

What's News

Business & Finance

Soaring gasoline prices are pushing contract drivers for FedEx and some U.S. drivers for Uber and Lyft to plead with the companies for more financial help even after the firms imposed new or higher fuel surcharges on their customers. **A1**

◆ **Elon Musk**, in a reversal, will no longer join Twitter's board, the company's CEO Parag Agrawal said in a tweet. **A1**

◆ **China's car sales** fell more than 10% in March, as car makers grappled with extended manufacturing halts and supply chain disruptions. **B1**

◆ **Airlines** are adding staff and cutting flights in an effort to avoid the turmoil that market operations last summer. **B1**

◆ **Analysts** have been slashing expectations for deposit levels at the biggest U.S. banks, as anticipated sharp rate increases by the Fed to combat inflation are set to ripple through the industry in unpredictable ways. **B1**

◆ **Citigroup** has traveled a bumpy road back to favor with Riyadh after Saudi Arabia snubbed the bank for shutting down its operations in the kingdom after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. **B1**

◆ **AT&T's Stanley** said inflation could prompt the company to raise prices for some core services. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **Ukraine and Russia** poured reinforcements into eastern Ukraine, preparing for what is likely to become the war's biggest battles as refugees continued to flee the looming Russian assault. **A1, A6-7**

◆ **Macron and Le Pen** led the first round of France's presidential election, according to projections, setting the stage for a closely contested runoff amid public frustration over high inflation and immigration. **A1**

◆ **China** has accelerated an expansion of its nuclear arsenal because of a change in its assessment of the threat posed by the U.S., people with knowledge of the Chinese leadership's thinking said. **A18**

◆ **The Justice Department** has expanded its investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and is gearing up for summer trials in some of the most serious related cases so far. **A4**

◆ **U.S. policy makers** have identified stablecoins as an initial target for tighter regulation as Washington tries to come to grips with the cryptocurrency industry. **A5**

◆ **Wildfires** are posing new financial risks for utilities outside of California as victims of recent fires seek compensation for their losses. **A3**

◆ **Pakistan's opposition** said it doesn't plan to move for immediate elections after the prime minister was ousted on a no-confidence vote. **A18**

JOURNAL REPORT
Artificial Intelligence: How AI Saves Lives in the ER **R1-8**

CONTENTS
Outlook.....A2
Arts in Review.....A13
Personal Journal A13-12
Business News.....B3
Sports.....A34
Crossword.....A14
Technology.....B4
Hard on Street.....B10
U.S. News.....A2-5
Markets.....B9
Weather.....A4-9
Opinion.....A15-17
World News.....A6-9,39



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Christians Around World Gather to Observe Palm Sunday



SACRED: Clockwise from top, Roman Catholic clergy carry palm branches Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City; worshippers gather in the Iraqi town of Al-Qosh; and Pope Francis celebrates Palm Sunday Mass.

Gas Prices Fuel Battle at Uber, Lyft, FedEx

By PAUL ZIOBRO
AND PREETIKA RANA

Soaring gasoline prices are squeezing transportation businesses and setting off debates about who will foot the bill. FedEx Corp., Uber Technologies Inc. and Lyft Inc. imposed new or higher fuel surcharges on customers after Russia's invasion of Ukraine shocked energy markets. But local contractors who own the FedEx Ground delivery trucks and some U.S. drivers of the ride-share services are pleading with the companies for even more financial help.

"Everywhere you look is just expenses, expenses, expenses," said Melnik Lyudmila, a 51-year-old who quit driving for Uber and Lyft last month. The

companies have tapered the big bonuses they handed to drivers at the height of a labor shortage last year, so she said the hours she spends behind the wheel aren't worth the payout. Ms. Lyudmila, who has driven for the companies in New York City since 2016, is looking for other jobs as she waits for gas prices to fall.

The war in Ukraine and

sanctions imposed on Russia, the world's second largest crude-oil exporter, have further driven up the costs of fuels around the globe. The national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in the U.S. jumped to \$4.22 in March, up 20% from February. Prices for a gallon of diesel, the fuel used by truckers, averaged \$5.11 in March, up 27% in a month.

"It's been rough," said Timothy Richards, who owns a single truck and has two drivers working for his Taurus Trucking LLC business in Huntsville, Ala. "A lot of these shippers, they really don't care that gas is significantly high. They just want

Please turn to page A7

◆ James Mackintosh: Inflation may be here for a while... **B1**

Twitter Says Musk Now Won't Serve On Board

By SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ
AND GINGER ADAMS OTIS

Billionaire Elon Musk has decided he will no longer join the Twitter Inc. board of directors, CEO Parag Agrawal tweeted on Sunday night.

The announcement of the reversal comes after Mr. Musk spent a weekend tweeting criticisms, suggestions and apparent jokes about the social media company.

The Tesla Inc. and SpaceX CEO, who recently became Twitter's largest shareholder, tweeted about the platform throughout the weekend. He asked his 81 million followers if they thought that Twitter was dying and pointed out that several top Twitter accounts, including those of artists Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber, rarely tweet.

Other tweets seemed less serious.

"Delete the w in twitter?" Mr. Musk asked his Twitter followers in a poll.

Mr. Agrawal said that the board had had many discussions with Mr. Musk about joining the board. Mr. Agrawal and the board were excited about collaborating with Mr. Musk but expected him "to act in the best interests of the company and all our shareholders," Mr. Agrawal wrote in a note posted on his Twitter account.

Mr. Musk's appointment was set to start on Saturday, but, Mr. Musk "shared that same morning that he will no longer be joining the board,"

Please turn to page A4

Scottie Scheffler Wins Masters



The 25-year-old American and world No. 1 on Sunday took his first major at Augusta National, riding a stretch that has established him as golf's pre-eminent young star. **A14**

Pokémon Stickers Are Back for Koreans Nostalgic for Childhood

Pastries include a surprise sticker, just like 20 years ago; 'felt like winning the lottery'

By JIYOUNG SOHN

SEOUL—Jeong Bo-ran's new fascination has him chasing mass-produced pastries, delivery trucks—and his childhood memories.

His targets are \$1.20 bakery items sold with random Pokémon stickers that fly off store shelves in South Korea.

Just a few short of a full 159-sticker collection, 29-year-old Mr. Jeong has gone to more than 10 convenience stores and supermarkets a day, often leaving empty-handed. He has shelled out hundreds of dollars. He has learned the evening restock times throughout his neighborhood to know when fresh drop-offs occur.

"As kids we really couldn't afford enough pastries to have a shot at getting a full sticker set," said Mr. Jeong, a clothing store owner who lives in the central South Korean city of Chungju. "I will continue on until I finish."

More than two decades ago, the Pokémon sticker-and-treat duo caught on with a generation of South Korean children, before the craze passed after a few years and the products were discontinued. Now the goodies are back just in time for the country's broader retro boom, fed by tech-savvy adults nostalgic for simpler times.

South Koreans are going to great lengths to live out the

Please turn to page A2

French Runoff Pits Macron vs. Le Pen

By STACY MEICHTERY
AND NOEMIE BISSERIE

PARIS—President Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen led the first round of France's presidential election, according to projections, setting the stage for a closely contested runoff amid public frustration over high inflation and immigration.

Mr. Macron garnered 28.2% of the estimated vote ahead of Ms. Le Pen with 22.9%. The two will now face off in an April 24 rematch of the 2017 election that will test whether Mr. Ma-

cron can rekindle the coalition of disaffected socialists and conservatives that fueled his landslide victory five years ago.

Sunday's vote illustrated how France's political landscape has grown increasingly polarized since Mr. Macron took office. Candidates for the socialist and conservative parties garnered a combined 6.7% of the estimated vote, compared with 26% in the last election. Contenders from the far right and far left won support from more than half of the electorate.

Please turn to page A9

Schools Mess Drives Parents to GOP

Some Democratic voters, frustrated with party's Covid policies, are backing Republicans

By MICHAEL C. BENDER

BRIDGEWATER, N.J.—Democrat Jennifer Loughran spent the pandemic's early days sewing face masks for neighbors. Last month, as a newly elected school-board member, she voted to lift the district's mask mandate. That came four months after she voted for the state's Republican candidate for governor.

