

What's News

Business & Finance

Netflix said it is exploring offering a lower priced ad-supported version of the platform to boost its subscriber base, after the video streaming giant posted its first quarterly subscriber loss in over a decade. **A1**

◆ **The IMF said it expects global economic growth to slow significantly this year as the repercussions of the Ukraine war spread, and further slashed its growth forecast for China to 4.4%. **A8****

◆ **U.S. stocks rallied, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow surging 1.6%, 2.2% and 1.5%, respectively. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose. **B1****

◆ **Goldman's Solomon and a tight circle of lieutenants are taking a cut of profits from the firm's private investment funds, according to people familiar with the plans. **B1****

◆ **J&J backed off its forecast for sales of its Covid-19 vaccine this year, citing a global glut of doses and uncertainty over future demand. **B1****

◆ **Blackstone agreed to buy student-housing owner ACC in a deal valuing the company at about \$12.8 billion, including debt. **B1****

◆ **Spirit became the latest airline to say it is cutting back on flights in coming months as carriers anticipate a frenzied summer. **B1****

◆ **IBM reported a stronger-than-expected 8% quarterly revenue increase on continued momentum in its hybrid cloud platform. **B4****

◆ **Lockheed said it is in talks with the Pentagon about increasing production of weapons destined for Ukraine. **B5****

World-Wide

◆ **Ukrainian authorities are scrambling to evacuate the remaining civilians from the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions as Russia begins its new military offensive there and pitched battles get closer to the area's main population centers. **A1, A6-7****

◆ **Airports, city subways and transportation companies were split on allowing travelers to remove their masks for the first time in over a year Tuesday, following the abrupt end to the U.S. mask mandate on mass transport, including aboard aircraft. **A1, A5****

◆ **The Justice Department said it would appeal the voiding of the mask rule if the CDC concludes in coming weeks that a mandate remains necessary. **A5****

◆ **Biden is restoring stricter environmental standards for approving new pipelines, highways and other construction projects, including requiring consideration of how such projects might affect climate change. **A2****

◆ **Florida Gov. DeSantis asked state lawmakers to consider ending the special tax district that has allowed Disney to govern the land on which its theme parks sit. **A3****

◆ **Israel carried out airstrikes in Gaza in response to a rocket fired from the Palestinian territory, raising fears of a wider conflict amid already heightened tensions. **A18****

◆ **The Biden administration said it plans to make it easier for lower-income student-loan borrowers to get debt forgiveness through an existing program. **A3****

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A member of the Ukrainian border guards scans the road to downtown Marinka, a city in the Donetsk region.

Ukrainians Flee Eastern Cities As Russian Units Press Ahead

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine—Ukrainian authorities are scrambling to evacuate the remaining civilians from the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions as Russia begins its new military offensive here and pitched battles get closer to the area's main population centers.

The biggest cities in the Ukrainian-controlled parts of Donetsk and Luhansk, such as Kramatorsk, Sloviansk and Severodonetsk, have already

turned into ghost towns, with almost all stores and businesses closed, streets emptied and only a handful of apartments in each housing block still inhabited.

As the massing Russian forces attempt to push through Ukrainian defenses under the cover of long-range artillery and aircraft, Ukrainian officials have warned that any civilians staying behind could be trapped—as happened in February in the city of Mariupol, where Kyiv said more than 10,000 people have

died in weeks of bloody urban fighting. Some 100,000 people still remain in Mariupol as Ukrainian defenders hold out in a pocket of the port city.

President Biden said Tuesday that the U.S. planned to send more artillery to Ukraine, and the Pentagon has been asking allies over the past week to provide ammunition, a U.S. defense official said, amid worries that Ukraine could run out within weeks.

On Monday, two Russian battalion tactical groups with some 60 tanks broke through

Ukrainian lines after a three-day battle and took the town of Kreminka in the Luhansk region, Ukrainian officials said. From Kreminka, Russian forces overnight pushed through forested areas in the direction of Sloviansk, taking two villages. Heavy shelling raged on front lines in Donbas on Tuesday.

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◆ Nearly five million people have fled Ukraine..... A6

◆ Mariupol looms large for Moscow and Kyiv..... A7

Removal Of Mask Mandate Sparks Joy And Worry

By ANDREW POHLE AND ALISON SIDER

ORLANDO, Fla.—Airports, city subways and transportation companies were split on allowing travelers to remove their masks for the first time in over a year Tuesday, following the abrupt end to the U.S. mask mandate on mass transport, including aboard aircraft. **A1, A5**

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◆ **White House weighs steps after ruling..... A5**
◆ **Experts still back masks in some cases..... A5**

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
It's time to rethink retirement spending, says the creator of the 4% rule. **A10**



WORLD NEWS
Amid a deepening humanitarian crisis, desperate Afghans sell kidneys to survive. **A18**

Crypto Stocks Perform Worse Than Currencies

By PAUL VIGNA

The picks and shovels of the cryptocurrency world have been a worse bet lately than cryptocurrencies themselves. The cryptocurrency market has been in selloff mode recently even as hundreds of millions of people now trade bitcoin, ether and other digital assets. Bitcoin is down 11% this year. Ether is down 16%. As of Monday, the entire crypto market had fallen about 19%, though prices were off their year lows, according to

data from CoinMarketCap. Stocks of publicly traded, crypto-focused companies, however, are doing worse, falling as much as 60% this year, according to FactSet.

The largest U.S. exchange, Coinbase is down 40% year to date. Silvergate Capital Corp. is down 11%. Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. is down 35%. Riot Blockchain Inc. is down 33%. TeraWulf Inc. is down 61%. The combined market capitalization of crypto companies that trade publicly has fallen

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Friend or Bot? Phony Gamers Leave Players Feeling Betrayed

Biggest mobile games disguise bots to pass as just another online player

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

Like others starved for human contact, Benjamin Arnet and Maria T. met online.

They found each other through the word game "Words with Friends," an old-time Scrabble-like online competition that in the lonely days of lockdown drew new players

looking to socialize and maybe fall in love. The game, more than a decade old, enjoyed something of a revival in the Covid-19 era, connecting word nerds around the globe.

Mr. Arnet, a 24-year-old janitor in rural Kansas, said he and Maria played together every day for about a year. They were evenly matched. Maria took her turns

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How U.S.-Saudi Ties Hit a Breaking Point

Alliance is at risk over disagreements regarding oil, security and Ukraine war

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, wearing shorts at his seaside palace, sought a relaxed tone for his first meeting with

By Stephen Kalin, Summer Said and David S. Cloud

President Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, last September.

The 36-year-old crown prince ended up shouting at Mr. Sullivan after he raised the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The prince told Mr. Sullivan he never wanted to discuss the matter again, said people familiar with the exchange.

And the U.S. could forget about its request to boost oil production, he told Mr. Sullivan.

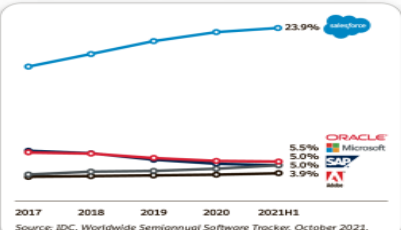
The relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia has hit its lowest point in decades, with Mr. Biden saying in 2019 that the kingdom should be treated like a pariah over human-rights issues such as Mr. Khashoggi's murder.

The political fissures have deepened since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, senior Saudi and U.S. officials said. The White House wanted the Saudis to pump more crude, both to tame oil prices and undercut Moscow's war fi-

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Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2021 H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, October 2021.

salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following IDC-defined functions: Sales, Sales Productivity and Management, Marketing Campaign Management, Customer Service, Contact Center, Advertising, and Digital Customer Applications. © 2021 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., and its other names and marks.

