



Oleksandr Avdeev watched as the body of his son, Serhi, who was seized by Russian forces last month, was exhumed in Borova.

Fearing China, Taiwan Banks On Its Charm

By DAMIEN CAVE and AMY CHANG CHEN Taipei, Taiwan — To maintain diplomatic ties with Guatemala, Taiwan pays the country's lobbyists in Washington. With its allies in the Pacific, Taiwan has promised to help preserve indigenous cultures, and to thank Lithuania, Taiwan's newest unofficial ally, the government and local shoppers have embraced its imports, from lozenges to bacon-flavored schnapps.

The fear of being swallowed by China — increasingly adamant in its authoritarian claims over the self-ruled democracy — focuses the diplomatic mind. Few places in the world can claim to be as scrappy with statecraft or as hungry for companionship as Taiwan today, and the effort goes beyond official channels. One digital diplomacy nonprofit has spread pro-Taiwan messages on social media worldwide through comics and product giveaways.

"Taiwan is now receiving more international attention than ever before," said President Tsai Ing-wen at her address on Taiwan's national day of Oct. 10. While it has fewer embassies than a decade ago, Taiwan now has more substantial ties with a wider range of nations.

"It's a new trend, a new mode," said Hsin-tung Lin, curator of the Modern China series at Taiwan Collection at Stanford's Hoover Institution.

"They're creatively thinking about ways to repackage or elaborate," said one official. Continued on Page A5

Ukrainians Tell of Torture in Russian Occupation

By CARLOTTA GALL BALAKLIYA, Ukraine — Russian troops spent weeks searching for Mariya, the 69-year-old Ukrainian wife of a serving Ukrainian Army officer. Twice, she said, they ransacked her cottage in a village outside the town of Balakliya, and when they did eventually detain her months later, they tortured her repeatedly under interrogation, using electric shocks and threats of rape. The recapturing by Ukrainian fighters of much of the Kharkiv region a month ago is now revealing what life was like for thousands of people living under Russian military occupation from the early days of the war. For many there were periods of calm, but almost no food or public services. For those like Mariya, accused of sympathizing with or helping the Ukrainians, it was pure hell.

"In a word, it was horrific," Mariya said. "I thought I would not come out alive."

Police officers who have returned to towns and villages to reestablish a Ukrainian administration have been overwhelmed by complaints of theft and property damage, but also accounts of detentions, torture and missing relatives.

The scale of abuse of the population in eastern Ukraine under Russian occupation is most likely greater than that seen in the spring in Bucha and other areas around the capital, Kyiv, given the breadth of the territory and the length of the occupation, police officials said.



MAIA PROFFER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Recycled Office Tower

A growing movement in the Netherlands seeks a new way to build by reusing materials. Page B1.

Exploding Online, Disinformation Is Now a Fixture of U.S. Politics

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and SHEENA FREINKEL On the morning of July 8, former President Donald J. Trump took to Truth Social, a social media platform he founded with people close to him, to claim that he had in fact won the 2020 presidential vote in Wisconsin, despite all evidence to the contrary. Barely 8,000 people shared that missive on Truth Social, a far cry from the hundreds of thousands of responses he posts on Facebook and Twitter but regularly generated before those services suspended him after the deadly riot on Capitol Hill on Jan. 6, 2021. And yet Mr. Trump's baseless claim puled through the public consciousness anyway. It jumped Posts From Niche Sites Go Mainstream from his app or other social media platforms — not in meme posts, talk radio and television. Within 48 hours of Mr. Trump's post, more than one million people saw his claim on at least dozen other sites. It appeared on Facebook and Twitter, from which he has been banished, but also YouTube, Gab, Parler and Telegram, according to an analysis by the spread of Mr. Trump's claim illustrates how, ahead of this year's midterm elections, disinformation is spreading.

TRUSS STEPS DOWN, CAPPING SIX WEEKS OF TURMOIL IN U.K.

Shortest Stint by a British Prime Minister — Fight Begins Over a Successor

By MARK LANDLER and STEPHEN CASTLE LONDON — Prime Minister Liz Truss of Britain announced her resignation on Thursday, bringing a swift end to a six-week stint in office that began with a radical experiment in lock-down economics and descended into financial and political chaos, as most of those policies were reversed. With her tax-cutting agenda in tatters, her Conservative Party's lawmakers in revolt and her government in the hands of people who did not support either her or her policies, Ms. Truss, 47, concluded that she could no longer govern. She departs as the shortest-serving prime minister in British history.

