

What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. stocks extended their April losses, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow sinking 2.8%, 4% and 2.4%, respectively. All three indexes are on track to lose at least 4% this month. **A1**

◆ **A top EU regulator** cautioned Musk a day after he struck a deal to buy Twitter that he would need to follow the bloc's new rules on content moderation. **A1**

◆ **Tesla shares** logged their biggest one-day drop in more than a year, re-treating 12% to \$876.42. **B1**

◆ **Mattel** has held talks with private-equity firms about a potential sale, people familiar with the matter said. **B1**

◆ **Fed governor Brainard** won confirmation in a 52-43 vote by the Senate to become the central bank's vice chairwoman. **A2**

◆ **Microsoft's revenue** and profit rose in the latest quarter as demand for its cloud services and software continued to climb. **B1**

◆ **Google parent Alphabet** posted slower sales growth as global economic turmoil disrupted digital advertising spending. **B1**

◆ **Warner Bros. Discovery's** Zaslav said the company wouldn't spend wildly to boost its various news and entertainment assets when it comes to streaming. **B1**

◆ **GM's profit** slipped 3% in the first quarter. The auto maker stood by its 2022 earnings forecast. **B2**

◆ **GE** warned that its business would be pressured by supply-chain disruptions this year. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Russia's top diplomat** said the West was engaged in a proxy war with his country that could escalate into a global conflict with nuclear weapons, as Western nations elevated their commitment to helping Ukraine defend itself. **A1, A7-8**

◆ **China's Xi** has told officials to ensure the country's economic growth outpaces the U.S.'s this year, people familiar with the discussions said, even as its economy sags under a Covid-19 outbreak. **A9**

◆ **Biden** signaled to House Democrats this week that he is seriously considering taking action to forgive student-loan debt on a large scale, according to congressional aides and others. **A2**

◆ **The Supreme Court** heard the Biden administration's appeal of lower-court orders forcing it to maintain the so-called Remain in Mexico immigration policy. **A3**

◆ **Nearly 60% of people** in the U.S., including three in four children, exhibited signs of previous Covid-19 infection as of February, a CDC report said. **A3**

◆ **Harris** tested positive for Covid-19 and was exhibiting no symptoms, a spokeswoman for the vice president said. **A4**

◆ **Pfizer** and partner BioNTech asked the FDA to authorize a booster dose of its Covid-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old. **A3**

◆ **Harvard** pledged \$100 million to redress its historical ties to slavery and released a report detailing its connections to slavery, segregation and discrimination. **A6**

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Beijing Orders Mass Testing to Contain Latest Virus Surge



IN LINE: Residents wait for Covid-19 testing outside a hotel in Beijing on Tuesday, after the capital rolled out citywide testing and closed access to some neighborhoods to fight a new outbreak amid concerns for China's economic growth. **A9**

Russia Says NATO Is Fighting Proxy War With Rising Risks

By JAMES MARSON

Russia's top diplomat said the West was engaged in a proxy war with his country that could escalate into a global conflict with nuclear weapons, as Western nations elevated their commitment to helping Ukraine defend itself. "The risk is serious, real. It

should not be underestimated," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of Russia said in a Russian state-television interview broadcast Monday night. "Under no circumstances should a third world war be allowed to happen," he said, adding that "there can be no winners in a nuclear war."

Mr. Lavrov said the West

was increasing the risk of a bigger conflict by providing arms to Ukraine: "NATO is, in essence, going to war with Russia through a proxy and arming that proxy."

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, speaking at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Tuesday, said "any bluster about the possible use of nu-

clear weapons is dangerous and unhelpful."

Mr. Austin met with defense officials from more than 40 countries in Germany on Tuesday and said the U.S. and its allies would continue to meet Ukraine's needs, adding that the stakes of the conflict "reach beyond Europe and even Europe."

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Fear Grows for Ukraine's Missing

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

VELYKYI BOBRYK, Ukraine—Columns of Russian armor streamed past this village in northeastern Ukraine, with its reed-fringed lake and a blue-domed church, on the first day of the war. For three weeks, it was left alone.

The Russians came back on March 16, this time looking for

anyone with mobile-phone footage or anything else that Ukrainian insurgents might have used in a spate of hit-and-run attacks on their supply lines. A tank had been destroyed nearby. Russian soldiers had killed the attacker, a local man named Ivan Demidov. They then went house to house through Velykyi Bobryk looking for po-

The Ukraine Crisis
◆ Germany will send heavy weapons to Kyiv..... **A7**
◆ Russian oil sale fails as curbs resonate..... **A8**

tential accomplices before withdrawing from here and the rest of northern Ukraine in late March.

Only the wrecks of Russian tanks and army rations serve as a reminder of their presence here. But gone with the Russians were six local men, who are among the growing number of people who have disappeared from villages and towns across Ukraine.

"The Russians have taken my brother away, and we have

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Hands-Off Approach to Twitter Draws EU Regulator's Warning

By DEEPA SEETHARAMAN AND MEGHAN BOBROWSKY

Elon Musk has pledged to adopt a more hands-off approach to speech on Twitter Inc., but a warning Tuesday from a top European regulator shows it might not be as simple as shelling out \$44 billion for the social-media platform and taking it private.

The internal market commissioner at the European

Union cautioned Mr. Musk a day after he struck a deal to buy Twitter that he would need to follow the bloc's new rules on content moderation.

EU regulators are but one of a number of forces—advertisers, users, lawmakers, activists—who can complicate Mr. Musk's attempt to, in effect, return the platform to its early days, when its executives publicly described it as "the free speech wing of the free speech

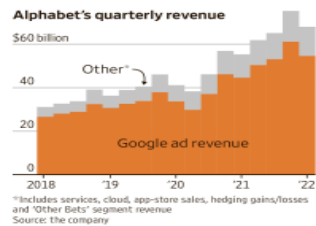
party."

In the years since, Twitter and other mainstream social-media platforms have imposed policies and practices designed to make them less susceptible to harassment, manipulation and falsehoods they see as

◆ **Tesla shares** sink 12% on Musk's Twitter deal..... **B1**
◆ **Twitter** buyout debt seen as credit-rating peril..... **B5**

Alphabet Sales Growth Pulls Back

Google parent Alphabet Inc. posted slower growth in sales as economic turmoil around the world disrupted digital advertising spending. The company said first-quarter sales rose 23% from the year-ago period, the lowest rate for the tech giant since late 2020. **B1**



INSIDE



JASON GAY

The Nets, a team too good to fail, exit early from the NBA playoffs. **A14**



U.S. NEWS

Lael Brainard wins Senate confirmation to become the Fed's vice chairwoman. **A2**

Jorts the Cat vs. Scabby the Rat: Labor Needs New Mascots

Renewed interest in union activism means work for a fluffy feline

By ALLISON PRANG

Preparing to support some workers going on strike last month, Courtney John, a parks and recreation worker in the Minneapolis area, designed her picket line placard. On it was an image of a chunky, ginger-haired fellow who has become one of organized labor's biggest cheerleaders.

He isn't a member of any union himself. Technically, he can't be. He's a cat.

The U.S. is seeing a renewed interest in labor activism at corporations small and large, including recent union votes at Starbucks Corp. and Amazon.com Inc. More activity also means more goofy mascots.

Jorts, the fluffy, pro-labor orange tabby, has graced picket signs after recently achieving internet fame.

"I would definitely consider him an icon of the labor movement," says Ms. John, 34 years old.

