



Outside a hospital in Lviv, Ukraine, on Tuesday as a Ukrainian soldier's body was driven past. Ukraine loses up to 200 soldiers a day.

New Setbacks As Kyiv's Allies Grow Restless

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF and ERIC SCHMITZ

DUBIZHEVKA, Ukraine — The last bridge to the last city standing between the Russian Army and control of easternmost Ukraine has collapsed as soldiers engaged in pitched street battles for what little was left of the city and scores of civilians remained stranded under unrelenting bombardment. Even after the final remaining bridge between the city, Sievierodonetsk, and Ukrainian-held territory to the west was toppled, Ukrainian officials insisted that supplies could still reach their soldiers fighting in the ruined city. But evacuating civilians and wounded troops may become far more challenging, and it appeared increasingly unlikely that the city's outgunned defenders could hold out for long.

Almost four months after the forces of Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, attacked, Ukraine has been largely reduced to harridan the better-equipped invader, making each patch of ground as bloody as possible for it to win but failing in recent weeks to secure any decisive victories and bringing many of its own soldiers and citizens in the process.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, insists that his country may yet prevail if it is given more powerful weaponry, but as Western military leaders prepared to meet in Brussels Wednesday and Thursday, some officials sound dubious, with talk again turning to what an end to the war might look like — and how to bring it about.

Still, American officials appeared at pains on Tuesday not to overstep.

"We're not going to tell the Ukrainians how to negotiate, what to negotiate about or to negotiate," Colin H. Kahl, the under secretary of defense for policy, said at a security conference in Washington. "They're going to set those terms for themselves."

The fall of Sievierodonetsk would put Mr. Putin in a pivotal position closer to seizing Ukraine's industrial heartland, the eastern Donbas region, where he has directed Russia's assault after failing early in the war to take the largest Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv, the capital, and Kharkiv. In one Donbas province, Luhansk, Russian troops and their separatist allies now hold all but a small pocket containing Continued on Page A8

Russia Left the North Long Ago. Fear Never Did.

By VALERIE HOPKINS

MOSHCHEVKA, Ukraine — The tanks are gone now, and the thousands of Russian soldiers who poured into northern Ukraine in February have retreated back along the border.

But fear still prevails in this quiet village only six miles from Ukraine's border with Russia and Belarus.

In the distance, Russian artillery shells rock the neighboring towns every day. Their explosions send a shudder through residents who lived through weeks of Russian occupation and have not forgotten the intimidating presence of Moscow's army as it marched by on the way to Kyiv. "We are scared of every sound," said Kateryna Kravosnyva,

who is living in temporary accommodation in Moshshechka because her home in Senkivka, even closer to the border, is shelled daily. "We are living in terror."

By the beginning of April, Ukraine had pushed the invading forces away from Kyiv and back over the Russian border, its biggest success of the war and a symbol of the country's resolve. But for villagers in the region, the retreat did not deliver a sense of security — or even a return to normal life.



With his colleague, David Rivers removes the equivalent of 250 garbage bags a week in Houston.

Clearing an Urban Bayou of Islands of Garbage

By CARA BUCKLEY

No matter how much Bayou Dave hunts, his quarry never goes away. He finds it each time he sets out on Buffalo Bayou, a slow-moving river that winds through the country's fourth largest city and out to its port. And so it was one recent sweltering morning when he and his longtime clerk, Trey Dennis, headed on a small barge to a floating bayou they'd set out on the water the day before. "Ah, isn't that sweet," said Bayou Dave, whose real name is David Rivers, as the boom swung into view. Cradled in the boom's massive embrace was what they were looking for, and knew they'd find: a vast whorling jumble of trash. There was a toy airplane, a yellow football, a foam egg carton and a mail salon pink lip-sticker. There were tobacco containers,

Biden Considers Rollback Of Tariffs to Ease Inflation

Crypto's Price Plunge Exposes Industry's Unstable Roots

By DAVID YAFFE-BREITMAN and BEN GRIFETH

SAN FRANCISCO — No one wanted to miss out on the cryptocurrency mania. As the prices of Bitcoin and other virtual currencies surged, crypto start-ups proliferated. Companies that market digital coins to investors who poured into northern Ukraine in February have retreated back along the border.

A global inflation worth hundreds of billions of dollars rose up practically overnight. Now it is crashing down. After weeks of plummeting cryptocurrency prices, investors who poured into northern Ukraine in February have retreated back along the border.

