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# WSJ

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



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### What's News

#### World-Wide

**A** Russian missile attack on a train station in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk killed at least 52 people and injured more than 100 trying to flee the eastern Donbas region, Ukrainian authorities said, in one of the largest single attacks on evacuees since the conflict began. **A1, A5-7**

◆ **A federal jury found** two men not guilty and deadlocked on two others in a trial accusing the four of conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Whitmer. **A3**

◆ **Far-right leader Marine Le Pen** is tapping public frustration over energy and food prices to close in on French President Macron before voters head to the polls on Sunday. **A8**

◆ **A test-taking whiz** was sentenced to four months in prison and a former USC water polo coach was found guilty in the sprawling admissions-fraud case known as Varsity Blues. **A3**

◆ **Will Smith was banned** from attending Oscars ceremonies for the next 10 years for slapping Chris Rock, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said. **A3**

#### Business & Finance

◆ **Roger Ng**, a former Goldman Sachs banker, was convicted of helping to plunder billions of dollars from Malaysia's 1MDB sovereign-wealth fund in one of the world's largest financial scandals. **A1**

◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** posted losses for the week, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow industrials down 1.3%, 3.9% and 0.3%, respectively, while investors sold off government bonds. **B1**

◆ **Starbucks said** it is bringing aboard a new senior executive specialized in worker relations as more baristas at the coffee chain's cafes this week voted to unionize. **B1**

◆ **Spirit Airlines said** it would entertain JetBlue's unsolicited \$3.6 billion bid to buy the carrier and start talks with its new suitor. **B3**

◆ **Private astronauts** blasted off on a SpaceX rocket for a mission to the International Space Station arranged by Axiom Space. **B3**

◆ **Twitter said** it would host a town hall at which employees could question Musk, the company's newest director and largest shareholder. **B3**

#### NOONAN Can Anyone Tame Big Tech? **A13**

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Bodies were covered after Friday's attack on a train station in Kramatorsk. People from across eastern Ukraine had gathered at the station to wait for evacuation after Ukrainian officials warned of a renewed Russian offensive in Donbas.

## Dire Message From Mariupol: 'Help, SOS, We're in Trouble'

By DAN FROSCH  
AND IAN LOVETT

The message came from an unfamiliar Ukrainian number while Anastassia Vitkovitsky and her family were drinking tea in their Toronto home: "Help, SOS, we're in trouble."

It was from her cousin, Katya Aksenko, in the city of Mariupol, whom no one had been able to reach for nearly a week. Russian troops were shelling Ms. Aksenko's home, the message said. She and her parents were hiding in a basement bomb shelter. With no power or

cell service, she'd managed to reach a friend in Ukraine, whom she begged to send word to her family in Canada. Now at least Ms. Vitkovitsky knew her cousin was alive. But where? And how, exactly, to help her?

Over the next month, the 27-year-old Ms. Vitkovitsky, along

with Ms. Aksenko's friends in Ukraine, launched a frantic effort to find her cousin. They spoke to volunteers running civilian rescue operations in Mariupol. They plastered her information across social media. They caught glimpses of her

Please turn to page A6

## Former Goldman Banker Convicted

By JAMES FANELLI

A former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. banker was convicted Friday of helping to plunder billions of dollars from a Malaysian sovereign-wealth fund in one of the world's largest financial scandals.

After deliberating over the course of four days, a federal jury in New York found Roger Ng guilty of conspiring to launder money and bribe officials in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Ng was also convicted of violating Goldman's internal accounting controls under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The verdict capped a nearly two-month trial and delivered a win to the Justice Department in its yearslong push to hold individuals accountable for the looting of 1Malaysia Development Bhd., a state-controlled economic development company known as 1MDB.

The global scandal has been a black mark for Goldman and led to the conviction of a former prime minister in a Malaysian court.

Federal prosecutors accused Mr. Ng of conspiring with a well-connected financier and a former Goldman partner to pay off officials to win the Wall Street bank lucrative business deals with 1MDB. Goldman raised \$6.5 billion in bond offerings for 1MDB in 2012 and

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## EXCHANGE



### 'NEW COLLAR'

Low-wage workers are jumping into tech jobs. College degrees are optional.

B1

## Jeff Koons Launches A Moonshot

Artists are racing to exhibit works on lunar surface

By KELLY CROW

Jeff Koons is in a race to be the first man to display his art on the moon, an exhibit that could net him a fortune.

Mr. Koons, the world's most-expensive living artist, is known for creating mirrored steel sculptures evoking balloon animals that have sold for as much as \$91 million. Now, the artist has made an

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## Surging Interest Rates Start To Ripple Through Economy

The market is finally getting the message that the era of cheap money is ending.

Just look at mortgage rates. At the beginning of 2022, the average interest rate on a 30-year mortgage hovered above 3%. Today it stands at 4.72%, according to Freddie Mac. That translates into sharply

By Orla McCaffrey,  
Sam Goldfarb  
and AnnaMaria  
Andriotti

higher borrowing costs for Americans looking to buy a home—and it is only the beginning.

For the better part of the past 15 years, households and businesses paid very little to borrow. Americans could get cars and homes and the appliances to fill them at interest rates in the low single digits. Companies, especially profitable ones, could practically

Please turn to page A10

## New Virus Outbreak Corners China's Xi

After two years of relying on broad, hard-edged lockdowns to control Covid-19, Chinese leader Xi Jinping tried something new in Shanghai.

By Lingling Wei,  
Stella Yifan Xie  
and Natasha Khan

Mindful of the economic toll and public anger from China's zero-Covid strategy, Mr. Xi gave the city leeway to tackle local outbreaks, people close to the government's decision-making said. The idea was to let Shanghai target only affected neighborhoods with lockdowns. If successful, the approach would offer a template for coexisting with the virus in the years ahead.

Instead, China's most populous city saw Covid-19 cases surge by nearly five times

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## How to become a tech titan

## Seven lessons on launching a start-up

LIFE & ARTS

# Fifty dead after missile strike on railway station in Ukraine town

◆ Eastern hub of Kramatorsk hit ◆ Russia denies involvement ◆ EU increases military aid

FT REPORTERS

Russian missiles killed dozens of people at a railway station yesterday in one of the deadliest attacks in Ukraine's six-week war, hitting a hub in the east of the country where residents were gathering to flee a renewed Moscow offensive.

At least 50 people were killed, including five children, at the station in Kramatorsk and about 100 were injured, the Donetsk administration said. "Thousands of people were at the station during the missile strike, as residents of Donetsk province are being evacuated to safer regions of Ukraine," said Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the region's military-civilian administration.