An employee brought a live chicken in a cage, with a chicken reading "We Work For Chicken Feed" to a labor rally last week in Minnesota, says Matt Lehou, president of a union there. "People took turns rolling him around the rally," he says of the fowl. "He was hanging out in his cage, pecking and doing whatever chickens do."

Last July, the National Labor Relations Board ruled 3-1 that a union had the right to display a "12-foot inflatable rat with red eyes, fangs, and claws ('Scabby the Rat') targeting an employer near the public entrance to a trade show. An RV-components company had filed the complaint.

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Robots: 1 Inflation: 0

Software robots deliver productivity gains, fast.



UiPath Reboot Work.

©2022 UiPath

Hungry bankers

Strict lockdowns hinder Shanghai's global ambition — TABBY KINDER, PAGE 5

Shock and war

Economic surprises are almost always negative — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 15



True or false?

Why lying about the future doesn't seem so bad — ANJANA AHUJA, PAGE 14

Olympic effort
Nations meet
to aid Ukraine

Vladimir Putin meets Russian athletes who won medals at the Beijing Olympics in the Kremlin yesterday.

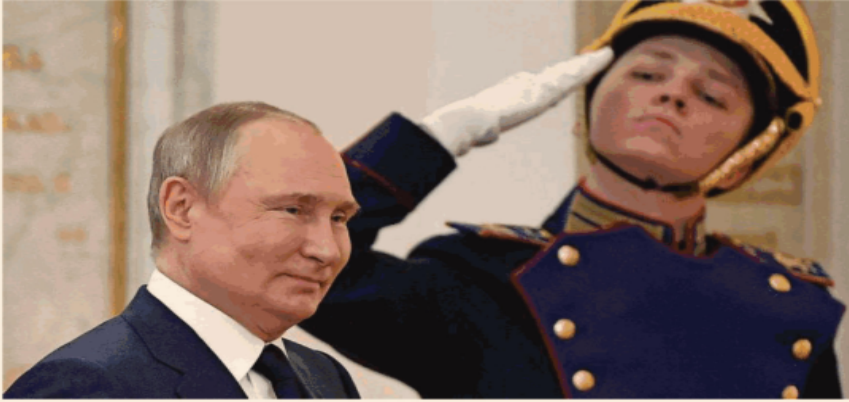
As the Russian president denied that figure skater Kamila Valieva had competed "dishonestly", officials from more than 40 nations met at an air base in western Germany to shore up support for Ukraine and co-ordinate arms deliveries. Berlin agreed to send heavy weaponry to Ukraine in a U-turn following Russian warnings of a nuclear war risk.

Lloyd Austin, US defence secretary, said western allies would "keep moving heaven and earth" to supply Ukraine with weapons to defend itself.

Kyiv economy blow page 2

War in Ukraine page 3

PepsiCo's \$500m hit page 6



Natalia Kolomoyskaya/Reuters Images

Tesla dented as investors count on Musk share sale to pay for Twitter

◆ \$100bn wiped off carmaker ◆ Financing for \$44bn deal unclear ◆ EU regulation warning

ERIC PLATT, JAVIER ESPINOZA, NIKHIL AGARWAL, ANTOINE GARA AND JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN

Tesla's market value fell more than \$100bn yesterday as investors prepared for Elon Musk to sell a significant portion of his stake in the electric vehicle maker to finance his \$43.5bn bid for Twitter.

The Tesla chief executive has committed to providing \$21bn in cash to fund the deal for the social media group, which was accepted by Twitter's board late on Monday. However, the billionaire and world's richest individual has not yet said how he will raise the money.

Musk is in discussions with wealthy individuals and institutional investors including private equity group Thoma Bravo about backing his bid, according

to people briefed on the discussions. Most of his money is tied up in his Tesla stake, which was worth more than \$150bn at lunchtime yesterday after its share price fell almost 11 per cent.

The sell-off came as Brussels warned Musk that Twitter must comply with the EU's new digital rules under his ownership or risk hefty fines or even a ban, setting the stage for a global regulatory battle.

Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for the internal market, told the Financial Times that Musk had to follow rules on misleading and harmful content online.

He said: "We welcome everyone. We are open but on our conditions. At least we know what to tell him: 'Elon, there are rules. You are welcome but these are

our rules. It's not your rules which will apply here."

The comments come just days after Brussels signed a new piece of legislation that will force Big Tech to more aggressively police content online.

In pitching his offer for Twitter, Musk outlined plans to loosen the platform's content moderation policies, describing himself as a "free speech absolutist". US Republicans are hopeful the deal will pave the way for Donald Trump to return to Twitter after the former president was banned for breaching hate speech and misinformation rules.

Musk is funding the \$43.5bn takeover with \$13bn of debt from Wall Street's largest lenders, as well as a \$12.5bn loan secured against his Tesla stake.

The remainder is expected to come



Elon Musk describes himself as a "free speech absolutist"

from the sale of some of his Tesla shares. The group is among the most valuable publicly traded companies in the world, worth \$942bn yesterday, and its shares trade with a speed almost unparalleled.

A big drop in the value of Tesla would pose problems for Musk's £12.5bn margin loan. Yesterday morning more than 18mn Tesla shares changed hands, worth \$16bn. Tesla shares have sunk 22 per cent since Musk became Twitter's largest shareholder three weeks ago.

The deal would mark one of the largest leveraged buyouts on record. However, it may yet fall apart if Musk does not stump up the equity portion, or if the transaction is blocked by regulators.

Musk's Twitter prize page 7

Jamie Susskind page 15

Lex page 16

Briefing

► **HSBC profits buffeted by bad loan fears**
Profits at Europe's biggest lender have fallen more than a quarter as it increased reserves for bad loans in response to the war in Ukraine and slowing growth in its core Asia markets. — PAGE 5

► **Health experts probe child hepatitis**
The world's health authorities have launched an investigation into about 190 unexplained severe cases of the disease in children that have been recorded in more than a dozen nations. — PAGE 2

► **Kishida vows to mend South Korea ties**
The Japanese prime minister has said the two countries had agreed a "now or never" move to end the prolonged slump in relations. Ties suffered under previous premiers. — PAGE 4



► **Reckitt Benckiser in baby formula sale**
The consumer products group has launched a sale process for its infant formula unit that could fetch \$7bn-\$10bn and would complete an unwinding of its purchase of Mead Johnson five years ago. — PAGE 5

► **UBS traders exploit volatile markets**
The Swiss bank's trading arm has boosted revenues nearly 60 per cent, contributing to the lender's best first quarter since 2007. The gains made up for lacklustre wealth management. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 16

► **Rate expectations propel US dollar**
The US currency has rallied to its highest level for two years, buoyed by expectations that the Federal Reserve will have to raise rates more aggressively than other central banks to tame inflation. — PAGE 8

► **Singapore urged to spare low-IQ convict**
Protesters have urged the authorities to call off the execution of Nagaenthran Dharmalingam, said by supporters to have an IQ of 69. The Malaysian has been convicted of drug trafficking. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Inflation challenge

US households' debt outstanding and cash available (\$tn)



US households' cash holdings — available funds in bank accounts or currency — exceed outstanding debt for the first time since 1990, says Deutsche Bank, in a sign that the Federal Reserve faces a challenge to cut inflationary pressures



Critics highlight gaps in Biden's China strategy

The White House is going out of its way to ensure it is closely aligned with regional allies as it seeks to develop a coherent China strategy. Joe Biden has won praise for the security component of his policy, although the lack of a trade agenda has raised doubts. The president hopes to close that gap with his Indo-Pacific economic framework. But critics have latched on to the fact that it will not include new access to the US for goods from Asian nations.

