



Conscripts saying goodbye at a recruiting office in Moscow. Criticism of the hurried and haphazard mobilization is widespread.

### Explosions Hit Staging Region Used by Russia

This article is by Andrew Higgins, Megan Specia and Ivan Nepomerezhny.

Struggling on the battlefield in southern and eastern Ukraine, Russia felt war on its own territory on Sunday as more than a dozen explosions ripped through a Russian border region, and a series of blasts severely damaged the offices of Russia's puppet government in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk.

The strikes in the Belgorod region next to Ukraine and the destruction of the municipal administration building in Donetsk, a city firmly controlled by Russia and its proxies since 2014, sent a powerful signal that the mayhem unleashed by President Vladimir V. Putin's invasion is spreading far beyond the front lines.

The blasts, which Russia attributed to Ukrainian shelling, came a day after another sign of disarray in Russia's once-vanquished military machine: Two men opened fire on fellow Russian soldiers at a training camp in the Belgorod region, killing 11 and wounding 15 before being killed themselves.

The Russian Defense Ministry, in a statement cited by the state media outlet RIA Novosti and TASS, described the shootings as a terrorist attack. It said the two gunmen were from a former Soviet nation and had fired on the soldiers during target practice at a firing range.

The episodes, along with an Oct. 8 attack on Russia's only bridge to Crimea, a region occupied by Moscow since 2014, added to a growing impression that what Mr. Putin declared a "special military operation" in February has spiraled into dangerous new directions.

### Inside Russia's Chaotic Draft, Desperation Swells

By NEIL MACFARQUHAR

A half-dozen Russian soldiers talk about being shipped to an area of intense fighting in eastern Ukraine just 11 days after their mobilization. Asked about his shattering past, a bearded conscript says, "Once. Three magazines."

In a town near Yekaterinburg, in central Russia, newly mobilized men march in place in their street clothes. "No machine guns, nothing, no clothes, no shoes," says an unidentified officer. "Half of them are hung over, old at risk — the ambulance should be on duty."

Elsewhere, scores of recruits of freshly drafted Russian soldiers crowd outside a training center, passing items through its fence to the recruits — boots, berets, bulletproof vests, backpacks, sleeping bags, camping mats, medicine, bandages and food.

"This is not how it's done," a woman named Elena told the news outlet Saman Online. "We buy everything."

Despite draconian laws against criticizing the "special military operation" in Ukraine, Russian social media is awash with scenes like those above captured in widely circulating videos. Such posts are taking the Ministry of

### G.O.P. Gains Edge in Poll As Economy Sways Voters

#### In Tight Races, Some Calling for Biden. Not That Biden.

By KATIE ROGERS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jill Biden's weekend included five flights, 11 events and three appearances with Democrats who all requested her help ahead of the midterm elections. There was also a spin class in there somewhere.

During one particularly busy 27-hour chunk of time, Dr. Biden, the first lady, appeared in Atlanta, where the voting rights activist Stacey Abrams is in an uphill race against Brian Kemp, the Republican governor. Then it was on to Florida, where she toured a breast cancer research facility and gave an interview to Newsmax, the conservative network. After that, she appeared with Representative Val B. Demings, who hopes to succeed Senator Marco Rubio, and Charlie Crist, a centrist Democrat who trails Ron DeSantis, the governor and conservative firebrand.

"It's not going to be easy," Dr. Biden, on the last leg of a 15-hour day trip, told a group of people at a social event to support Mr. Demings on Saturday. "We know how to win because we've done it before."

With President Biden's approval hovering at about 40 percent at a moment when Democrats are struggling to win back the House and Senate, Dr. Biden has become a lifeline for Democrats trying to draw attention and energy to the campaign.

"They are giving them at best basics and at worst nothing and throwing them into combat, which suggests that these guys are just literally cannon fodder," said William Alberque, a specialist on the Russian armed forces and the director of the arms control program at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a research organization based in London.

An extreme sign of disorder came on Saturday, when two men

Modern first ladies are usually called on to humanize their husbands or translate their policies, but how much they decide to engage is almost always up to them. Melania Trump was more popular than her husband and was a much-requested surrogate, but she did not campaign for him during the 2016 midterm or during the 2020 campaign, often saying she was too busy parenting her

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### Tehran's Most Loyal Defenders Have Much to Lose in Protests

By BEN HUBBARD and FARNAZ FASSHI

The intensity of protests that have swept Iran over the past two months, with calls to topple the Islamic Republic, have shaken the state. But in some ways, the country's authoritarian clerical rulers have been preparing for this moment since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which established a conservative theocracy that has held firm ever since.

The revolution's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, ordered the creation of the Revolutionary Guards force that same year to defend against coups or defections by the regular army.

With hundreds of thousands of members today, the Guards are Iran's most powerful military force as well as major players in its economy. Many analysts agree that Iran is no longer a theocracy ruled by Shiite clerics, but a military state ruled by the Guards.

### What's News

Business & Finance

Risks of the worldwide economic slowdown turning into a steeper slump are rising, finance officials around the globe are warning, as strong inflation, high energy costs and climbing interest rates take hold.

U.S. workers in China's domestic chip industry are in limbo under new American export control rules that prohibit U.S. citizens from supporting China's advanced chip development.