The attack came as Ukraine braced itself for Moscow to step up assaults on areas it does not control in the Donbas region — comprised of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces — having largely withdrawn from territory north of Kyiv. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the station was hit by Russian tactical ballistic missiles. "This evil has no bounds," he added.

Charles Michel, president of the European Council, described the attack as "horrifying", adding that more sanctions against Russia were needed.

The bloc is already discussing new measures, having agreed a package this week targeting Russian coal exports and dozens of oligarchs after the mass killing of civilians in Bucha. The EU and UK yesterday announced extra funding for military supplies to Ukraine. The bloc, which yesterday reopened its represen-



Police in Kramatorsk examine the remains of a rocket bearing the Russian words 'For our children'

Fabrizio Sennar/AFR via Getty Images

### Inside

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► Big Read: Holding Russia to account Page 6

► The horror of Kramatorsk, FT View, Page 8

► Companies Page 10

tation office in Kyiv, is increasing funds by €500mn to a total of €1.5bn.

"It is impressive to witness here first-hand that the government of Ukraine is fully functioning, even under the very difficult circumstances," said the EU's high representative Josep Borrell on a visit to Kyiv with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

The UK will also boost military support to Ukraine, through €100mn worth of equipment including Starstreak anti-aircraft missiles and 800 anti-tank missiles. More helmets and body armour will also be sent.

Russia's invasion had struck at "the

very foundations of the security of Europe", British prime minister Boris Johnson said during a joint press conference with Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor. "The Europe we knew just six weeks ago no longer exists."

Johnson condemned the "unconscionable" attacks of civilians fleeing from Kramatorsk train station, and said the UK and Germany shared a sense of "horror and revulsion" at the scale of the brutality being unleashed.

In Kramatorsk, witnesses recalled hearing two explosions after missiles hit the station as people were waiting to board a train. Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's

foreign minister, called the attack a "deliberate slaughter". He added: "We will bring each war criminal to justice."

Russia's defence ministry initially said that it had used rockets to attack three Ukrainian railway stations hosting "Ukrainian reserves' armaments and military equipment".

But after the scale of the civilian casualties became clear, it denied involvement in the attack, saying it had "nothing to do with reality". Reporting by Andres Schipani in Dnipro, Roman Olshchuk in Bucha, Max Seddon in Riga, Henry Fox in Brussels and Jasmine Cameron-Chillesse in London

## The meaning of mushrooms

Inside the secret world of fungi

LIFE & ARTS



## Back to the noughties

Katie Martin on forex markets

THE LONG VIEW



## Rural idylls

Countryside living special

HOUSE & HOME



## Art of Fashion

British brands

SEPARATE MAGAZINE



## Apathy threatens to play big role in French elections

Public disillusionment before the first round of voting in national elections has given far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, above, her best shot at taking the French presidency. Such a result would upturn French politics, echoing the anti-establishment triumphs of the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's win as US president. Abstinence is forecast to be as high as 30 per cent, which makes tomorrow's result difficult to predict.

Anger and apathy ► PAGE 5  
Sylvie Kauffmann ► PAGE 9

# Ex-Goldman banker Ng faces up to 30 years in jail after 1MDB guilty verdict

STEFANIA PALMA — WASHINGTON

A US jury has convicted former Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng in connection with the multimillion-dollar 1MDB embezzlement, handing prosecutors a victory in a scandal that has reverberated from Malaysia to Wall Street.

After a trial lasting nearly two months, and four days of deliberation, jurors yesterday found Ng, 49, guilty on all three counts, including conspiring to violate US anti-bribery laws and conspiring to launder money. He faces up to 30 years in prison.

The conviction is a landmark win for US authorities who have dedicated years to bringing a case in connection with the fraud, in which the US Department of Justice alleges \$4.5bn was misappropriated from the Malaysian state investment fund.

Ng, his former boss Tim Leissner and Malaysian financier Jho Low were all charged by the DoJ. Leissner has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing, while Low maintains his innocence and remains at large.

Kenneth Polite, head of the DoJ's criminal division, said Ng had "participated in a massive and unprecedented bribery and money laundering scheme" that included the corruption of senior officials in Malaysia and Abu Dhabi as well as money laundering in the US.

The government argued that Ng was a critical link to 1MDB and Low.

As Goldman's former head of investment banking in Malaysia and later as a member of the bank's securities division in Asia, Ng was involved in the bank's arrangement of 1MDB bond deals.

The Wall Street bank arranged three transactions in 2012 and 2013 that

raised approximately \$6.5bn, a chunk of which was misappropriated to pay bribes to officials in Malaysia and Abu Dhabi, according to US authorities.

The stolen funds were used to buy expensive art, luxury real estate and even to finance *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the Oscar-nominated film on financial malfeasance, among other things.

The government accused Ng, who did not testify during his trial, of pocketing about \$35mn in stolen 1MDB funds and trying to cover his tracks by eliminating entire email accounts.

Marc Agnifilo, Ng's lawyer, argued his client had nothing to do with the payment, which he said was linked to an unrelated investment involving his wife.

The trial was underpinned by a tense showdown between Ng and Leissner, an ex-Goldman partner who became the government's star witness in Ng's trial.

## World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Apr 8	prev	%chg		Pair	Apr 8	Prev				price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4910.38	4900.21	0.24		\$ per €	1.067	1.061			US Gov 10 yr	83.38	2.86	0.06	
Nasdaq Composite	13826.47	13807.30	-0.51		\$ per £	1.301	1.302			UK Gov 10 yr	123.43	1.75	0.03	
Dow Jones Ind	34835.49	34803.57	0.73		€ per €	0.806	0.805			Ger Gov 10 yr	93.56	0.70	0.02	
FTSEurofirst 300	1805.51	1790.89	1.38		¥ per \$	124.405	123.925			Japan 10 yr	99.68	0.23	-0.01	
Euro Stoxx 50	3951.84	3902.61	1.31		¥ per €	161.832	161.926			US Gov 30 yr	91.46	2.72	0.02	
FTSE 100	7669.56	7654.81	1.96		Sfr per €	1.016	1.018			Ger Gov 2 yr	100.04	0.06	0.07	
FTSE All-Share	4258.23	4190.46	1.43											
CAC 40	6548.22	6461.68	1.34											
Xetra Dax	14263.67	14078.15	1.45											
Nikkei	29986.88	29886.57	0.36											
Hang Seng	21872.01	21806.98	0.29											
MSCI World	3074.09	3072.24	0.06											
MSCI EM	1128.06	1142.50	-1.44											
MSCI ACWI	762.39	763.14	-0.11											
FT Wilshire 2500	5883.71	5844.85	0.32											
FT Wilshire 5000	45796.39	45648.49	0.31											

COMMODITIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Apr 8	prev	%chg			price	yield	chg	
Oil WTI \$	90.40	90.03	0.58						
Oil Brent \$	101.03	100.58	0.45						
Gold \$	1932.40	1933.15	0.12						

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## ATTACK ON TRAIN STATION LEAVES SCORES DEAD



At least 50 were killed on Friday when a missile hit a railway station in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, that was being used for evacuations.