Hold off the brakes

Now is not the time to be raising interest rates — MARTIN SANDBU, PAGE 17

Addicted to Russia

What will it take to wean Europe off the country's gas? — BIG READ, PAGE 15



High-stakes hybrids

Toyota bets on dual power as world shifts to electric — JUNE YOON, PAGE 6

Burn out
War intensifies
in east Ukraine

A scrap heap of cars destroyed during Russia's attacks on Ukraine after they were collected from sites around Irpin, near Kyiv, pictured yesterday.

Ukraine's armed forces said Russia was transferring more troops and weapons into the country as it fights to establish full control over Donetsk and Luhansk in the eastern Donbas region and build a land corridor with Crimea.

The Netherlands said it would send armoured vehicles to Ukraine for use by its armed forces, as the heads of Nato and the European Commission urged member states to speed up weapons supplies to the war-torn country.

Donbas offensive page 3
Russia's payment system page 9
FT View page 16



Geo-Casaretti/Reuters

IMF cuts global growth forecast to 3.6% as war spikes recovery hopes

• Nations closest to Ukraine hit hard • Inflation surge persists • Tougher test for ECB than Fed

CHRIS GILES — LONDON
COLBY SMITH — WASHINGTON

The global economy's prospects have "worsened significantly" since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with growth taking a big hit as inflation continues to surge this year, the IMF warned yesterday.

In its World Economic Outlook, the fund said those countries closest to the war were likely to be hit the hardest. But it warned that risks had intensified across the world, overturning the fund's view that there would be a strong recovery from the pandemic this year.

The IMF's forecasts showed global growth of gross domestic product this year of 3.6 per cent, down 0.8 percentage points since the fund's January projections and 1.5 percentage points lower than those six months ago. In 2023, global

growth was estimated at 6.1 per cent, the fund said.

In a simulation exercise, the IMF said an immediate oil and gas embargo against Russia would raise inflation further, hit European and emerging economies hard and require even higher interest rates, including in the US.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's new chief economist, told the Financial Times that despite the prospect of a slowdown in growth and elevated inflation, he was keen to avoid the word "stagflation", meaning a prolonged period of low economic expansion and rapidly rising prices.

"The notion of stagflation comes with some baggage, and I want to be a little bit careful about whether we really want to put ourselves in a frame of mind of

the stagflation of the 1970s," he said.

Gourinchas pointed to the problem of soaring inflation this year. The fund has increased its forecast for US inflation to 7.7 per cent this year, against last October's 3.5 per cent estimate. The eurozone average inflation rate has been revised up from 1.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

With the forecast rise in US inflation set alongside a relatively moderate economic hit from the Ukraine conflict, the IMF recommended the Federal Reserve continue to raise interest rates rapidly.

But the war was likely to have a bigger impact on European growth, complicating the monetary policy response. The European Central Bank was in a "much less comfortable position" than the Fed, Gourinchas said.

"The signals are aligning in the US



The IMF says an immediate oil and gas embargo against Russia would raise inflation further and seriously harm European and emerging economies

that something needs to be done about inflation, and because the economy is strong there is room to do that... The ECB is facing a situation where if it starts to address inflation, then it's going to make the softening of aggregate demand worse. That's never a good situation to be in as a policymaker."

The IMF forecast a 35 per cent collapse in Ukraine's GDP and an 8.5 per cent drop for Russia.

Emerging economies would underperform even more in 2022 and 2023 than advanced economies, the IMF said, as energy and food prices rise.

Emerging markets distress page 2

Beijing buoyancy economy page 4

Fed's tightening drives yields page 10

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Briefing

► **Blackstone in \$15bn student home deal**
The private equity group has struck an agreement that gives it a presence in institutions including Princeton and UC Berkeley among the 100 sites owned by American Campus Communities. — PAGE 6

► **Stakes rise as yen reaches new depths**
The currency has hit a new 20-year low after its 13th consecutive daily slide, ratcheting up the stakes for the Bank of Japan on whether to maintain its ultra-loose monetary policy. — PAGE 10; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Amazon investigates 'racial impacts'**
The retailer has commissioned a probe led by ex-US attorney-general Loretta Lynch after it was accused of putting a disproportionate number of workers of colour in harm's way in its warehouses. — PAGE 4

► **Sharif cabinet resists Khan election call**
The cabinet of new Pakistan prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, pictured, has been sworn in. His allies prepared to fight calls for elections from Imran Khan, ousted a week ago. — PAGE 4



► **Le Pen softens vow to ban headscarves**
French far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen has sought to row back on a pledge to ban the wearing of the Islamic headscarf ahead of Sunday's election run-off against Emmanuel Macron. — PAGE 2

► **Gunvor joins commodities bonanza**
The Geneva-based group has reported a more than doubling of profits, the latest commodity trader to reveal bumper earnings for 2021 when it cashed in on rising demand as lockdowns eased. — PAGE 8

► **LG unit leads \$9bn battery investment**
A South Korean consortium has said it will build a mines-to-manufacturing supply chain in Indonesia, as battery makers seek to cut reliance on China and mitigate commodity price rises. — PAGE 8

Datavatch

Green or greenbacks?

% of US adults favouring prioritisation of environment or economy



Americans' views on the economy versus the environment are tied to economic wellbeing. In times of crisis the share prioritising the economy rises. As the US recovers from Covid-19, the share favouring protection of the environment rises.



White House pushes to put climate plan back on track

President Joe Biden this week defends an environmental agenda that critics claim is dead. Officials insist the US will hit its goal of cutting carbon emissions in half by 2030, even though flagship election vows are stalled in Congress as the window closes before midterms in November. Legal blows have added to the malaise. But the White House will seize the opportunity to frame climate funding as a national security necessity amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Green setbacks ► PAGE 2

Solomon Islands rattles US by signing security pact with China on eve of visit

KATHRIN HILLE — TAIPEI

China has signed a security deal with the Solomon Islands just days ahead of a visit by US government officials to the South Pacific nation, exacerbating western fears over Beijing's growing influence in the region.

Wang Yi, China's foreign minister, and his Solomon Islands counterpart Jeremiah Manele signed the deal "in recent days", Beijing's foreign ministry said yesterday. The announcement came just hours after the White House confirmed that Kurt Campbell, its top Asia official, and Daniel Krietechnik, assistant secretary of state for east Asian and Pacific affairs, would visit the Solomon Islands this week.

The US visit follows concerns in Australia and New Zealand — countries that traditionally have close co-operation

with South Pacific nations — over Chinese moves to step up its military presence in the region.

Beijing has claimed the security deal does not have a military element. But according to a draft document leaked last month by Solomon Islands opposition politicians, the pact could allow China to send police, paramilitary forces and soldiers to the country and have naval ships stop in its ports for resupply and crew transfers.

US officials have said the agreement appeared to leave the door open for China to send military forces to the islands. They expressed concern that such deployments could raise tensions if done in a non-transparent manner.

It is unclear whether any changes were made to the deal before it was signed as neither China nor the Solomon Islands have published the final text.

Australia said it was "deeply disappointed" by the security deal, including the "lack of transparency" and "potential to undermine stability" in the region. But Canberra also welcomed what it said was a commitment from Manele that the Solomon Islands would "never be used for military bases or other military institutions of foreign powers".

The Solomon Islands had a security deal with Australia from 2003, when Canberra began a 14-year peace mission in response to ethnic riots. A new security treaty was signed in 2017.

When fresh unrest erupted in the capital Honiara late last year, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea sent forces to support local police at the request of the Solomon Islands. But soon after, China sent police to train riot control forces for the first time.