After a monthslong political identity crisis, Ms. Loughran decided her opposition to her party's mask mandates, economic restrictions and school-closure policies outweighed her support for

positions on climate change, abortion and gay rights, at least for the moment.

Watching her daughter fall behind in virtual kindergarten, Ms. Loughran had grown so frustrated not knowing when her children would return to the classroom that she joined a group that attracted right-leaning parents in its school-reopening push. She was unhappy that Gov. Phil Murphy didn't fight to reopen schools sooner, and she associated his fellow Democrats with mask mandates and restrictions.

She hasn't decided which party to pick this fall in her

Please turn to page A10

Reality check

Dreams of the first cryptostate are pie in the sky — ELAINE MOORE, PAGE 18

Saving Kyiv

Ukrainian ingenuity and Russian blunders turned the tide — PAGE 3



Grim prognosis

Pursuit of profit bodes ill for US healthcare — RANA FOROZHAR, PAGE 19

Crunch time
France goes to the polls

A voter leaves a polling booth in Le Touquet in northern France after marking her ballot paper in the first round of the French presidential election yesterday.

Early projections indicated that Emmanuel Macron, the incumbent, will go through to the second round of voting in two weeks' time alongside far-right candidate Marine Le Pen.

Turnout was lower than in the first rounds of the two previous elections in 2012 and 2017 but above the record low of 2002.

Macron defeated Le Pen in the second round in the previous contest five years ago. This time around his projected margin of victory has been squeezed, sending jitters through financial markets.



Benjamin Grom/Bloomberg

Kyiv urges energy traders to stem 'blood money' feeding Putin's war

● Russia crude 'finances genocide' ● Trade to Europe nets \$850mn daily ● Signs of atrocities rise

HARRY DEMPSEY, NEIL HUME AND CHELSEA BRUCE-LOCKHART — LONDON
JOHN REED — KYIV

The Ukrainian government has called on some of the world's largest energy traders to stop handling Russian crude oil, accusing them of funneling "blood money" to Moscow amid mounting evidence of the troops' atrocities against Ukrainian civilians.

Vitol, Trafigura, Glencore and Gunvor have continued to lift large volumes of Russian crude and products including diesel since the outbreak of war, according to ship tracking and port data.

Oleg Ustenko, economic adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, told the Financial Times that the traders were "helping Russia to receive this blood money". "They are in

this cycle of financing war crimes and genocide," he said.

Ukrainian troops advancing into parts of the country occupied by Russian forces for more than a month have heard accounts of atrocities including killings, torture, and rape.

More than 1,200 bodies have been recovered in the region around Kyiv alone, Iryna Venediktova, Ukraine's prosecutor-general, told Sky News.

Ukraine is pursuing about 5,600 cases of war crime against more than 500 military, political and other officials in Russia. Moscow denies that its forces have committed war crimes.

Ustenko wrote to the four energy traders at the end of March demanding that they stop trading Russian hydrocarbons immediately because export

revenues were funding Moscow's purchase of weapons. Russian exports of crude oil, refined products and gas to Europe alone are estimated to provide Moscow with \$850mn in revenue a day, according to the Bruegel think-tank.

Russian forces are regrouping for a major offensive in the eastern Donbas region, according to Ukrainian and foreign defence officials.

Yesterday Russia destroyed the airport in Dnipro, one of eastern Ukraine's largest cities, Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipro's regional governor, said in a post on Telegram. The FT cannot verify Ukrainian and Russian military claims.

From the start of the war in late February to the end of March, Glencore, Vitol, Trafigura and Gunvor discharged 33 tankers carrying roughly 20mn bar-



The largest energy traders including Vitol, Trafigura, Glencore and Gunvor face demands to stop handling hydrocarbons from Russia

rels of crude and oil products loaded at Russian ports, according to an analysis of Refinitiv data by Global Witness, a lobby group, reviewed by the FT.

The figures include oil produced in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan but shipped from Russian ports.

The trading companies said they unequivocally condemned the war. Trafigura said it was buying lower volumes of Russian oil than before the invasion. Gunvor said its refinery in Ingolstadt, Germany, was using no Russian-origin crude oil, and no barrels had been bought for future processing. Glencore said it would not enter any new trading business with Russian commodities.

War in Ukraine page 2 & 3
Liquidity limits traders' scope page 7
Ruchir Sharma & Martin Sandbu page 19

Briefing

► **Demand for Covid vaccines declines**
Demand for Covid-19 shots has halved since the start of the year as people in rich countries become more reluctant to take boosters and vaccine hesitancy persists in poorer nations. — PAGE 4; BIG READ, PAGE 17

► **Pakistan MPs to confirm Sharif as PM**
Lawmakers are to install opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister today after Imran Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote, drawing a line under weeks of uncertainty. — PAGE 4

► **Macro funds surge on market unrest**
Market ructions owing to the war in Ukraine and inflation has split the hedge fund sector. Macro funds have seen one of their best starts to a year, but tech and growth funds have racked up big losses. — PAGE 8

► **US official to travel to Solomon Islands**
Kurt Campbell, the White House's senior Asia official, is to make a rare top-level visit to the Pacific islands in a sign of US alarm over the nation's security agreement with China. — PAGE 4



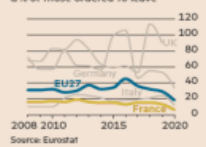
► **NSO deemed 'valueless' to backers**
The blacklisted Israeli cyber group has been deemed worthless to its buyout firm fund backers, only three years after they bought the maker of the notorious Pegasus spyware at a \$1bn valuation. — PAGE 6

► **Brazil called on to overhaul fiscal rules**
Brazil must revamp its "out of this world" fiscal rules and increase public spending to boost growth, a top aide to the leftwing Workers' party, the favourite to return to power this year, has said. — PAGE 4

► **Shares in Japan titanium groups soar**
Traders are betting that titanium suppliers from Japan will grab much more of the global market for the metal as the Ukraine war forces western companies away from Russian producers. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Departure delays
People returned to a third country as a % of those ordered to leave



Source: Eurostat

In 2020, just 6 per cent of orders to leave France resulted in a person actually leaving. As part of the presidential election debate Emmanuel Macron has pledged to do more to ensure that unsuccessful asylum applicants leave the country.



Lockdowns spell trouble ahead for Chinese farmers

Villages in three north-eastern Chinese provinces have been sealed off to try to stem the spread of Covid-19, raising concern over preparations for the spring planting season. Jilin, Liaoning and Heilongjiang account for more than 20 per cent of China's grain production and the problems with getting the harvest under way come as the war in Ukraine has stopped shipments of corn, an important livestock feed, to China.

Heavy strains ► PAGE 4

US banks to post steeper than expected slowdown in revenues as M&A dries up

JOSHUA FRANKLIN — NEW YORK

The largest US banks are set to report their biggest slowdown in investment banking revenue in years next week, as the dealmaking engine that helped to propel Wall Street to record profits last year sputters.

Banks were braced for a slowdown following a blockbuster 2021 but it has been worse than expected. Equity capital markets and IPOs in particular have slowed dramatically in recent weeks. Executives blamed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent market volatility that it triggered.

"For the first quarter, year over year, we were probably expecting capital markets revenue to be down [about] 10-20 per cent, as a range across the banks. And now we're down 50-50 per cent. It's pretty materially weaker," said

Matt O'Connor, head of large-cap bank research at Deutsche Bank.

JPMorgan Chase will be the first bank to disclose earnings, on Wednesday, followed by Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley on Thursday. Bank of America reports earnings next Monday.

On average, the lenders are expected to report a 26 per cent drop in investment banking fees, according to Bloomberg estimates. Analysts forecast that average overall revenues will fall by about 10 per cent.

Executives hope the current market volatility is merely delaying deals that will eventually get done later in the year, though doubts are emerging over how temporary the slowdown will be.

One positive for banks is expected to be revenue from trading, which should experience smaller declines.

JPMorgan analysts wrote in a research

note this month: "Commodities trading is the best-performing asset class with [Goldman Sachs] the main beneficiary."

Banks went into 2022 expecting that any slowdown in investment banking or trading would be offset by a move by the Federal Reserve to lift interest rates for the first time in years, as well as rising demand for loans as pandemic-era government stimulus programmes faded.