"Given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party," a gram Ms. Truss said, standing on the rain-slicked pavement outside 10 Downing Street, where only 44 days ago she greeted the public as Britain's new prime minister.

Ms. Truss said she would remain in office until the party elects a new leader, but she could no longer govern. The resignation came after a week of intense political maneuvering and a series of setbacks for her government. Her policies, including a 13% increase in the VAT rate, had caused economic damage and led to a loss of confidence in her leadership.

Sinking Economy and Pound Sealed a Prime Minister's Fate

By MARK LANDLER LONDON — For Liz Truss, the end came on Thursday in a midday meeting with grandees of the Conservative Party. But Ms. Truss's fate as prime minister was all but sealed three weeks earlier when her currency and bond markets were reeling from her new fiscal program by torpedoing the pound and other British financial assets. The market's swift, withering verdict on Ms. Truss's tax-cutting agenda shattered her credibility, degraded Britain's reputation with investors, drove up home mortgage rates, pushed the pound down to near parity with the American dollar and forced the Bank of England to intervene to prop up British bonds.

Its Aquifer Dwindling, Virginia Finds a Solution in the Sewers

By ELENA SHAO Virginia doesn't have a megadrought like some parts of the United States, but it has water problems all the same. Home and businesses in the Hampton Roads region, in the southeastern corner of the state, are drawing groundwater faster than it can be replenished. The situation has gotten so bad that the earth is sinking in some places. Officials, though, think they might have found a solution in the sewers. Every day, the region's wastewater system takes 10 million gallons of treated wastewater and pumps it back into the Potomac Aquifer, a major source of drinking water for the area. And there are plans to increase that to 100 million gallons in the coming years. Around the country, cities and towns are increasingly turning to treated wastewater to augment their supplies of drinking water. The number of drinking-water reuse projects has quadrupled over the past two decades, according to data collected by the National Alliance for Water Innovation, a research program funded by the United States Department of Energy. "It is now necessary for us to

What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. existing-home sales fell for an eighth straight month in September, the longest streak of declines in 15 years, as the once-booming housing market becomes a bigger drag on the nation's economy. AI

Drugmakers are trying to blunt Medicare's newfangled power to negotiate medicine prices while coping with inflationary drug costs and obsolescence in Washington, D.C. A1

An appellate court ruling that the CPFB is unconscionably funded could undermine the agency's work over its nearly 27 years of existence. Legal experts said. A1

Instacart is unlikely to launch an IPO this year, people familiar with the matter said, as a turbulent market holds demand for new listings. B1

Snap reported a further slowdown in sales growth and signaled the digital ad market could remain lackluster for some time. B1

U.S. stocks fell, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow losing 1.4%, 1.8% and 1.3%, respectively. B1

Turkey's central bank cut its key interest rate for a third straight month, but also set an economic policy that raised the line to collapse. A11

Blackstone's new income statement for the third quarter as the value of the investment firms private-equity portfolio declined. B110

Texas sued Google, alleging the search giant violated state laws by collecting location data on its users and advertising without securing the full consent of users. A3

China's Military Catches Up

Beijing upgrades technology, training for its forces, but troops remain untested the country. Its defense budget is second only to the U.S., China's military has more serving members, at around 2 million, compared with just under 1.4 million in the U.S. The question for Mr. Xi, which he has raised in public, is whether those forces are ready for battle. China hasn't fought a war since a brief border clash with Vietnam in 1979. Unlike American forces, who have fought for most of the last century and built in

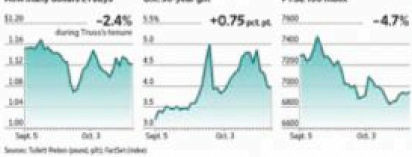
Great Pay, Many Benefits — One Catch: Simulated Drowning

Offshore oil workers have to take a water-survival class; 'Everybody hates it' pole harness under water, the trainees will count to seven then push out the seawater window. They must unblock themselves, escape through the window opening and swim to the surface. Not once, but over and over, at accelerating intervals, to a crescendo that a participant described as a simulated first timer. It will only occur like it. Five people at a time will be tightly strapped into a simulated water-survival class. "Everybody hates it," said Grace Hivens, 31, years old, and slightly out of the pool and then take a very deep breath just before plunging into the water. While captive in a four-

U.K.'s Truss Quits After 45 Stormy Days



"I recognize that given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party," said U.K. Prime Minister Liz Truss in resigning on Thursday.



