo Saldaña.

Lira controla a distribuição de parte das chamadas emendas de relator do Orçamento, fonte dos recursos para os kits. Cada um foi adquirido pelas prefeituras por R\$ 14 mil, valor muito superior ao praticado no mercado e mesmo ao de produtos de ponta internacionais.

A Folha visitou 6 das 7 cidades que receberam a verba. Professores, gestores e moradores listam problemas nas escolas cuja urgência supera a do novo material, ainda que a chegada dos kits os anime. Em Santana do Mundaú, por exemplo, falta computador, crucial no uso dos robôs.

Aliberação da verba federal ocorreu a jato e sem base em critérios técnicos: em quatro casos, em dezembro, e de agosto a outubro nos demais. O dinheiro foi depositado para os municípios em fevereiro e março — há cidades que esperam recursos empenhados há dois anos.

Os kits vêm da Megalic, empresa de Roberta Lins Costa Melo e Edmundo Catunda, cujo filho é o vereador de Maceió João Catunda (PSD), próximo a Lira. Ele disse não ter relação com negócios do pai. Procurados, Lira negou envolvimento, e o MEC não se manifestou. **Política A4**



Vatican Media/Reuters

PAPA CONDENA GUERRA E CITA 'MASSACRE' EM BUTCHA

Francisco segura bandeira ucraniana enviada de Butcha, na qual centenas de civis foram achados mortos nas ruas; ele chamou cidade de 'martirizada' e pediu fim do conflito **Mundo A12**

José Mauro Ferreira Coelho é indicado para chefiar Petrobras

O Ministério das Minas e Energia apresentou ontem o nome de José Mauro Ferreira Coelho para comandar a Petrobras. Ele é presidente do conselho de administração da estatal PPSA (Pré-Sal Petróleo S.A.). **Mercado A14**

Em Santos, mulher fica em situação de escravidão 50 anos

Idosa de 89 anos foi resgatada pela polícia em bairro nobre de Santos (SP), após denúncia de situação de escravidão. Ela teria trabalhado por quase 50 anos como doméstica sem registro, sem salário e sem poder sair. **Mercado A19**

Furtos de comida e de itens de higiene ocupam Supremo

Casos de pessoas que furtam comida ou itens de higiene são maioria nos 3.100 processos sobre princípio de insignificância que passaram pelo STF desde 2010. Crise e fome agravam situação, dizem defensores públicos. **Cotidiano B1**

Macron cai, Le Pen sobe, e cenário na França é incerto

A França vai às urnas domingo, e Emmanuel Macron viu cair de 16 para 5 pontos, em 1 mês, a vantagem sobre a ultradireitista Marine Le Pen. Para analistas, ganho político de Macron com guerra na Ucrânia se desfaz. **Mundo A11**

Flávia Mantovani Brasil pode ir além com refugiados

Com o número de refugiados crescendo, o Brasil pode e deve continuar a recebê-los. Faltam, porém, mais políticas pós-chegada. Imigrantes integrados pagam tributos e geram empregos e riqueza cultural ao país que os acolhe. **Opinião A2**

EDITORIAIS A2

Centrão fortalecido
Sobre expansão de partidos governistas na janela.

Manhã e tarde na escola
Acerca de ensino em tempo integral em São Paulo.

La legislación debe ser aprobada aún en Diputados, donde plantearán cambios

Hacienda quiere tope para la ley que subsidia combustibles

El objetivo de la cartera es evitar que el Fondo para la Estabilización de precios se agote rápidamente. Los USD 100 millones iniciales pueden terminar entre 30 y 45 días.

PÁGINA 8

Corte rechazó chicana del procesado
Fiscalía tiene solo 10 días para presentar acusación contra Cucho

PÁGINA 59

Síntoma de recuperación económica
Compras por tarjeta crecieron un 30% en el primer trimestre

PÁGINA 13

Será procesado por narcotráfico
Supremo de Honduras ratifica extradición de ex presidente a EEUU

PÁGINA 56



Funcionario de Guairá cobró por obra millonaria

Bajo lupa. La Senac confirma que fondos para pabellón de contingencia Covid y planta de oxígeno fueron entregados a un funcionario de Gobernación.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Los reclamos se dirigirán hacia deudores del sector privado
Comuna no menciona si exigirá el pago de deudas a las seccionales

PÁGINA 28

Sería el 17 de diciembre, día que se declarará feriado nacional
Cambiarían fecha de internas para que no coincida con la final del Mundial

PÁGINA 6

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LE FIGARO

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



LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE
LOUISE DE VILMORIN, EDMONDE
CHARLES-ROUX... ELLES ONT SURVOLÉ
LEUR ÉPOQUE **NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT**

BD
LE RETOUR MOUVEMENTÉ
DE GASTON LAGAFFE
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PRÉSIDENTIELLE
Pour Mélenchon,
la place au second
tour « peut
se jouer à peu
de chose » **PAGE 6**

ISRAËL
Bennett n'a plus
de majorité
au Parlement
PAGE 11

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de Samuel Paty
attaquent l'État
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Plongée au cœur
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l'ombre **PAGE 26**

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• La question
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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de mercredi :**
Présidentielle :
approuvez-vous les règles
d'égalité du temps de
parole dans l'audiovisuel ?

