

What's News

Business & Finance

Musk went full-on corporate raider a week into his rolling clash with Twitter, offering a \$43 billion bid for the company and warning he might sell his stake in the service if rebuffed. **A1, A6**

◆ **The interest rate on the U.S.'s most popular mortgage hit 5% for the first time in more than a decade, extending a sharp rise that has yet to significantly slow the red-hot housing market.** **A1**

◆ **Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and Wells Fargo reported double-digit declines in profit for the first quarter, and they all posted lower revenue.** **B1, B2**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell, with major indexes posting weekly losses. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow retreated 1.2%, 2.1% and 0.3%, respectively, on Thursday.** **B9**

◆ **The ECB will continue to lag behind the Federal Reserve in tightening monetary policy despite rising inflation, Lagarde said.** **A16**

◆ **TSMC signaled that the global semiconductor shortage is likely to continue, with tight production capacity for all types of chips it makes.** **B1**

◆ **Amazon CEO Jassy said he wants to improve worker safety and make additional progress on reducing the company's carbon footprint.** **B1**

◆ **Warner Bros. Discovery chief Zaslav told employees that he wants CNN to focus on maximizing its impact, not profitability.** **B1**

◆ **Peloton will cut prices of its stationary bikes and treadmills and raise monthly subscriptions for online workout classes.** **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **The flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the warship Moskva, sank from damage suffered from a fire following what the Ukrainian military said was a cruise-missile attack targeting the vessel.** **A1, A7-8**

◆ **Russia warned that it could station nuclear forces in and around a Russian exclave in Northern Europe and bolster its military presence there if Finland and Sweden join NATO.** **A7**

◆ **Florida Gov. DeSantis signed a law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, tightening restrictions in the state ahead of a pivotal Supreme Court case.** **A3**

◆ **A federal jury convicted El Shafee Elsheikh, a British Islamic State fighter, of being part of a brutal cell that murdered American hostages.** **A3**

◆ **The Omicron BA.2 variant has dominated new infections in the U.S. for weeks without setting off a major surge so far.** **A5**

◆ **A booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech generated a strong immune response in children 5 to 11 years old, the companies said.** **A5**

◆ **Three more Texas international bridges will see relief from state trucking inspections that have disrupted trade with Mexico, Gov. Abbott said.** **A2**

◆ **U.S. law enforcement linked the Lazarus Group, an online crime syndicate connected to the North Korean government, to the hack of online game Axie Infinity.** **B4**

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Elon Musk, speaking Thursday at a TED conference in Vancouver, said he aims to ensure Twitter is 'maximally trusted.'

Musk Offers to Buy Twitter As Company Mulls Poison Pill

Elon Musk went full-on corporate raider a week into his rolling clash with Twitter Inc.,

By Rob Copeland,
Rebecca Elliott
and Cara Lombardo

offering a \$43 billion bid for the company and warning he might sell his stake in the ser-

vice if rebuffed.

The Thursday offer was the latest in a will-he-or-won't-he saga between the world's richest man and the social-media service. The offer was at once serious—Mr. Musk disclosed it in a federal filing—and at the same time tinged with humor, as the offer was for \$54.20 per share, a barely veiled mari-

juana reference.

Twitter confirmed it had received the offer and said its board would review the proposal. It is also weighing a so-called poison pill, a legal mechanism that would prevent Mr. Musk from increasing his stake in the company significantly, according to a person familiar with the situation.

Investors were unimpressed; Twitter shares fell nearly 2% to \$45.08 per share, indicating skepticism that a deal would happen.

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◆ **Musk looks to next frontier after space, car ventures... A6**
◆ **Heard on the Street: Offer gives board a pricey out... B10**

Takeover Bid Faces Many Hurdles

By LIZ HOFFMAN
AND CARA LOMBARDO

The richest man in the world should be able to buy anything he wants. But Elon Musk's \$43 billion bid for Twitter Inc. looks like a long shot.

Shareholders aren't rally-

ing behind him. The board is preparing to throw up roadblocks and might put in place a so-called poison pill to block Mr. Musk from acquiring more shares. And it isn't clear that Mr. Musk, despite his vast fortune, can come up with the money.

Like everything with the Tesla Inc. chief executive,

crypto enthusiast and Twitter troll, Mr. Musk's \$54.20-a-share offer flouts nearly every norm in the merger playbook. The eccentricity that helped make him a billionaire could now be a liability in the eyes of Twitter's board and the financial backers he'll need.

Mr. Musk said at a TED Talk on Thursday that he is

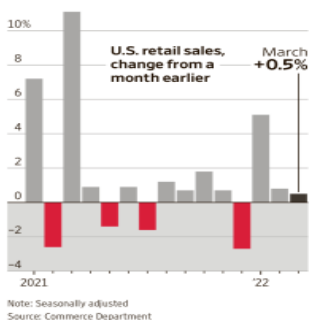
not sure he will actually pull it off, though he said he has "sufficient assets."

He has given no indication of how he might pay for the deal. Would-be acquirers—especially uninvited ones—typically show up with the money in hand, or at least a guarantee from a bank that

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Retail Spending Rises Again

U.S. retail sales increased in March for the third straight month as consumers confronted the highest inflation in four decades and absorbed record-high gasoline prices. Retail and restaurant spending rose by 0.5% compared with the previous month. **A2**



'I Hate Doodle Dogs': Endless Poodle Hybrids Spark Backlash

The popular pets pit owners against people tired of seeing the pooches everywhere

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

Since adopting an Australian labradoodle a few months ago, Luke Kanies has felt a little sheepish that his new pet, Westley, doesn't align with his nonconformist lifestyle.

Mr. Kanies stands out as a tech entrepreneur with pierced ears and a mind-set that comes from growing up on a hippie commune. His four-legged companion vanishes in the hordes of "doodle dogs"—canines that are part poodle and part other breeds—that populate the parks of Portland, Ore. Almost all of them have curly coats and button noses, making Westley far from unique.

"I knew they were

popular, but not this popular," said Mr. Kanies, 46 years old. "It's like showing up at a party wearing the same dress as everybody else."

A deluge of doodle dogs that has been in the making for more than a decade turned into a tsunami during the pandemic. Despite typically costing a few thousand dollars apiece, poodle hybrids, which come in more than a dozen varieties, seem to be taking over the dog runs across the country. Their omnipresence, though, has triggered a backlash that has spilled into online and real world.