Higher rates should help banks make more money from the loans they issue, and some analysts are hopeful that banks will lift guidance on the amount they will earn from net interest income for 2022.

"The clear bright spot should be net interest income, with loan growth really accelerating throughout the quarter," said Jason Goldberg, a bank analyst at Barclays.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				
	Apr 8	Apr 1	%/Week	
S&P 500	4510.95	4545.85	-0.77	
Nasdaq Composite	13025.47	14261.50	-9.05	
Dow Jones Ind	34835.45	34810.27	0.05	
FTSE 100	1105.31	1191.48	-0.78	
Euro Stoxx 50	3951.84	3918.66	-1.71	
FTSE 100	7969.96	7937.90	1.75	
FTSE All-Share	4250.23	4199.48	1.40	
CAC 40	6540.22	6684.31	-2.04	
Xetra Dax	14263.67	14446.48	-1.13	
Nikkei	26985.90	27821.43	-3.00	
Hong Kong	21872.01	21996.05	-0.57	
MSCI World	3014.08	-	-	
MSCI EM	1126.06	-	-	
MSCI ACWI	702.39	-	-	

CURRENCIES				
	Apr 8	Apr 1		
\$ per £	1.087	1.104		
€ per \$	1.301	1.311		
€ per £	0.836	0.842		
¥ per \$	124.435	122.856		
¥ per €	161.822	161.033		
¥ per \$	1.018	1.022		
€ per \$	0.920	0.906		

COMMODITIES				
	Apr 8	Apr 1	%/Week	
Oil WTI \$	98.80	98.75	-0.18	
Oil Brent \$	101.50	100.58	-1.38	
Gold \$	1932.40	1942.15	-0.50	

INTEREST RATES				
	price	yield	chg	
US Gov 10 yr	93.38	2.69	0.05	
UK Gov 10 yr	123.43	1.75	0.03	
Gov Gov 10 yr	93.55	0.70	0.02	
Gov Gov 10 yr	98.88	0.23	-0.01	
US Gov 30 yr	91.46	2.72	0.02	
Gov Gov 2 yr	100.04	0.05	0.02	

FUND RATES				
	price	prev	chg	
FT Funds EUR	0.20	0.08	0.12	
US 3m Bill	0.08	0.67	0.01	
Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00	
UK 3m	1.08	1.08	0.00	

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Kushner Firm Got \$2 Billion From Saudis

Sovereign Wealth Fund Overruled Advisers

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
and KATE KELLY

Six months after leaving the White House, Jared Kushner secured a \$2 billion investment from a fund led by the Saudi crown prince, a close ally during the Trump administration, despite objections from the fund's advisers about the merits of the deal.

A panel that screens investments for the main Saudi sovereign wealth fund cited concerns about the proposed deal with Mr. Kushner's newly formed private equity firm, Affinity Partners, previously undisclosed documents show.

Those objections included: "the inexperience of the Affinity Fund management"; the possibility that the kingdom would be responsible for "the bulk of the investment and risk"; due diligence on the fledgling firm's operations that found them "unsatisfactory in all aspects"; a proposed asset management fee that "seems excessive"; and "public relations risks" from Mr. Kushner's prior role as a senior adviser to his father-in-law, former President Donald J. Trump, according to minutes of the panel's meeting last June 30.

But days later the full board of the \$520 billion Public Investment Fund — led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler and a beneficiary of Mr. Kushner's support when he worked as a White House adviser — overruled the panel.

Ethics experts say that such a deal creates the appearance of potential payback for Mr. Kushner's actions in the White House — or of a bid for future favor if Mr. Trump seeks and wins another presidential term in 2024.

Mr. Kushner played a leading role inside the Trump administration defending Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Continued on Page A12



Top, luggage on Sunday at the bloodied train station in Kramatorsk, where about 50 people were killed Friday in a missile attack. Above, an apartment building in the city that was damaged by bombings. The people remaining in Kramatorsk fear they will soon be shelled into oblivion.

PERILS GROW DIRE ON ESCAPE ROUTES TO UKRAINE'S WEST

'Town Is Dead' After Station Attack

Massing of Russians Poses New Threat

THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
and NATALIA YERMAK

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine — Two days after more than 50 people were killed on its platforms by a missile strike, the only sounds at the Kramatorsk railway station on Sunday morning were a distant air-raid siren and the rhythmic sweeping of broken glass.

"The town is dead now," said Tetiana, 50, a shopkeeper who was working next to the station when it was attacked as thousands of people tried to board trains to evacuate the eastern city, fearing it would soon be besieged by Russian forces.

Friday's strike was a gruesome turn for the city after nearly eight years of being near the front line of the country's struggle against Russia-backed separatists in the region known as Donbas.

The station's main hall was still filled with streaks of blood and luggage on Sunday morning, with the burned-out hulks of two sedans lying in the parking area outside.

Tetiana, who declined to provide her last name, was sure that more death was on the way.

"We are being encircled. We understand that," added Tetiana, who has lived for 10 years in Kramatorsk, a city with a prewar population of around 150,000 people and once one of the industrial hearts of the Donbas. She said she would not leave because she must look after her 82-year-old mother, who is ailing. But she knows more than ever the danger that brings.

"We think we will be swept off the face of the earth," she said.

She recalled ducking inside a nearby market on Friday to take cover when the missile struck the train station, with what she estimated was 2,000 people inside. A family that took shelter with her at the market was almost crushed by a piece of a falling roof that was sheared off in the blast.

There were screams everywhere," she said. "Nobody could understand anything. Cars were burning and people were running."

With Moscow's decision to shift the focus of its war to eastern Ukraine, the people who remain in Kramatorsk fear that they will soon be shelled into oblivion, like the residents of Kharkiv and Mariupol, two other cities that have been ruthlessly assaulted by Russian forces. It feels as if an assault here is inevitable. Cutting off Kramatorsk would partly cut off Ukrainian forces fighting in the eastern breakaway regions where Russia is consolidating.

At the city's main hospital, City

Continued on Page A8

This article is by Cora Engbrecht, David Zucchino and Jane Arraf.

Russian forces attacked civilian areas in eastern Ukraine on Sunday as terrified residents joined an exodus of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing westward, heeding warnings by authorities that Russian troops were massing for a major assault.

On Sunday morning, two residential buildings and a school were hit in the city of Sievierodonetsk, in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine, though no casualties were reported. And a barrage of Russian strikes rained down on the airport in Dnipro, a city in east-central Ukraine, wounding five Ukrainian rescue workers, a local official said.

Analysts predict Russian troops, refocusing on the east after being thwarted in the capital, will carry out a major offensive stretching from Dnipro to Izium, a city almost 150 miles northeast where fighting has already been heavy, U.S. military officials said Sunday. Satellite images showed hundreds of military vehicles



There were signs of a massacre on a highway near Dmytrivka.

moving through the town of Velykyi Burluk toward Izium on Friday.

The authorities have urged Ukrainians in the east to flee — but the road to safety, too, is fraught with peril.

On a highway near Kyiv, the capital, as many as 50 bodies of civilians who appeared to be trying to escape danger were discovered, a local mayor said Sunday.

"Some were burned," the mayor, Taras Didych, told The New York Times. "Others had their hands tied. Others were shot in the head outside their cars."

A tableau of horror emerged from photographs taken by Mr. Didych, the mayor of Dmytrivka, where most of the bodies were found. He said it was not clear

Continued on Page A9

College Spreads Beliefs of Right In K-12 Charters

By STEPHANIE SAUL

With only 1,500 students on a small-town campus in southern Michigan, Hillsdale College is far from the power corridors of government and top-ranked universities.

But it has outsized influence in the conservative world, with strong ties to the Washington elite. Republican leaders frequently visit, and Justice Clarence Thomas delivered the 2016 commencement address, calling Hillsdale a "shining city on a hill" for its devotion to "liberty as an antecedent of government, not a benefit from government."

Now the college is making new efforts to reach beyond its campus, this time with an even younger audience. The college is fighting what it calls "progressive" and "leftist academics" by expanding its footprint in the charter school world, pushing the boundaries on the use of taxpayer money for politically tinged education.