Big Read ► PAGE 13

China's Covid booster campaign slows as staff switched to mass testing duties

ELANOR OLCOTT — TAIPEI
ANDY LIN — HONG KONG

China's booster vaccination drive is slowing despite rising Covid-19 cases across the country as medical staff are redirected to carry out mass testing.

In the final week of March, China administered 770,000 third-dose jabs a day to over-60s following outbreaks in Shanghai and Jilin. But that figure had fallen to 590,000 a day by mid-April, according to China's health department.

Jin Dong-yuan, a virologist at the University of Hong Kong, said the drop-off in daily inoculation rates reflected vaccine hesitancy among the elderly. "The last unvaccinated group is always the most difficult to reach out to," he said.

If China continues to administer inoculations at this rate, it will take until September for 90 per cent of the elderly

population to complete the full three-dose vaccination course, according to a Financial Times analysis.

Chinese mainland authorities have resorted to strict lockdown measures to prevent a repeat of scenes in Hong Kong when a surge of Omicron cases in February caused an increase in deaths among its elderly unvaccinated residents.

Beijing said yesterday that almost 20mn residents must undergo three rounds of tests by Saturday after 35 cases were reported. But some health experts are worried that government policies risk hampering vaccination drives or might even enable community spreading of the virus. "In Shanghai, medical resources have been reallocated to temporary hospitals and to do PCR tests, which meant vaccinations came to a sudden stop in the city," said Jin.

About 40 per cent of China's over-60s,

or 109mn people, are under-vaccinated, meaning they have had fewer than three doses of the locally produced Sinovac and Sinopharm jabs. That figure rises to more than 60 per cent in Shanghai.

One Shanghai doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity said frontline medical personnel were struggling to cope with the workload after many staff had been redirected to conduct city-wide testing. But the efficacy of China's mass-testing strategy is being re-examined after Shanghai entered its fourth week of lockdown. There are no signs of when restrictions, which have led to food and medical shortages, will end.

"The same measures that worked for Delta do not work for Omicron," said Jin, adding that it was "very difficult" to administer contact tracing because of high transmissibility.

Tabby Kinder page 5



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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Apr 26	prev	%chg		Pair	Apr 26	Prev				price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4206.96	4296.12	-2.08		\$ per £	1.085	1.071		£ per \$	0.909	0.904			
Nasdaq Composite	12579.33	13004.85	-3.27		\$ per €	1.262	1.271		€ per \$	0.792	0.787			
Dow Jones Ind	33461.71	34430.46	-1.73		€ per £	0.844	0.842		£ per €	1.185	1.187			
FTSE 100	7386.19	7390.54	0.08		¥ per \$	127.170	127.085		¥ per €	135.443	136.054			
FTSE 250	7386.19	7390.54	0.08		¥ per €	160.495	162.586		€ index	80.731	81.109			
FTSE All-Share	4105.76	4109.36	-0.01		Sfr per €	1.022	1.026		Sfr per £	1.212	1.219			
CAC 40	4144.57	4149.38	-0.04											
Nikkei 225	13756.40	13764.17	-1.26											
Hang Seng	19834.71	19893.34	0.33											
MSCI World \$	2877.70	2882.45	-0.16											
MSCI EM \$	9040.34	9076.60	-2.75		Oil WTI \$	101.29	98.54	2.79		US 3m bills	0.91	0.93	0.08	
MSCI ACWI \$	1668.01	1671.63	-0.45		Oil Brent \$	104.05	102.32	2.47		US 10y	2.74	2.74	-0.03	
FT White 2500	5806.25	5971.91	0.62		Gold \$	1886.00	1941.55	-2.40		UK Gov 10y	1.22	1.22	-0.04	
FT White 1000	43785.54	43517.99	0.61							Japan Gov 10y	0.24	0.24	0.00	
										US Gov 30y	2.84	2.84	-0.03	
										Germany 2y	0.14	0.01		

A Nikkei Company



Hlib Kihitov, 21, a Ukrainian soldier, paid final respects to his twin brother, Ehor, in Lviv on Tuesday. Ehor died fighting in the east.

U.S. PUSHES ALLIES FOR UKRAINE ARMS AS WAR ESCALATES

**In Critical Shift, Germany Offers Armor
— Hopes for Diplomacy Dim**

This article is by John Ismay, Christopher F. Schuetz and Michael Levenson.

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The United States marshaled 40 allies on Tuesday to furnish Ukraine with long-term military aid in what could become a protracted battle against the Russian invasion, and Germany said it would send dozens of armored anti-aircraft vehicles. It was a major policy shift for a country that had wavered over fear of provoking Russia.

The announcement by Germany, Europe's biggest economy and one of Russia's most important Western trading partners, was among many signals on Tuesday pointing to further escalation in the war and disappointment for diplomacy.

"Putin never imagined that the world would rally behind Ukraine so swiftly and surely," the American defense secretary, Lloyd J. Austin III, said on Tuesday to uniformed and civilian officials at the U.S. air base in Ramstein, Germany, where he convened defense officials from 40 allied countries.

"Nobody is fooled" by Mr. Putin's "phony claims on Donbas," Mr. Austin said, referring to the eastern region of Ukraine, where Russia recently refocused its assault. "Russia's invasion is indefensible and so are Russian atrocities," he said.

Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, said on Tuesday that the influx of heavy weapons from Western countries was effectively pushing Ukraine to sabotage peace talks with Moscow, which have shown no concrete signs of progress.

"They will continue that line by filling Ukraine with weapons," Mr. Lavrov said after meeting in Moscow with the United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, who was undertaking his most active effort yet at diplomacy to halt the war. "If that continues, negotiations won't yield any result."

On Monday, Mr. Lavrov resurrected the specter of nuclear war, as Mr. Putin has done at least twice before. Mr. Lavrov said that while such a possibility would be "unacceptable" to Russia, the

Continued on Page A11

60% of Nation Has Had Virus, C.D.C. Reports

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

Sixty percent of Americans, including 75 percent of children, had been infected with the coronavirus by February, federal health officials reported on Tuesday — another remarkable milestone in a pandemic that continues to confound expectations.

The highly contagious Omicron variant was responsible for much of the toll. In December 2021, as the variant began spreading, only half as many people had antibodies indicating prior infection, according to new research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the numbers came as a shock to many Americans, some scientists said they had expected the figures to be even higher, given the contagious variants that have marched through the nation over the past two years.

There may be good news in the data, some experts said. A gain in population-wide immunity may offer at least a partial bulwark against future waves. And the trend may explain why the surge that is now roaring through China and many countries in Europe has been muted in the United States.

A high percentage of previous infections may also mean that there are now fewer cases of life-threatening illness or death relative to infections. "We will see less and less severe disease, and more and more a shift toward clinically mild disease," said Florian Krammer, an immunologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

"It will be more and more difficult for the virus to do serious damage," he added.

Administration officials, too, believe that the data augur a new

Continued on Page A19

Terror in Frontline Villages Under Constant Fire

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

ORIKHIV, Ukraine — Squeezed between the Ukrainian and Russian front lines in an increasingly volatile battlefield in southeastern Ukraine, the small town of Orikhiv is constantly under fire, and Tamar Mikheenko, one of the few residents who remain, rarely leaves her basement.

"All the time in the basements, at night, under fire," Ms. Mikheenko, 70, said as yet another explosion thumped outside. "It's very scary, like a lightning bolt, everything is falling apart, the house is falling apart."