The trendy canines have been popular for some time, but the backlash has been building for years. Please turn to page A9

Mortgage Rates Climb to 5%, Highest in More Than 10 Years

By MATT GROSSMAN

The interest rate on the U.S.'s most popular mortgage hit 5% for the first time in more than a decade, extending a sharp rise that has yet to significantly slow the red-hot housing market.

Interest on the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage climbed from 4.72% a week ago to its highest level since early 2011, government-mortgage company Freddie Mac said Thursday. Fifteen months ago, mortgage rates were at

all-time lows.

The fastest three-month increase in interest rates since 1987 has made the housing market ground zero for the Federal Reserve's efforts to tame inflation. Home buyers, already facing surging house prices, are now contending with a substantial increase in financing expenses, further lifting monthly payments.

A year ago, buying the median U.S. home at prevailing rates meant a monthly mortgage bill of about \$1,223 after a 20% down payment, accord-

ing to calculations by George Ratiu, an economist at Realtor.com. At recent rates, such a purchase would require a monthly payment of nearly \$1,700—a 38% increase, he estimated. (News Corp. parent of The Wall Street Journal, operates Realtor.com.)

Even compared with searing inflation elsewhere in the economy, that counts as extraordinary price growth. It also strikes at the bedrock of many families' finances, Mr. Ratiu said. "Most Americans

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You Lease, You Owe, 'Hell or High Water'

Some small businesses leasing equipment find themselves stuck when trouble strikes

By RUTH SIMON

Small-business owners often rely on leasing for the equipment they need, from trucks to restaurant ovens. It's a way to get set up without having to pour in a lot of cash.

The pandemic upended many of those small businesses' plans. In the process, it has fueled bitter clashes between owners and leasing companies.

The culprit is a provision in most lease and finance contracts that binds owners to make years of monthly payments, no matter what happens to their business and even if the equipment doesn't work or is returned.

The industry calls it the "hell or high water clause." Nicole Carranza and her husband leased \$59,000 worth of equipment for a restaurant they planned to open in La Habra, Calif., just before the pandemic. After it began, they couldn't finance additional equipment, so they dropped their plan and canceled the order.

Only one item had shipped. The vendor returned the money paid for the rest of the equipment to the leasing company, Pawnee Leasing Corp.

Pawnee told the Carranzas they still had a lease contract. It said that after a deduction for the returned

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INSIDE



JASON GAY

Is it OK to celebrate just making the playoffs? If you're the Timberwolves, yes. **A12**



MANSON

The Omaha home where Warren Buffett launched his business empire is for sale. **M1**



Ruins in Andriivka, a Ukrainian village west of Kyiv, on Thursday. The nation continued to brace for a Russian offensive in the east.

Cities Rethink Traffic Stops By the Police

This article is by David D. Kirkpatrick, Steve Eder and Kim Barker.

Los Angeles is overhauling its traffic policing, aiming to stop pulling over cars — frequently with Black drivers — for trivial infractions like broken taillights or expired tags as a pretext to search for drugs or guns.

"We want to fish with a hook, not a net," Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Los Angeles last month became the biggest city to restrict the policing of minor violations. In Philadelphia, a ban on such stops has just taken effect. Pittsburgh; Seattle; Berkeley, Calif.; Lansing, Mich.; Brooklyn Center, Minn.; and the State of Virginia have all taken similar steps. Elsewhere across the country, a half-dozen prosecutors have said they will not bring charges based on evidence collected at these stops.

Officials pushing the new rules cite data showing that minor stops not only disproportionately snare Black drivers but also do little to combat serious crime or improve public safety, and some escalate into avoidable violence, even killing officers or drivers.

The latest example is the death in Grand Rapids, Mich., of Patrick Lloya, an unarmed 26-year-old Black man who was pulled over for a mismatched license plate and, after a brief struggle, was apparently shot in the head from behind, according to videos released on Wednesday. An hour away in Lansing, new rules seek to prevent such deadly encounters.

"There is a trust factor," Mayor Andy Schor of Lansing said in an interview last month, "that if you get pulled over — whether it's a moving violation, or pretextual, or whatever — you're not going to end up dead."

Police chiefs and criminologists say the rule changes amount to the first major reconsideration of traffic policing since the early 1980s, when rising crime rates, a shift toward more proactive policing and the advent of squad car computers for checking driver records helped make pretextual enforcement a cornerstone of enforcement.

"Never before have government officials, policymakers or prosecutors tried to limit how police officers use traffic stops in their investigatory role — in fact, historically, making these stops was encouraged," said Sarah A.

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Soviet-Era Missiles Now Guard Ukraine's Skies

By ANDREW HIGGINS

DOBRA, Slovakia — Driving back to his village near the Ukrainian border last week, the mayor had to stop to let a train pass and assumed he wouldn't have to wait long. But the flatbed wagons, stacked high with military equipment, just kept coming. He waited for nearly half an hour.

"It was a very long train, much longer than usual," recalled Mikolas Csomá, the mayor of Dobra, a previously sleepy village in eastern Slovakia that, over the past month, has become a crucial artery funneling weapons and ammunition into Ukraine by rail from the West.

The train that delayed Mr. Csomá's drive home not only was unusually long but also signaled a singular escalation in Western efforts to help Ukraine defend itself. It carried an air defense system made up of 48 surface-to-air missiles, four launchers and radar systems to guide the rockets to their targets, which in Ukraine means Russian warplanes and missiles.

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia vows to fight the war to its "full completion" and his forces regroup for an expected push in Ukraine's east, NATO countries,

An Air Defense System From Slovakia Adds to the Arms Flow

including the United States, are scrambling to keep the weapons flowing and bulk up the country's defenses.

Bolstering Ukraine's long-range air defense capabilities is seen as especially critical. Ukraine already had its own S-300 and other air defense systems, but some of these have been destroyed, leaving Russia with a large degree of freedom to hit Ukrainian targets from the air with warplanes and cruise missiles.

Increasingly desperate to reverse this imbalance, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine has repeatedly pleaded with NATO to "close the sky over Ukraine" by imposing a no-fly zone. But NATO has been unwilling to send its own warplanes into Ukraine.

Instead, the United States of-

fered Slovakia, a fellow NATO member, a substantial battery of American-made Patriot missiles if it would "donate" its aging S-300 system to Ukraine.

Jaroslav Nad, Slovakia's defense minister and a gun-ho supporter of Ukraine, said it would have been unthinkable before Russia's invasion for his country to send large quantities of even basic weapons across its eastern border free of charge, never mind an old but still powerful Soviet-made anti-aircraft system.