China's falling birth rate page 4

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No. 40,993

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



World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Apr 19	prev	%chg		Pair	Apr 19	Prev				price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4450.82	4391.89	1.35	\$ per £	1.079	1.079		\$ per \$	0.927	0.927	91.89	2.89	0.06	US Gov 10 yr
Nasdaq Composite	13560.73	13332.36	1.94	£ per \$	1.299	1.302		£ per \$	0.770	0.768	121.71	1.97	0.08	UK Gov 10 yr
Dow Jones Ind	34830.91	34411.69	1.22	€ per €	0.930	0.929		€ per €	1.204	1.206	92.14	0.91	0.07	Ger Gov 10 yr
FTSEurofirst 300	1785.05	1798.75	-0.76	¥ per \$	128.035	126.855		¥ per €	138.969	136.706	99.82	0.24	0.00	Japan Gov 10 yr
Euro Stoxx 50	3822.23	3840.68	-0.45	¥ per £	167.370	164.885		£ index	82.063	81.697	96.38	2.97	0.02	US Gov 30 yr
FTSE 100	7691.29	7616.36	-0.29	S\$ per £	1.024	1.018		S\$ per £	1.233	1.228	99.93	0.04	0.00	Ger Gov 2 yr
FTSE All-Share	4219.72	4232.12	-0.29											
CAC 40	6534.78	6589.35	-0.83											
Nikkei	26965.08	26793.71	0.69											
Hong Kong	21027.78	21519.08	-2.38											
MSCI World	2954.15	2959.67	-0.19											
MSCI EM	1108.68	1112.80	-0.36											
MSCI ACWI	690.38	692.71	-0.22											
FT Worldex 2500	5739.58	5807.41	-1.22											
FT Worldex 5000	44811.95	45382.15	-1.21											

COMMODITIES

	Apr 19	prev	%chg		price	prev	chg
Oil WTI	101.98	107.61	-5.23	Fed Funds Eff	0.20	0.08	0.12
Oil Brent	107.24	113.16	-5.23	US 3m Bill	0.01	0.79	0.02
Gold	1903.25	1910.75	-0.68	Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
				UK 3m	1.12	1.11	0.01

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Russia Strikes Hard as It Pushes to Seize Donbas Region



The body of one of at least three victims of Russian shelling in a neighborhood of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, on Tuesday.

Concentrating Forces After Strategy of Lightning Attacks Failed

This article is by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Michael Schwartz and Eric Schmitt.

KHARKIV, Ukraine — Russia plunged into a new chapter of the Ukraine war on Tuesday, intent on capturing the eastern part of the country and crushing Ukrainian defenses without the same blunders that badly damaged Russian forces in the conflict's initial weeks.

"Another phase of this operation is starting now," Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov of Russia said, as the Russian Defense Ministry announced that its missile and artillery forces had struck hundreds of Ukrainian military targets overnight.

The strikes mainly hit the eastern region known as Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland, where pro-Moscow separatists have battled Ukrainian forces since Russia seized Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014.

The Donbas has now become the stated territorial objective of Russia's redeployed invasion force along a front that stretches roughly 300 miles, from an area near the northern city of Kharkiv to the besieged southern port of Mariupol, where die-hard Ukrainian defenders ensconced in a sprawling steel plant have repeatedly defied Russian demands to surrender.

Ukraine's military said that its forces had repulsed seven different Russian thrusts along the front on Tuesday, destroying 10 tanks and 18 armored units in the battles. The claims of both militaries could not be independently verified.

Despite Russian warnings, Ukraine's Western supporters, led by the United States, are now rushing to send longer-range weapons including howitzers,

anti-aircraft systems, anti-air missiles, armed drones and even tanks — arms that American officials said were designed to thwart the Russian offensive.

Western military experts said the offensive promised to be much more methodical than the blitz-like operation the Kremlin launched Feb. 24 to subjugate Ukraine, which was marked by rapid and ultimately unsuccessful advances of tanks and helicopter assaults deep inside the former Soviet republic.

That miscalculation was compounded by flawed logistics, poor soldier morale, an unexpectedly tenacious Ukrainian resistance and Western-supplied weapons used to devastating effect on Russian armored vehicles, upending Russia's hopes for a quick victory and forcing its military to retreat and regroup.

Now, instead of lightning attacks from the Russian front lines, Moscow's forces, focusing on taking the Donbas region, have increased their long-range artillery barrages and sent small detachments of troops to probe Ukrainian defenses, many entrenched in earthworks established during the Moscow-backed insurgency in the eastern region that began eight years ago.

The Pentagon estimated that Russia now has about 75 battalion tactical groups in Ukraine, each with roughly 1,000 troops. It also has tens of thousands more troops in reserve north of Ukraine who are being resupplied and readied to join the fight, U.S. officials said.

But the Russian invasion force that have been exposed so far in the conflict have not necessarily gone away, military analysts said. And even with a more deliberate and

Continued on Page A6

In Mariupol, Soldiers Issue Plea: 'Help Us'

This article is by Michael Schwartz, Cora Engelbrecht and Andrew E. Kramer.

DNIPRO, Ukraine — Under incessant fire from the air and with Russian troops closing in, a group of Ukrainian soldiers holed up in the besieged city of Mariupol issued a message of despair on Tuesday evening, expressing hope that their own forces would come to their rescue and demanding that the world do something to stop the Kremlin's vicious war.

"We're surrounded, they're bombing us with everything they can," said a Ukrainian soldier who gave his name as Gasim. "Our only plan is for the blockade to be broken by our forces so that we can get out of here."

Gasim and his comrades reached out to a reporter near midnight as Russian forces continued their bombardment of a sprawling Soviet-era steel mill with underground bunkers that is sheltering thousands of soldiers and civilians. While Gasim and the others would not confirm that they were in the mill, the Azovstal steel plant, officials said that this was where the last Ukrainian defenders of Mariupol had taken refuge as Russia's battle to take full

Continued on Page A10

West Rushes to Give Ukraine Heavier Weapons

This article is by Steven Erlanger, Eric Schmitt and Julian E. Barnes.

BRUSSELS — The race is on. As columns of Russian troops began pouring into Ukraine nearly two months ago, the United States and its allies started supplying Kyiv with weapons and equipment for what many expected to be a short war: sniper rifles, helmets, medical kits, encrypted communications, lots of ammunition and the portable, shoulder-held Stinger and Javelin missiles that quickly became icons of the conflict.

Defying the odds, Ukraine held on to its capital and pushed Russia from the north. Now, as the Kremlin switches gears and begins a concerted effort to capture eastern Ukraine, Washington and its allies are pivoting as well, scrambling to supply Ukraine with bigger and more advanced weapons to defend itself in a grinding war. The West is focused on sending longer-range weapons like howitzers, anti-aircraft systems, anti-ship missiles, armed drones, armored trucks, personnel carriers and even tanks — the type of arms that President Biden said were tailored to stop "the wider assault we expect Russia to launch in eastern Ukraine."

"The steady supply of weapons" has helped "ensure that Putin failed in his initial war aims to conquer and control Ukraine," Mr. Biden said last week. "We can

Focusing on Howitzers, Armed Drones and Even Tanks

not rest now." Then, after a video call with allies on Tuesday, Mr. Biden told reporters that the United States would send more artillery to Ukraine. He is expected to announce a new military aid package for Ukraine in the coming days, according to a person briefed on his plans. The aid

amount will be on par with the \$800 million package of weapons and artillery that was announced last week, the person said.

But the strategy comes with a notable risk: antagonizing Russia so much that it ignites a wider, international conflict.

Russia recently sent a formal warning to the United States, saying that Western deliveries of the "most sensitive" weapons systems to Ukraine could bring "unpredictable consequences."

American officials say the warning shows that the weapons

Continued on Page A8

Kahn Named to Succeed Baquet As The Times's Executive Editor

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM and JIM WINDOLF

Joseph F. Kahn, a Pulitzer Prize-winning China correspondent who rose to lead the international desk of The New York Times, and then as managing editor helped steer the newspaper into the digital era, has been selected to be The Times's next executive editor, the top newsroom job.

Mr. Kahn, 57, currently the No. 2-ranking editor at The Times, will take on one of the most powerful positions in American media and the global news business. He is to succeed Dean Baquet, whose eight-year tenure is expected to conclude in June.