Hillsdale has ambitious plans to add to its network of classical public charter schools, which focus on "the centrality of the Western tradition." And Gov. Bill Lee of Tennessee recently invited the college to start 50 schools using public funds, including \$32 million set aside for charter facilities. Hillsdale's network currently includes 24 schools in 13 states.

The college has also developed the "1776 Curriculum," which sets

Continued on Page A15

Macron and Le Pen Will Battle to Lead France

By ROGER COHEN

PARIS — President Emmanuel Macron will face Marine Le Pen, the French far-right leader, in the runoff of France's presidential elections.

With 92 percent of the ballots cast on Sunday counted, Mr. Macron was leading with about 27.4 percent of the vote to Ms. Le Pen's 24.3 percent. Ms. Le Pen benefited from a late surge that reflected widespread disaffection over rising prices, security and immigration.

With war raging in Ukraine and Western unity likely to be tested

Right-Wing Surge May Threaten Incumbent

as the fighting continues, Ms. Le Pen's strong performance demonstrated the enduring appeal of nationalist and xenophobic currents in Europe. Extreme parties of the right and left took some 51 percent of the vote, a clear sign of the extent of French anger and frustration.

An anti-NATO and more pro-Russia France in the event of an ultimate Le Pen victory would

cause deep concern in allied capitals, and could fracture the united trans-Atlantic response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

But Mr. Macron, after a lackluster campaign, will go into the second round as the slight favorite, having fared a little better than the latest opinion polls suggested. Some had shown him leading Ms. Le Pen by just two points.

The principled French rejection of Ms. Le Pen's brand of anti-immigrant nationalism has frayed as illiberal politics have spread in both Europe and the United States. She has successfully soft-

Continued on Page A6



President Emmanuel Macron of France will face Marine Le Pen in a runoff vote on April 24.

Crypto Firms Have a Wish List. States Are Turning It Into Law.

By ERIC LIPTON and DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The debate took less than four minutes.

In the Florida House last month, legislators swiftly gave final approval to a bill that makes it easier to buy and sell cryptocurrency, eliminating a threat from a law intended to curb money laundering. One of the few pauses in the action came when two House members stood up to thank crypto industry "stakeholders" for teaming with state officials to write a draft of the bill.

"Whether you're Binance or Ethereum, Dogecoin or Bitcoin, this is a great bill," said Representative John Snyder, a Palm City Republican, referring to crypto ex-

changes and coins.

Shortly afterward, the House voted unanimously to pass the measure. The Senate followed, sending the bill to Gov. Ron DeSantis for his signature after 75 seconds of deliberations.

Florida's warm embrace of the cryptocurrency agenda is just the tip of an aggressive industry-led push to position states as crypto-friendly beachheads. Across the nation, crypto executives and lobbyists are helping to draft bills to benefit the fast-growing industry, then pushing lawmakers to adopt these made-to-order laws, before moving rapidly to profit from the

Continued on Page A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Pakistan's Crisis May Linger

As Imran Khan is forced out, the country faces a deep polarization that could lead to violence. PAGE A5

Shielding the Shore With Trees

In the Sundarbans, an area straddling India and Bangladesh, local women are battling the rising waters. PAGE A4



NATIONAL A11-15

Jan. 6 Panel Debates Referral

House committee leaders investigating the Capitol attack fear making a criminal referral of former President Donald J. Trump may backfire. PAGE A13

'Self-Induced Abortion' Case

In Texas, a district attorney said that a woman "cannot and should not" be prosecuted in connection with an abortion outside of medical care. PAGE A12

Mayor Adams's First 100 Days

Eric Adams has served as a cheerleader for New York City's revival while taking an aggressive stance against signs of lawlessness. PAGE A11

BUSINESS B1-7

Months to Make a Microchip

As the global chip shortage continues, a look inside two Intel plants in Arizona and Oregon offers some answers as to why supplies remain limited. PAGE B4

At Warner Bros., a New Era

With a new owner, the 99-year-old movie studio appears headed back to its traditional sweet spot as an entertainment company. PAGE B1

No Degree? No Problem.

New research finds companies are starting to rely less on the college filter while hiring, opening a path for increasing diversity. PAGE B1

SPORTS D1-8

Recalling Their Time Away

For N.B.A. stars returning from injuries in time for the playoffs, the road to back was at times frustrating. PAGE D3

Scheffler Wins First Masters

The 25-year-old Scottie Scheffler held off Rory McIlroy and Cameron Smith with a steady final round. PAGE D1



ARTS C1-6

Court to Hear Actors' Case

Johnny Depp is suing his ex-wife, Amber Heard, for defamation. She wrote in The Washington Post. PAGE C1

Ensemble Picks New Leader

The outspoken composer George E. Lewis will head the International Contemporary Ensemble. PAGE C3

OPINION A18-19

Thomas L. Friedman

PAGE A18





WORKERS guide a crane to remove the body of a man from a mass grave in Bucha, Ukraine, where hundreds of people were killed by Russian soldiers. The body will then be transported to a morgue for identification. **RODRIGO ARO** Associated Press

Ukrainian military says it is resisting attacks in east

Zelensky calls war an existential threat to democracy in Europe

BY NABIH BULOS, CAROLYN COLE AND KATE LINTHICUM

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian military stiffened defenses Sunday against Russian assaults in the east and south as civilians continued to flee the country in vast numbers and the nation's president framed the war as an existential threat to all of European democracy.

"The whole European project is a target for Russia," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address, labeling the conflict raging in Ukraine a "catastrophe" that will "inevitably" spread elsewhere in Europe.



UKRAINIAN refugee Larysa Khomentovska, 84, is assisted at the border crossing in Isaccea, Romania. **CAROLYN COLE** Los Angeles Times

"Russian aggression was not intended to be limited to Ukraine alone, to the destruction of our freedom and our lives alone," he said.

The Ukrainian military said it was resisting Russian efforts in the east to break through from the city of Izum, which Russian forces have seized as a strategic foothold to take more territory.

Ukraine said it was continuing to fight off Russian attacks in the southeastern port city of Mariupol, much of which has been destroyed in weeks of street fighting.

[See Ukraine, A4]

Poll shows Bass, Caruso now even in mayor's race

Ad blitz has helped developer gain ground on congresswoman with two months left until primary.

BY BENJAMIN ORESKES

Voters upset over crime and a seemingly limitless geyser of cash have propelled Rick Caruso to the front of the race for mayor, reshaping the contest and offering Los Angeles a stark contrast between the billionaire developer and his chief rival, Rep. Karen Bass.

If the primary were today, Caruso, with backing from 24% of likely voters, and Bass, with 23%, would move to the November runoff, according to a new UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies poll co-sponsor.

sored by the Los Angeles Times.

A contest between the two would feature stark divides of ideology, race and geography as well as different perceptions of Los Angeles and its governance, all of which have begun to emerge in the primary campaign.

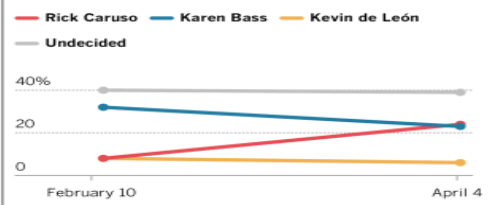
The poll, taken from March 29 to Tuesday, marks a major shift in the campaign. Bass held a wide lead over Caruso in February, when the previous Berkeley IGS poll for The Times was conducted. Caruso, who had just entered the race, stood at 8% in that poll. Since then, his support has tripled while Bass has lost ground.

City Council Member Kevin de León, who also had 8% support in February, is now a distant third, at 6%. None of the nine other candidates competing in the June 7 primary had support of 1% or more. [See Poll, A7]

A tightening race

Rick Caruso, who has bombarded Los Angeles with advertisements, has gained significant ground in the race for mayor and now shares the lead with Rep. Karen Bass.

Share of likely voters



Poll taken online in English and Spanish March 29-April 5 among 1,380 likely voters for the June primary. In addition to the three candidates shown, nine others had 2% support or less. UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies poll.

DAVID LAUTER Los Angeles Times

A TIMES INVESTIGATION

L.A. youth home a den of violence

A counselor died in a brawl at Wayfinder Family Services, where unrest isn't uncommon

BY JAMES QUEALLY

The teenage boy living in a Windsor Hills youth home was enraged. He broke windows, sprayed a fire extinguisher, flipped a refrigerator over.