"But this is the world's new reality," he said in an interview in Bratislava, the Slovak capital. "We are a frontline state. We have war on our border and more than 330,000 Ukrainians coming to our country. The paradigm is completely different now."

Mr. Putin, he said, "is equal to Hitler" and must be stopped in Ukraine before he can move farther West. "Ukraine is literally fighting for our future," he said.

Like Slovakia, other countries are also steadily expanding the scope of their military aid. The No. 2 Pentagon official met in

Continued on Page A10

CHILLER THAN USUAL The war has divided Russians, Ukrainians and Norwegians who live side by side in a tiny Arctic archipelago. PAGE A7

33 Bullets, a Crowded Subway And, Astonishingly, No Deaths

By SARAH MASLIN NIR

Inside the roughly 750 square feet of a subway car on Tuesday morning, a gunman unleashed a hail of bullets, firing at rush-hour commuters at close range — captive victims.

While 33 bullets were sprayed from his Glock handgun, they wounded only 10 passengers. More than a dozen other people were injured, some of them choking on smoke from the two devices the police said Frank R. James detonated before he started shooting.

As the police announced the capture of Mr. James on Wednesday, the police said that after an attack that has no equivalent in the subway's history, and the release of more victims from hospitals underscored a remarkable truth:

Not one person died. "I don't understand the physics of it; he's feet away from people with a firearm that is designed to

kill people — and no one got killed," said Paul M. Barrett, the author of "Glock: The Rise of America's Gun." "I think it is either tremendous luck — or a miracle."

In some ways, the city has been spared. There will be no memorial wreaths or votive candles laid at the 36th Street subway stop in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, where the attack occurred, and there will be no funerals to attend.

Whether it was the result of fate, fortune, a malfunctioning 9-millimeter handgun or poor marksmanship, what became clear as details emerged about Mr. James — a 62-year-old with addresses in Philadelphia and Wisconsin — is how much worse the attack could have been.

Mr. James has been charged with the federal crime of committing a terrorist act on a mass transit system.

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After Tying With Twitter, Musk Now Wants It All

This article is by Mike Isaac, Kate Conger and Lauren Hirsch.

For the past two weeks, Elon Musk has made it clear he wants to own a piece of Twitter. First, he revealed that he bought 9 percent of the company. Then he toyed with joining its board of directors. And then he backed out, while tweeting a string of insults about Twitter to his 81 million followers. But on Wednesday night, he made his boldest move yet: He said he wanted to buy the whole company.

Mr. Musk's unsolicited bid, which could be worth more than \$40 billion, could have a big impact on political discourse around the world because he strongly supports unfettered free speech and has bristled when Twitter has removed posts and barred users.

In a statement, Twitter said it would "carefully review the proposal." But after a board meeting that started early Thursday morning and lasted several hours, Twitter's executives and directors seemed ready for a fight. They appeared to be marshaling investors against Mr. Musk's plans, and sig-

RUSSIAN FLAGSHIP SINKS IN BLACK SEA; E.U. COULD BAN OIL

Ukraine Claims Its Missiles Hit Vessel — Moscow's Global Isolation Grows

By MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF and RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

BRUSSELS — Russia's faltering war against Ukraine suffered a pair of setbacks Thursday when the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet sank after a catastrophic explosion and fire, as the European Union moved closer to an embargo on Russian oil imports.

Ukraine claimed to have struck the vessel, the guided missile cruiser Moskva, with two of its own Neptune missiles, while Russia said the blast was caused by ammunition aboard the ship. If confirmed, the missile attack would be a serious blow to Russia, both militarily and symbolically — proof that its ships can no longer operate with impunity, and another damaging blow to morale.

It would also give a lift to Ukrainian hopes, while demonstrating the defenders' homegrown technological capacity and exposing an embarrassing weakness in the Russian navy's antimissile defenses.

Moscow also faces the possible loss of European markets in fossil fuels, which are providing billions of dollars a month to support its war effort. The European Union

has long resisted calls to reduce its energy dependency on Russia, but officials revealed on Thursday that an oil embargo is in the works and is likely to be adopted in the coming weeks.

That comes on top of a previously announced ban on imports of Russian coal. Taken together, the steps are bound to raise fuel and electricity prices in Europe, potentially disrupting the economy and provoking a political backlash.

Ukraine continues to brace for a Russian offensive in the eastern Donbas region — where Moscow has said it will focus its war efforts after its failure to capture the capital, Kyiv — while Russian forces squeeze the shrinking pocket of resistance in the ruined southern port of Mariupol. The devastation rained there has offered a dire warning of what may befall other cities in the event of a prolonged Russian siege, prompting a mass exodus of civilians from the Donbas.

Its international isolation deep-

Continued on Page A9

In Russia, a New Iron Curtain Falls on Storied Ballet Stages

By ALEX MARSHALL

AMSTERDAM — Just days after the invasion of Ukraine, Olga Smirnova, one of Russia's most important ballerinas, posted an emotional statement on Telegram, the messaging app. "I am against war with all the fibers of my soul," she wrote.

"I never thought I would be ashamed of Russia," she added, "but now I feel that a line has been drawn that separates the before and the after."

That's certainly been true for Ms. Smirnova, 30. As the war got worse, and dissent in Russia was ruthlessly quashed, Ms. Smirnova, who had gone to Dubai to recover from a knee injury, realized that she could no longer return home. "If I were to go back to Russia, I would have to completely change my opinion, the way I felt about the war," Ms.

Smirnova said in a recent interview in Amsterdam, adding that returning would be, "quite frankly, dangerous."

So she left the Bolshoi, the storied company whose name is synonymous with ballet, with its gilded theaters just blocks from the Kremlin, uprooted her life and moved to Amsterdam, where she joined the Dutch National Ballet.

The departure of Ms. Smirnova is a blow to the pride of a nation where, since the days of the czars, ballet has had an outsized importance as a national treasure, a leading cultural export and tool of soft power. Her move is one of the most visible symbols of how Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended ballet, as prominent artists shun Russia's storied dance companies; theaters in the West can-

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JIM WATSON/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Elon Musk's bid for Twitter could change its moderation policies.

nated that he would have to spend billions more if he wanted to own the company.

Twitter is also considering a corporate defense tactic to fend off Mr. Musk. It is weighing putting in place a so-called poison pill, a maneuver intended to ward off an unwanted takeover offer by making the target's shares more

expensive, said two people who were familiar with the matter but could not speak for the company.