### Platforms Were Packed With Crowds on the Run From Eastern Ukraine

By MEGAN SPECIA and MICHAEL LEVENSON

One moment, they were packed onto the platforms at the Kramatorsk train station, hundreds of women, children and old people, heeding the pleas of Ukrainian officials imploring them to flee ahead of a feared Russian onslaught.

The next moment, death rained from the air.

At least 50 people were killed and many more wounded in a missile assault on Friday morning that left bodies and luggage scattered on the ground and turned the Kramatorsk station into the site of another atrocity in the six-week-old war.

"There are just children!" one woman cried in a video from the aftermath.

The missile struck as officials in Kramatorsk and other cities in eastern Ukraine had been warning civilians to leave before Russian forces mount what is expected to be a major push into the region, where their troops have been regrouping after withdrawing from areas around Kyiv, the capital.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said that Russia had hit the station with what he identified as a Tochka-U short-range ballistic missile as "thousands of peaceful Ukrainians were waiting to be evacuated."

"Lacking the strength and courage to stand up to us on the battlefield, they are cynically destroying the civilian population," Mr. Zelensky said. "This is an evil

that has no limits. And if it is not punished, it will never stop."

Russian officials, denying responsibility, said a Ukrainian battalion had fired the missile in what they called a "provocation." The Russian Defense Ministry said that Tochka-U missiles are only used by the Ukrainian armed forces and that Russian troops had not made any strikes against Kramatorsk on Friday.

A senior Pentagon official said the United States believed Russian forces had fired the missile. "They originally claimed a successful strike and then only retracted it when there were reports of civilian casualties," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a confidential intelligence assessment.

The train station was hit as a top European Union delegation was visiting Mr. Zelensky's government, and the images of yet another mass killing provoked new Western outrage.

Whether one or more missiles struck the station was not immediately clear, and there was no way to independently verify the origin of the attack. Several parked cars were also hit, catching fire and turning into charred hulks. The waiting area was strewn with bodies and belongings.

After the strike, the Ukrainian police inspected the remains of a large rocket next to the train station with the words "for our children."

Continued on Page A8

### Chernobyl as Staging Ground? Russians Ignored Warnings.

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

CHERNOBYL, Ukraine — As the staging ground for an assault on the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, one of the most toxic places on earth, was probably not the best choice. But that did not seem to bother the Russian generals who took over the site in the early stages of the war.

"We told them not to do it, that it was dangerous, but they ignored us," Valeriy Simyonyov, the chief safety engineer for the Chernobyl nuclear site, said in an interview.

Apparently undeterred by safety concerns, the Russian forces tramped about the grounds with bulldozers and tanks, digging trenches and bunkers — and exposing themselves to potentially harmful doses of radiation lingering beneath the surface.

In a visit to the recently liberated nuclear station, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in

1986, wind blew swirls of dust along the roads, and scenes of disregard for safety were everywhere, though Ukrainian nuclear officials say no major radiation leak was triggered by Russia's monthlong military occupation.

At just one site of extensive trenching a few hundred yards outside the town of Chernobyl, the Russian army had dug a maze of sunken walkways and bunkers. An abandoned armored personnel carrier sat nearby.

The soldiers had apparently camped out for weeks in the radioactive forest. While international nuclear safety experts say they have not confirmed any cases of radiation sickness among the soldiers, the cancers and other potential health problems associated with radiation exposure might not develop until decades later.

Continued on Page A6

### Danger From Above and Below As Land Mines Blanket Towns

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF and JOHN ISMAY

BEZRUKY, Ukraine — When Sergiy, a 47-year-old construction worker, got out of bed Sunday morning in this small town in northeastern Ukraine, he discovered a chilling new hazard in a war filled with them: He had woken up in a minefield.

He had heard a rocket land near his home around 1 in the morning but thought little of it. There had been plenty of rockets since Russian forces invaded in late February. The thuds, crumps and blasts had become a cruel but familiar soundtrack to those who stayed behind, along with the acidic smell the weapons left in the air.

But what landed in his yard was a new weapon for the town's residents to add to their growing lexicon of destruction: they knew the Smerch, the Grad, the Hurricane — and now they were introduced to the PTM-IS land mine, a type of scatterable munition.

"Nobody understood what it was," said Sergiy, declining to provide his surname out of fear of retribution. The weapons roar in like any rocket, but instead of exploding instantly, they eject up to two dozen mines that explode at intervals, parceling out death in the hours afterward.

Since the start of the invasion, Russia has made clear that it is willing to mete out violence and destruction to achieve its aims, often indiscriminately. It has launched cruise missiles, sent in tanks and fired mortars, artillery and rockets. Now it has also turned to something less obvious in appearance, but just as brutal.

These scatterable mines, banned under some interpretations of international law and never officially recorded during this war, have appeared only sparingly in Bezruky and elsewhere in

Continued on Page A9

### No Convictions for Men Accused Of Plotting to Kidnap a Governor

By MITCH SMITH

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — It was one of the country's highest-profile domestic terrorism cases: An alleged plot to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, eliminate her security detail and perhaps touch off a civil war. But after a trial in which prosecutors portrayed the four defendants as threats to democracy, jurors on Friday acquitted two of the men and said they were unable to reach verdicts for the two others.

The result was a major blow to the Justice Department, which during the Biden administration has made domestic terrorism one of its top priorities in the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

The defendants in the Michigan trial were arrested weeks before the 2020 election, and the case was seen by some as revealing increasingly combative discourse

### In Michigan, a Setback to U.S. Investigations of Domestic Terror

among certain right-wing groups. But a series of missteps during the investigation, and the eventual failure to win any convictions against the men who went to trial, raises questions about the ability of federal law enforcement, when it infiltrates right-wing groups, to develop convincing cases without infringing on the rights to speak freely and own weapons.

Prosecutors built their case on a trove of audio recordings and encrypted texts from 2020 in which some of the men vented about Covid-19 restrictions, spoke about political violence and debated the best way to kidnap Ms. Whitmer, a Democrat, from her vacation home in northern Michigan.

Yet the very existence of those recordings and text conversations underscored defense lawyers' theory of the case: that the supposed plot had been conceived and nudged ahead by a network of F.B.I. agents and informants who preyed on the worst instincts of their loose-lipped targets. The defense lawyers described the men on trial as big talkers who were never going to commit any kidnapping.