Struggling to communicate through tremendous sobs on Tuesday, Ms. Mikheenko begged

In Russian Army's Path,
a Pledge 'to Resist
Until the Last'

world leaders, including the presidents of the United States, Russia and Ukraine, to do whatever was necessary to stop the savagery, even as Russian forces appeared to be preparing a large offensive that officials said could steamroll Orikhiv in the coming days.

"Let them agree to stop this madness," she said.

The night before, an explosion had ripped into the unoccupied house next door, violently jolting

the dark cellar Ms. Mikheenko was hiding in.

Orikhiv lies among a small constellation of tidy farming villages standing right in the path of Russian troops advancing from the south and east. Ukrainian officials believe Russian forces are preparing to make a major push forward in an attempt to expand a stretch of territory they seized in the opening days of the war.

Shelling along this front has intensified in recent days, and all over the region Ukrainian forces are digging new trenches and fortifying positions.

It is in and around these villages, still home to goats, cows and chickens, but to fewer and

Continued on Page A10



TODD HENSLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Hopeful Vision for New York

In his State of the City speech on Tuesday, Mayor Eric Adams vowed to invest in safety. Page A21.

Oil Companies, Awash in Profit, Fear Opening Spigot for Europe

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

HOUSTON — Oil and gasoline prices are climbing. Energy company profits are surging. President Biden, who came into office promising to reduce the use of fossil fuels, has effectively joined the "drill, baby, drill" chorus. Europe would love to end its dependence on Russia.

Yet most U.S. oil businesses are not eager to capitalize on this moment by pumping more oil.

Production of oil by U.S. energy companies is essentially flat and unlikely to increase substantially for at least another year or two. If Europe stops buying Russian oil and natural gas as some of its leaders have promised, they will not be able to replace that energy with fuels from the United States anytime soon.

U.S. oil production is up less than 2 percent, to 11.8 million barrels a day, since December and remains well below the record 13.1



BRANDON THORNTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Investors worry that raising production will drop prices.

million barrels a day set in March 2020 just before the pandemic paralyzed the global economy. Government forecasters predict that American oil production will average just 12 million barrels a day in 2022, and increase by roughly another million in 2023. That would be well short of the nearly four

Continued on Page A11

G.O.P. Lawmakers Bolstered Plans to Keep Trump in Office

By LUKE BROADWATER and ALAN FEUER

WASHINGTON — It was less than two weeks before President Donald J. Trump's staunchest allies in Congress would have what they saw as their last chance to overturn the 2020 election, and Representative Scott Perry, Republican of Pennsylvania, was growing anxious.

"Time continues to count down," he wrote in a text message to Mark Meadows, then the White House chief of staff, adding: "11 days to 1/6 and 25 days to inauguration. We gotta get going!"

It has been clear for more than a year that ultraconservative mem-

bers of Congress were deeply involved in attempts to keep Mr. Trump in power. They joined baseless lawsuits, spread the lie of widespread election fraud and were among the 147 Republicans who voted on Jan. 6, 2021, against certifying President Biden's victory in at least one state.

But in a court filing and in text messages obtained by CNN, new pieces of evidence have emerged in recent days fleshing out the degree of their involvement with the Trump White House in strategy sessions, at least one of which in-

Continued on Page A16

Shanghai Residents Bend Lockdown Rules to Help One Another

This article is by Alexandra Stevenson, Amy Chang Chien and Isabelle Qian.

Four days into a coronavirus lockdown in her Shanghai neighborhood, Ding Tingting began to worry about the old man who lived alone in the apartment below her. She knocked on his door and found that his food supply was dwindling and that he didn't know how to go online to buy more.

Ms. Ding helped him buy food, but also got to thinking about the many older people who lived alone in her neighborhood. Using the Chinese messaging app WeChat, she and her friends created groups to connect people in need with nearby volunteers who could get them food and medicine.

When a woman's father-in-law fainted, the network of volunteers found a neighbor with a blood pressure monitor and made sure it

Doing What Authorities
Can't or Won't

was delivered quickly.

"Life cannot be suspended because of the lockdown," said Ms. Ding, a 25-year-old art curator.

In its relentless effort to stamp out the virus, China has relied on hundreds of thousands of low-level

party officials in neighborhood committees to arrange mass testing and coordinate transport to hospitals and isolation facilities. The officials have doled out special passes for the sick to seek medicine and other necessities during lockdown.

In Beijing on Monday, the government ordered about three-quarters of the city's 22 million residents to undergo three man-

Continued on Page A6



INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Baking Challah in Dubai

Jewish life is opening up in the Persian Gulf emirate, another sign of a new reality in the Middle East. Page A4

Macron's Political Challenges

France's runoff election was marked by record abstention, and many voted only to keep the far right out. Page A5

NATIONAL A14-21

Harvard Addresses Slavery Ties

The university is committing \$100 million to a fund, joining other schools that are grappling with their complicity in the trade of humans. Page A20

Busing of Migrants Backfires

The Texas governor's program to pressure President Biden by sending bused migrants to Washington hasn't caused the intended chaos. Page A14

The End of Incandescence

New efficiency standards will phase out the sale of most classic light bulbs in favor of LEDs, reducing electricity use and, ultimately, electric bills. Page A20



SPORTS B7-9

N.B.A. Juggernauts Fall Short

Kevin Durant and the Nets, supposedly a superteam, lost early in the playoffs. The Lakers didn't get that far. Page B7

N.C.A.A. Chief to Step Down

With collegiate sports changing rapidly, Mark Emmert's tumultuous reign will come to an end next year. Page B9

ARTS C1-8

Making His Minds Up

In Michael R. Jackson's musical "A Strange Loop," a gay Black man struggles to reconcile some competing, and very lifelike, thoughts. Page C1

BUSINESS B1-6

How U.S. Covid Aid Stacks Up

The United States spent more on its policy response than other advanced economies. Now economists are revisiting how that worked. Page B1

OPINION A22-23

Thomas L. Friedman

Page A22



FOOD D1-8

A Hunger for Gummy Bears

A century after the colorful, squishy candies were first made, their universe is expanding into some unexpected (and some very obvious) ways. Page D1



Russia raises nuclear tension

Moscow accuses NATO nations of waging a proxy war by sending Ukraine arms.

By NABIH BULOS, JAWED KALEEM AND SARAH PARVINI

KHARKIV, Ukraine — The United States rallied 40 nations Tuesday to provide long-term military aid to Ukraine as Russia raised the specter of nuclear war if NATO members keep sending arms to the embattled country.

In an apparent response to U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, who said Monday that the U.S. wanted Russia permanently "weakened," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the United States of escalating tensions.

Asked on Russian TV whether the current situation was comparable to the Cuban missile crisis, which brought the U.S. and Russia to the brink of nuclear war in 1962, Lavrov said his country wants to avoid nuclear conflict, and then added: "The danger is serious, it's real. It should not be underestimated."

"NATO, in essence, is engaged in a war with Russia through a proxy and is arming that proxy," he said. "War means war."

Defense officials from 40 countries met at the U.S. air base in Ramstein, Germany, where the agenda focused on accelerating the arms shipments. In a dramatic shift, Germany announced that for the first time it would send air-defense tanks to Ukraine. Other nations pledged howitzers, tanks, rockets, drones, hand grenades and rifles.