Mr. Musk said that if he succeeded in acquiring Twitter, he intended to relax the company's moderation policies and make public its algorithm for ranking

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Pulling Away From France

Many African countries are increasingly troubled by the ongoing influence of their former colonial power. PAGE A5

An Antarctic Puzzle Solved

Vast plumes of warm Pacific air probably caused the collapse of two ice shelves, researchers say. PAGE A5

NATIONAL A11-17, 20

Road Rage Shootings on Rise

Dozens of episodes have been reported in Texas alone amid a pandemic surge in gun purchases and a country increasingly on edge. PAGE A11

Keeping Track of the Virus

Scientists are looking for better ways to monitor the pandemic as an increasing reliance on at-home testing is making official counts less reliable. PAGE A13

Expanding a Gifted Program

Mayor Eric Adams said New York would add seats for kindergartners and third graders and scrap a test. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-6

No Quick Fix for Supply Chain

The Biden administration's economic advisers see factors besides the pandemic complicating global trading patterns for years to come. PAGE B3

Shelling Out to Squeeze In

Jet fuel prices are surging, sending airfares higher, but so far that has failed to deter consumers, who seem determined to travel. PAGE B1

From Booming to Buying Time

A changing environment is testing the business model of the \$15 billion rapid-delivery start-up Gopuff. PAGE B1



WEEKEND ARTS C1-16

A Cracking 'American Buffalo'

Jesse Green has high praise for a revival of David Mamet's play. Above, Laurence Fishburne and Sam Rockwell. PAGE C1

Putting a New Face on Liberty

The Italian-born artist Paola Pivi took one of America's most familiar symbols and made it new and strange. PAGE C10

SPORTS B8-10

It's Jackie Robinson Day

The Hall of Fame will announce the start of a two-year project to re-examine the journey of Black players. PAGES B8-9

Eye Rolls Turn to Exhilaration

The Europa Conference League, originally dismissed as irrelevant, has won over soccer teams and fans. PAGE B10

OPINION A18-19

Paul Krugman

PAGE A19



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Auditor faults state on corrupt lawyers

Long-awaited report says the bar failed to rein in attorneys with problematic records.

BY MATT HAMILTON

The State Bar of California has failed to effectively discipline corrupt attorneys, allowing lawyers to repeatedly violate professional standards and harm members of the public, according to a long-awaited audit of the agency released Thursday.

The audit of the State Bar was ordered last year by the Legislature in the wake of a Los Angeles Times investigation that documented how the now-disgraced attorney Tom Girardi cultivated close relationships with the agency and kept an unblemished law license despite over 100 lawsuits against him or his firm — with many alleging misappropriation of client money.

After the State Bar acknowledged its “mistakes” in handling complaints against Girardi that spanned four decades, the Legislature mandated the public examination of the attorney discipline system.

The audit concluded that the State Bar failed to properly investigate some attorneys even as complaints poured in, relied on confidential warning letters and other nonpublic methods that did little to deter misconduct, and has not dealt

[See Audit, A12]

Musk’s unlikely bid to buy Twitter

Wall Street appears skeptical of Tesla CEO’s well-hyped \$43-billion proposal.

BY RUSS MITCHELL, BRIAN CONTRERAS AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

It was a classic Elon Musk move: announce a new offering that would radically transform the technology landscape, flog it on-stage and in social media posts, only for it to turn out that the offering in question was nowhere close to market-ready.

Only this time, it wasn’t a self-driving taxi or domestic robot or electric truck the world’s richest man was touting. It was a plan to buy Twitter, Musk’s favorite megaphone and time-waster, and, according to him, a public square of vital importance to democracy.

Early Thursday, the Tesla and SpaceX chief executive notified the Securities and Exchange Commission of a bid to buy all of Twitter for \$54.20 a share, or \$43 billion. “Twitter needs to be transformed as a private company,” he wrote in a letter. [See Musk, A9]

The politicization of social media

Elon Musk’s offer to buy Twitter raises concerns over how he would handle content. **BUSINESS, A8**



A WOMAN trains as a member of Ukraine’s Territorial Defense Forces, the nation’s reserve unit. Besides joining the reserves, civilians have aided the war effort by delivering supplies, donating food and more.

EPREM LURATSKY Associated Press

Helping any way they can

As civilians step up, even peeling potatoes is heroic

BY KATE LINTHICUM

More than 4.6 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, sparking the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. They have traveled on buses and trains, folded their dearest possessions into suitcases. They have crossed into foreign lands, their futures unknown.

But millions more have stayed to help defend their country. Some have taken up arms, but others are helping in different ways. There is the teacher who now peels potatoes in a soup kitchen. The DJ staffing emergency call lines who says she keeps “a small room in my brain” to hold all the pain she has heard. There are psychologists trying to help people process trauma in real time and students risking their

[See Civilians, A4]



SVITLANA DOROSHENKO kisses her boy Maxim as Ihor Doroshenko, her father, watches the news in their Odessa apartment. They can’t afford to flee.

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

Ed Buck gets 30 years for fatal drug and sex crimes

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH

Ed Buck, once a fixture of West Hollywood’s political scene, was sentenced Thursday to 30 years in prison for drug and sex crimes that included providing lethal doses of methamphetamine to two men.

To the outside world, Buck was a champion of causes such as fur bans and AIDS awareness, and a

donor to Democratic officeholders.

But behind the walls of his Laurel Avenue apartment was a nightmare. For nearly a decade, the wealthy, white Buck lured young Black men at the lowest points in their lives — homeless, addicted, resorting to subsistence-level sex work — into what he called “party and play” sessions.

Amid squalor that belied his reputation as a man who

had achieved great wealth at a young age, Buck plied the men with drugs and then sexually assaulted them while they were unconscious or immobile. In two cases, he injected his victims with fatal amounts of methamphetamine.

A jury convicted Buck last year of a host of felonies, including distributing methamphetamine resulting in death and enticement to

[See Buck, A12]

Feinstein pushes back on criticism

California’s senior senator, 88, faces new questions about her ability to fulfill job responsibilities. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

School vaccine mandate delayed

Newsom pauses state requirement for academic year, while lawmaker says he’ll drop his bill. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Foggy, then sunny.
L.A. Basin: 71/54. **B6**



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

OPENING ACT

The Dodgers, led by Walker Buehler, mount a rally to beat the Reds 9-3 in the home opener. **SPORTS, D1**



RUSSIA LOSES A KEY SHIP BEFORE ASSAULT

Sinking follows strike by Ukraine. Moscow warns two nations over NATO interest.