Staff at the Wayfinder Family Services facility believed he was drunk or high. One of them brought the boy into a courtyard to calm him down, and a group of teens and staff followed. When one of the boys threw a punch, according to police interviews with witnesses and security camera footage, a counselor who had been hired less than a month earlier intervened. A brawl ensued.

A series of head butts from a teen left 25-year-old David McKnight-Hillman dizzy and struggling to walk. In what prosecutors would later describe as a "mob attack," several boys descended on McKnight-Hillman, kicking, punching and stomping on him. By the next morning, McKnight-Hillman was dead from head injuries. Six teens were arrested and charged with murder.

The unrest that fueled the January 2021 melee was not uncommon at Wayfinder.

Staff at the facility call the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department hundreds of times each year for help with violent teens, runaways and other issues, The Times found. When they called [See Wayfinder, A14]



ABORTION foes in Washington. Many say they oppose all abortion, regardless of the circumstances, even in instances of rape or incest. That wasn't always so. **KENT NISHIMURA** Los Angeles Times

Abortion bans that no longer permit exceptions for rape

Conservative states take an increasingly hard line

BY JENNIFER HABERKORN

WASHINGTON — As conservative states enacted stringent abortion bans in recent decades, there was one threshold they were loath to cross: Abortion was nearly always allowed in cases of rape or incest.

It was a veneer of acceptance embraced by every Republican president from Reagan to Trump, and even the strongest abortion foes,

that a woman should not be required to carry a rapist's child.

Not anymore.

Just as states may be on the verge of regaining expansive authority to outlaw abortion, eliminating rape and incest exceptions has moved from the fringe to the center of the antiabortion movement.

In 2019, Alabama gained national attention by passing a state law banning all abortions with exceptions

only for lethal abnormalities and serious health risks to the patient.

There was a brief backlash to Alabama's law, but over the last four years, 10 states have enacted abortion bans in early pregnancy without rape or incest exceptions: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. All were blocked by courts except Texas' law. [See Abortion, A6]

This is one in a series of occasional stories on the state of abortion in the U.S., as the Supreme Court weighs a challenge to its 1973 ruling Roe vs. Wade.

THE FUTURE OF ABORTION

Mexico votes on whether leader stays

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had pushed for the recall election himself. **WORLD, A3**

New bills tackle housing crisis

State lawmakers focus on easing burdens for homeowners and funding construction. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Low clouds clearing.
L.A. Basin: 69/49. **B6**

A merch search for music lovers

YouTubers offer new shopping option during Coachella livestream. **CALENDAR, E1**



BUSINESS INSIDE: L.A.'s Magic Castle is getting a new, preservation-minded owner. **A9**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

Cloudy 68/56 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 75/57 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 • B2

Trump's allies seek hand counts of ballots

Key election deniers press jurisdictions to ditch voting technology

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN, AMY GARNER AND EMMA BROWN

Some of the key architects and amplifiers of the false claim that voting machines were rigged to steal the 2020 election from Donald Trump traveled to the Nevada desert last month with a new pitch.

Speaking at a commissioners meeting in deeply conservative, mostly rural Nye County, they argued the county should ditch all its voting machines.

"The electronic voting machines are so vulnerable and so uncertifiable, I don't see how we can trust them," Jim Marchant, a Trump-supporting Nevada secretary of state candidate, told Nye County commissioners.

Instead, they insisted, the county should adopt an old-fashioned and largely obsolete method: tallying the results by hand.

Also presenting to the commission were retired Army Col. Phil Waldron and businessman Russell J. Ramsland Jr., who had worked with Trump's legal team to raise doubts about the machines in 2020. Now they're part of a network of Trump allies traveling the country to press for hand-counted paper ballots. The message is connecting: In recent weeks, officials have discussed the idea in public meetings in

SEE ELECTIONS ON A20

Next vaccine leap could be right under our noses

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

As the omicron variant of the coronavirus moved lightning-fast around the world, it revealed an unsettling truth: The virus had gained a stunning ability to infect people, jumping from one person's nose to the next. Cases soared this winter, even among vaccinated people.

That is leading scientists to rethink their strategy about the best way to fight future variants, by aiming for a higher level of protection: blocking infections altogether. If they succeed, the next vaccine could be a nasal spray.

The original coronavirus shots proved remarkably versatile, protecting people from the worst outcomes of covid-19. But as experts debate when, whether and who should receive additional boosters, a growing number of scientists are beginning to think additional shots could have marginal benefits for most healthy people. A switch in the vaccine delivery route from a shot to a sniff could muster a wall of immunity right

SEE VACCINE ON A2

Ukraine presses for more weapons



Ukrainian soldiers carry the casket of their comrade Andriy Zagorniyak to the gravesite in Kamianka-Buzka on Sunday. Zagorniyak died fighting Russian forces near Popasny. Casualty figures on both sides of the battle vary widely but are into the thousands.

JOE RADELE/GETTY IMAGES

RUSSIANS BOMBARD EASTERN TOWNS

Officials fear scope of coming battles will widen

BY TAYLOR TELFORD, ANNABELLE TIMST, BRYAN FIETSCH AND JULIAN DULAIN

Russian forces bombarded several towns in eastern Ukraine on Sunday, destroying an airport and damaging several civilian targets, as the war careens toward a pivotal new phase. The shift of the war and fears of full-scale military confrontation on open terrain prompted Ukrainian officials to again call for Western alliances to step up weapons supply efforts to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield.

Ukraine is preparing for a "massive attack in the east," its ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, warned Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." Of the Russian forces, she said: "There are so many of them and they still have so much equipment. And it looks like they're going to use all of it. So we are preparing for everything."

Military analysts have been predicting the movement of the war toward the eastern border that Ukraine shares with Russia in an area known as Donbas. The energy-rich region includes territory where pro-Russian forces have been battling the Kyiv government since 2014.

Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, cautioned that although leaders have been trumpeting success in driving Russian forces out of Kyiv, "Another battle is coming, the battle for Donbas," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The expected Russian offensive could resemble World War II. Kuleba recently told NATO, with large military maneuvers involving thousands of tanks, armored

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

Crackdown in Russia: Students are turning in antiwar teachers. **A13**

A double's escape: Putin look-alike aids a Zelensky impersonator. **A14**

Photos of war: Cultural proximity has had a profound effect. **C1**

In Kyiv stands an ex-boxer, and a mayor by his trade

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY

KYIV, UKRAINE — The black SUV pulled up to a scene of ruin: A badly damaged apartment building. A crushed tram car. Blood coating the sidewalk.

Just about an hour earlier, a suspected Russian strike had hit this residential area in the Ukrainian capital. Vitali Klitschko stepped out of his vehicle and ducked under the red and white tape keeping civilians away from the scene. For a wartime mayor in a city under siege, it was an all-too-familiar stop.

A decade ago, Klitschko was

best known as a legendary boxer and heavyweight world champion. His nickname was Doctor Ironfist, a nod to both his doctorate in sports science and his hands the size of dinner plates.

Now he has emerged as an outside figure in the Russian war in Ukraine. For more than six weeks, his city has withstood the imminent threat of Russian takeover with him, standing 6 feet 7 inches tall, at its helm.

While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, an actor turned politician, has been hailed worldwide for refusing to

SEE KYIV ON A12

Wartime smugglers come from many walks of life

BY ROBERT KLEMKO

LVIV, UKRAINE — They wait in a secret warehouse on the city's outskirts, lounging in a corner hammock or an idle wheelchair as a red van weaves through small villages and over gravel roads. When it finally pulls into the gated lot, seven bodies spring into action. The drones are here.

The volunteers unloading the military supplies are friends from the Ukrainian film and television industry — a longhair bunch of cinematographers, gaffers, set decorators and marketing strategists. They take dozens of boxes

of self-heating meals, six thermal rifle scopes, a satellite communications kit and 10 drones worth \$8,000 each. All are bound for the front.