Goldman Sachs plans to add to its biggest business line three divisions, as the bank's CEO, David Solomon, is signaling plans to extend his tenure.

Three senior KFC executives gave notice that they will retire at the end of November as rising interest rates threaten to reduce long-term profits.

Activist investor Starboard has a stable state in Spain and plans to push for a takeover of the company.

PRG, Netflix and Tesla highlight a busy trading week of earnings as the market's volatility continues.

World-Wide

China's Xi Jinping in a speech to a Communist Party congress called himself as the decisive leader in his country's new era.

Chip Rules Snag U.S. Executives

U.S. workers in China's domestic chip industry are in limbo under new American export control rules that prohibit U.S. citizens from supporting China's advanced chip development.

Democratic candidates are expected to win in the 2022 midterm elections, according to a new poll.

U.K. leader Truss is facing a job after her party's defeat in the 2022 general election.

The global movement to free Iran's Revolutionary Guards from prison is gaining momentum.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards force was created in 1979.

Known as the Basij, a volunteer force under the umbrella of the Revolutionary Guards, has been on the front lines for weeks, using brutal tactics to try to quash the protests.

But they have failed, and last week, a different breed of defender began to show up on the streets of Tehran, the capital.



Chinese President Xi Jinping surrounded by senior members of the government at the end of the opening ceremony Sunday.

### Xi Sets Ambitions for China, Warns of Force Over Taiwan

By CHEN KAI WANG

HONG KONG — President Xi Jinping of China cast himself as the decisive leader in his country's new era in a landmark speech Sunday, pledging to build a more secure, powerful and equitable nation.

In a Sunday speech, opening a Communist Party congress where he is set to defy recent party chief Mr. Xi's third term in office, Mr. Xi said a robust defense of his record, shaking off concerns over Covid-19, a sluggish economy and troubled ties with the U.S.

Mr. Xi called his efforts to curb corruption, rally public support for the party and champion China's political system as a counterweight to Western liberal democracy.

A campaign of "self-revolution," marked by internal crackdowns on corruption and political dissent, Mr. Xi said, has "ensured that the party will never change in quality, change in color, or change in line."

He recalled his efforts to curb corruption, rally public support for the party and champion China's political system as a counterweight to Western liberal democracy.

Mr. Xi said he would continue to lead the party in the new era, pledging to build a more secure, powerful and equitable nation.

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### Risks of A Deeper Global Slump Escalate

Finance officials warn rising borrowing costs and high inflation boost chances of a recession

By ANTHONY DOMINICK and YVES HANSEN

WASHINGTON — Risks of the worldwide economic slowdown turning into a steeper slump are rising, finance officials around the globe are warning, as strong inflation, high energy costs and climbing interest rates take hold.

Another hot U.S. inflation report last week is likely to keep the Federal Reserve lifting rates at a rapid clip. That could help spur the U.S. dollar higher, further elevating the cost of imports and debt service for many countries.

Key energy producers are cranking up prices, forcing price increases and slowing economic activity, particularly in Europe. New data from China showed consumer spending falling sharply, another sign of cooling economic growth.

The uncertainty in the global economy has raised markets, driving some wild speculation about a global financial crisis.

This coming week, as more companies plan to post third-quarter results, speculation for corporate earnings have risen.

◆ The Outlook: Recession is called more likely. A2

◆ Recession is called more likely. A2

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The Manhattan Fencing Center. Fencing can be expensive, but is good on a college application.

### Fencing Is Pricy. And It Can Open an Ivy Door.

By STEPHANIE SAUL

At the Manhattan Fencing Center, the athletes don't look much like the snarling horses in the movies. There are no daring leaps or flips, no slashing or galloping around the room. Instead, young fencers methodically attack and parry along a long, narrow strip of floor. A hit — the touch of an opponent's foil — can be missed by the naked eye.

But for families who invest in this expensive sport, the main target is quite clear — just look up. Hanging from the ceiling are flags that read Harvard, NYU, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Princeton and Columbia, representing the elite of colleges and universities with N.C.A.A. fencing teams.

A way with a sword can help students stand out in the college admissions game, according to Yuriy Geinman, founder of the Manhattan Fencing Center.

"Parents," he said, "realize that fencing is one of the best sports to put your child in a good university, because each good school, especially Ivy League schools, have fencing."

Fencing is also expensive. Beyond coaching, equipment and uniforms, a single season of fencing can cost \$1,000 to \$2,000, depending on the level of competition.

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### A Salt-Loving Nation Tries Hard To Shake the Habit

Researchers in Japan are developing high-tech chopsticks that trick eaters

By MIMI BROWN

Beer maker Kirin Holdings Co. has developed chopsticks that deliver an electric current to trick taste buds into feeling a bit of salt. The idea is to make it taste like the real thing. A four-point scale, the chopsticks, the degree of saltiness, and it works for soup, stew and other dishes with liquid.

Manufacturing the high-tech chopsticks is still in the laboratory stage — it's less than a year old.

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### Goldman to Combine Businesses Into 3 Units

By JEFFREY BROWN

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. plans to split its biggest business into three divisions, an overhaul of the biggest financial services firm in history.

Goldman will combine its investment banking and trading businesses into one unit, while merging asset and wealth management into another.

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