"Words hurt you? Words scare you?" Daniel Harris, who was acquitted of all the charges against him, had said when he took the stand in his own defense. Mr. Har-

Continued on Page A15

### D.A. Mired in Politics He Had Hoped to Dodge

By JONAH E. BROWWICH

In his first three months as the Manhattan district attorney, Alvin L. Bragg had an unusual number of bad days. Feb. 23 was among the worst.

That day, the two prosecutors leading his office's inquiry into Donald J. Trump resigned over a disagreement about whether to seek criminal charges against the former president. After one of the prosecutors' resignation letters leaked, an uproar ensued. Soon, Mr. Bragg, a Democrat, was being

### Bragg Trying to Move Beyond Crisis-Filled First Months in Job

attacked by many in his own party and pilloried by late night comedians.

For Mr. Bragg, it was just the latest crisis: He had already been the subject of intense criticism from the other side of the political spectrum, after a memo he re-

leased in his first days on the job announced, in complex legalese, that the office would cease to seek jail and prison time for all but the most serious crimes.

Between the backlash to the memo and the fallout from the Trump investigation, Mr. Bragg managed, in less than 12 weeks, an unlikely feat: He united The New York Post's editorial board and the viewers of MSNBC in a posture of mutual disdain. Rarely has a politician become a piñata so quickly.

The two instances have defined

Continued on Page A14

### Rally Planner Will Cooperate In Riot Inquiry

By ALAN FEUER

Ali Alexander, a prominent organizer of pro-Trump events after the 2020 election, has agreed to cooperate with the Justice Department's investigation of the attack on the Capitol last year, the first high-profile political figure known to have offered assistance to the government's newly expanded criminal inquiry.

Speaking through a lawyer, Mr. Alexander said on Friday that he had recently received a subpoena from a federal grand jury that is seeking information on several broad categories of people connected to pro-Trump rallies that took place in Washington after the election.

In a statement from the lawyer, Mr. Alexander said he was taking "a cooperative posture" with the Justice Department's investigation but did not know what useful information he could give. He also disavowed anyone who took part in or planned violence on Jan. 6.

While it remains unclear what Mr. Alexander might tell the grand jury, he was intimately involved in the sprawling effort to mount political protests challenging the results of the election, and had contacts with other organizers, extremist groups, members of Congress and, according to the House committee investigating Jan. 6, White House officials during the period after Election Day.

The grand jury empaneled by federal prosecutors is looking into a wide range of issues surround-

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Gov. Gretchen Whitmer



### The Next Justice

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson reveled in a historic moment at the White House on Friday. Page A14.

#### NATIONAL A13-20

##### 10-Year Ban From the Oscars

Will Smith, this year's best actor, can still be nominated for an Academy Award but cannot attend the ceremony after slapping Chris Rock. PAGE A20

##### Admissions Scandal Verdict

Jovan Vavic, the former water polo coach at U.S.C., faces a prison sentence for taking bribes to disguise wealthy applicants as athletic recruits. PAGE A20

#### INTERNATIONAL A4-12

##### London Killer Gets Life in Jail

The murder of a schoolteacher, Sabina Nessa, 28, stoked fears that the city's police were failing to address violence against women. PAGE A12

#### SPORTS B7-11

##### Yankees Lose One, Win One

After Aaron Judge spurned a contract extension worth over \$213 million, his team beat the Red Sox in the season opener, Tyler Kepner writes. PAGE B9

#### OPINION A22-23

##### Charles M. Blow

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0 354 613 9





MARINA ASTAFIEVA, top, sits with other patients in a hospital shelter serving as a maternity ward in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Photographs by MARCUS YAM, Los Angeles Times

## Dozens dead in train station attack

Ukrainian officials blame Russia for a missile strike on civilians trying to flee.

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL, HENRY CHU AND KATE LINTHICUM

KYIV, Ukraine — Dozens of civilians trying to escape eastern Ukraine were killed Friday in a Russian missile strike on a crowded train station, according to Ukrainian officials, who warned that they expected to uncover more evidence of war crimes in parts of the country previously controlled by Russian troops. Ukraine said a railway station in the city of Kramatorsk where thousands of people had gathered to try to escape the war-torn east was hit by a Russian rocket Friday morning. At least 52 people were killed — including several children — and about 100 others were injured, officials said.

Photos posted on Telegram by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy showed bodies strewn across the train platform alongside suitcases, stuffed animals and a baby carriage. In recent days, officials had been urging civilians to flee Kramatorsk and other parts of eastern Ukraine, where Russia has begun regrouping its forces after they failed to conquer the capital, Kyiv.

The Kremlin denied responsibility for Friday's attack but as its troops prepare to try to win more territory in an area already partially controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, the strike on the train station stirred fears that more [See Ukraine, A4]

### COLUMN ONE

## Twists of faith during COVID

Three women's spiritual journeys took them through the pandemic, with vastly different outcomes.

BY MARISA GERBER

One roamed for hours through an oak preserve asking God to speak to her through the silence.

Another spent her days in meditation, using each exhale to send relief to her son, who had, by then, slipped out of consciousness. Not long before, a third woman had awakened in the middle of the night to what became a terrifying, recurring dream about descending into hell.

Each woman — members of three generations — went through a spiritual journey that had been sparked, sped up or heightened by the pandemic.

The last two years have transformed the stability of our families, our jobs and our collective understanding of science and sacrifice. But, for many of us, COVID-19's reach also rewired something more elemental: our faith.

A Pew survey conducted early in the pandemic found nearly 3 in 10 Americans said their religious faith had become stronger since the coronavirus outbreak.

For others, this time has fundamentally changed their place within their religious traditions or led them to question long-held beliefs altogether — processes of introspection and transfiguration that can be, at once, painful and deeply fruitful.

"Suffering," one of the women said, "sometimes forces us to look at the gold mine we're sitting on."

### The pastor

During the first fall of the pandemic, as she was clawing her way through a blind depression, Esther Loewen told her wife, Paige, something she'd long feared would end both her marriage and her career as a Seventh-Day Adventist [See Faith, A12]

## As war rages, lives begin

Seeking safety, Ukrainian women give birth in hospital shelter

BY MARCUS YAM AND LAURA KING

KHARKIV, Ukraine — While death stalks their city, a dozen Ukrainian women wait to bring new life into the world.

In an underground hospital shelter turned makeshift maternity ward in this battered northeastern city, one heavily pregnant young woman perches on the edge of her bed, unable to be still, to rest.

Another curls on her side, tenderly cradling her swollen abdomen. Yet another, only 19, scrolls through her phone for updates on what's happening in the blast-ravaged streets above.

In Kharkiv, one of the most relentlessly bombed [See Hospital, A4]



"HOW COULD we leave people behind?" said the maternity ward supervisor. "We gave our oath to our jobs, and we can't abandon our patients."