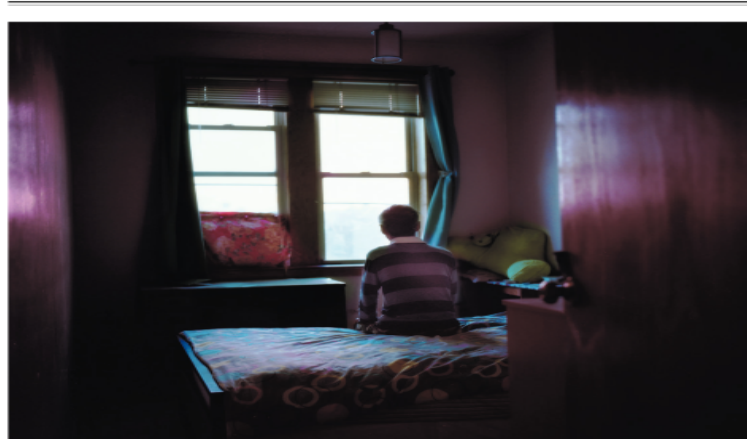
The announcement was made

on Tuesday by the publisher of The Times, A.G. Sulzberger.

"For many people, especially those who have worked alongside Joe — a brilliant journalist and a brave and principled leader — this announcement will come as no surprise," Mr. Sulzberger wrote in a memo to the Times staff. "Joe brings impeccable news judgment, a sophisticated understanding of the forces shaping the world and a long track record of helping journalists produce their most ambitious and courageous work."

In elevating Mr. Kahn, Mr. Sulzberger chose a veteran journalist steeped in the values of traditional

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Zhanxin Gao in the apartment in Elmhurst, Queens, that he shared with his wife, GuiYing Ma.

A Family and a Dream, Shattered in an Instant

By CORINA KNOLL

Their plans were bold, with no room for devastation.

They would leave their hometown and journey 6,500 miles to New York City together and take jobs, any kind, that allowed them to send money back to family.

Eventually, they would return to

enjoy grandchildren whose college funds they had helped provide, whose futures would burn bright.

GuiYing Ma and her husband, Zhanxin Gao, had ventured out of their city of Fushun, in northeastern China, only a handful of times.

They were both 56 years old, childhood schoolmates whose

lives had been entwined for longer than their nearly four decades of marriage. Much of their existence had been one of frugality and labor — working at a steel factory, selling vegetables at a market. Neither had learned any English.

But in 2017, they decided to apply for visas in hopes of making

Continued on Page A18

As Masks Drop, Delight, Dread And Confusion

By JACK HEALY and MITCH SMITH

It began in midair. Shortly after a federal judge struck down mask requirements on planes, pilots got on intercoms to share the news, and some passengers tore off their masks with whoops and glee.

Jonathan Russell Biehl, a pilot for Delta, was halfway from Tampa, Fla., to Minneapolis on Monday night when the announcement came. "The day I've been waiting for," he called it. But on another flight bound for Los Angeles, Brooke Tansley, who was flying with two children too young to be vaccinated, said she felt scared as the passengers around her slipped off their masks. "All I could do was hope it's going to be OK," she said.

By Tuesday, more than a year after the country imposed strict masking requirements on airplanes and public transportation to combat the spread of the coronavirus, a judge's determination that the federal government had overstepped its boundaries rippled across the country. The unexpected ruling by one judge in Florida instantly reshaped travel for millions while sharpening political divisions over the virus and sowing new confusion over

Continued on Page A14

BREATHING EASIER For airlines and flight crews, the mandate couldn't end soon enough. PAGE B1



INTERNATIONAL A4-11

An 'Emblem of Hong Kong'

Battered by a pandemic and political turmoil, a 142-year-old ferry service is fighting to survive.

PAGE A4

A Contrite Johnson Stays Put

The prime minister apologized to Parliament for flouting Covid rules but gave no indication he'd resign.

PAGE A11

NATIONAL A12-20

Reviewing the Insurrection Act

Alarmed by former President Donald J. Trump's final year, the Jan. 6 panel has discussed reassessing an 1807 law on domestic troop deployment.

PAGE A17

Church Sex Abuse Settlement

The Catholic Diocese of Camden, N.J., agreed to pay \$87.5 million to settle claims by hundreds of people, in one of the largest such agreements.

PAGE A16

Racing for a Better Vaccine

Moderna said that by combining its current shot with one designed to attack the Beta variant, it could produce a stronger and broader defense.

PAGE A13



FOOD D1-8

Afghans Feeding Afghans

Restaurateurs are helping refugees starting anew. Above, shrimp dumplings at Lapis in Washington.

PAGE D1

The Tipping Point

Automated payments and more tips have helped workers get by, but some customers feel overwhelmed.

PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-6

The Wolf of Crypto

Jordan Belfort, who inspired "The Wolf of Wall Street," is redefining himself as a cryptocurrency guru. One Bitcoin buys a seat at his workshop.

PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-9

Football's High-Tech Future

The N.F.L. is paying attention as the U.S.F.L. tests devices that could resolve disputes and bring fans watching a TV broadcast closer to the action.

PAGE B7

OPINION A22-23

Ezra Klein

PAGE A23



ARTS C1-6

Commanding the Stage

Mary-Louise Parker and David Morse give crushing performances in the Broadway debut of "How I Learned to Drive," Maya Phillips writes.

PAGE C1



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A WOMAN mourns over her husband's casket in Irpin on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. In Washington, President Biden spoke with allies by phone about providing more ammunition and other aid to Ukraine.

Russian push intensifies in east Ukraine

Military officials say attack appears to be a prelude to a larger, more brutal offensive.

BY NABIH BULOS, LAURA KING AND KATE LINTHICUM

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine — Determined to seize control of Ukraine's industrial heartland, Russia on Tuesday intensified its assaults across the country's east while keeping up the bombardment of Ukrainian forces in the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said that in 24 hours, Russian forces had launched strikes against more than 1,200 Ukrainian military facilities and targeted more than 1,200 troop concentrations, details that could not be independently verified.

Ukraine says Russia has begun its long-expected all-out assault on the east — and Moscow's top diplomat confirmed Tuesday that the struggle has entered its next stage. Western military officials and analysts warned that the current Russian attacks may be setting the battlefield for a larger and potentially far more brutal offensive planned by Moscow.

"We think that these offensives are preludes to larger offensive operations that the Russians plan to conduct," a Pentagon official said Tuesday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Russia still has about 75% of the soldiers and weapons it assembled before the Ukraine invasion and is currently conducting "shaping operations" that will lay the

groundwork for more significant strikes.

On a call with key allies Tuesday, President Biden discussed providing more ammunition and other security assistance to Ukraine and imposing new economic penalties against Russia, the White House said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. is preparing another round of sanctions against Moscow that could be announced this week.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen confirmed for the first time that Europe is planning an embargo on Russian oil imports. "We are currently [See Ukraine, A4]

Masks come off, concerns arise

While some cheer end of transit mandate, others fear health effects

BY LUKE MONEY, HYEYON ALYSSA CHOI, EMILY ALPERT REYES AND RONG-GONG LIN II

A new mask-optional phase of the pandemic is arriving, sparking concern from some experts that the shift is occurring too soon.

For months, local officials have been easing mask rules in public places, such as supermarkets and shopping malls. But a federal court ruling Monday striking down the federal mask-wearing order on public transportation systems accelerated the trend, with Uber, Lyft, many airlines and transit agencies making face coverings optional.

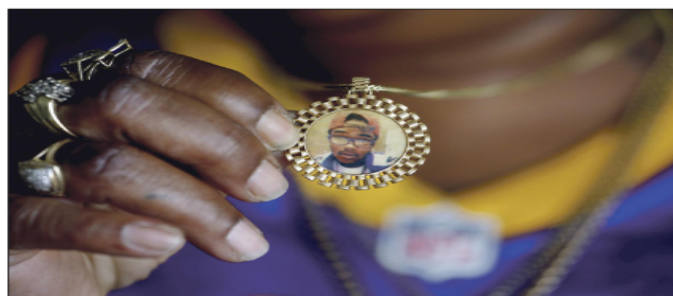
In one section of Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday morning, an estimated 30% to 40% of travelers were not wearing [See Masks, A12]



TUESDAY at LAX was the first full day of the end of the transit mask mandate.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MASK RULES

The end of the mask mandate for public transportation causes airlines, airports and transit agencies to modify their rules for travelers. **CALIFORNIA, B2**



LATASHA BRACKS holds a pendant showing her son Tashon Logan, who was gunned down on March 31, 2019, the same day Nipsey Hussle was killed.