Russia expanded its assault on southern and eastern regions of Ukraine. [See Russia, A4]



AN 81-YEAR-OLD woman rests in her family's car after a four-day journey from Mariupol to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. Three other families drove 11 hours through 20 checkpoints to reach Zaporizhzhia. CHRIS McORATH/Getty Images

Besieged for days, then minutes to pack and go

Families escape Mariupol with a risky drive to safety



ANNA STRISHKO hugs her father, Vitalin, in Zaporizhzhia. The two, from Vasylyvka, Ukraine, had been separated since the beginning of the war. CAROLYN COLE/Los Angeles Times

By NABIH BULOS

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine — It had taken 11 hours of driving, bargaining for passage through 20 checkpoints manned by stern-faced Russian soldiers, along with the knowledge that every mile took you farther away from home, probably for good. But by 6 p.m., the three families crammed into a worn-down Mercedes van had made it out of Mariupol, Ukraine.

"There were so many bombs," said Volodymyr Korotky, a 56-year-old mechanic who left Mariupol with his family and only two suitcases' worth of clothes he could save from his destroyed apartment. "I'm so happy we're in Ukrainian." [See Escape, A4]

Sheriff backs off taking on the press

After announcing an investigation of a Times reporter, Villanueva reverses.

By HARRIET RYAN AND BRITNEY MEJIA

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said Tuesday that his department was targeting a Times journalist in a criminal leak investigation for her reporting on a departmental cover-up, but after a barrage of criticism from politicians, the newspaper and press freedom groups, he backed off his announcement and denied that he considered the reporter a suspect.

The sheriff lashed out at Times staff writer Alene Tehekmedyan during a morning news conference in which he suggested two longtime foes leaked a surveillance video to her showing a deputy kneeling on the head of a handcuffed inmate.

Detailing an ongoing criminal inquiry of the leak, Villanueva displayed a poster with large photographs of Tehekmedyan, his political rival Eli Vera and sheriff's Inspector General Max Huntsman with arrows pointing [See Reporter, A11]

L.A. RIOTS

Reassessing race and the 1992 unrest

Black-Korean conflict pits communities in a zero-sum game

FRANK SHYONG

"What are you doing down here?"

The year was 2017, and I was at the intersection of Manchester and South Normandie avenues, where the Los Angeles riots had raged a quarter-century before. I was explaining to a local pastor that I was a reporter at the Los Angeles Times doing a story on a restaurant chain.

"I'm a journalist, I responded, here to write a story for the newspaper." "Yeah, I heard you. But what are you doing down here?" he repeated, a little more loudly this time. "Aren't you scared?" You

[See Shyong, A9]



TOMAS OVALLE FOR THE TIMES

"People like my dad had to suffer the consequences of actions over things that they had nothing to do with."

— CAROLINA SARMIENTO, third from left, whose father, Eduardo Cañedo Vela, was killed amid the rioting

History has reduced Latino involvement to an afterthought

GUSTAVO ARELLANO REPORTER FROM BAKERSFIELD

Thirty years ago, Eduardo Cañedo Vela was the manager at a Japanese restaurant in Bakersfield and hoped to one day open a place of his own.

A Mexican immigrant, he had two small daughters and a son on the way.

At home in the small Central Valley city of Arvin, he cooked all the meals, helped to change diapers and even combed his little girls' hair.

"If anyone ever needed something, they'd go to him," his wife, Rosa Bañuelos Ortiz, said recently.

That's what a friend did [See Arellano, A8]

Harris taking antiviral drug after positive test

The vice president does not have symptoms and has not had recent contact with President Biden, her office says. **PERSPECTIVES, A8**

3 in 4 U.S. children have had virus, CDC finds

The percentage of those 17 and younger with coronavirus antibodies rose as Omicron surged, a report says. **NATION, A9**

White House prepares for deluge of migrants

With Title 42 to be lifted soon, a more robust border enforcement will include more personnel and expedited removals. **NATION, A6**

Weather
Fog, then sun.
L.A. Basin: 74/56. **B6**

7 85944 00200 5

BUSINESS INSIDE: Twitter is a content moderation leader but may pivot under Musk. **A10**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

Partly sunny, windy 59/38 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 61/42 B3

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 • B2

'Real fear' of no deal for Biden, Manchin

As midterms loom, White House chases senator's vote on economic plan

BY JEFF STEIN AND MIKE DEBONIS

President Biden last spring proposed spending more than \$4 trillion to transform the American economy. In negotiations last fall, after some of that money ended up in a bipartisan infrastructure law, the administration lowered its request to roughly \$2 trillion. Now, with time running out before November's elections, many White House officials say privately that they'd consider themselves fortunate to secure a deal worth even \$1 trillion.

Biden's shrinking ambitions are largely the result of failed negotiations with Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), the ever-exclusive 50th vote for the president's agenda in an evenly divided chamber. Now White House officials are confronting the "real fear" that they will fail to reach any deal with Manchin — even one that leaves out most of what Biden had initially hoped to accomplish, according to three senior administration officials and three outside advisers in communication with the White House, who all spoke on the condition of anonymity to comment on internal talks. A year after Biden introduced his climate and social spending plans, the White House SEE WHITE HOUSE ON A7

Blood tests indicate most in U.S. have had virus

BY LENA H. SUN, DAN KEATING AND JOEL ACHENBACH

Before omicron, one-third of Americans had been infected with the coronavirus, but by the end of February, that rate had climbed to nearly 60 percent, including 3 out of 4 children, according to federal health data released Tuesday.

The data from blood tests offers the first evidence that over half the U.S. population, roughly 190 million people, has been infected at least once since the pandemic began. That is more than double the official case count. Many of those infections are likely to have been asymptomatic or with few symptoms. The virus has killed nearly 1 million Americans and caused disruptions that have driven up death rates from other causes, including cancer and heart disease.

Officials cautioned, however, that the data, drawn from tens of thousands of blood samples from across the country, does not indicate people have protection against the virus going forward, especially against increasingly transmissible variants that may be able to evade antibodies. Previous infections are believed to offer SEE VIRUS ON A4

U.S. rallies allies to rush more arms to Kyiv



A man visits a memorial in Slavutych, Ukraine, for people who died after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The International Atomic Energy Agency reported "normal" radioactivity levels on Tuesday, the 36th anniversary, despite the war situation.

In an abnormal atmosphere, 'normal' radioactivity at Chernobyl

BY STEVEN MUFSON AND DAVID L. STERN

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi visited the Chernobyl nuclear site Tuesday, on the 36th anniversary of one of the world's worst nuclear disasters, even as Russian missiles flew low over Ukraine's largest nuclear complex hours before.

Grossi said that radioactivity levels at the Chernobyl area were "at normal," but that the Russian military occupation of Chernobyl in the first weeks of the war was anything but routine. "I don't know if we were very close to disaster, but the situation was absolutely abnormal and very, very dangerous," he said.

In a sign of those continuing nuclear risks, two low-flying missiles that came from the Black Sea flew over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex early Tuesday morning before landing in the town of Zaporizhzhia, according to Petro Kotin, president of Energoatom, Ukraine's state nuclear operating company. Zaporizhzhia ranks as the largest of Ukraine's four nuclear plants.

He said it was the third time missiles had flown close to nuclear energy reactors in the past 10 days. The earlier missiles were most likely to have come from Belarus. SEE CHERNOBYL ON A9



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

'It was my responsibility to look after them'

Asya Serpynska, 77, is welcomed by dogs living at her animal shelter in Hostomel, a suburb of Kyiv. When many people in the area were fleeing Russian troops, Serpynska stayed and, with colleagues, cared for hundreds of dogs and cats. She even saved a lion. Story, A8

A life of purpose and pain ends in flames

BY ELLIE SILVERMAN AND IAN SHAPIRA

He didn't scream. He didn't run toward the nearby fountain outside the Supreme Court. He didn't cry out in pain. The fire consuming Wynn Bruce's body raged for 60 seconds Friday before it was extinguished by police, and he remained still, sitting upright on the court's famous marble plaza, his legs stretched in front of him.

