



A mass grave in the hills above Lysychansk, a city in eastern Ukraine where hundreds of bodies have gone unidentified by relatives.

Iran, Digging Tunnels, Fans Nuclear Fears

This article is by David E. Sanger, Julian E. Barnes and Ronen Bergman.

WASHINGTON — Israeli and American intelligence officials have been watching each day as Iran digs a vast tunnel network just south of the Natanz nuclear production site, in what they believe is Tehran's biggest effort yet to construct new nuclear facilities as deep as the mountains that they can withstand bunker-busting bombs and cyberattacks.

Though the construction is evident on satellite photographs and has been monitored by groups that track the proliferation of new nuclear facilities, Biden administration officials have never talked about it in public, and Israel's defense minister has mentioned it just once, in a single sentence in a speech last month. In interviews with national security officials in both nations, they clearly were differing interpretations of exactly how the Iranians may intend to use the site, and even how urgent a threat it poses.

But as President Biden prepares for his first trip as president to the Middle East next month — one that will take him to Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran's two biggest regional rivals — there is little debate that the conflict over Iran's nuclear program is about to flare again.

By most accounts, Iran is closer to being able to produce a bomb today than at any other point in the two-decade saga of its nuclear program — even if it is planning, as many national security officials believe, to stop just short of producing an actual weapon. On Mr. Biden's trip, the question of taking Continued on Page A9

Europe Extends Kyiv an Invitation but Few Arms

By ANDREW E. KRAMER and MICHAEL LEVENSON

KYIV, Ukraine — European leaders on Thursday pledged support for putting Ukraine on a path to membership in the European Union but did not promise the country additional heavy weapons on the scale it says it needs to repel bloody Russian advances in the east.

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Romania, meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine in Kyiv, all agreed to support Mr. Zelensky's push to take the first step toward membership in the bloc, a move to redefine Ukraine as an integral part of

E.U. Membership Offer Is Not Tied to Peace Deal, Leaders Say

Europe rather than a buffer state on its eastern rim. Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany said that he and his fellow leaders had come "with a clear message: Ukraine belongs to the European family."

The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, is expected to announce on Friday its official recommendation on Ukraine's application to become a formal candidate for

membership. The approval process could take years. The visiting leaders took pains to counter suggestions that they were making an offer that they would prefer a quick, negotiated end to the war, even if that rewarded Russian aggression with territorial gains.

"What I am saying today is that Ukraine must win this war," Mr. Macron said.

The visit generated a mixed reception. The panel also offered a reconstruction of Mr. Pence's harrowing day on Jan. 6. It began with the president's call in which Mr. Trump berated him as a "swamp" and questioned his manhood for resisting his order to obstruct the electoral college results. Mr. Trump was joined by three people in prayer: his chief counsel, Greg Jacob, his chief of staff, Mark Meadows, and his director of legislative affairs, Chris Hodgson.

Mr. Pence and the team had been subjected to a barrage of demands from Mr. Trump that the vice president refuse to certify Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s Electoral College victory in a joint session of Congress.

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Haunted by the Past A tribute to an immigrant, whose violent death in 1982 still echoes for Asian Americans. Page A10.

Democrats Aid G.O.P. Extremists, Hoping to Beat Them in Fall

By JONATHAN WEISSMAN

Even as national Democrats set off alarms over the threats posed by far-right Republicans in candidates, their campaign partners are pursuing an enormously risky strategy: promoting some of these same far-right candidates in G.O.P. primaries in hopes that extremists will be easier for Democrats to beat in November.

These efforts — starker in the Central Valley of California, where a Democratic campaign aid lashed Representative David Valadao, a Republican, for voting to impeach Donald J. Trump — have provoked angry finger-pointing and a debate within the party over the peril and wisdom of the strategy, especially in the middle of the Jan. 6 Committee's hearings on the Capitol attack.

High-Risk Strategy for the Party in Power

The concern is obvious: In a year when soaring gasoline prices and disinflating inflation have crushed President Biden's approval ratings, Republican candidates whom Democrats may deem unselectable could well win on the basis of their party affiliation alone. "I realize that this type of political gamesmanship has existed forever, but our country is in a very different place now than we were in previous cycles," said Representative Kathleen Rice, Democrat of New York. "For these Democratic groups to throw

TRUMP PRESSURED PENCE AND INCITED A MOB AGAINST HIM

Rioters Were 40 Feet From Their Target Was Aware Election Plan Was Illegal

By ANNIE KAHNI and MAGGIE HABERMAN

WASHINGTON — He started the day with a groan. Vice President Mike Pence, preparing to witness the final stage of a reelection campaign by President Donald J. Trump to force him to illegally try to overturn the results of the 2020 election, began Jan. 6, 2021, surrounded by aides at his official residence at the Naval Observatory, asking God for guidance.

The group was expecting a difficult day. But what followed over the next 12 hours was more harrowing than they imagined. An angry mob with baseball bats and pepper spray chanting "hang Mike Pence" came within 40 feet of the vice president.

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By LUKE BROADWATER and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON — President Donald J. Trump continued pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to go along with a plan to unilaterally overturn his election defeat even after he was told it was illegal, according to testimony laid out in extensive detail on Thursday by the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack.

The committee showed how Mr. Trump's presser campaign — aided by a little-known conservative lawyer, John Eastman — led his supporters to storm the Capitol, sending Mr. Pence fleeing for his life as rioters demanded his execution.