COLUMN ONE

A mother's mission: Don't lose another son to violence

Watts woman's eldest was slain in 2019. Her focus now is keeping his two brothers out of trouble.

BY CONNOR SHEETS

In Latasha Bracks' Watts living room, a cluttered shrine to her three sons and three daughters sits atop a waist-high pedestal near the front window.

There are framed photos of their smiling faces and artifacts from their lives, including her 18-year-old son Pierre Monroe's high school diploma and basketball trophies.

Rising above the keepsakes is a gleaming silver-and-blue urn, shaped like an oversized egg in an egg cup. "That's my baby," Bracks said one winter afternoon, gesturing toward the

metal vessel. "His ashes are in there."

Tashon Logan, her eldest son, was shot to death at age 19 on March 31, 2019 — less than four hours before rapper Nipsey Hussle was gunned down in front of his South Los Angeles store.

She is not the first mother to bear the weight of raising children in a tough neighborhood with more gangs and guns than opportunity. But hers is an uncommon common story, one of atonement and second chances.

Bracks is a 47-year-old single mother and recovering addict who lived for two years in a rescue mission and a string of flophouses before finding a stable home to raise her family. She lost one son and almost lost [See Mother, A7]

Council challengers get tough on LAPD

Some taking on incumbents aim to test voters' appetites for defunding the police.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

Not long after the death of George Floyd in 2020, labor organizer Hugo Soto-Martinez protested at Echo Park Lake, where he and hundreds of others demanded cuts to the Los Angeles Police Department.

"We're not going to stop until we defund the police, get rid of [Dist. Atty.] Jackie Lacey and transform this society," he wrote on Twitter. Weeks later, college ad-

ministrator Dulce Vasquez posted her response to the City Council's decision to cut hundreds of LAPD officers. "Protesting works," she wrote, with the hashtag #DefundPolice.

Community activist Eunisses Hernandez was issuing her own calls for change, saying funding should be moved out of law enforcement and into housing, child care and other social services.

"When we say abolish the police," she wrote last year, "we mean replace it with this."

Now, all three are running for Los Angeles City Council in the June 7 election, looking to unseat a trio of incumbents. [See City Council, A6]

No easy fix on Feinstein issue

The senator's fitness is questioned, but quitting is not ideal, Mark Z. Barabak writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

County payout in teen's death

Parents who claimed negligence by 911 operator get \$6.5 million. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Early clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 68/51. B6 Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper



BORDER SHOWDOWN

Republican governors are being pushed to take immigration policy into their own hands. Above, a migrant is stopped in Texas. **NATION, A5**

BUSINESS INSIDE: Musk's stated vision for Twitter contrasts with the reality at Tesla. **A8**

The Washington Post

Please recycle this newspaper. For more information, visit www.washingtonpost.com/recycling

Sunny 61/47 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 69/54 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 • B2

Appeal of mask ruling up to CDC

Justice Dept. will act if agency says mandate is needed for transportation

BY LORI ARATANI,
DAN SIMMONS,
MARY BETH GAHAN
AND JENNIFER OLDHAM

The Biden administration said Tuesday that it would appeal a judge's ruling that blocked a transportation mask requirement if federal health officials determine the mandate is still needed.

The Justice Department continued to defend the administration's policy and said in a statement that it would appeal the ruling if the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determines the mandate is still necessary to protect public health. The department said it would defer to the CDC's assessment of health conditions before filing any appeal.

"The Department continues to believe that the order requiring masking in the transportation corridor is a valid exercise of the authority Congress has given CDC to protect the public health. That is an important authority the Department will continue to work to preserve," Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said in a statement. "If CDC concludes that a mandatory order remains necessary for the public health after that assessment, the Department of Justice will appeal the district court's decision."

The CDC said in a statement

SEE MANDATE ON A6

Uber and Lyft: Ride-hailing giants end mask guidelines, too. **A16**

Rider's choice: Many choose to remain masked on Metro. **B1**

Russia vows fierce eastern offensive



WOJCIECH GRZEDZINSKI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Soldiers serving along Ukraine's eastern front in the Donetsk region stand in a sleeping bunker last week. If a large-scale Kremlin offensive is successful, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers such as those dug into front-line bunkers would be cut off from resupply lines.

In battle for the east, front-line soldiers dig in to stave off enemy

BY DALTON BENNETT

ROZSAKY, UKRAINE — Along Ukraine's eastern front, soldiers man the sprawling maze of trenches and bunkers that form the backbone of defensive positions that stretch for hundreds of miles.

Carved into the hard earth during eight years of bloody fighting, these rugged outposts are occupied by soldiers who have weathered intense shelling and artillery strikes battling Moscow-backed separat-

ists to a standstill.

"Farther from here is only the enemy," said Andre, 23, an army officer who leads a unit at a deeply dug Ukrainian defensive position within range of enemy rifle fire. "It is only a matter of time before they send more of their forces."

That moment may now have arrived for Andre and his men, as Russian forces launch a new onslaught that threatens to encircle Ukrainian positions on this contested land.

On Monday, Ukrainian Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelensky announced that after days of amassing forces, the Kremlin has begun a large-scale offensive aimed at seizing what remains of Ukrainian-held territory in the country's eastern Donbas region.

The governor of the Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, announced Monday that the Ukrainian military had withdrawn from a town near the regional capital of Severodonetsk after weeks of intense Russian shelling.

Haidai urged civilians who

remained near the fighting in and around the towns of Popasna and Kremenna to leave, warning them that "the Russians are killing everyone who's against them on the spot."

If the Russian offensive is successful, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers such as those dug into these front-line bunkers would be cut off from resupply lines. Soldiers and commanders interviewed here by The Washington Post in recent days said that if that happened, they would

SEE SOLDIERS ON A10

MOSCOW INTENT ON SEIZING DONBAS

Civilians remain trapped as safe passage talks fail

BY MARY ILYUSHINA,
MISSY RYAN,
DAN LAMOTHE
AND DAVID L. STERN

RIGA, LATVIA — Russia declared the start of an intensified campaign for eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, focusing heavy firepower on areas key to cementing control of the country's industrial heartland.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the Kremlin, more than seven weeks into its war in Ukraine, had entered a new stage of the invasion and would seek the "complete liberation" of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, potentially bringing areas where Russian-backed separatists have waged a long war firmly within Moscow's grip. U.S. officials cautioned that Moscow may have yet to unleash its full military might on Ukraine's east.

"The next phase of this special operation begins now," Lavrov said in an interview with India Today television. "This will be an important moment during this special operation."

Civilians remained trapped by the fighting in areas across Ukraine, as local officials urged residents to evacuate areas expected to come under intensified assault but also acknowledged that their attempts to negotiate safe passage had failed in recent days.

President Biden hosted a video call Tuesday with key partners in the effort to isolate Russia's leadership and economy, including France, Japan, Germany, NATO and the European Union, discussing the supply of additional

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

Orthodox church: Patriarch's support for war divides his faith. **A8**

Strategic shift: Dissecting Russia's turn to the east. **A12**

'Missing skills' among kids of covid lockdowns

BY HANNAH NATANSON

In a normal year, up to half of Christine Jarboe's first-graders start school knowing how to tie their shoelaces.

But thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, school hasn't been normal for more than two years. So when Jarboe welcomed a fresh crop of Fairfax County Public Schools first-graders to her classroom in the fall for their first full year of in-person learning, she made a disturbing discovery.

"You'd say, 'Okay, can you show me how to tie your shoes?' and most of them would just kind of look at me, like, really confused," Jarboe said. "They really weren't sure even where to start."