The only sound photographer René C. Gage said she heard came from someone yelling "fire," the shouts of "It's a man! It's a man!" and the wail of sirens as officers tried to scoop fountain water into narrow orange cones to douse the flames.

Only after the fire was extinguished, a video posted on social media shows, did he howl in agony.

"I don't know if his body went into shock, but it was silent," said

In what some believe was a climate change protest, a Colorado activist set himself on fire on Earth Day



FAMILY PHOTO

Wynn Bruce, 50, died after his self-immolation outside the Supreme Court on Friday.

Gage, 46, who captured photos of the gruesome scene and described what she witnessed in an interview with The Washington Post. "Can you imagine being on fire and not screaming?"

It's still not exactly clear what drove Bruce — whose life was shaped by a devastating car accident and, later, inspired by his dedication to Buddhism — to set himself on fire.

His father, as well as others who knew the 50-year-old from Boulder, Colo., suggested that Bruce's self-immolation, which coincided with Earth Day, was a protest of climate change.

"I agree with the belief that this was a fearless act of compassion about his concern for the environment," said Douglas Bruce, 78, who is a retired administrator at Normandale Community College outside Minneapolis.

But he also acknowledged that his son had made an earlier at-

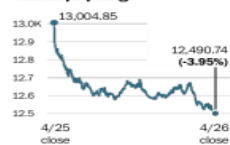
Inside Twitter, source of dread is now reality: Musk as owner

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN

Elon Musk — the world's richest man and self-proclaimed free speech defender — just bought Twitter. But he may lose its workforce in the process.

On Twitter, in interviews and in internal company messages, workers at the San Francisco-based company — most of whom are remote — said they feared widespread demoralization and layoffs. Some employees were already looking for the exits, something that could create chaos for Twitter users in the coming months. But the heralded entrepreneur is a draw to potential recruits — he's been able to poach top talent to both Tesla and SpaceX, and other people outside Twitter are likely to be drawn to work for him. But management experts

Nasdaq's plunge



Source: Bloomberg

Markets: Dow, Nasdaq fall ahead of corporate earnings reports. A17

pointed out that a company with staffing shortages or broad resistance from its workforce would be dysfunctional, at least in the near term, and that Musk — who has no experience running companies SEE TWITTER ON A15

IN THE NEWS



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Slavery at Harvard Officials once enslaved over 70 people, a faculty panel has found. A3

THE NATION

President Biden pardoned three people and commuted the sentences of 75 nonviolent drug offenders, his first acts of clemency. A2
Old-fashioned light bulbs will be phased out, an energy-efficiency move that reverses a Trump-era policy. A4
The solicitor general told the Supreme Court that requiring a controversial Trump-era immigration policy to continue would further entangle the judiciary in decisions reserved for

other branches. A6

The president has signaled he is open to canceling some student loan debt. A6
U.S. officials detailed plans to boost criminal prosecutions and use fast-track deportations to cope with a potential upsurge in illegal border crossings as emergency restrictions expire. A7

THE WORLD

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened nuclear strikes if provoked in a speech at a military parade showcasing weapons. A22

THE ECONOMY

Lael Brainard was confirmed to the Federal Reserve's No. 2 role, rising in the ranks as the central bank attempts to rein in inflation. A14
Fidelity Investments announced it will soon have a bitcoin option on its 401(k) plans. A16
Amid covid shutdowns in Shanghai, factories across China have been forced to alter production schedules, endangering the economy. A17

THE REGION

Delayed background checks have created staffing shortages for some D.C. tutoring and after-school programs,

nonprofit leaders say. B1

Anita Bonds, an enigmatic member of the D.C. Council known for on-the-spot opinions, has been a political player for a half-century. B1
Virginia's General Assembly will take up amendments and vetoes from the governor, but the hottest topics might not be on the agenda. B1
Northern Virginia officials look to lower or freeze residential property tax rates to offset higher costs of living. B1
Montgomery County's school district and police have signed an agreement to return officers to campuses. B2

INSIDE



FOOD

Syrup that shines This dark chocolate ice cream topper is easy to make and well worth the effort. E1

STYLE

Schmooze redux Get back to business as usual at the office? The suck-ups, of course. C1

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deportes

Boca, mal parado

Cayó en San Pablo y se complica en la Copa

Perdió 2 a 0 con Corinthians; después de tres fechas de la Libertadores, solo suma tres puntos.



EL CHALTÉN: TOMAN TIERRAS MUY CERCA DE EL CALAFATE

—política

Familias ocuparon, con carpas y casas rodantes, la única cancha de fútbol de esa localidad santacruceña; denuncian una grave crisis habitacional. Página 16

TRAS DOS AÑOS DE AUSENCIA, VUELVE LA FERIA DEL LIBRO

—cultura

Con gran expectativa regresa a la Rural la mayor cita cultural, caja de resonancia de lo que pasa en el país; el firmódromo, visitas internacionales y mucho más. Página 24

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 27 DE ABRIL DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

El kirchnerismo redobla su dura ofensiva contra Guzmán: "Nadie lo votó"

ECONOMÍA. Volvió a cuestionarlo un ministro de Kicillof; para el Gobierno, buscan desplazarlo

El kirchnerismo profundizó ayer sus críticas contra el ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, con nuevos cuestionamientos del secretario general de La Cámpora y ministro bonaerense, Andrés Larroque.

Tras responsabilizarlo el lunes por la crisis social en la provincia

de Buenos Aires, Larroque aseguró ayer que a Guzmán "nadie lo votó". El ministro de Kicillof es el vocero que eligió La Cámpora para el desgaste permanente de la figura de Guzmán, que se ahondó luego de la ruptura que generó dentro del Gobierno el acuerdo con el FMI. En la Casa Rosada evitaron responderle,

pero reconocen que la embestida busca desplazar al ministro.

En paralelo, La Cámpora y el partido de Sergio Massa avanzaron ayer con la ratificación de la alianza oficialista en la provincia de Buenos Aires, sin la participación de los dirigentes que responden al presidente Alberto Fernández. Página 8

EL ESCENARIO

Un pacto para resistir hasta 2023

Francisco Jueguen

Página 9

Cristina, de las críticas a los elogios con Estados Unidos

política— Luego de tenerlo como blanco de sus críticas y responsabilizarlo por los "ajustes" en la región, Cristina Kirchner reforzó ayer su viraje hacia Estados Unidos, al recibir con elogios a la general Laura Jane Richardson, jefa del Comando Sur. Página 16



La vicepresidenta; el embajador norteamericano, Marc Stanley, y la general Richardson, ayer, en el Senado

TWITTER

EL ANÁLISIS

Totalitarismo en la ex-ESMA

Luciano Román

—LA NACION—

En lo que fue el edificio de la ESMA, el Gobierno no ha montado una muestra; ha montado una confesión sobre sí mismo. Añunciada con el título "Neoliberalismo Nunca Más", la exhibición

organizada por la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos de la Nación desnuda —entre otras cosas— una concepción totalitaria y un sentido de apropiación del Estado. Continúa en la página 29

Twitter: Musk agita la política norteamericana

DEBATE. La compra genera otra grieta en EE.UU.