In the third public hearing this month to lay out its findings, the panel recounted how Mr. Trump's actions brought the nation to the brink of a constitutional crisis, and raised fresh questions about whether they were also criminal. It played videotaped testimony in which Mr. Pence's top White House lawyer, Greg Jacob, said Mr. Eastman had admitted in front of Mr. Trump two days before the riot that his plan to have Mr. Pence obstruct the electoral college violated the law.

Following the riot, Mr. Eastman sought a pardon after being informed by one of Mr. Trump's top White House lawyers that he had criminal exposure for harboring the scheme, according to an email displayed by the committee during the hearing.

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As Stocks Plummet, Wall Street Turns Focus to Risk of Recession

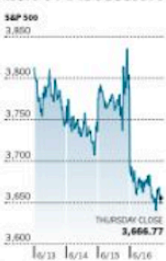
By BEN CASSELLMAN and ISABELLA SIMONETTI

On Wednesday, investors took comfort that the Federal Reserve would do whatever was necessary to bring inflation to heel, responding to the rallying cry of the Fed chair, Jerome H. Powell, by pushing stock prices up.

A day later, reality sank in. Stocks tumbled on Thursday as investors came to grips with what the Fed's tougher stance meant for the economy: higher interest rates and the growing likelihood of a recession.

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Source: Refinitiv



What's News

Business & Finance

U.S. stocks slid, with the Dow losing 2.4% to close below 30000 for the first time since January 2020, as volatility continued to rock the market.

The U.S. economy is beginning to show under the combined weight of soaring inflation and climbing interest rates, including the highest mortgage rates in more than 13 years.

The Bank of England raised its key interest rate by a quarter percentage point for the 11th consecutive time, but said larger moves might be needed to tame inflation.

Mark told Twitter employees that he wants to dramatically increase the platform's users and didn't risk out of his \$44 billion takeover.

Revlon filed for bankruptcy, potentially ending a decade-long bet on the beauty products company by Ronald Perleman.

Walmart is raising wages for pharmacy technicians, in a sign that large retail pharmacies continue to compete fiercely for scarce workers.

Facebook overrode Meta's internal Twitter and other social-media platforms have agreed to abide by tougher EU standards for policing online posts.

An internal review at Activision didn't unearth any wrongdoing in its effort to invest in esports, but it did find that the company's esports division didn't report on its financial performance.

World-Wide

Israel secretly coordinated with the U.S. on the sale of the missiles it carries out in Syria as the allies face a battlefield grapple with militant groups, Iranian-backed militias and foreign military.

The Jan. 6 panel heard testimony Thursday about how Trump's efforts to persuade Biden to block Biden's win led to a heated exchange between the two men on the morning of the Capitol riot and prompted a pardon request from the architect of Trump's plan.

The Justice Department accused the Jan. 6 conspirators of hampering its criminal investigation into the riot by not disclosing transcripts of witness interviews.

Monsieur's move to slash natural-gas exports to EU countries has put the market in a dangerous new phase that threatens to drain vital supplies and keep up the costlier's economy.

Senators drafting coronavirus legislation failed to overcome sticking points before breaking for the weekend, putting in jeopardy a bipartisan effort to reduce gas prices.

The member countries of the WTO agreed on a narrow measure aimed at boosting supplies of Covid-19 vaccines in developing countries.

The Senate passed legislation to expand healthcare and benefits for millions of veterans, especially those exposed to toxics chemicals.

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Blue Chips Slide Below 30000

Nasdaq sheds 4.1% as technology stocks lead the Fed's big rate move

Stocks fell Thursday, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average below 30000 for the first time since January 2021 as volatility continued to rock the market.

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European Leaders Visit Kyiv Amid Strains in Alliance

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Multiple Indicators Signal Slowing Economy

The U.S. economy is starting to show under the combined weight of soaring inflation and climbing interest rates, including the highest mortgage rates since 2008.

Steady reports show a sharp decline in key sectors, raising the prospects of a stalled economy that may end in a recession. Home construction across the U.S. fell sharply in May, the Commerce Department said. Factory output in the Mid-Atlantic region reported for the first time in two years this month, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said.

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Amazon CEO Dials Back Expansion

E-commerce operations ballooned during pandemic, but demand hasn't kept pace

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U.S. Reviews Israel's Plans for Syria Strikes

The U.S. aims to ensure that Israeli bombing raids don't interfere with the U.S.-led military campaign against Islamic State militants whose self-declared caliphate has been destroyed but who have been attempting to mount a comeback.

The formal coordination hasn't been seriously resumed, and the secrecy surrounding it shows how Washington has sought to support its Israeli ally without being drawn into Israel's shadow war against Iran.

Israel's shadow war against Iran, Israeli military in eastern Syria that has sent the al-Tanf garrison, a U.S. outpost near the Syria-Jordan border that sits below one of the 100-mile attack routes, are the main focus of the U.S. review.

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INSIDE

Musk's Twitter Chat: Staff, Growth, Aliens

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The Summer Of So Many Weddings

Glit of nuptials is tying all the guests in knots

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SPORTS

The Warriors Beat the Celtics 109-90 to Win Their Fourth NBA Title in Eight Years

The Warriors beat the Celtics 109-90 to win their fourth NBA title in eight years.