It was one of many "missing skills" that Jarboe discovered among her students over the course of the semester. She expected them to show up behind where they should be in academic categories such as reading. But what she hadn't counted on was that

SEE SKILLS ON A4



ANNA MONET/MAGNET/GETTY IMAGES

LEFT: Diane Foley, mother of journalist James Foley, one of four Americans kidnapped and killed by the Islamic State, speaks after last week's conviction of El Shafee Elsheikh in U.S. court in Alexandria. **RIGHT:** Carl Mueller lost his daughter Kayla, a human rights activist.



BRENDAN SMALDON/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. trial a rare case of justice for victims of ISIS

BY RACHEL WEINER,
JUSTIN JOVENAL
AND MATT ZAPOTOSKY

For French journalist Nicholas Henin, confronting the Islamic State militant who was among the men who held him hostage in a makeshift prison in Syria for nearly 10 months was a long time coming.

Sitting in the witness box in a federal courtroom in Virginia, Henin detailed the torture and

Prosecution was years in making, and might not have happened at all

pain he endured at the hands of a terrorist cell nicknamed "the Beatles," all while staring at El Shafee Elsheikh. Their eye contact was fleeting but important for Henin — occurring during a trial that

was years in the making.

When Elsheikh and co-conspirator Alexandra Kotev were captured by Kurdish forces in early 2018 and identified as part of a group of militants that kidnapped, tortured and killed hostages for the Islamic State, it was unclear whether an American trial would happen at all. A federal prosecution was met with opposition at the highest levels of government on two continents. Britain did not want to prosecute Elsheikh or Kotev, both from London, and had stripped them of citizenship. But evidence in British hands that could be used against them in an American court was held up over disagreement on whether they should face the death penalty. And leaders at the Justice Department feared that a loss at trial could leave U.S. officials with the thorny legal and political question of what to do with

SEE TRIAL ON A7

DeSantis goes after Disney's tax status

BY LORI ROZSA

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) is following through on his promise to try to cancel a 1967 deal between the state and the Walt Disney Co. that could leave the company on the hook for millions of dollars a year in local taxes — and with less autonomy over its property.

Tuesday, DeSantis announced that lawmakers in Tallahassee for a special legislative session would take up the issue. The proposal follows weeks of public attacks on Disney by the governor, who has criticized the company for opposing a new Florida law that limits how educators discuss LGBTQ issues in the classroom.

Legislators "will be considering the Congressional map, but they also will be considering termination of all special districts that were enacted in

SEE DESANTIS ON A6

IN THE NEWS



AM WATSON/POOL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Depp testifies The actor calls Amber Heard's allegations "heinous" in the trial for his defamation lawsuit against his ex-wife. **C1**

THE NATION

The Biden administration restored safeguards that the Trump administration had removed from a landmark environmental law. **A3**
The Education Department said it will grant federal student loan borrowers additional credit toward loan forgiveness, bringing more than 3.6 million people closer to debt cancellation. **A3**

THE WORLD
Back-to-back blasts

killed at least six outside a prominent Kabul school in the heart of the city's minority Shiite Hazara community. **A14**

THE ECONOMY

Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen will boycott several meetings at a gathering of G-20 finance ministers in D.C. to protest Russia's participation. **A15**

THE REGION

The Mormon temple will be giving free public

tours, its first in nearly 50 years, following renovations and ahead of an August rededication. **B1**
Donna F. Edwards outlasted Glenn Ivey in the last quarter, but Ivey has more cash on hand, setting the stage for a competitive Democratic primary in Maryland's 4th Congressional District. **B1**

With Prince George's County securing a \$400 million investment in the recent legislative session, officials say a long-awaited transformation is coming to Blue

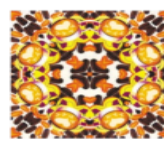
Line communities. **B1**
Alawsuit accuses the D.C. consulting firm Guidehouse of fostering a culture of sexual harassment. **B3**

STYLE
New York Times Managing Editor Joe Kahn was announced as the successor to Executive Editor Dean Baquet. **C1**

SPORTS

One tweet from an NBA all-star helped start the conversation about mental health challenges that the league's athletes face. **D1**

INSIDE



FOOD
For the love of joe Coffee can recharge us, but also calm us. **E1**

STYLE
Loss leader Cremation's rise reveals America's changing attitude about death. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWSA15
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ENTERTAINMENTC4
TELEVISIONC4
WORLD NEWSA8

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0170628211003

deportes

Líder y revelación

Estudiantes, firme con una cadena de triunfos

Derrotó 2-1 a Tigre y suma siete victorias y 28 goles en la cima de la zona 2 de la Copa de la Liga.



SIETE CLAVES DEL BAFICI, LA GRAN CITA PORTEÑA DEL CINE

—espectáculos

Una guía con consejos para el festival que empieza hoy; se presentan 290 films en el circuito de salas históricas con entradas desde \$100; se podrá ver por streaming.

ACUSAN A UN ARZOBISPO POR VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO

—sociedad

Monjas carmelitas descalzas denunciaron al prelado de Salta y a dos sacerdotes; la Justicia les prohibió acercarse al convento donde viven las religiosas. Página 22

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 20 DE ABRIL DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Cristina rompe el bloque para quitarle a la oposición un lugar en la Magistratura

MANIOBRA. Ordenó una división ficticia en el Senado para conservar poder en la Justicia

La vicepresidenta y titular del Senado, Cristina Kirchner, ordenó sobre el filo de esta madrugada una ruptura del bloque oficialista, en una maniobra orientada a quitarle a la oposición la representación que debería asumir en el Consejo de la Magistratura. El lugar opuesto le corresponde a la segunda minoría, que ejerce Juntos por el

Cambio. El senador designado es el cordobés Luis Juez. Pero Cristina Kirchner se negó a formalizar la designación, y ahora quiere adjudicarse ese lugar a través de la fractura ficticia del bloque oficialista, con la que busca ocupar también el lugar de segunda minoría.

Al mismo tiempo, el kirchnerismo le pide al presidente de Dipu-

dos que se abstenga de designar al representante de esa Cámara.

Antes de la maniobra, la oposición había adelantado su decisión de denunciar penalmente a Cristina Kirchner y a Sergio Massa si no cumplen el fallo de la Corte Suprema, que los obliga a designar los representantes del Congreso en el Consejo de la Magistratura. Página 8

Procesado, el juez Bento busca concursar para ser camarista

Página 10

Los bonos oficiales se pagarán gracias a la inflación

PRECIOS. El aumento hará que la recaudación sea más alta que la esperada

Pese a que avanza con el llamado impuesto a la "renta inesperada", el Gobierno no requerirá su aprobación para poder pagar los bonos anunciados anteaer para trabajadores informales, monotributistas y jubilados, cuyo costo fiscal rondará los \$200.000 millones.

Fuentes oficiales confirmaron que la inflación, mayor a la prevista en estos meses, impulsará un crecimiento adicional de la recaudación impositiva en el segundo trimestre, que alcanzará para absorber ese gasto sin afectar las metas fiscales y monetarias fijadas en el acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional. Página 15

Rosario, sin paz: seis homicidios en un día

CRÍMENES. El elevado nivel de violencia en Rosario quedó expuesto, una vez más, en la sucesión de seis homicidios registrados en menos de 24 horas. Cinco de esos asesinatos evidenciaron señales claras de la participación de sicarios. Dos de las víctimas, por ejemplo, fueron encontradas quemadas dentro de un vehículo. Desde comienzos de este año se notificaron 83 asesinatos en esa ciudad santafesina. Solo en los últimos diez días hubo 16 muertes violentas. Página 28

Por los avances médicos, hay cada vez menos internaciones

SALUD. Un reemplazo de cadera o el implante de una válvula cardíaca ahora son ambulatorios. Página 21



Cornejo, Juez, Negri y Riondo con otros legisladores de Juntos por el Cambio, al anunciar su decisión

FABIÁN MARELLI

GUERRA EN UCRANIA — DÍA 55

Lluvia de bombas y misiles en el Donbass

La ofensiva de Moscú en el este ucraniano se intensifica con ataques sostenidos de artillería