BRUSDAR GRATEROL was among four relievers who combined to strike out seven batters in an opening-day 5-3 win over Colorado.

## Dodgers easily meet mile-high expectations

BILL PLASCHKE REPORTING FROM DENVER

Gavin Lux flew. Walker Buehler spun. Freddie Freeman battled. The bullpen blasted.

Altitude met attitude Friday as the swaggering Dodgers began the 2022 season with a wry Rocky Mountain smile.

"They're going to be good. They're going to be real good."

On a sunny afternoon at Coors Field, the Dodgers flexed every inch of their massive and versatile muscle to eventually smother the Colorado Rockies 5-3 in an opening-day victory with an ending that spoke of a belief.

With two out and the Rockies' Charlie Blackmon standing on second base, new Dodgers closer Craig Kimbrel struck out Kris [See Plaschke, A8]



## Academy bans Will Smith

BY JOSH ROTTENBERG AND GLENN WHIPP

Nearly two weeks after Will Smith slapped Chris Rock at the Oscars over a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Friday it is forbidding Smith from attending any academy events, including the Oscars, for 10 years.

"This action we are taking today in response to Will Smith's behavior is a step toward a larger goal of protecting the safety of our performers and guests, and restoring trust in the academy," President David Rubin and CEO Dawn Hudson said in an open letter to members following a meeting of the organization's 54-member board. "We also hope this can begin a time of healing and restoration for all involved and impacted."

Smith, 53, quickly issued a statement Friday that read: "I accept and respect the academy's decision."

The news comes one week after Smith — who went on to win the lead actor Oscar less than an hour after striking Rock — resigned from the academy, calling his actions "shocking, painful, and inexcusable." By resigning, Smith pre-empted [See Smith, A10]

## Will merger restore Warner Bros.' glory?

BY MEG JAMES

Discovery Inc. Chief Executive David Zaslav revealed his penchant for Hollywood nostalgia two years ago, buying the Beverly Hills home of the late movie producer Robert Evans.

There, Evans green-lit such classics as "The Godfather" and "Chinatown" and hosted raging parties for the likes of Jack Nicholson, Warren Beatty and Ali MacGraw.

But the shrine to the halcyon days of movie-making was in decay. Statues were cracked and toppled, vegetation ran wild and the pool house had long ago burned down. Undeterred, Zaslav paid

\$16 million for the 1.3-acre estate and plunged into a two-plus-year renovation.

Now Zaslav is embarking on a much bigger and more challenging restoration: Bringing WarnerMedia and its Burbank studio back to former glory after nearly four years of AT&T ownership.

Cable programming giant Discovery on Friday completed its \$43-billion takeover of WarnerMedia from the Dallas telecommunications firm, creating one of the world's largest entertainment companies, Warner Bros. Discovery Inc.

The marriage combines WarnerMedia's premium assets, including HBO, CNN, Cartoon Network, TBS [See Warner Bros., A7]

### COVID cases rise at schools

The number of K-12 infections climbs in L.A. County as many campuses lift mask orders. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Lockdown tests policy in China

An outbreak in Shanghai is fueling frustration over the country's "zero-tolerance" restrictions. WORLD, A3

### Biden celebrates Jackson's ascent

President, vice president mark the historic Supreme Court confirmation. NATION, A6

### Weather

Sunny, not as warm. L.A. Basin: 80/58. B8





# The Washington Post

Papers may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington



Shower 57/40 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 55/41 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

50 11 12 13 14 SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022 • B2

## 50 dead after attack on Ukraine train station

Ordinary civilians seize narrative of war, write history in real time

BY HANNAH ALLAM

The images stream by like a dystopian slide show: Ukrainian farmers pulling abandoned Russian tanks from black soil. Bodies and buildings shredded in airstrikes. A young woman who jokes that bunker food is the pinnacle of fine dining. The stricken faces of refugees.

The scenes are shared online by ordinary Ukrainians who, like civilians in other conflicts of the digital age, provide visceral glimpses of life under siege, especially in areas that are inaccessible to journalists and aid workers. The first sense of the horrors in Bucha, the Kyiv suburb Russian forces withdrew from last week, came via shaky footage recorded as civilians emerged from hiding with the return of Ukrainian troops.

Such accounts, international observers say, have helped shape the Western public's understanding of the Russian invasion as a nightmarish war of attrition, with Moscow facing setbacks against a tough resistance. That narrative draws outrage, which in turn pressures allies to supply Ukraine with weapons that could tip the scale militarily, or at least strengthen Kyiv's negotiating hand in peace talks.

"We first saw it in the war in Syria, and in 2014 in Gaza, and we're seeing it in Ukraine right now. The power dynamic has shifted," said Olga Boichuk, a lecturer and digital war scholar at the University of Sydney in Australia. "In a way, militaries have lost that dominance in framing the war, and right now the civilians are largely determining how these events will go down in history."

SEE NARRATIVE ON A12

**Grim accounting:** Officials fan out in Bucha, looking for bodies. **A6**

**Starlink:** U.S. pays millions to SpaceX for Ukraine's Internet. **A7**

**A tougher muster:** Tighter vetting for foreigners who want to fight. **A8**

**Online backup:** Volunteers race to save Ukraine's digital archives. **A14**



A child is ferried through a hospital Friday in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Operating rooms in the city were overrun by patients, and some people were being treated in hallways and waiting rooms. Children accounted for five of the dead and 16 of the injured, an official said.

PHOTOS BY WOJCIECH GRZEDZINSKI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### Strike takes a brutal toll on crowds fleeing country's east

BY DALTON BENNETT

KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE — Hundreds of people had gathered at the red-brick train station in this eastern Ukrainian city in recent days, eager to flee what local officials warned was a looming Russian offensive.

The crowds assembled Friday morning ahead of an arriving train, jostling for space on the platform and in the main hall. It was then that at least one missile struck the station, tearing through the evacuees, at least 50 of whom were killed. Another 98 were wounded, according to the regional governor.

Washington Post reporters arrived at the train station on

SEE TRAIN STATION ON A11



Civilians who had been seeking to flee Kramatorsk by train are among thousands across eastern Ukraine who have been ordered by officials to leave immediately ahead of expected attacks.

### ALLIES VOW NEW AID, DENOUNCE KILLINGS

Zelensky calls 'evil' act a Russian war crime

This article is by Dalton Bennett, Cate Cadell, Mary Hrushina, Robyn Dixon, Ellen Nakashima and Dan Lamothe.

KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE — At least 50 people were killed and 98 injured in what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called an "evil" Russian shelling attack on a train station where hundreds of civilians were attempting to flee ahead of expected attacks.