OUI 71% NON 29%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 126182

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**

La France doit-elle livrer
des chars à l'Ukraine,
comme le demande
Zelensky ?

DELAF D'APRÈS FRANQUIN © DUPUIS,
DARGAUD-LOMBARD, 2022 - GENYA
SAVILLOV/AFP



« Les crises m'ont forgé, mon énergie est intacte »

Dans un entretien
au « Figaro », le
président-candidat
analyse la situation
politique et précise
son projet.

PAGES 2 ET 3

Ultraviolence : des délinquants de plus en plus jeunes

Agressions, atteintes sexuelles, meurtres... Selon une étude de 2021, 66 140 délinquants de moins de 15 ans ont été impliqués dans des affaires traitées par les parquets. Des mineurs

qui, parfois, sont âgés de 8 à 12 ans. Un fléau que connaissent l'Italie, avec les « baby gangs », et le Danemark, qui a mis en place des mesures ciblées.

PAGES 12, 13 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Kiev panse ses plaies et revient lentement à une vie normale

La vie reprend ses droits dans la capitale ukrainienne, tandis que les forces russes ont été repoussées de ses faubourgs, laissant derrière elles un sinistre cortège de victimes civiles,

comme à Boutcha ou Irpin. Commerces, cafés, bars et restaurants rouvrent leurs portes alors que la population commence à revenir progressivement. **PAGES 8 À 10**

ÉDITORIAL par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@lefigaro.fr

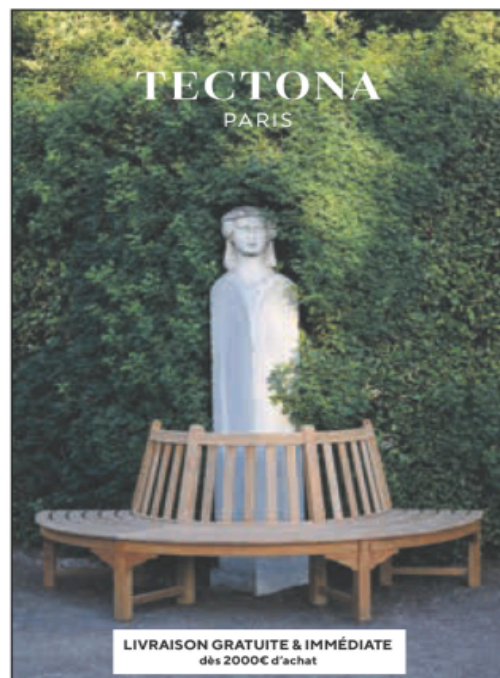
Les nouvelles barbaries

Qu'il est loin, le temps où les candidats à la présidentielle s'affrontaient sur les chiffres de la délinquance des mineurs ! L'explosion des violences et le rajeunissement de leurs auteurs - deux mouvements intimement liés - ne sont plus guère sérieusement contestés. Et pour cause : jour après jour, la chronique des faits divers révèle l'inimaginable : collégiennes massacrées par une famille aux ciseaux, meurtres entre jeunes adolescents, viols perpétrés au sortir de l'enfance, batailles de bandes à coups de barres de fer... des drames d'une sauvagerie telle qu'elle reste inconcevable à la conscience du commun des mortels.

Sortie du débat, la barbarie est désormais entrée dans la culture : la violence des jeunes adolescents, ce ne sont pas les politiques, ni les magistrats, mais le cinéma qui en parle le mieux aujourd'hui : coup sur coup *Les Misérables*, puis *Bac nord*, deux films au succès retentissant, se sont attachés à décrire l'affrontement entre les adolescents et les forces de l'ordre dans les quartiers gangrenés par les trafics. Épousant des partis pris opposés (défense des trafiquants pour le premier, des policiers pour le second...), les deux œuvres disent