Luisa Corradini
CORRESPONSAL EN FRANCIA

PARÍS.— Con fuego sostenido de artillería, misiles y bombardeos desde aviones caza, Rusia mantuvo ayer su ofensiva en el este de Ucrania,

bautizada por Kiev "la batalla por el Donbass", la rica región del país donde las fuerzas de Moscú cuentan con el respaldo de los separatistas prorrusos. El Pentágono calificó los ataques como "operaciones de conformación", preludio de una

ofensiva más amplia en el Donbass, de mayoría rusohablante. "Misiles de alta precisión de las fuerzas rusas neutralizaron 13 plazas fuertes de unidades del Ejército ucraniano", así como "concentraciones" de tropas cerca de la ciudad de

Sloviansk, en la región de Donetsk, indicó el Ministerio de Defensa ruso, que sumó otras decenas de ataques con misiles y varios centenares de blancos golpeados por su artillería en el sur y el este del país. Continúa en la página 2



Alkis Konstantinidis/Reuters

RÚSSIA QUADRUPLICA ATAQUES E TOMA CIDADE EM OFENSIVA NO LESTE DA UCRÂNIA

Corpo de homem em rua de Kharkiv, no norte ucraniano; Moscou afirma ter iniciado batalha pelo controle do Donbass, enquanto EUA dizem que Kiev recebeu aviões de combate **Mundo A9**

São Paulo teme caos de blocos sem estrutura nas ruas

Sem ter convencido blocos a desistir do Carnaval de rua, a prefeitura paulistana não tem um plano de emergência para Tirantes e teme os efeitos de desfiles sem organização, banheiros ou reforço de policiamento. **Alalaô B1**



'Amamentação', de Jaider Esbell, que está na Bienal **Divulgação**

Gaviões da Fiel terá Bolsonaro gay em desfile

Alalaô B1

Para promotor, prisão no PCC cria disputa de poder

Para Ministério Público paulista, prisão de Coloredo ameaça o comando de Marcola na facção. **B2**

A pandemia em 19.abr

Dados das 20h

População vacinada no Brasil
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **76,0%**

Óbitos
Média móvel **102** -44,7%
Em 24 h 190
Total 662.266

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

EDITORIAIS A2

Hora do veredito

Acerca de julgamento do deputado Daniel Silveira.

Farsa populista

Sobre ataque de líder mexicano a órgão eleitoral.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje

26°
15°
0h 6h 12h 18h 24h

ISSN 1414-7773
9 771414 33985
3 3985

Com Bolsonaro, tabela do IR tem defasagem recorde

Acúmulo de 24% em três anos e três meses atinge pico da série histórica, iniciada em 1996, e descumpra promessa

A tabela do Imposto de Renda acumula sob Jair Bolsonaro (PL) sua maior defasagem desde 1996, quando deixou de ser reajustada automaticamente: 24%. Com a inflação em alta e sem correção das faixas de isenção e tributação, a fatia sobre a qual é cobrado imposto se alarga, e o brasileiro paga mais.

Os dados, do Sindifisco Nacional, medem a defasagem por mandato presidencial segundo o IPCA, índice oficial de inflação ao consumidor. Até 1995, o reajuste da tabela ocorria automaticamente pela Ufir, Unidade Fiscal de Referência. O controle da inflação com a adoção do real possibilitou a mudança.

O pico anterior, 18,99%, ocorrera no segundo mandato de Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1999-2002). Em quatro anos de Bolsonaro, ela pode chegar a 28% caso não haja correção até o fim de 2022 — o que significaria, também, descumprir uma promessa de sua campanha eleitoral de 2018. **Mercado A12**

Ilustrada C1

Bienal do fim do mundo

Veneza registra número inédito de mulheres e não binários e imagina Terra já sem humanos

Equilíbrio B6

Ciência investiga se dormir mal pode levar a um quadro de demência na velhice

Esporte B7

Federação fatura mais com Paulista depois de divisão das transmissões



Allison Sales/Futura Press/Folhapress

PREFEITURA USA GRADE PARA ISOLAR USUÁRIOS EM PRAÇA

Homem pula estrutura na praça Princesa Isabel, no centro da capital paulista; gestão separa dependentes e moradores de rua de equipes que trabalham em revitalização **Cotidiano B2**

Ciro diz aceitar 'discutir tudo' ao negociar com 3ª via

Os quatro partidos que prometem lançar candidatura conjunta à Presidência — União Brasil, MDB, PSDB e Cidadania — consideram difícil integrar a candidatura de Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (PP) ao bloco da direita. O pedetista, porém, afirmou que aceita conversar e "em uma mesa de negociação se discute tudo". **Política A4**

Direita e esquerda miram jovem sem título nas redes

A reta final para a emissão do título de eleitor tem agitado redes sociais de esquerda e direita, que, com estímulo de artistas e hashtags, tentam convencer jovens a tirar o documento. O prazo termina em 4 de maio. **Política A6**

STF julga Silveira com expectativa de condenação

Política A7

Marcelo Coelho É hora de revogar a Lei da Anistia

Quem não se arrepende não merece perdão. Quem se vangloria dos próprios crimes não pode contar com a impunidade que concede a repetição. Revogar a lei não é mais questão de remexer o passado, é uma imposição. **Ilustrada C6**

Petróleo caro deve ajudar economia do país, afirma FMI

O Brasil deve se beneficiar com petróleo mais caro e terminar 2022 com crescimento de 0,8%, indica o FMI. O fundo rebaixou ainda a previsão de alta da economia global de 4,4% para 3,6%, em relação à estimativa anterior. **Mercado A21**

Estiman que el producto interno bruto (PIB) crecerá apenas el 0,3%

FMI pronostica una inflación récord para Paraguay en 2022

Organismo multilateral proyecta histórica suba de precios al cierre del año del 9,4%. Sería una de las más elevadas a nivel local en 17 años. Sequía tuvo gran impacto en economía.

PÁGINA 10



Ni el terremoto mueve al intendente de Capiatá

Inacción. El intendente Fernando González ni con la excusa del sismo de hace 20 días arregló el derrumbado puente Poncho Pytá, que comunica a dos compañías. Vecinos urgen al Municipio el inicio de las obras. PÁGINA 21

Hugo Javier no tiene autorización judicial para ir a la Gobernación

PÁGINA 4

Hasta al auto del hermano hizo trabajar polémica jefa de Hacienda

PÁGINA 6

María Serrana: Por recurso de amparo se normalizan las clases de Medicina

PÁGINA 24

Gesto: Embajador de EEUU da apoyo a Seprelad en lucha antilavado

PÁGINA 48

ETIOS

MÁS POR
DESCUBRIR

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ECONOMÍA

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 Réponses à la question de mardi :
 Présidentielle : jugez-vous la campagne de l'entre-deux-tours intéressante ?

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Présidentielle : le débat de l'entre-deux-tours est-il déterminant pour votre vote ?

DESSIN : FABIEN CLAIREFOND

Macron et Le Pen à l'heure de la grande confrontation

Les deux finalistes de la présidentielle s'affronteront ce mercredi soir, à 21 heures, sur TF1 et France 2. Un rendez-vous crucial et soigneusement préparé, cinq ans après leur premier duel.

C'est un match retour qui sera scruté de près : cinq ans après leur première confrontation, Emmanuel Macron et Marine Le Pen se retrouvent, ce mercredi soir, pour un nouveau duel d'entre-deux-tours déterminant. La candidate du RN, qui prépare de longue date cet affrontement, aura à cœur d'effacer le souvenir de l'échec de 2017 en démontrant la crédibilité de son projet. Le président-candidat, lui, devra défendre son bilan et répondre aux procès en arrogance intentés par son adversaire. Enjeu pour les deux candidats : consolider la mobilisation de leur électorat et séduire les partisans de Jean-Luc Mélenchon, qui joueront les arbitres du second tour ce dimanche.