WASHINGTON (De nuestro corresponsal).— Tras comprar la red social Twitter por US\$44.000 millones, el magnate Elon Musk disparó un agitado debate en Es-

tados Unidos entre la derecha, que saludó la medida, y el progresismo, alarmado por una posible amenaza a la libertad de expresión. Página 2

Magistratura: revés judicial a un planteo kirchnerista

CONFLICTO. El juez Martín Cormick rechazó un pedido urgente del kirchnerismo para frenar la designación de la diputada radical Roxana Reyes como consejera de la Magistratura, y le pidió a la Cámara baja que presente un informe sobre su nombramiento. Mientras tanto, Horacio Rosatti se instaló en la presidencia del Consejo, y la Corte define si se toma juramento a Reyes y al senador kirchnerista Martín Doñate. Página 12

Los aliados intensifican la entrega de armas a Kiev

UCRANIA. Acordaron un incremento cualitativo de la asistencia militar. Página 4



Genya Savilov/AFP

OCIDENTE ELEVA APOSTA CONTRA PUTIN COM MAIS AJUDA MILITAR À UCRÂNIA
Funcionário trabalha na remoção de monumento que celebra a amizade com a Rússia, em Kiev; ucranianos veem o auxílio internacional superar, em valores nominais, todo o seu orçamento de defesa, e Moscou fala em Terceira Guerra **Mundo A10**

Alalaô B3

As campeãs do Carnaval

Mancha Verde é a vencedora em SP, e Grande Rio garante seu 1º título carioca

Equilíbrio B5

Estudos indicam que peixes, folhas verdes e castanhas ajudam a prevenir demência

Ilustrada C1

Anos 2000 voltam na moda, na música de influência emo e nos remakes de séries

EDITORIAIS A2

O voto dos auxiliados
Sobre programa social e campanha de Bolsonaro.

Chame o diretor
A respeito de critérios para indicações nas escolas.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



	Hoje	Amanhã
Rio	20 33	19 34
Brasília	15 30	15 30
Ribeirão	19 33	20 33

Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



Silveira segue inelegível com indulto, diz Moraes

Ministro do STF defende que ato de Bolsonaro não afasta a punição prevista em condenação da corte

O ministro do STF Alexandre de Moraes afirmou, nesta terça-feira (26), que o indulto individual concedido pelo presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) ao deputado Daniel Silveira (PTB-RJ) não afasta a inelegibilidade decorrente de condenação imposta pela corte.

Foi primeira manifestação do magistrado nos autos da ação penal desde o julgamento do parlamentar bolsonarista na quarta (20).

O deputado foi condenado a oito anos e nove meses de prisão por ataques verbais e ameaças a ministros do Supremo.

Na quinta, um dia após a decisão, Bolsonaro concedeu o perdão ao aliado político. O presidente da República alegou proteção à liberdade de expressão.

Segundo Moraes, o indulto "não equivale à reabilitação para afastar a inelegibilidade decorrente de condenação criminal". A análise do caso compete à Justiça Eleitoral a partir de agosto.

Silveira é cotado para disputar a eleição ao Senado pelo RJ. **Política A6**

Lula afirma que Bolsonaro foi 'estúpido' ao conceder perdão **A6**

Elio Gaspari

Com transparência, TSE pode eliminar a confusão alimentada pelo presidente **A9**

Estatísticos defendem elevar amostra em teste de urnas

Estatísticos ouvidos pela Folha consideram insuficiente a amostra de urnas testadas pelo TSE para as próximas eleições. Diante de ataques de Jair Bolsonaro ao sistema, o órgão ampliou o total de aparelhos a verificar.

O teste neste ano abarcará 600 urnas — estudos defendem, sob o método atual, observar cerca de 1.000 máquinas por estado. Desde a adoção do voto eletrônico no país, em 1996, não houve registro de fraude. **Política A8**

Pastores lobistas foram mais de 100 vezes ao MEC sob Bolsonaro

Governo afrouxa segurança de índios isolados

Documentos que protegem quatro territórios na Amazônia onde há indígenas isolados estão vencidos ou prestes a expirar. As portarias limitam o uso da terra e a circulação de pessoas nesses locais. **Cotidiano B1**

SABATINA FOLHA/UOL Rivalis se igualam na economia, afirma Vera Lúcia

A presidenciável do PSTU declarou, durante sabatina Folha/UOL, que Lula (PT) e Jair Bolsonaro (PL) se assemelham na condução da economia, embora sejam diferentes na postura política. O atual presidente, segundo a pré-candidata, almeja fechar o sistema democrático. **Política A9**

Dois pataxós são mortos em pouco mais de um mês na Bahia

Engenharia financeira de Musk ao comprar Twitter abala Tesla

A oferta de US\$ 44 bilhões de Elon Musk pelo Twitter inclui US\$ 13 bilhões em empréstimos e um crédito de US\$ 12,5 bilhões garantido por sua participação na Tesla. As ações da empresa de carros elétricos despencaram. **Mercado A24**

Custo de subsídios dispara e pode subir conta de luz em até 5%



Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

Diretoria da Mancha Verde comemora sua vitória na quadra da escola, na capital paulista



Eduardo Anzelli/Folhapress

Ator que desfilou como Exu, tema do enredo da Grande Rio, celebra em Duque de Caxias (RJ)



Base +
Asociado



G. 35.000

Entradas

Un nuevo atentado sacudió Asunción; estaría ligado al clan narco de los Rotela

La industria del sicariato se está consolidando en Paraguay

En enero hubo 28 ataques. Ya hay la misma cantidad de casos que en todo abril del 2021. Especialista dijo a Monumental 1080 que no solo por drogas se contrata a los pistoleros.

PÁGINAS 48 y 49

Ausencia de Hugo Javier obligó a cambio
**Abdista asumió en Central y
desató otra vez una guerra
sin cuartel entre liberales**

PÁGINAS 2 y 4

Inesperada decisión de Abdo fue aplaudida
**El 2 de mayo será feriado:
Sector de turismo espera
sacar un buen rédito**

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Impugnan postulación de ex senador al TSJE
**Colegio de Abogados tilda de
afrenta constitucional ayuda
que Ancho recibe del CM**

PÁGINA 10

Diputados trata norma antiintermediarios
**Desde Petropar afirman que
sanción de ley no significará
baja automática de precios**

PÁGINA 12

El Guma es único puntero



Libertadores. Con golazo de Cristian Riveros, Libertad derrotó al Paranaense 1-0 y es el líder del Grupo B. En la foto, Óscar Cardozo disputa el balón. PÁGINA 55

ETIOS

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ECONOMÍA

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LE FIGARO

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


FIGARO scope

- **À la une** : 10 plaisirs gourmands de nos journalistes
- **Restaurants** : les meilleures tables pour déjeuner avec les enfants

PIERRE MANENT

 « CLASSE DIRIGEANTE ET PEUPLE "POPULISTE" DOIVENT SORTIR DE LEUR MÉPRIS RÉCIPROQUE » **PAGE 16**

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 Qu'a vraiment pesé le bloc « abstention, blancs et nuls » ? **PAGE 5**
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TURQUIE
 Osman Kavala condamné à la perpétuité **PAGE 9**
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 Perseverance approche de la « zone de vérité » **PAGE 12**
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 Christel Heydemann impose déjà son style chez Orange **PAGE 25**
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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON
Réponses à la question de mardi :
 Souhaitez-vous qu'Emmanuel Macron nomme une femme à Matignon ?

OUI 50% NON 50%
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 208 361
Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
 Les Républicains (LR) doivent-ils s'allier à Emmanuel Macron ?

DESSIN : FABIEN CLAIREFOND

Face à Macron, l'opération survie des Républicains

Alors que des élus LR sont tentés de rallier le chef de l'État avant les élections législatives, Christian Jacob affirme que son parti n'est soluble « ni dans le lepénisme ni dans le macronisme ».