Grisly scenes emerged from the city of Kramatorsk, with bodies strewn among luggage, toys and debris. Witnesses described a large explosion followed by four or five "cluster bombs" that tore into a crowd of people who had gathered to catch an arriving train. Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration, said 38 people died at the station and another 12 died while in the hospital. Among the dead are five children, he said, with 16 children recorded as injured.

The horrific attack in Kramatorsk comes a day after Russia was suspended from the U.N. Human Rights Council over reported atrocities in Bucha and elsewhere, and as Western allies continue to boost military and diplomatic support for Ukraine.

"This is another war crime of Russia, for which everyone involved will be held accountable," Zelensky said in a video address Friday night in which he again pleaded for Russia to be held accountable by an international court. "Like the massacre in Bucha, like many other Russian war crimes, the missile strike in Kramatorsk must be one of the charges at the tribunal, which is bound to happen."

As the war enters its seventh week, Russian forces are intensifying their shelling of eastern and southern Ukraine, with analysts saying forces that were pushed back or evacuated from other parts of the country are regrouping. Ukrainian officials are calling for immediate evacuation ahead of what they expect to be a violent onslaught in the eastern provinces in coming days, which made the specter of civilians slaughtered at a crowded train station even more

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

## For Biden, progress but not perfection on race

Buoyed by Jackson, activists expect more from diversity promise

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

For Brenda Lee Pryce, a retired South Carolina state legislator, Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court was "a moment where every little Black and brown girl can stick her chest out." For Nina Turner, who chaired Sen. Bernie Sanders's presidential campaign, it was a "magnificent moment." For the Rev. William Barber, an anti-poverty advocate, it was "an idea whose time had come."

On Thursday, Jackson became the first Black woman to be confirmed to sit on the Supreme Court in its 233-year history, a



JABRI BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Supreme Court Justice-designate Ketanji Brown Jackson and Vice President Harris clap as President Biden speaks on Friday.

reflection of President Biden's vow to reshape the racial makeup of America's fundamental institu-

tions, something of particular importance to the Black voters who propelled him to the White

House.

But 15 months into Biden's presidency, many Black voters sought to temper their joy, knowing from experience that a Justice Jackson — like a President Barack Obama or a Vice President Kamala D. Harris — does not mean instant racial reconciliation.

For many, a pivotal question remains: Will Biden be remembered as a president who elevated a historic number of Black people to prominent positions, empowering a new generation of rising leaders? Or will his legacy be blighted by unfulfilled promises and unseized opportunities, especially when it comes to voting rights and police reform?

SEE LEGACY ON A4

**Historic approval:** Biden, Jackson celebrate on White House lawn. **A4**

**A natural choice:** What Jackson's sisterlocks say to Black women. **C1**

## In lessons on sexuality, the right sees 'grooming'

Schools are priming kids for abuse, some charge

BY HANNAH NATANSON AND MORIAH BALINGIT

The spokeswoman for Florida's Republican governor tweeted in early March that anyone who opposes a bill forbidding teachers from talking about gender identity or sexual orientation with students in early grades is "probably a groomer or at least you don't denounce the grooming of 4-8 year old children." A few days later, Fox News host Laura Ingraham asked on national television, "When did our public schools, our schools, become what are essentially grooming centers for gender identity radicals?"

And, speaking before the Tennessee House of Representatives in February, country music star

John Rich compared librarians who allow children access to graphic books to sexual predators — adding he believes that there is "bombs for grooming taking place" in the state's public schools.

"What's the difference between a teacher, educator or librarian ... or a guy in a white van pulling up at the edge of school when school lets out?" he asked. Students "can run away from the guy in the white van."

In the charged debate over what and how children should learn about sexual orientation and gender identity, some mainstream Republicans are tagging those who defend such lessons as "groomers," claiming that proponents of such teaching want chil-

SEE GROOMING ON A18

## IN SUNDAY'S POST



TRAVIS DOVE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### << Sowing change

Ecologists have been touting native plants for decades. As climate change escalates, are American homeowners and landscapers finally ready to listen? **Magazine**

**Her perfect role** Drew Barrymore tells all on her talk show, a mix of daytime TV antics and moving moments. **Arts & Style**



JACOB BIBA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

### << Dollywood dreaming

Dolly Parton returns with a performance and a parade to kick off the Tennessee theme park's 37th season. The attraction has some new experiences, though the oldies are still golden. **Travel**

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## INSIDE

### REAL ESTATE

**The Active Adult Issue**

Seniors are embracing high tech at home to enhance health, safety and happiness for aging in place.

### THE REGION

**'Not ... playing dress-up'**

Two men accused of posing as feds and cozying up to Secret Service had an arsenal, prosecutors say. **B1**

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### THE ECONOMY

**Union creep at Starbucks**

Workers at six more coffee shops in New York vote to unionize, bringing the national total to 16. **A13**

### STYLING

**10-year ban for Will Smith**

The best actor winner is unwelcome at all academy events following his Oscars-night violence. **C1**

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**espectáculos****El costo del cachetazo**  
Will Smith, sin acceso a los Oscar por 10 añosLa Academia de Hollywood le aplicó esa sanción por la agresión a Chris Rock. **Página 2****Andy Kusnetzoff, de regreso en la noche de los sábados**Hoy se inicia una nueva temporada de *PH* en la televisión; el conductor habla de su experiencia en este ciclo y del hábito de aprender a escuchar.**LOS DESAFÍOS DE LA NUEVA PRESIDENCIA DE LA UAR**

—deportes

El expuma Gabriel Travaglini analiza en una entrevista con *LA NACIÓN* el presente del rugby y anticipa sus proyectos como nuevo titular de la Unión Argentina.

# LA NACIÓN

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## El 85% de los proyectos de ley que el Presidente envió al Congreso no se trataron

**PARÁLISIS.** Fernández impulsó el año pasado 29 iniciativas y solamente avanzaron cuatro

Entre el 1° de marzo de 2021 y el 28 de febrero de este año, Alberto Fernández envió al Congreso 29 proyectos de ley y solamente cuatro de ellos prosperaron. Apenas un 13,7%, lo que demuestra lo esquivas que son para el Presidente las cámaras donde mandan Cristina Kirchner y Sergio Massa, sus principales socios del Frente de Todos.

En busca de agilizar algunas de sus iniciativas, sobre todo aquellas tendientes a reactivar la economía, Fernández se reunió ayer con Massa en la Casa Rosada. Los datos reflejan la virtual parálisis

en la que está sumido el Congreso desde hace más de un año. Esta situación obedece, entre otros factores, al alto nivel de conflictividad entre el oficialismo y la oposición, casi empatados en su relación de fuerzas, sobre todo en la Cámara de Diputados. También es una

consecuencia de sus internas.