BY PATRICK J. MCDONNELL, NABIH BULOS AND ANUMITA KAUR

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia’s most important naval ship in the Black Sea sank Thursday after apparently being struck by a Ukrainian missile, a turn that came as Russia continued preparations for a major offensive in eastern Ukraine and one of its senior officials threatened Finland and Sweden for expressing interest in joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Ukrainian officials in the port city of Odesa reported overnight that a Neptune missile had been launched at the Russian ship, the Moskva, which has been part of the naval campaign against Ukraine. There were conflicting reports as to whether one or two missiles were fired at the ship.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said he could not confirm that a Ukrainian missile struck the ship, only that there had been an explosion on board that caused a raging fire.

The Russian Defense Ministry, which had acknowledged the fire but did not provide a cause, later reported that the ship sank while being towed in a storm, according to state-run media.

The sinking of the Moskva is a major blow to the Russian fleet and a tactical and public relations coup for Ukraine at a pivotal moment — when the country is braced

[See Ukraine, A6]



MAYOR GARCETTI used the backdrop of the 6th Street Bridge for his speech on the state of L.A.

Garcetti stresses safety in address

Mayor, in his final State of the City speech, focuses on crime, sanitation.

BY DAKOTA SMITH AND JULIA WICK

Mayor Eric Garcetti vowed in his final State of the City speech Thursday to ensure that Los Angeles is clean and safe, an acknowledgment of the uptick in violent crime and the unsanitary and bleak conditions on the streets that have dogged his last year at City Hall.

In his yearly address, the mayor announced plans to hire hundreds of sanitation workers, including Angelenos who have been incarcerated or unhoused, and said the city would spend an additional \$1 billion on

homelessness in the coming fiscal year.

His proposed budget, to be released next week, will also “bring about a safer city,” said Garcetti, who didn’t specify how much he would set aside for the Police Department, which typically consumes the largest share of “unrestricted” city revenue — a trend that angers groups who want spending reduced.

“We need to ensure that this is the safest and the cleanest city that it can be,” Garcetti said during a speech delivered from the under-construction 6th Street Bridge near Boyle Heights.

After nearly a decade as mayor, Garcetti made his last State of the City address facing an uncertain future. Nominated to serve as the ambassador to India, [See Garcetti, A9]

The Washington Post

Please say yes to any outside metropolitan Washington

RE: V1 V2 V3 V4

Partly sunny 71/54 • Tomorrow: Shower 71/45 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022 • B2

Musk moves to take over Twitter

Tesla chief says making platform private will safeguard 'town square'

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI
AND AARON GREGG

Elon Musk has launched a \$43 billion hostile takeover bid for Twitter, the social network that the eccentric billionaire behind Tesla uses as a hobby to connect with his 81 million followers, saying he thinks the platform is essential to the functioning of democracy.

At a TED conference on Thursday, Musk outlined his plan to take Twitter private, saying he sees the platform as a way to foster conversation and potentially even prevent international conflicts. But he acknowledged that if he took ownership he would be blamed for problems, and even before that his bid could fail.

"My strong intuitive sense is that having a public platform that is maximally trusted and broadly inclusive is extremely important to the future of civilization," he said. "I don't care about the economics at all."

The offer to take the company private in a securities filing dated Wednesday for \$54.20 a share marks a major escalation in a weeks-long battle by Musk to gain influence at Twitter, following his acquiring a more than 9 percent stake and flirting with a seat on the board. In the filing, he called it a "best and final offer." If it is not accepted, he added, "I would need to reconsider my position as a shareholder."

Twitter confirmed in a news release Thursday that it had received an "unolicited, nonbinding proposal" from Musk. "The Twitter Board of Directors will carefully review the proposal to

SEE MUSK ON A18

Blast sinks Russian warship



PAVEL KUMOV/REUTERS

A residential building destroyed during the Russian siege of Mariupol, where Ukrainian defenders have been losing ground.

STRIKE OR ACCIDENT, SIDES DISPUTE CAUSE

Moscow missile warns U.S., NATO on weapons

BY JOANNA SLATER,
DAN LAMOTHE,
EMILY RAUHALA
AND KAREN DEYOUNG

Russia's premier warship in the Black Sea sustained severe damage and sank on its way back to port early Thursday, a major symbolic blow to Moscow as the invasion of Ukraine entered its eighth week and both sides prepare for a potentially devastating battle over the eastern Donbas region.

The cause of the explosion on the missile cruiser Moskva remains contested, with Russia saying a fire detonated ammunition onboard and forced the crew to evacuate. Ukraine said it struck the Russian vessel with a missile, and a senior U.S. official told The Washington Post on Thursday evening that the ship sank as a result of a Ukrainian attack, but did not confirm what weapon was used.

Earlier in the day, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan called the damage to the ship a setback for Russia regardless of how it was disabled. Either it was "just incompetence" or "they came under attack," he said at a breakfast. "Neither is a particularly good outcome for them."

The war in Ukraine, which President Biden this week described as genocide, has killed thousands of civilians, forced more than 4.7 million Ukrainians to flee the country and reordered the geopolitical landscape in Europe.

Smaller European nations that also feel threatened by Russia

SEE UKRAINE ON A5

50 days of war: Five ways Russia's invasion has changed the world. **A8**

CIA: Director labels Bucha killings "crimes" and blasts Putin. **A11**

Timely prayer: For Passover, words that recognize refugees. **B1**

For Tunisians, ripple effects come down to a loaf of bread

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

TUNIS — The big man wearing the Volvo Trucks baseball cap refused to take no for an answer when baker Mohamed Lounissi told him he was out of bread.

The last five baguettes resting on the counter belonged to another customer, a woman who had paid for them earlier in the day and would soon be returning to collect her order, Lounissi explained.

The man quickly grew agitated, pointing and reaching across the glass display case. "You have bread, but you don't

want to sell it to me," he complained. "Give me bread or I'm calling the police!"

As Lounissi repeated that the bakery had exhausted its supply, the man pulled out his cellphone and summoned the authorities, a scene captured by the store's security camera and later replayed for a journalist. When a police officer arrived, Lounissi explained the situation to him and the big man eventually stormed off without bread or satisfaction.

"I closed for 10 days because I didn't have supplies and just

SEE TUNISIA ON A17

Poland builds a border wall while welcoming Ukrainians

BY CHICO HARLAN
AND PIOTR ZAKOWIECKI

MICHALOWO, POLAND — Her impulse was to welcome people in desperation, so Maria Ancipuk made sure her border town was ready. As immigrants mostly from the Middle East started streaming into Poland last year from Belarus, she

lobbied the mayor to offer up two empty town-owned apartments for anybody who might need them. Volunteers changed the wallpaper and renovated the flooring. Ancipuk bought a refrigerator and a television.