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→ DEUX IMAGES PROCHES AUX YEUX DES FRANÇAIS → LA CANDIDATE RN PEINE À DISSIPER LE FLOU SUR LE VOILE → « AJUSTEMENTS OU RECULS : L'ÉTROITE LIGNE DE CRÈTE » → PAR GUILLAUME TABARD → À SAINT-SAUVANT, OÙ LES DEUX FINALISTES SONT ARRIVÉS EX AËQUO → DANS LA VILLE DU PRÉSIDENT, LES INSOUMIS INDÉCIS AVANT LE SECOND TOUR → LA LUTTE CONTRE L'EXTRÊME DROITE NE FAIT PLUS FLORÈS À GAUCHE → ÉCONOMIE : L'ÉTAT DE LA FRANCE DU PROCHAIN PRÉSIDENT PAGES 2 À 5, 22 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

La Russie lance son offensive sur le Donbass par une campagne d'intenses bombardements



La grande offensive annoncée par la Russie contre l'est de l'Ukraine a commencé. À la manière russe, c'est-à-dire avec une intense préparation d'artillerie sur les lignes de front du Donbass (ici à Novodroujensk, près de Sieverodonetsk). PAGES 6 ET 7

Inflation et croissance mondiale : le cri d'alarme du FMI

Entre la guerre en Ukraine, le ralentissement de la Chine et le retour de l'inflation, les nuages noirs s'accumulent sur l'économie mondiale, dont les perspectives « se sont considérablement détériorées », alerte le Fonds monétaire international dans sa dernière note de prévision. Pour cette année, il prévoit désormais une croissance mondiale de 3,6 %, contre 4,4 % auparavant, et de seulement 2,8 % en zone euro au lieu de 4,3 % précédemment. Il n'exclut pas que la situation se détériore encore au cours des prochains mois. PAGES 24 ET 25

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

Les bons mots...

Les temps ont changé. En 1974, les deux finalistes de la présidentielle, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing et François Mitterrand, se disputaient le « monopole du cœur » des Français. Jolie formule dont on a d'ailleurs prétendu qu'elle avait fait le jeu du premier, vainqueur cette année-là. Ils avaient chacun leur vision de l'avenir du pays. C'était alors projet contre projet. En votant, l'électeur adhérait, plus ou moins, à l'un ou l'autre.

Près de cinquante ans plus tard, le débat de leurs lointains successeurs, ce mercredi soir, ne s'inscrit pas du tout dans ce registre « sentimental ». Emmanuel Macron et Marine Le Pen vont plutôt chercher à susciter le moins de rejet possible. Ce sera « rejet contre rejet ». Certes, les deux candidats incarnent, eux aussi, deux France que tout oppose. Mais le désamour – pour ne pas dire la détestation – qu'inspirent les responsables politiques aujourd'hui est tel qu'on vote davantage pour faire barrage que par conviction. Même au premier tour...

Dans ces conditions, le débat sera-t-il déterminant ? Sa tenue et le suspense qui l'entoure montrent, là aussi, des évolutions certaines. En 2002, Jacques Chirac avait refusé d'affronter Jean-Marie Le Pen. Personne n'avait trou-

vé cela anormal, ou presque, et 60 % des voix avaient finalement séparé les deux hommes. En 2017, un débat avait eu lieu car nul n'imaginait possible le contraire. Face à Emmanuel Macron, Marine Le Pen n'avait pas fait le poids et l'avait reconquis. L'écart entre eux avait été de 32 % au second tour, moitié moins qu'entre son père et l'ancien maire de Paris.

Qu'en sera-t-il cette année ? La « dédiabolisation » affichée de la candidate nationaliste, qui entend se présenter en « bonne mère de famille », résistera-t-elle aux critiques de son adversaire contre sa personne et son projet ? Elle n'a rien à perdre et confie avoir appris de ses erreurs. Emmanuel Macron est, quant à lui, porteur d'un bilan qu'il devra justifier. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing l'avait appris à ses dépens en 1981 dans son « match retour » contre François Mitterrand : le passé d'un président sortant peut se transformer en « passif ». Emmanuel Macron ne devra pas se contenter de trouver les bons mots pour se défendre ; pour la suite, il lui faudra aussi, sans arrogance, convaincre et entraîner. ■

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'A man without shame': PM savaged over parties

Starmer berates Johnson as senior Tory MPs join calls for him to resign

Heather Stewart
Aubrey Allegretti

Keir Starmer called the prime minister "a man without shame" during furious exchanges in parliament yesterday as MPs prepared to vote on whether Boris Johnson should be investigated for lying about the Partygate scandal.

Addressing MPs for the first time since receiving a fixed-penalty notice for attending a party thrown for his birthday in June 2020, Johnson spoke of his humility but said that it had not occurred to him that the gathering was a breach of Covid rules.

In a fierce response, Starmer accused the prime minister of dishonesty and said he didn't "respect the sacrifice of the British public".

The senior Tory MP Mark Harper became the latest backbencher to call for Johnson to go, after hearing his apology, saying: "I no longer think he is worthy of the great office that he holds."

MPs will vote tomorrow on a Labour motion that would trigger an investigation by the House of Commons privileges committee into whether Johnson misled parliament over a string of lockdown-busting parties in Downing Street.

Starmer urged Tory MPs to seize the opportunity to get rid of Johnson and "bring decency, honesty and integrity back into our politics".

In his statement to parliament, Johnson insisted he had broken the rules unwittingly.

"It did not occur to me then or subsequently that a gathering in the cabinet room, just before a vital meeting on Covid strategy, could amount to a breach of the rules. That was my mistake and I apologise for it unreservedly," he said.

Johnson added that the "hurt and anger" prompted by the row had given him "an even greater sense of obligation to deliver on the priorities



▲ Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak during a torrid session in the House of Commons yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: PIXEL8000

'I no longer think [Boris Johnson] is worthy of the great office that he holds'

Mark Harper
Conservative MP

of the British people, and to respond in the best traditions of our country to Putin's barbaric onslaught on Ukraine".

He stressed that he had been discussing the Ukraine conflict today on a call with fellow world leaders, including presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron and the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz.

But Starmer called the apology "mealy-mouthed" and accused Johnson of being "dishonest". When asked by the Speaker to withdraw that as unparliamentary language, Starmer said: "The prime minister knows what he is."

Harper also rejected Johnson's apology, saying: "I regret to say that we have a PM who broke the laws that he told the country to follow, hasn't been straight about it, and is now going to ask the decent men and women on these benches to defend what I think is indefensible."

Harper subsequently tweeted that he had already sent a letter of no confidence in Johnson to the chair of the 1922 Committee, Sir Graham Brady.

Yesterday evening Craig Whitaker, a Tory MP who has previously called for Johnson to resign, urged the prime minister to refer himself to the privileges

Russians overrun city in Donbas

Lorenzo Tondo and
Luke Harding Kyiv
Isobel Koshiw Dnipro

Russia's large-scale offensive to seize the Donbas region was under way yesterday when troops overran the city of Kreminka in eastern Ukraine and began advancing towards the strategic Ukrainian military hub of Kramatorsk.

The regional governor said Ukrainian soldiers had abandoned Kreminka, a city of more than 18,000 people, after it came under ferocious Russian attack. The assault took place "from all sides", he said. It is the first victory for Moscow since its battle for the Donbas began on Monday.

"Kreminka is under the control of the 'Orcs' [Russians]. They have entered the city," Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, told a briefing. "Our defenders had to withdraw. They have entrenched themselves in new positions and continue to fight the Russian army."

Haidai said it was "impossible" to know how many civilians had been killed: "We have official statistics - about 200 dead - but in reality there are many more." He said that "street fighting" was taking place, with four people shot by Russians as they tried to escape by car.

The city had already been pulverised by extensive Russian shelling. It is located close to territory held by pro-Moscow separatists. Russian forces are

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Self-drive cars Watching films to be allowed

Changes to rules will allow drivers to stream movies, but mobile phone use still banned

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