Lejos de revertirse, la inactividad amenaza con prolongarse: pasaron casi dos meses desde el inicio de las sesiones ordinarias y la Cámara baja aún no logra conformar sus comisiones, una situación inédita en la historia parlamentaria. **Página 14**

## Detienen a gremialistas de Moyano por bloquear una empresa

**EXTORSIÓN.** Paralizaron una distribuidora en la localidad de San Pedro

Dos dirigentes del sindicato de camioneros, que lidera Hugo Moyano, fueron detenidos ayer por la policía por estar acusados de extorsión y coacción por bloquear una distribuidora de alimentos de San Pedro, el año pasado. Uno de los sindicalistas es, además, concejal del Frente de Todos.

Las detenciones fueron ordenadas por la jueza de San Nicolás María Eugenia Maiztegui, tras el aval de la Cámara de Apelaciones para no aceptar la eximición de prisión. **Página 19**

## La trágica historia de un huérfano de Bucha

El fotógrafo argentino Rodrigo Abd, de AP, recogió las imágenes y la historia de Vlad Tanyuk, de 6 años, y su hermano Vova, de 10. Su mamá murió de hambre y depresión encerrada durante un mes en un sótano de la ciudad, ocupada por las tropas rusas. **Página 11**

Vlad Tanyuk, de 6 años, al lado de la precaria tumba de su mamá en Bucha

RODRIGO ABD/AP

## Se demora la hora adicional de clase por el veto sindical

**EDUCACIÓN.** A pesar del anuncio, el Gobierno no pudo imponer la iniciativa de sumar una hora más en las escuelas primarias estatales en el encuentro de ministros de Educación en Ushuaia. Por falta de respaldo gremial, se abrirá un debate con todos los sectores para alcanzar consenso. **Página 26****Sigue la fuga de la escuela estatal a la privada. **Página 27******JHSF**  
INTERNATIONALFASANO LAS PIEDRAS, EL EMPRENDIMIENTO  
MÁS COMPLETO DE PUNTA DEL ESTE.FASANO  
*Las Piedras*  
PUNTA DEL ESTE - URUGUAY



## Inflação tem pior março da era do real

Índice sobe 1,62% e acumula alta de 11,3% em 12 meses pressionado por mega-aumento de combustíveis e por alimentos

O IPCA, índice oficial de inflação ao consumidor do Brasil, cresceu 1,62% em março, o maior avanço para o mês desde 1994 — quando o Plano Real ainda não havia sido implementado e a alta de preços mensal batia em 43%.

A pressão veio sobretudo do mega-aumento de combustíveis e do salto no custo dos alimentos, informou o IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística). Com isso, em 12 meses a inflação acumula alta de 11,3%.

O número supera os 10,54% registrados nos 12 meses até fevereiro e, nessa base comparativa, é o maior desde outubro de 2003. O crescimento de preços se mostra disseminado, e a taxa mensal bateu as expectativas do mercado.

Oito dos nove grupos de produtos e serviços pesquisados tiveram alta de preços em março, sendo a maior variação (3,02%) em transportes. Alimentação e bebida encareceram 2,42% — o tomate subiu 27%, e a cenoura, 31%.

Entre os motivos estão o custo maior do frete, a crise climática com seu impacto na produção e o efeito da guerra na Ucrânia sobre as commodities agrícolas, o que levou o preço da comida no mundo a seu ápice.

Apesar da escalada dos juros promovida pelo Banco Central para conter esse avanço, analistas estimam que o IPCA deste ano estoure a meta, cujo teto para 2022 é de 5%, pelo segundo ano consecutivo. Mercado 1 A17

### CPI investiga suposta ação do iFood contra entregadores

Uma CPI na Câmara de São Paulo convocou representantes de empresas que teriam sido contratadas pelo iFood para desmobilizar manifestações de entregadores, segundo reportagem da agência Pública. O objetivo seria desacreditar líderes da categoria. O aplicativo nega e diz que fará apuração interna. Mercado 2 A26

**Morre Dalmo Dallari, professor emérito da USP**  
Ex-diretor da Faculdade de Direito deixa legado jurídico e de defesa de direitos humanos ao longo da ditadura. Aos 90, teve insuficiência respiratória. A10

**Kiev e Moscou se acusam por ataque a estação; ao menos 50 morrem** A12

**Amazônia bate recorde de alertas de desmate no 1º tri, aponta Inpe**

Ambiente B5

**Ciência B6**  
**Impacto brasileiro**

Sobrevivente da Covid, médica está entre cientistas mais influentes do mundo

**Ilustrada C1**  
Filme de cabeça para por ataque a estação; ao menos 50 morrem  
de 'Capitães da Areia'

**Ilustrada C2**  
Will Smith é banido do Oscar por dez anos após tapa

**Ilustrada C4**  
Lygia Fagundes Telles tinha 103 ao morrer, mostram registros

**Folhinha C8**  
Em caso de bullying, é preciso ajudar todos os envolvidos



Danilo Verpa/Folhapress

### MENINOS SUSPEITOS DE INTEGRAR GANGUE SÃO APREENDIDOS EM SÃO PAULO

Com ajuda de um maior de idade, garotos assaltam pedestre na avenida Paulista, na quarta (6); eles andam em turmas e abordam principalmente mulheres. Na sexta (8), quatro meninos de 11 e 12 anos foram apreendidos pela PM após um desses ataques, e dois adultos do grupo foram presos Cotidiano B1

### Doria sai com aprovação de 23% e reprovação de 36%

João Doria (PSDB) encerrou seu governo em São Paulo com avaliação positiva de 23% dos paulistas, indica o Datafolha. Pesquisa feita nos dias 5 e 6 mostra que índices de aprovação e reprovação se mantiveram estáveis em relação à consulta anterior, em dezembro.