Five months later, though, the apartments are empty.

Rather than being welcomed into Polish homes, the vast majority of people crossing from Belarus are being detained or pushed back by Polish authorities.

That stance, in effect just to the north of Poland's border with Ukraine, means two different groups seeking the same thing — refuge — are arriving to find what amounts to two different versions of Europe.

Along one segment of Poland's border, where 2.5 million

SEE POLAND ON A10

Far from Congo, family finds peril in Michigan

Parents mourn their son, fatally shot this month by Grand Rapids police

BY SAM EASTER
AND BRITTANY SHAMMAS

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — Peter and Dorcas Lyoya thought they had found safe haven in the United States, a world away from the violence in their home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

That sense of security was shattered last week, when their oldest son Patrick Lyoya was killed by a police officer in the western Michigan city of Grand Rapids. What began as a traffic stop ended with Lyoya shot in the head, the latest police shooting of an unarmed Black man to shake the nation. He was 26 years old, a father of two.

"I'm surprised and astonished to see that it's here that my son has been killed with a bullet," his

SEE SHOOTING ON A18



BEIL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES

Dorcas Lyoya spoke tearfully Thursday about the killing of her son, Patrick Lyoya, by a police officer. "I'm surprised and astonished to see that it's here that my son has been killed with a bullet," she said.

Their harrowing account: 14 months of torment by ISIS

Heated testimony from hostages in lone U.S. trial for one of 'the Beatles'

BY RACHEL WEINER
AND JUSTIN JOUVENAL

Syria's civil war was raging in March 2013 when black vehicles cut off an Italian aid worker's car in the north of the country. Masked gunmen forced Federico Motka and a colleague into the trunk of a car and sped off.

"Welcome to Syria, you mutt," Motka recalled one of the captors ominously telling the aid workers in British-accented English, before they were driven to a camp of Islamist militants who were battling the Syrian regime.

This was the beginning of 14 months of torment for Motka and other foreigners held by a group that would soon be known worldwide as the Islamic State. In

Alexandria federal court, Motka testified that he grew to fear the British-accented man and two others from England the most. Captives dubbed them "the Beatles."

During the only U.S. trial for a member of the infamous terror cell named after the British rock group, Motka and other hostages have offered searing testimony about their captivity. El Shafee Elsheikh was convicted Thursday for his role in the kidnapping and deaths of four Americans — journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and aid workers Peter Kassig and Kayla Mueller.

In the eight years since the Islamic State horrified people around the world by beheading humanitarians and reporters on camera, many of the witnesses have shared their stories in books and media interviews. But this month's trial was the first time

SEE HOSTAGES ON A4

Convicted: British ISIS militant guilty in killing of hostages. **A4**

IN THE NEWS



LORENZO TAGAGOLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A devastating toll Through child marriage or paid adoption, Afghan girls are bearing the brunt of the Taliban's economic crisis. **A6**

THE NATION The Republican-led Kentucky legislature passed one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation, overriding Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's veto. **A2**
The man accused of shooting 10 people aboard a Brooklyn subway train appeared in court and was ordered held without bail. **A3**

THE WORLD South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol said his country

must take on a larger role in the world and become a stronger ally to the United States. **A7**
Marine Le Pen tested the limits of trying to portray herself as a more moderate politician in the French presidential election. **A13**

THE ECONOMY Mortgage rates swelled above 5 percent for the first time in more than a decade, an unexpectedly rapid ascent that could usher new uncertainty into an

inflation-dogged economy. **A14**

House lawmakers launched an investigation into the efficacy and security of the identity verification contractor ID.me. **A14**

THE REGION Amtrak is moving to seize control of Union Station through eminent domain to pursue repairs and concourse expansion. **B1**
This week marks 50 years of obsequies, mourning and fawning over the National Zoo's giant pandas. **B1**

The private consortium managing Maryland's Purple Line project has signed a \$2.3 billion contract with a new construction team to complete the long-delayed light-rail line. **B1**
A 15-year-old who was shot to death this week just steps from his new home in Columbia Heights had encountered tensions in the D.C. neighborhood, his family said. **B1**

Two dogs were taken during separate armed robberies in D.C., coming as the city faces a 30 percent rise in violent crime this year. **B3**

INSIDE



WEEKEND **Panda party** A guide to celebrating 50 years of giant pandas at the National Zoo. **A2**

STYLE **Amy's boycott** The popular organic food company is accused of mistreating workers. **C1**

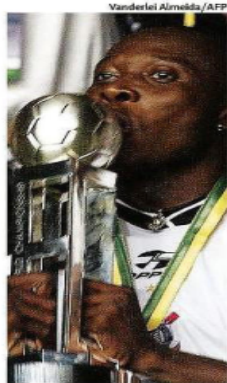
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Esporte B6

Ídolo colombiano

Campeão mundial no Corinthians, Rincón morre aos 55 após sofrer acidente



Rincón após ganhar Mundial, em 2000, no Maracanã

Ilustrada C4

Série 'Pachinko' mostra racismo pouco conhecido

Guia C7

Lojas em SP têm ar de fantásticas fábricas de chocolate

Coelho assume a Petrobras e elogia política de preços

O presidente da Petrobras, José Mauro Coelho, defendeu, ao tomar posse, ser "necessária" para o país a prática de preços de mercado de combustíveis, criticada pela oposição e por integrantes do governo. A medida, diz, cria um "ambiente de negócios competitivo". Mercado A14

Hélio Schwartsman

Bolsonaro quer agora devastar a historiografia

Opinião A2

Pastores suspeitos no MEC foram ao Planalto 35 vezes

Os pastores Arilton Moura e Gilmar Santos, apontados como pivôs do escândalo do balcão de negócios do MEC, estiveram 35 vezes no Palácio do Planalto desde o começo do governo Bolsonaro. As informações foram divulgadas pelo governo após recusa em fornecer dados. Política A5

Elon Musk faz proposta para comprar Twitter por US\$ 43 bi A20

WhatsApp lança grupos com milhares depois da eleição A7

Criadores não ficarão reféns da rede, diz chefe do Instagram A19

Náfragos são salvos no PA com texto em garrafa
Tripulantes foram resgatados pela Marinha após passarem 17 dias isolados em uma ilha e lançarem bilhete em garrafa no mar. B5

EDITORIAIS A2

Nas sombras

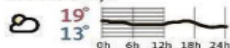
Acerca de visitas dos pastores do MEC ao Planalto.