The paths these vans weave daily from the Polish border to the Lviv warehouse to places such as Kyiv, Sumy and Kharkiv illustrate a daunting reality for Russian invaders: The defense of Ukraine has mobilized citizens from every sector of life, from battle-hardened soldiers who have been at war in Donbas for almost a decade, to the people who decide the food budgets for

SEE SUPPLIES ON A14



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kelsha Currin, mayor of Tullahassee, Okla., is working to get her town of 83 back on its feet and is pursuing resources to address decades of anti-Black government policies.

The once-thriving Black town of Tullahassee seeks resources to become a 'safe haven'

In Okla., reparations and hopes of rebuilding

BY EMMANUEL FELTON

TULLAHASSEE, OKLA. — If you really concentrate, you can imagine the town that this community's elders describe. There was the grocery store on the highway, and the gas station. There were the shops where children walked to buy lunch for 50 cents on school days. There was Ms. Sadie's chicken shack and Dr. Minor's office. All of that's gone now. In their place, either vacant lots or dilapidated buildings.

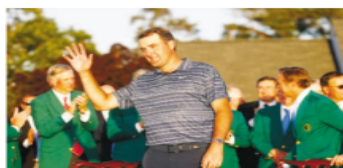
Today, you're more likely to see loose dogs than people on Lincoln

Street, the town's main drag. There are a couple of houses in a yard just across from the town hall, which used to be the center of a bustling commercial district. Now, Lincoln Street has a handful of homes, the low-slung cinder-block town hall, two churches and just one storefront, Bates Barbecue.

The once-thriving all-Black town of Tullahassee was ravaged by government policies that dived it and other Black communities, said Mayor Kelsha Currin. And she says the city is owed

SEE REPARATIONS ON A6

IN THE NEWS



TAMEN MURPHY/EPAC/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Scheffler wins the Masters The world's top-ranked golfer claimed his first major title; Tiger Woods finished in 47th place. **D1**

Macron holds steady The French president was projected to finish in the top spot after Sunday's election, though a runoff looms. **A15**

THE NATION Ivy League doctor Ashish Jha has risen from dishing out pithy public health advice on TV to helping the U.S. pandemic response as President Biden's new coronavirus czar. **A4**

A district attorney's office said it would drop murder charges against a Texas woman arrested after what authorities said was a "self-induced abortion." **A7**

THE WORLD Nine months after the brazen assassination of Haiti's president, local authorities' investiga-

tion has stalled while U.S. efforts to unravel the killing advance. **A8**

After a humiliating political defeat in a no-confidence vote, Pakistan's Imran Khan is out but not down. **A9**

THE ECONOMY The Help Desk answers questions about return-to-office policies and what say workers have in them. **A16**

THE REGION As the Washington Commanders consider a relocation, some neighbors in Landover say good riddance. **B1**

The Maryland judi-

cary has announced that courtrooms statewide will be encouraged to continue using remote access technology beyond the pandemic. **B1**

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's defamation trial begins in Fairfax County. **Secretary of State** Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin hold a dialogue with government leaders from India in Washington.

TUESDAY President Biden discusses his economic agenda during a trip to

Des Moines.

WEDNESDAY Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen gives remarks on the U.S. and global economies during an Atlantic Council event.

THURSDAY Jobless claims are estimated at 175,000. **Biden** visits Greensboro, N.C., to discuss manufacturing and supply chains. **The Supreme Court** holds a conference.

FRIDAY Biden spends Easter weekend at Camp David. **Christians** observe Good Friday.

INSIDE



STYLE Old tale, new take With "Never Wanted to Be That Girl," country stars Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde bring a fresh angle to a story of being two-timed. **C1**

Needs some work The media is failing the public in its labor reporting, Margaret Sullivan writes. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWSA16
COMICSC16
OPINION PAGESA19
LETTERSB3
OBITUARIESB5
TELEVISIONC5
WORLD NEWSA8

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The Washington Post / Year 145, No. 127
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deportes

Detuvieron a 253 barras de River

Entre los violentos se encuentra Héctor "Caverna" Godoy, uno de los líderes de Los Borrachos del Tablón; todos tenían derecho de admisión. **Página 2**



Partidazo en Núñez

El equipo de Gallardo reaccionó y derrotó por 4 a 2 a Argentinos

Página 2

El rey Scheffler

El N° 1 del golf ganó el Masters de Augusta

Página 4

DOS RETORNOS PARA UN GRAN DISCO DE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

—espectáculos

El guitarrista John Frusciante y el productor Rick Rubin lograron renovar a la banda, que lanzó *Unlimited Love*, un álbum a la altura de su historia.

LA NACION

LUNES 11 DE ABRIL DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

El kirchnerismo intenta una jugada contra reloj para nombrar jueces federales

JUSTICIA. Busca apurar las designaciones antes de que la Corte se haga cargo del Consejo

El kirchnerismo intentará hoy apurar la designación de jueces federales en lugares claves de Comodoro Py, los tribunales que tienen en sus manos gran parte de las causas de corrupción, en una última jugada del oficialismo antes de que se paralice la actividad del Consejo de la Magistratura. El oficialismo busca

apurar la marcha ante la incertidumbre que pesa sobre el futuro del organismo que incide en la designación y remoción de los jueces, en medio de una pulseada con la Corte Suprema.

Según dijeron consejeros cercanos al Gobierno, cuenta con ocho votos y le falta solo uno para avanzar. Por su parte, el presidente de la

Corte, Horacio Rosatti, se apresta a asumir después de Semana Santa la presidencia del Consejo de la Magistratura, en medio de una fuerte resistencia del kirchnerismo.

La llegada de Rosatti busca cumplir con la sentencia de la Corte que, en diciembre, declaró inconstitucional la actual conformación del

Consejo de 13 miembros y exhortó al Congreso a aprobar por ley una nueva integración.

El oficialismo no logrará tener la ley lista antes de que se venza el plazo, el próximo 15 de abril, y por lo tanto la Corte está en condiciones de asumir la presidencia del Consejo la semana próxima. **Página 12**

EL ESCENARIO

Fernández, en tiempo de definición o de revancha

Claudio Jacquelin

—LA NACION—

El entorno del Presidente afirma, promete, se ilusiona con que después de la Semana Santa Alberto Fernández adoptará decisiones para salir la disputa interna del oficialismo y encauzar su gestión, estragada por las peleas y las trabas. El énfasis, la certeza y los verbos dependen del grado de fe y de expectativas que conservan quienes pronuncian los augurios. Algunos, más audaces, arriesgan que será tiempo de revancha, además de definiciones. Son pocos. Continúa en la página 14

San Nicolás le ganó una pulseada a Moyano

política—SAN NICOLÁS (De un enviado especial).—“Perdió la extorsión”. De esa forma, el intendente de San Nicolás, Manuel Passaglia, anunció anoche que se levantaba el paro de los camioneros, que, comandados por Hugo Moyano, habían bloqueado la ciudad y amenazado con matar de “hambre” a sus ciudadanos por la detención de dos dirigentes acusados de extorsión. **Página 17**



Una escena que se repitió en todas las esquinas: los contenedores desbordaban ayer de basura por la protesta

MARCELO MANERA

LA NACION EN UCRAÑA —DÍA 47

Rusia prepara una feroz contraofensiva en el este

EE.UU. alertó que un gran convoy con tropas reagrupadas se dirige hacia el Donbass

KIEV (AP).— Los civiles en el este de Ucrania continuaron ayer la evacuación masiva de esa región del país, blanco de una inminente contraofensiva de las fuerzas rusas, que en los últimos días se reagruparon en la zona para sellar el control del

Donbass, el territorio separatista prorruso. Funcionarios militares norteamericanos dijeron que según sus estimaciones Moscú realizará una gran ofensiva desde Izium hasta Dnipro, una ciudad central que se considera un objetivo estratégico en

la región de Donbass y que fue bombardeada junto con Kharkov. Las agencias de inteligencia occidentales detectaron en las últimas horas en esa zona un convoy de 12 kilómetros de vehículos blindados y de apoyo logístico rusos. Continúa en la página 2