Economic Policies Led to Downfall

LONDON — U.K. Prime Minister Liz Truss's resignation is a stark reminder of how high inflation and rising interest rates have changed the game for politicians and narrowed their room to maneuver. For the past decade, low inflation and ultra-low interest rates gave governments around the world room to spend more and pile on debt without alarming investors. Those days are over. With central banks tightening monetary policy, political leaders are less able to borrow money without raising cap-

Party support for leader vanished with collapse of tax-cut plan, leaving crisis for her successor

Party support for leader vanished with collapse of tax-cut plan, leaving crisis for her successor. Within hours of the announcement Conservative lawmakers were jostling to position themselves behind a new leader. Ms. Truss's successor will have to navigate a political crisis and economic turbulence, with the U.K. dealing with stagflation—the combination of slow growth and high inflation. The new leader is almost sure to face a long water of discontent, with real wages forecast to fall, labor unions promising a series of strikes and many

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Climbing Interest Rates Crimp U.S. Home Sales

U.S. existing-home sales fell for an eighth straight month in September, the longest streak of declines in 15 years, as the once-booming housing market becomes a bigger drag on the U.S. economy. Sales of previously owned homes declined 1.5% in September from the prior month, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.71 million, the weakest since May 2020, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. Cooling off the red-hot market is a key part of the Fed's strategy to bring inflation down. The Fed's rate hikes are highly interest-rate sensitive and fuel related economic activity. A weaker housing market damps demand for many other goods and services. Prices and sales of furniture and appliances fell in September, while spending on durable goods and planting fixtures declined as well. New-home construction was declined in response to lower demand. "The housing market has entered a recession before the overall economy does," said Maria Vanden Broeke, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "Please turn to page A2."

Drugmakers Scramble To Stem Pricing Blow

Drugmakers are trying to blunt Medicare's newfangled power to negotiate medicine prices while coping with inflationary drug costs and obsolescence in Washington, D.C. A1. An appellate court ruling that the CPFB is unconscionably funded could undermine the agency's work over its nearly 27 years of existence. Legal experts said. A1. Instacart is unlikely to launch an IPO this year, people familiar with the matter said, as a turbulent market holds demand for new listings. B1. Snap reported a further slowdown in sales growth and signaled the digital ad market could remain lackluster for some time. B1. U.S. stocks fell, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow losing 1.4%, 1.8% and 1.3%, respectively. B1. Turkey's central bank cut its key interest rate for a third straight month, but also set an economic policy that raised the line to collapse. A11. Blackstone's new income statement for the third quarter as the value of the investment firms private-equity portfolio declined. B110. Texas sued Google, alleging the search giant violated state laws by collecting location data on its users and advertising without securing the full consent of users. A3.

Spacey Wins in Civil Case

Anthony Rapp, an original cast member of "Rent," had filed a lawsuit accusing Kevin Spacey of making a sexual advance when Mr. Rapp was 14. PAGE A3

Airlines Thrive as Work Shifts

Unleashed from desks, passengers are flying more often and in different ways. Carriers, reaping the benefits, expect the change to stick. PAGE B1

Astros Put Yanks in a 2-0 Hole

Houston's top hitters were quiet, but a three-run homer by Alex Bregman sent the Yankees to a 3-2 defeat in Game 2 of the A.L. Championship Series. PAGE B3

Weekend In-Cities

Latter-Day Lincoln and Booth A Broadway revival of Susan-Lor Parkes' "Topdog/Underdog" proves the two-man play is as fearless and brilliant as ever. Jesse Green writes. PAGE C1

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Some home buyers look for bargains in houses without curb appeal. M1

SPORTS

Chess grandmaster Niemann files lawsuit over cheating allegations. A16

INSIDE

Some home buyers look for bargains in houses without curb appeal. M1

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