PM mais segura

Sobre impacto potencial das câmeras grava-tudo.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Morte de policiais atinge menor índice em 30 anos

PM de São Paulo registra queda recorde de agentes assassinados em serviço

A Polícia Militar de São Paulo registrou durante o ano passado o menor número de agentes mortos em serviço desde que esses dados começaram a ser contabilizados, há 31 anos.

Quatro policiais morreram em 2021, um em confronto e três deles em acidentes de trânsito durante deslocamentos com viaturas.

Em 2020, foram 18 policiais assassinados no trabalho, sendo 10 em confrontos com criminosos. A PM tem um contingente de 82 mil agentes. Segundo os números obtidos pela Folha, foi a primeira vez desde 1991 que o número de mortes de PMs fica na casa de um dígito. O pior índice registrado é de 1999, com 42 vítimas.

Normalmente, há mais mortes de policiais quando estão de folga — e fazem bicos ou reagem, por exemplo, a um assalto — do que no horário de trabalho.

A queda nos assassinatos coincide com a implantação das câmeras corporais, o "Olho Vivo", medida adotada pela corporação para reduzir a letalidade policial.

Para o diretor-presidente do Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública, Renato Sérgio de Lima, além das câmeras corporais, a ação do comando é fundamental para reduzir o número de vítimas. "Quando o comando segura, reduz os confrontos."

Em 2021, a PM registrou 891 confrontos, contra 1.124 no ano anterior. cotidiano B1



Mariene Bergamo/Folhapress

AOS GRITOS, ALCKMIN EXALTA LULA EM EVENTO SINDICAL

Em discurso para representantes de centrais em São Paulo, ex-governador definiu o ex-presidente como 'o maior líder popular deste país' Política A6



Lázaro Ribeiro/Museu da Memória de Goiás

GOIÁS RETOMA PROCISSÃO DO FOGARÉU E RELEMBRA VÍTIMAS DA COVID

Fiéis com tochas em Goiás (GO); patrimônio imaterial do estado, celebração de 277 anos voltou às ruas na Semana Santa após dois anos de pausa por causa da pandemia, com um minuto de silêncio pelos que morreram com a doença Cotidiano B4

Moskva, principal navio russo de guerra, afunda

O principal navio de guerra da Rússia no mar Negro, o Moskva, símbolo do poder naval do país, afundou ontem. Os ucranianos afirmam que a embarcação foi atingida por um míssil; os russos dizem que houve um incêndio depois da explosão de munição transportada no navio. Mundo A9

A pandemia em 14.abr

Dados das 20h

População vacinada no Brasil
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **75,7%**

Óbitos

Média móvel **117** ↓ -45,1%
Em 24 h 145
Total 661.855

*Variação em relação a 14 dias



ÉTATS-UNIS
CONSERVATEURS CONTRE WOKES :
LA BATAILLE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES
SCOLAIRES PAGE 16

BENOÎT DUTEURTRE
« ANNE HIDALGO DOIT TIRER
À PARIS LES LEÇONS
DE SON ÉCHEC » PAGE 18



PRÉSIDENTIELLE

• Au Havre, Macron réarrime Philippe à sa campagne et à sa future majorité PAGE 2
• Si elle était élue, Le Pen peinerait à constituer un gouvernement PAGE 2

ÉLECTIONS

De la présidentielle aux législatives, projection impossible ? PAGE 6

UKRAINE

• À Boutcha, une topographie de la terreur russe PAGE 8
• Les récoltes menacées jusqu'en 2024 PAGE 24

UNIVERSITÉS

À Paris, des étudiants militants bloquent leurs facs PAGE 12

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Police aux frontières: du rififi à Frontex PAGE 12

PATRIMOINE

Notre-Dame, le long temps de l'enquête PAGE 32

CHAMPS LIBRES

• Un grand entretien avec Vladimir Pastoukhov
• Le bloc-notes d'Ivan Rioufol
• L'analyse d'Anne Rovon
PAGES 17 ET 19

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de jeudi :
Êtes-vous favorable au rétablissement du septennat ?

NON 47% **OUI 53%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 199 676

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Êtes-vous favorable à l'introduction de la proportionnelle aux législatives après 2022 ?

ILLUSTRATION FABIEN CLAIREFOND ; RICK BOWMER/AF

Les institutions s'imposent dans le duel Macron-Le Pen

Proportionnelle, référendum, retour au septennat, convention citoyenne, RIC: les deux candidats rivalisent d'imagination pour séduire les Français et tenter de refonder la démocratie.

Depuis qu'ils sont arrivés en tête du premier tour, marqué par un haut niveau d'abstention (26,3 %), Emmanuel Macron et Marine Le Pen confrontent leur vision des institutions. Ravivant ainsi le vieux débat entre tenants de

la démocratie directe et partisans de la démocratie représentative. Proportionnelle intégrale, éventuel retour au septennat et participation citoyenne pour le président, référendum, RIC et proportionnelle pour Marine Le Pen.

Dans les deux camps, le constat est partagé : élections après élections, sondages après sondages, les Français expriment leur besoin d'une « refondation démocratique ». Une majorité d'entre eux (57 %) estiment que la démo-

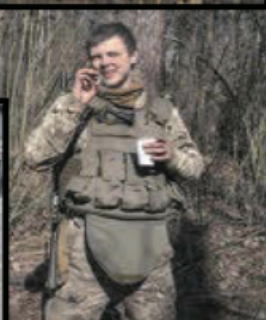
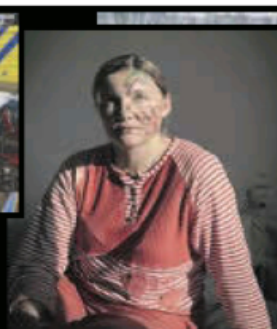
cratie ne fonctionne pas bien, selon un récent baromètre de la confiance politique réalisé par le Cevipof. Une étude qui pousse les candidats à innover dans un domaine pourtant souvent perçu comme technique et compliqué.