beaucoup du même phénomène de société, qui dépasse les banlieues : omniprésence d'une violence sans limite qui ruisselle des grands jusqu'aux plus petits, dont elle dévore les restes d'enfance, abdication des familles et capitulation de l'école. Comment en est-on arrivé là ? Plusieurs décennies durant, la réforme de la justice des mineurs s'est embourbée dans de stériles vitupérations idéologiques contre les soi-disant idées « sécuritaires », si bien que les textes de 2022 restent largement inspirés par la situation de... 1945 - et se montrent inopérants face aux enjeux du monde contemporain. Laxisme judiciaire, mais aussi affaiblissement de toute autorité, explosion des structures familiales, multiculturalisme victimaire, emprise des réseaux sociaux, pleins de mondes irréels et de flots pornographiques, sur les consciences abandonnées par l'école : dans chacune de ces fractures germe une graine de cette violence mortifère dont rien ensuite ne semble entraver la croissance. C'est pourquoi on ne peut que regretter amèrement l'occasion manquée qu'a été la campagne, et la faiblesse des projets des candidats sur la question, centrale, impérieuse, de l'éducation. ■

Laxisme judiciaire



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PM's push for nuclear power splits Tories and angers green groups

Rob Davies
Rowena Mason

Boris Johnson will today put nuclear energy at the heart of the UK's new energy strategy – but ministers have refused to set targets for onshore wind and vowed to continue the exploitation of North Sea oil and gas. Amid deep divisions among senior Conservatives, the strategy will enrage environmentalists who

say the government's plans are in defiance of its own net zero targets and neglect alternative measures experts say would provide much quicker relief from high energy bills.

Johnson will launch the plan today after a period of intense political wrangling set against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has convulsed energy markets and sent home energy bills rocketing.

Whitehall sources said rows over the strategy between No 10, the

Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy continued right up until the eve of publication, with an insider describing the process as chaos.

The cabinet eventually agreed atomic energy would form the backbone of the strategy, with up to eight new reactors planned.

Targets for onshore wind and solar power generation will also be raised, in a push for 95% of Great Britain's electricity to come from domestic

'This is central to weaning Britain off expensive fossil fuels, which are subject to volatile gas prices'

Boris Johnson
Prime minister

renewable energy sources by 2030. But the plans risk infuriating environmental campaigners, after the opportunity to remove barriers to more onshore wind farms appeared to fall victim to Tory in-fighting, new North Sea drilling won the government's blessing and ministers appeared open to fracking.

Opposition parties were scathing about the strategy, with two former energy secretaries from Labour and the Liberal



US targets daughters of Putin with fresh sanctions

Jennifer Rankin Brussels
David Smith Washington

The US has announced fresh sanctions targeting two daughters of Vladimir Putin, as well as Russia's biggest public and private banks, as part of a common western effort to starve Putin's war machine of funds.

The sanctions targeting Maria Vorontsova and Katerina Tikhonova, two adult daughters of Putin's with his former wife Lyudmila Shkrebnova, were announced by the White

▲ Putin in the 90s with his daughters and his former wife, Lyudmila
PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSIAN ARCHIVES/ZUMA

House, as the UK announced further economic sanctions and restrictions on eight oligarchs, while the EU wrangled over banning Russian coal.

The US said "full blocking" sanctions would also be imposed on foreign minister Sergei Lavrov's wife and daughter and members of Russia's security council including former president and prime minister Dmitry Medvedev.

"These individuals have enriched themselves at the expense of the Russian people," the administration said. "Some of them are responsible for providing the support necessary to underpin Putin's war on Ukraine. This action cuts them off from the US financial system and freezes any assets they hold in the United States."

"We believe that many of Putin's assets are hidden with family members, and that's why we're targeting them," a senior US official told reporters, referring to the two daughters. The US

Sunak's wife is registered as non-dom for UK tax

Rupert Neate

Rishi Sunak's multi-millionaire wife claims non-domicile status, it has emerged, which would allow her to save millions of pounds in tax on dividends collected from her family's IT business empire.

Akshata Murthy, who receives about £11.5m in annual dividends from her stake in the Indian IT services company Infosys, declares non-dom status, a scheme that allows people to avoid tax on foreign earnings.

Murthy, the daughter of Infosys's billionaire founder, owns a 0.93% stake in the tech firm, worth approximately £690m. The company's most recent accounts suggest that Murthy's stake would have yielded her £11.6m in dividend payments in the last tax year.

Under UK tax laws, Murthy's status as a non-dom would mean she would not have had to pay tax on the dividend payment from overseas companies. Infosys is headquartered in Bengaluru, India, and listed on the Indian and New York stock exchanges. By contrast, UK resident taxpayers pay a 38.1% tax on dividend payouts.

A spokeswoman for Murthy said: "Akshata Murthy is a citizen of India, the country of her birth and parent's home. India