Buzova, otra marca del horror ruso contra la resistencia ucraniana

Elisabetta Piqué

Página 4

Cerca del récord, la inflación de marzo rondaría el 6%

María Julieta Rumi

Página 18

EL PULSO DEL CONSUMO

Guillermo Oliveto

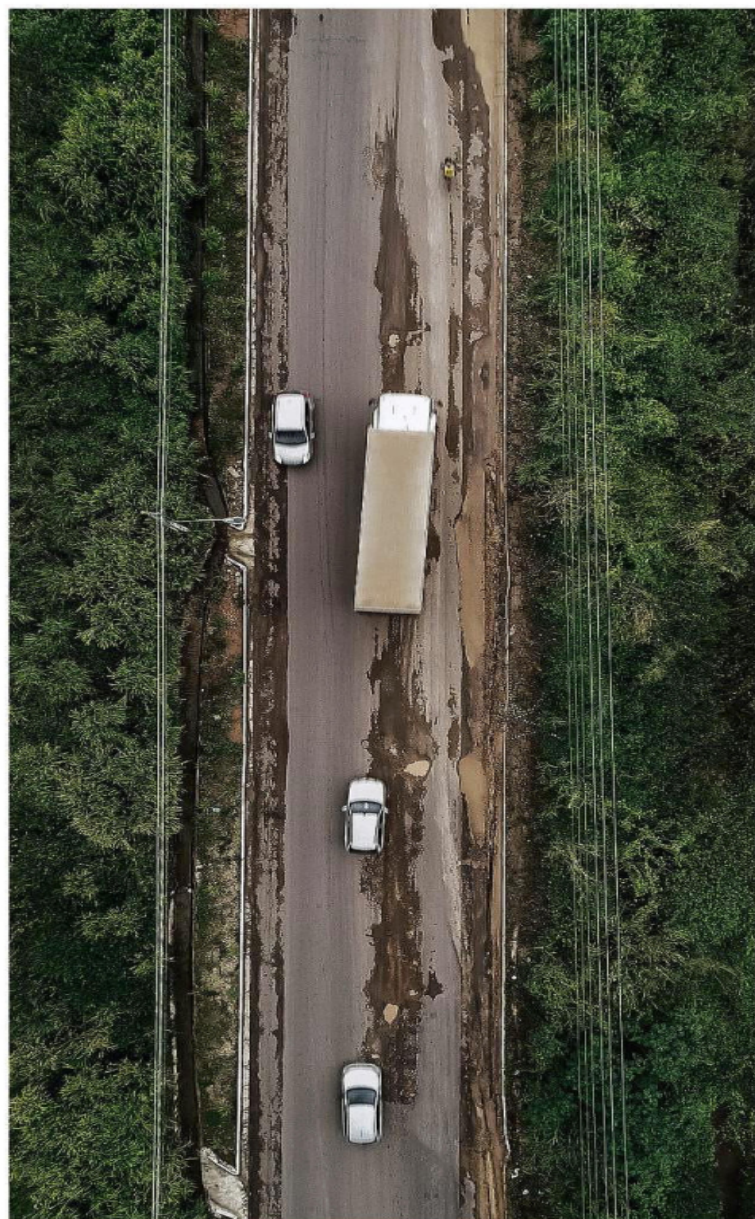
¿Pierde el consumo su poder ansiolítico?

Página 20

Triunfó Macron, pero enfrentará a Marine Le Pen en el ballottage

FRANCIA. El presidente y la ultraderechista repiten la segunda vuelta de 2017

PARÍS (De nuestra correspondencia).— Como en 2017, el presidente Emmanuel Macron y la ultraderechista Marine Le Pen deberán enfrentarse en un ballottage el 24 de este mes, luego de pasar la primera vuelta con el 27,6% y el 23% de los votos, respectivamente, en las elecciones presidenciales de ayer. Los comicios, además, dejaron en evidencia la debacle socialista y de la derecha. **Página 8**



Anel viário de Imperatriz (MA), obra da Codevasf tocada pela Engefort Adriano Vizzoni/Folhapress

Empreiteira usa firma de fachada e domina licitações

Segunda maior recebedora do governo Jair Bolsonaro, Engefort ganhou 53 de 99 concorrências da Codevasf

Uma empreiteira do Maranhão conquistou 53 de 99 licitações de pavimentação do governo de Jair Bolsonaro (PL) participando ou sozinha ou ao lado de uma empresa de fachada registrada em nome do irmão de um de seus sócios.

Trata-se da Engefort, com sede em Imperatriz, cidade do sul maranhense. Ela tem reservados R\$ 620 milhões da União para fazer os serviços, dos quais R\$ 84,6 milhões já foram quitados.

Apesar desse volume, a empresa é uma caixa-preta e não quis se pronunciar sobre as suas atividades.

As obras entregues a ela ficam sob o guarda-chuva da Codevasf, a estatal controlada pelo centrão em troca de apoio ao presidente.

Como a Folha mostrou, o afrouxamento de regras licitatórias acelerou a liberação de recursos para obras indicadas por meio de emendas parlamentares desses aliados do Palácio do Planalto.

A estatal não quis comentar o caso da Engefort, que foi a segunda empreiteira com mais verbas empenhadas pelo governo em 2021.

Sua atuação, apesar da opacidade de seus métodos, é nacional. Foi a única empresa a participar de todas as licitações nos 15 estados e no Distrito Federal.

Em Minas Gerais, onde há mais de 200 firmas de construção pesada, ela concorreu sozinha e ganhou 10 de 21 pregões. Política A4

Prefeito de SP é aprovado só por 12%, diz Datafolha

No cargo há 11 meses, após a morte de Bruno Covas (PSDB), o prefeito paulistano, Ricardo Nunes (MDB), só é aprovado por 12% dos moradores da capital, mostra o Datafolha. Para 46%, sua gestão é regular e, para 30%, ruim ou péssima. Cotidiano B1

Mariliz P. Jorge Cheguei ao limite no Twitter, que só faz moer gente

Penso nas consequências profissionais e pessoais de dedicar ao Twitter não só tempo, mas a distância necessária ao pensamento crítico, independente, além do custo emocional. Cheguei ao limite. Mercado A14

Estados ligados ao agro crescem mais durante pandemia

Estudo mostra que estados cuja economia é focada no agronegócio, como MS e GO, tendem a ter altas mais fortes do PIB no período acumulado da pandemia (2020 a 2022), em relação a 2019. Isso se deve à aceleração dos preços das commodities. Mercado A13

Segundo turno na França terá Macron contra Marine Le Pen

Com quase 100% dos votos apurados, presidente centrista (com cerca de 28%) vai ao segundo turno contra ultradireitista (cerca de 23%). Radical de esquerda Mélenchon teve bom desempenho, e rodada final será dia 24. Mundo A9

Petrobras vai avaliar novo presidente na 4ª

Conselho da estatal discutirá nome de novo indicado pelo Planalto para o cargo após disputa com Bolsonaro. Mercado A16

Justiça autoriza paciente a viajar com maconha

Carioca sofre de fibromialgia e trouxe 300 g de flores de Cannabis sativa da Alemanha, que pode fumar nas ruas. Cotidiano B3

Equilíbrio B4

Aplicação de Botox também ocorre para prevenir as rugas

Esporte B5

Sérvios irão ao Qatar em busca de sucesso do passado

Ilustrada C1

Plínio Marcos tem suas peças levadas a HQs e óperas

A pandemia em 10.abr

Dados das 20h

População vacinada no Brasil
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **75,4%**

Óbitos

Média móvel **149** ↓ -37%*
Em 24 h 39
Total 661.309

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

EDITORIAIS A2

Problema de fundo
Sobre vícios do financiamento eleitoral público.

Agências maltratadas
Acerca de indicações de Bolsonaro para os órgãos.



A presidente do Palmeiras, Leila Pereira, na sede da Crefisa, que também dirige, em São Paulo Karline Xavier/Folhapress

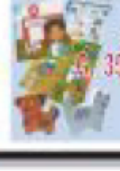
ENTREVISTA DA 2ª

Leila Pereira Palmeiras não é um banco, o que precisa é ganhar títulos

Primeira presidente mulher da história do Palmeiras, Leila Pereira diz que o trabalho no clube é bastante distinto daquele que exerce à frente da financeira Crefisa, que desde 2015 também patrocina o time. "A Crefisa é um banco, o Palmeiras, não", afirmou ela, dizendo que o time precisa investir em talentos para conquistar títulos, e não ter o caixa cheio com a venda de jogadores. A12

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje
27°
18°
0h 6h 12h 18h 24h



Ministerio de Justicia abre pesquisa sobre reuniones narco en Emboscada

Policía se puso a disposición de detenido por carga de cocaína

Audios revelan la conversación entre Juan José Dubini, presunto responsable de una megacarga de 3.400 kilos, y un uniformado donde este se ofrece. Una nueva muestra de corrupción.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Con bendición de palmas inició Semana Santa



Tradición. En todas las iglesias se bendijeron las palmas. El arzobispo de Asunción, Mons. Adalberto Martínez, criticó a los que se lavan las manos para eludir responsabilidades.