→ PARTICIPATION CITOYENNE, SEPTENNAT: LES PISTES DU PRÉSIDENT-CANDIDAT
→ RÉVOLUTION RÉFÉRENDUAIRE, RIC, LE BIG BANG PROMIS PAR MARINE LE PEN
→ LES CONDITIONS D'UNE RÉFONDATION DÉMOCRATIQUE PAGES 4, 5 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Cinquante jours d'enfer: les visages de la guerre en Ukraine

Divisée avant l'offensive russe, lancée le 24 février, une nation s'est forgée dans la lutte pour sa survie. Les Ukrainiens résistent, chacun à leur façon, aux assauts et bombardements meurtriers de l'ennemi. PAGE 11



Elon Musk prêt à débours 43 milliards pour s'offrir Twitter

Le fantasme Elon Musk a mis sur la table 43 milliards de dollars pour racheter Twitter. Entré au capital du réseau social ces dernières semaines, le patron de Tesla et de SpaceX juge que l'entreprise californienne ne respecte pas suffisamment la liberté d'expression. « Twitter a un potentiel extraordinaire. Je vais le libérer », écrit-il ce jeudi au conseil d'administration, qui va examiner son offre. Il n'est pas exclu qu'un géant de la tech surenchérisse... PAGES 22 ET 23

ÉDITORIAL

par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

Urgence institutionnelle

Les jours de mélancolie politique, ceux des polémiques minuscules et des indignations surjouées se disputent les bandeaux des chaînes d'info, quand la patrouille des castors « fait barrage », quand des étudiants, en pleine guerre d'Ukraine, bloquent leurs facs en chantant *L'Internationale*, quand sont traînés à terre des militants venus perturber meetings ou conférences de presse, il arrive que l'on s'interroge sur les effets du suffrage universel direct. Rend-il fou ? Rend-il bête ? En vérité, l'élection présidentielle n'est pour rien dans cette dérive. Mais, à force de lui donner un rôle central, total, définitif, elle concentre une fois tous les cinq ans toute l'énergie politique des citoyens. Ensuite viennent des législatives de confirmation, où le gagnant gagne tout et le perdant est nu. Puis des élections intermédiaires et locales qui, avant l'âge de la retraite, ne déplacent plus personne. La frustration qui en découle est telle que, en 2017 comme en 2022, le rendez-vous des urnes oppose non plus deux projets antagonistes mais deux visions contraires de la démocratie. La première, celle d'Emmanuel Macron, s'articule autour du suffrage, des traités européens, des principes et des jurisprudences des différentes cours ; la

seconde, celle de Marine Le Pen, fait primer, sur cette subtile construction politique et juridique, la volonté populaire dont les référendums à répétition seraient l'expression la plus pure. En schématisant, les premiers se méfient du peuple, trop imprévisible, et tempèrent sa souveraineté par la force du droit, la sagesse de

Une crise démocratique qui traverse tout l'Occident

l'État et les vertus de l'expertise. Les seconds, au risque de la démagogie, veulent étendre indéfiniment son pouvoir, qu'ils considèrent confisqué par des élites « hors-sol », et forcément défallantes. Dans la querelle institutionnelle entre les deux candidats apparaît, de façon caricaturale, la crise démocratique qui traverse tout l'Occident. Une représentation nationale qui représenterait véritablement les électeurs serait un premier point d'apaisement. Le PS et LR regroupent 130 députés, le RN et LFI n'en ont même pas 30 ! C'est en restaurant le minimum vital de l'équilibre démocratique (proportionnelle, nouveau rythme électoral, pratique raisonnable du référendum) que l'on fera décroître le vote tribunitien. ■

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Rwanda asylum seekers plan branded 'inhumane'

Russian ship sinks in Black Sea after blast

Piotr Sauer
Julian Borger
Jessica Elgot

Russia's flagship missile cruiser, the Moskva, has sunk in "stormy seas" while being towed to a port in the Black Sea following an explosion, the Russian defence ministry has announced.

The Ukrainian southern military command claimed late on Wednesday to have struck the Moskva with Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles, while distracting its crew with an aerial drone, causing it to start sinking and forcing the crew to abandon ship.

Russia's defence ministry initially denied reports that it had sunk and claimed fires had been extinguished. Four Russian ships that had gone to the Moskva's rescue were being hampered by stormy weather and by ammunition blowing up onboard, it said.

But late last night, the ministry said in a statement: "The cruiser ship Moskva lost its stability when it was towed to the port because of the damage to the ship's hull that it received during the fire from the detonation of ammunition. In stormy sea conditions, the ship sank." 14 →



PM outlines proposal to send people 4,500 miles on one-way tickets

Rajeev Syal
Home affairs editor

Boris Johnson's plan to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda on a one-way ticket has been roundly condemned amid warnings that it will be challenged in the courts and could result in more deaths in the Channel.

After the prime minister outlined proposals to hand an initial down-payment of £120m to the Rwandan government in the hope it will accept "tens of thousands" of people, opposition politicians and refugee groups condemned the move as inhumane, unworkable and a waste of money.

The Rwanda proposal is one of a series of measures announced by the prime minister and Priti Patel, the home secretary, as they seek to get to grips with a febrile political row over Channel crossings. The number of people crossing has already passed 5,000 this year, more than double the 2021 figure at the same point.

Amid calls for the government to disclose the overall costs of the plans, which have not been released, it emerged that:

- Men and women could be flown 4,500 miles to Rwanda, where they will be encouraged to apply for refugee status. However, children and their parents would not be sent.
- The Royal Navy has been given powers to control the Channel after another day of hundreds of people arriving in small boats to seek refuge in the UK.
- Tobias Ellwood, the Conservative

▲ A serviceman helps people arriving at Dover after being rescued while crossing the Channel yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: PETER NICHOLLS/REUTERS

chair of the defence select committee, accused Johnson of announcing the plans as part of a "massive distraction" from becoming the first prime minister to be found guilty of a criminal charge while in office.



▲ Priti Patel takes part in a joint news conference in Kigali, Rwanda

● A Border Force union official has said the announcement will result in a short-term rise in refugees trying to get across the Channel, with an elevated risk of crossing in poor conditions, putting lives at risk.

● A snap poll by YouGov of almost 3,000 voters yesterday found that only 35% of people supported the measure, while 43% opposed it.

Speaking at a press conference in Kent, Johnson said the scheme was needed to "save countless lives" from human trafficking by breaking the business model of people smugglers.

"The deal we have done is uncapped, and Rwanda will have the capacity to resettle tens of thousands of people in the years ahead. And let's be clear, Rwanda is one of the safest countries in the world, globally recognised for its record of welcoming and integrating migrants," he said. 4 →



Takeover bid
Elon Musk
makes \$43bn
offer for
Twitter

News Page 3 →