O levantamento atual mostra que 36% veem a gestão como ruim ou péssima. Para 39%, o trabalho feito é regular. O instituto também fez questionamentos sobre as realizações do tucano — 74% disseram que ele fez menos pelo estado do que se esperava. Política A4

### Lira agiu por verba de kit robótica, diz secretária em AL

Presidente da Câmara, Arthur Lira (PP-AL) atuou para liberar verba da compra de kit robótica a municípios de Alagoas, confirmou a Folha Maria José Gomes, secretária de Educação de Flexeiras (AL). Em nota, Lira fala em "curso regular" dos recursos. Política A11

### Oscar Vilhena Vieira Estado de Direito em declínio

A qualidade do Estado de Direito no Brasil vem caindo nos últimos três anos. A espessura desse declínio pode servir ao crescimento do crime organizado na região amazônica, no âmbito da corrupção e no fortalecimento do milicianismo e do tráfico. Cotidiano B2

### Alckmin é indicado pelo PSB para vice na chapa de Lula

O PSB indicou formalmente Geraldo Alckmin para compor a chapa de Lula (PT) como candidato a vice-presidente. Em discurso, o petista enalteceu a experiência de ambos para o país. "Estamos dando uma demonstração muito forte ao Brasil." Política A8

### EDITORIAIS A2

**Inflação sem trégua**  
Sobre salto do IPCA em março e situação global.

**Percalços de Lula**  
Acerca de declarações do ex-presidente e pesquisas.

### ATMOSFERA

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Ribeirão	20 32	20 32

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**Audios revelan montaje de policías para realizar aprietes a narcotraficantes**

## Narco participaba activamente en la campaña de Julián Vega

En su red social el ex director de Migraciones y concejal de Mariano Roque Alonso por Honor Colorado se ufana de donaciones hechas en compañía del investigado por tráfico.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Faltan documentos respaldatorios

### La Contraloría ratifica desprolijidades en uso de fondos Covid en Guairá

PÁGINA 6

Sin quórum para Fondo de Estabilización

### Diputados que analizan subsidio son también dueños de estaciones

PÁGINAS 10 y 11

Visita relámpago de Cafiero a Paraguay

### Canciller argentino dijo que las fronteras están totalmente abiertas

PÁGINA 14



LUIS ENRIQUE

### Uso de tapabocas dejará de ser obligatorio

Desde el Lunes de Pascuas. Las mascarillas ya no se usarán desde el 18 de abril teniendo en cuenta la caída de los contagios por el coronavirus.

PÁGINA 18

Abogado dice que cierres fueron arbitrarios e inconstitucionales

### María Serrana litigará hasta anular clausura de sus sedes de Medicina

PÁGINA 20

Legisladores disconformes analizan interpelación y juicio político

### BCP se planta al Senado y alega el secreto bancario para no dar informe

PÁGINA 4

ETIOS

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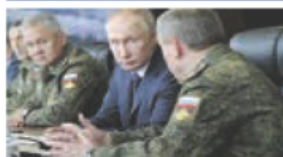




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## LE FIGARO

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



**RUSSIE**  
AU CŒUR DE L'IDÉOLOGIE QUI  
A MENÉ POUTINE À LA GUERRE  
PAGES 20 ET 21

**IMMOBILIER**  
L'INFLATION SONNE-T-ELLE  
LA FIN DES BONNES  
AFFAIRES ? PAGES 24 ET 25



# La France à l'heure du choix

À l'issue d'une campagne atone éclipse par la guerre en Ukraine, douze candidats se disputeront dimanche les suffrages des Français pour le premier tour de l'élection présidentielle.

PAGES 2 A 10 ET L'EDITORIAL



BENOIT TESSIER/REUTERS

## ISRAËL

Face aux attentats,  
Bennett promet une  
guerre « totale »

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## TENNIS

Alcaraz, le  
« nouveau Nadal »  
qui fait bouger  
les lignes

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CHAMPS  
LIBRES

• La chronique  
de Mathieu  
Bock-Côté

PAGE 19

FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question  
de vendredi :  
Approuvez-vous le choix  
de Nicolas Sarkozy  
de rester silencieux  
avant le premier tour  
de la présidentielle ?

OUI 52% NON 48%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 134 776

Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr

Les candidats éliminés  
doivent-ils donner  
des consignes  
pour le second tour ?

MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV/AFP - JEAN-PAUL COMPARNI/JEAN-PAUL COMPARNI - STOCKADOB.COM - FADEL SENNA/AFP

## Covid : après un rebond, l'épidémie recommence à décroître

Même après la levée des mesures de contrôle, l'immunité collective, grâce aux vaccins et aux pré-infections, a été suffisante pour enrayer la croissance du nombre de contami-

nations de Covid-19. Une bonne nouvelle qui ne s'est pas encore traduite par un effet sur l'hôpital, où les admissions quotidiennes continuent de croître. PAGE 16



## En Ukraine, des dizaines de civils tués dans le bombardement d'une gare

Au moins 50 personnes, dont 5 enfants, ont été tuées vendredi dans un bombardement sur la gare de Kriviy Rih, dans le Donbass, pendant l'évacuation de ci-

vils. Le président Zelensky a dénoncé le « mal sans limite » de la Russie, qui accuse l'Ukraine d'avoir délibérément visé sa propre population. PAGES 12 ET 13

## ÉDITORIAL par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

### Jour du peuple

Les dés sont jetés. Le silence s'impose pour quelques heures sur la grande machinerie médiapolitique. Les candidats sont invisibles, les sondages qui roulaient sans cesse matin, midi et soir sont à l'arrêt, les commentateurs n'ont plus rien à commenter, les prédicateurs, enfin, se taisent : la France retient son souffle. Demain, tout un pays se retrouvera dans un rituel vieux comme la Grèce pour décider de son avenir. Les sachants, les puissants ne vaudront pas plus que les petits et les sans-grades : c'est l'heure du peuple. Le peuple ? Non pas une catégorie sociologique, mais l'ensemble des citoyens d'un État. On nous dira que ce scrutin est déjà escamoté par une campagne indiscernable, qu'il n'y a pas eu de délibération civique, de confrontation féconde, de débat de fond. On se plaindra du pouvoir écrasant de l'image sur la vie de l'esprit, du poids des émotions médiatiques sur la raison, du triomphe de l'épiderme sur les profondeurs de la conscience, des ravages de l'inculture sur le discernement. On dira, avec Michel Onfray, que ce sont toujours les mêmes qui l'emportent ; avec Winston Churchill, que

« le meilleur argument contre la démocratie est cinq minutes de conversation avec l'électeur médian ». On louera la sagesse des régimes parlementaires et l'imprudence de l'élection du président au suffrage universel direct... La litanie des déceptions et des déplorations pourrait s'étendre indéfiniment. Système imparfait, régime par défaut, la démocratie, c'est à ça qu'on la reconnaît, autorise plus de critiques, de déceptions, de remontrances que tous les autres systèmes. Reste que le bulletin de vote, et plus encore lors d'une élection présidentielle, est l'expression à la fois fragile et décisive de la liberté individuelle et de la souveraineté collective. S'il est enfantin d'y chercher un pouvoir absolu, il est honteux de s'en priver par paresse, légèreté ou ressentiment. Plutôt que de donner des « consignes de vote » (ce qui est un oxymore), il est un devoir d'État à rappeler à tous les Français : l'avenir de notre pays est entre vos mains. Rendez-vous aux urnes : il ne doit manquer personne. ■

Le vote,

expression

fragile et

décisive de

la liberté

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