Except for the absence of Russian troops, there is little to suggest this is not a war zone. Ukrainian guards and soldiers regularly patrol the border. There are checkpoints every few miles along all the north-south roads. Piles of farmland are marked as minefields, and mazes of trenches fan out in several directions from each checkpoint. At the entrance to Moshshechka, anti-aircraft obstacles fashioned from local birch trees and barbed wire guard the checkpoint.

Olena and Mykola Kalivoshko, retirees from Senkivka, have also moved to Moshshechka to escape the shelling. They are living in the home of a villager who recently died.

"We counted 14 explosions yesterday," he said.

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Some administration economists privately estimate the tariff reductions that Mr. Biden is considering would reduce the overall inflation rate by as little as a quarter of a percentage point. Still, all a sign of how big a political problem inflation has become, officials are weighing at least a partial rollback anyway, in part because the president has few other options.

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Inner Circle Strikes New Tone Over Trump's Claims of Fraud

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

The letter sent William P. Barr stepped down as attorney general in December 2020, he showed President Donald Trump with a letter for his "unprecedented achievements" and vowed that the Justice Department would continue to pursue the president's claims of voter fraud "to ensure the integrity of elections."

A year and a half later, Mr. Barr sounded different. In videotaped testimony played at the first two public hearings held by the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Americans have now learned what Mr. Barr avoided saying publicly about Mr. Trump at the time.

What's News

Business & Finance

The prospect of inflation — thus-expected Fed tightening has rattled Wall Street, dragging the S&P 500 deeper into bear territory and forcing investors to reassess a stock market that doesn't look cheap even after its dramatic sell-off. The S&P 500 and Dow lost 0.4% and 0.5%, respectively, on Tuesday, while the Nasdaq added 0.2%. **A12**

Cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase said it would cut almost a fifth of its staff, the largest crypto layoffs in the industry to date. **A12**

The FTC has begun a probe into mental-health startup Cerebral, according to a source who says the company that was reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. **A12**

Biden is closing in on a decision to lift tariffs on Chinese imports, as he looks for ways to address inflation and grapple with pressure from labor unions to keep the jobs in place. **A2**

FedEx is boosting its dividend and adding board members under pressure from activist investors. **A2**

NextEra Energy said it plans to make most of its operations completely carbon-free by 2025. **B1**

Harold Hamm, the billionaire fracking pioneer, is looking to take Continental Resources private. **B1**

World-Wide — **Russian forces** destroyed the last remaining bridge to Sevskodonetsk, cutting Ukrainian supply lines and moving to consolidate control over the strategic city in the latest setback for Kyiv's forces in the country's east. **A8**

A public disagreement has emerged between Jan. 6 committee members about whether it would consider referring criminal charges against Trump to the Justice Department. **A7**

Flooding Shuts Down Yellowstone, Visitors Evacuated



YELLOWSTONE: Yellowstone National Park remained closed to visitors as flooding continued Tuesday from heavy rain and melting snow that wiped out roads and destroyed buildings. Work was under way to evacuate some parts of the park. **A4**

Crypto Meltdown Worsens As Coinbase, Celsius Retrench

Cryptocurrency exchange company Coinbase Global Inc. said it would cut almost a fifth of its staff and crypto lender Celsius said it was reviewing its operations, as problems in the industry deepened.

Trains Help Drive Russia's Latest Gains in Ukraine

After early struggles, Moscow returns to Soviet-era transport

Russian forces have advanced in eastern Ukraine over recent weeks behind over-whelming artillery barrages, a shift in tactics made possible by better access to rail lines delivering tons of ammunition and other supplies.

Fans Mourn Internet Explorer; 'I'm Still Trying to Process It'

After 27 years, Microsoft pulls the plug on its browser, prompting nostalgia

Internet Explorer is being phased out by Microsoft. The browser, which was first introduced in 1995, is being replaced by Microsoft Edge.

Investors Look to Fed as Stocks Fall More

With officials expected to boost rates sharply Wednesday, stock market sees bottom

The prospect of faster-than-expected monetary tightening has rattled Wall Street, dragging the S&P 500 deeper into bear territory Tuesday and forcing investors to reassess a stock market that doesn't look cheap even after its dramatic sell-off.

Stocks were narrowly mixed Tuesday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropping 52 points, or 0.5%, and the Nasdaq Composite index rising 0.2%. The S&P 500, which is a bear market, deflated as a decline of at least 20% from their highs. **A12**

Many investors contend that the worst in markets might soon be over, given the end-of-the-year tax deadline. **A12**

Yield on U.S. Treasury rose 3%. **B1**

James Mackintosh, the Fed's vice president, said the Fed is not in a hurry to raise rates. **B1**

S&P 500, Dow fall further, Nasdaq gains. **B1**

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