PÁGINA 17

Se debe integrar comisión
El cartismo insiste
en evitar que la
Gobernación de
Guairá se intervenga

PÁGINA 9

Faltan cambios estructurales
La ineficiencia del
gasto público cuesta
al Paraguay unos
USD 1.600 millones

PÁGINA 10

Brasil ya paga menos
Analistas creen
que la reducción
de la tarifa de
Itaipú es un hecho

PÁGINA 12

No figura en orden del día
Oficialismo hará el
intento de aprobar
ley del subsidio
para combustibles

PÁGINA 13

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LE FIGARO

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



Macron-Le Pen, nouveau duel

EMMANUEL MACRON **28,3 %**

MARINE LE PEN **23,3 %**

Le président-candidat devance largement Marine Le Pen, qui augmente, elle aussi, son score de 2017. Jean-Luc Mélenchon écrase toute la gauche, Éric Zemmour et Valérie Pécresse payent au prix fort le choix du vote utile.

PAGES 2 À 17 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



JEAN-LUC
MÉLENCHON
21,2 %



ÉRIC
ZEMMOUR
7,2 %



VALÉRIE
PÉCRESSE
4,8 %



YANNICK
JADOT
4,8 %

Selon les estimations Ifop à 21h

ÉDITORIAL par Alexis Brézet, directeur des rédactions @abrezet

Macron, les défis d'une victoire

Comme on disait autrefois aux enfants, la surprise, c'est qu'il n'y a pas de surprise ! Le match Macron-Le Pen, ce match retour dont, paraît-il, les Français ne voulaient pas, aura bien lieu. Ni Mélenchon, en dépit de sa spectaculaire remontée finale, ni Zemmour malgré son incroyable chevauchée initiale, ni Valérie Pécresse, que son courage n'aura pas suffi à sauver du naufrage, n'auront réussi à l'empêcher. Ces derniers jours bruisaient des rumeurs les plus folles, mais Emmanuel Macron se sera fait peur pour rien : si la suite n'est pas écrite, le candidat sortant peut l'envisager avec sérénité. Certes, la candidate du RN aligne du côté droit quelques réserves nouvelles ; certes, on peut raisonnablement penser que sa prestation lors du débat télévisé de l'entre-deux-tours sera moins calamiteuse que la précédente ; il est probable qu'à l'arrivée elle fera mieux qu'en 2017, mais, vu l'avance très substantielle qu'Emma-

nuel Macron a prise sur sa rivale, tout indique que, le 24 avril, la victoire ne devrait pas échapper au président sortant.

Il faut le souhaiter. C'est entendu, Marine Le Pen a renoncé à ses folles les plus criantes (la sortie de l'euro ou la retraite pour tous à 60 ans), mais son programme reste

Sur les épaules du président sortant, pèse une lourde responsabilité

dangereusement non financé, son équipe politique fragile, son expérience du pouvoir nulle, ses compétences incertaines. Au vu des difficultés, économiques, sociales, internationales qu'il va devoir affronter dans les années qui viennent, notre pays n'avait pas tant d'atouts qu'il puisse mettre en péril à la fois sa cohésion, sa crédibilité internationale et sa réputation financière. Ce risque-

là devrait donc nous être épargné.

Attention, tout de même : si Emmanuel Macron dispose d'une avance relativement confortable sur sa première poursuivante, le haut niveau de Jean-Luc Mélenchon installe en face de lui un « bloc protestataire » dont, par addition, la menace ne doit pas être sous-estimée. Avec ce scrutin qui prolonge et amplifie celui de 2017, le président, qui aura passé cinq années à effacer toute alternative entre son camp et les extrêmes, à théoriser ce « nouveau clivage » entre « progressistes » et « populistes », est pour ainsi dire victime de son succès. La droite, après la gauche, a disparu, mais sur le champ de ruines laissé par les anciens partis politiques s'affirme un bloc d'hostilité sociale dont les clameurs, dans les années qui viennent, ne vont pas cesser de retentir. C'est dire si, sur les épaules de président sortant, pèse une lourde responsabilité ! Pour desserrer la tenaille des extrêmes, il ne doit plus se tromper.

(suite page 27)

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Macron and Le Pen face off in fight for France's future



President to go head to head with far-right challenger in final poll

Angelique Chrisafis
Paris

France faces a brutal two-week battle over the country's future as the centrist incumbent Emmanuel Macron faces the far-right Marine Le Pen for the presidency, positioning himself as a pro-European "progressive" against what he calls her anti-Muslim, nationalist programme and "complacency" about the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin.

Macron topped yesterday's first round of the French presidential election with 28.5% of the vote, ahead of Le Pen's 23.6%, according to initial projected results by Ipsos for France Télévisions.

Macron scored higher than his result in the first round five years ago, gaining support in the final hours of the campaign after his harsh warnings to voters to hold back the far-right and protect France's place on the international diplomatic stage amid the war in Ukraine.

But Le Pen's score was also higher than five years ago. She had campaigned hard on the cost of living crisis and inflation, which had become voters' biggest concern.

All major candidates, except for the far-right TV pundit Éric Zemmour, immediately called for French people to vote tactically to keep out Le Pen in the final round.

Macron told reporters: "When the far-right, in all its forms, represents that much in France, you can't consider things are going well, so you must go out and convince people with a lot of humility, and respect for those who weren't on our side in this first round."

▲ Emmanuel Macron after casting his ballot in Le Touquet, northern France; his rival Marine Le Pen, below, voted in Hénin-Beaumont

PHOTOGRAPHS: SYLVAIN LEFEVRE/GETTY IMAGES



He told supporters: "Don't be mistaken, nothing is decided, and the debate we'll have in the next two weeks will be decisive for our country and for Europe."

In a triumphant speech, Le Pen sought to capitalise on anti-Macron feeling since the *gilets jaunes* anti-government protests and styled him as divisive and polarising. She said the final round would be "a fundamental choice between two opposing visions of society", which she saw as Macron's "division and disorder" or her promise for "social justice" to protect "society and civilisation". She called on "all those who did not vote for Macron" to join her.

The hard-left Jean-Luc Mélenchon came in third with a higher than forecast 20.3%, cementing his leading position on the left after campaigning on the cost of living and transforming the presidential system.

As the battle began last night for Macron and Le Pen

Alarm over 'appalling' ambulance wait times

Exclusive
Andrew Gregory
Niamh McIntyre
Steven Morris

Lives are at risk because 999 callers face unacceptable and appalling waits for ambulances in England, the country's top emergency medicine doctor has said.

Dr Katherine Henderson, the president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said pressure in the NHS was now so severe that it was breaking its "basic agreement" with the public to treat the sickest in a timely way.

In an extraordinary intervention, Henderson said urgent and emergency care was in a "deeper crisis than ever before", and for the first time in its history the NHS could no longer stick to its "contract" with the nation to promptly reach seriously ill patients who dial 999.

Patients with life-threatening conditions such as heart attacks and strokes were having to wait far too long for emergency care, she said, and vulnerable older people were in some cases spending all night on the floor at home after falling.

The rapidly escalating crisis is being caused by soaring demand, enormous staff shortages in the NHS and social care that have been worsened by Covid-related absences, and a drastic shortfall of hospital and care home beds.

"The true barrier to tackling this crisis is political unwillingness," Henderson said. "The current situation is breaking the workforce and breaking our hearts."

Hospitals face record demand from patients coming forward after two years of the pandemic, while struggling to discharge patients because of the crisis in social care.

As a result, Henderson said, doctors were

18 →

Rishi Sunak Chancellor under pressure as he requests ethics referral

News Page 6 →