Fragilisés par la sévère défaite - 4,78 % des suffrages - de leur candidate, Valérie Pécresse, au premier tour de la présidentielle, Les Républicains essaient d'enrayer les

départs de députés tentés de rallier la bannière présidentielle pour les élections législatives ou pour un maroquin dans le prochain gouvernement. Premier visé : le prési-

dent du groupe LR à l'Assemblée nationale, Damien Abad, approché par l'Élysée et qui pourrait se laisser séduire. Dans un entretien au Figaro, Christian Jacob est clair. Il

prône l'unité, rappelle « l'indépendance du parti » et prévient avec insistance : « Il n'y a pas de double appartenance, il n'y en aura jamais. On ne peut pas être Les Républicains

et majorité présidentielle. » Le premier tour des législatives a lieu dans 47 jours. Pour l'instant, chacun retient ses coups. Récit de cette guerre feutrée.

→ UN NOUVEAU CHAPITRE DE LA MALÉDICTION DE LA DROITE → CHRISTIAN JACOB : « ON EST SOIT LR, SOIT LREM. CETTE LIGNE S'APPLIQUE À TOUT LE MONDE » → MACRON VEUT RÉSERVER AUX RÉPUBLICAINS LE MÊME SORT QU'AUX SOCIALISTES → LA LUTTE INTERGÉNÉRATIONNELLE S'INVITE AUSSI CHEZ LES RÉPUBLICAINS PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL


Tesla, PayPal, SpaceX et maintenant Twitter : l'insatiable appétit d'Elon Musk
Malgré les menaces russes, les Occidentaux renforcent leur aide à l'Ukraine

 Les États-Unis ont organisé mardi une conférence avec quarante pays sur une base en Allemagne pour accélérer et synchroniser la livraison d'armes à Kiev. Cette mobilisation relance le débat entre soutien et « cobelligérance ». Moscou ne s'y est pas trompé, accusant l'Otan de se livrer à un conflit par procuration au fort potentiel d'escalade vers une « guerre mondiale ». **PAGES 6 À 8**

 Le rachat spectaculaire du réseau social par l'homme le plus riche du monde déclenche une tempête médiatico-politique. Milliardaire libertarien, Elon Musk veut « accroître la liberté d'expression » sur Twitter. **PAGES 20 ET 21**
ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

Idées noires, idées courtes

Depuis les mésaventures de François Fillon à la présidentielle de 2017, l'histoire du parti LR ressemble à un vaudeville. Voilà une famille politique bien installée dans la société, avec des élus à tous les étages du millefeuille électoral, porteuse d'un héritage gaullo-chiracien illustre et riche de quelques têtes d'affiche de qualité. Elle a tout pour réussir, mais plus rien ne va depuis qu'un jeune homme s'est introduit à l'Élysée, au nez et à la barbe de tout le monde, en lui dérobant une partie de son programme. Depuis, chez Les Républicains, les crises de nerfs se multiplient, les portes claquent, les cachotteries prolifèrent. De Laurent Wauquiez à Valérie Pécresse, tous les espoirs ont été déçus. Alors, que faire maintenant, après un nouvel et cuisant échec ? On dit le traditionnel clivage gauche-droite en voie d'extinction, les partis classiques dépassés, la démocratie représentative fatiguée... On dit tellement de choses que certains à droite - comme à gauche, au PS - broient des idées noires. Et se demandent pourquoi maintenir en vie un parti condamné à faire tapisserie. En vue des législatives, la tentation est grande de rejoind-

re des rangs du Président de la République ou de franchir le Rubicon en direction de la droite nationaliste. Ainsi va la réflexion à court terme.

À plus long terme, pourtant, on peut s'interroger sur la pertinence de ce calcul. Si tant est qu'Emmanuel Macron trouve une majorité à l'Assemblée nationale en juin - ce qui paraît probable -, dans quel état sera celle-ci dans cinq ans, essorée par les débats à venir, sans doute chiffonnée par cinq ans de pouvoir supplémentaire et privée de son chef, qui sera alors interdit de réélection ? 2027, c'est déjà maintenant : la droite aurait intérêt à se préparer

c'est déjà maintenant. La droite républicaine aurait donc intérêt à se préparer à l'échec, quitte à n'occuper que quelques sièges de députés en attendant. Elle peut compter sur sa majorité au Sénat et sur son fort ancrage local. À elle de se trouver un visage charismatique et une identité forte pour retrouver le chemin du succès. ■

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DJ Westwood accused of sexual misconduct by multiple women

Exclusive Claims made in joint investigation by Guardian and BBC

Alexandra Topping
Aamna Mohdin

The renowned DJ Tim Westwood has been accused of sexual misconduct by multiple women who claim he misused his position in the music industry to take advantage of them.

Three women have accused the DJ of opportunistic and predatory sexual behaviour, while four others allege they were groped by him at events.

The women, who were in their late teens or early 20s when they say the incidents happened, described their experiences to the Guardian and the BBC as part of a joint investigation into the former BBC Radio 1 DJ.

The earliest alleged incident took place in 1992; the most recent in 2017.

One of the women said: "Someone taking advantage of my naivety and lack of confidence isn't something I should have to carry with shame."

Westwood has strenuously denied all the allegations. A spokesperson said they were completely false and denied in their entirety.

In response to the allegations yesterday the BBC said it was "shocked". A spokesperson said: "The BBC is against all forms of inappropriate behaviour and we are shocked to hear of these allegations. The BBC has strict codes of conduct for all those engaged by the BBC, including on-air presenters."

The women, who are all black, decided to tell their stories in the aftermath of anonymous allegations of inappropriate behaviour about Westwood circulating on social media in June 2020.

In a statement at the time, Westwood denied any wrongdoing, saying the allegations online were fabricated, false and without foundation.

The Guardian and BBC News, which has released a documentary on BBC Three about the story, have since spoken to seven women who make a range of separate allegations about the DJ's conduct.

Some of the women say they had felt unable to talk about their experiences before. 6 →



▲ Tim Westwood, a former Radio 1 presenter, has denied all the allegations PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE/THE GUARDIAN

Health agency to halt Covid tests and cut jobs

Exclusive
Rowena Mason
Heather Stewart
Denise Campbell

The public health body set up by Boris Johnson to combat the coronavirus pandemic is in turmoil, with staff cuts

of up to 40% looming and plans to suspend routine Covid testing in hospitals and care homes to save money.

Whitehall sources have told the Guardian that the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), led by Dr Jenny Harries, is in a state of disarray, with morale at rock bottom and concerns that it is not funded to cope with any

resurgence in the pandemic. Public health experts warned that the "alarming" cuts could cost lives.

More than 800 staff are due to be lost from vital health protection teams across the country in the coming months - a reduction of 40% from the current head count of 2,000. One insider said people were being given two weeks' notice that their contracts were being ended early, and that the way it was being dealt with was similar to the "recent situation at P&O".

Other teams in the organisation have also been told they need to cut full-time-equivalent staff by 40%.

After the Treasury slashed its budget for dealing with Covid from this month, UKHSA is now proposing to health ministers that it suspend regular asymptomatic testing in hospitals and care homes from May, to save money for a potential winter surge in cases.

Sources in the organisation said funding for asymptomatic testings in high-risk settings was only sufficient to cover six months in a year, and senior officials believed the decision would better be saved for later in the year. It comes after the government has 4 →

Russia ramps up rhetoric over enclave

Minister refuses to rule out Moldova's breakaway region being drawn into Ukraine war

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