

Upper Midwest: Intervals of clouds and sunshine, warm and rather humid. A late-day thunderstorm to the north and the west. Highs mainly in the 80s. Weather map, Page A24.



Pirarucu, a prehistoric fish favored by Amazon poachers. An activist and a journalist were killed while documenting illicit trade.

For Two Men, Amazon Fight Turned Deadly

By JACK NICAS
ITAIQUÁ RIVER, Brazil — It was 4 a.m., the sun had yet to rise over the Itaiquá River deep in the Amazon, but a team of indigenous men was already busy preparing a breakfast of coffee, fried meat and fish. They worked on the small stove in their patrol boat, where they had lived for the past month, on the hunt for poachers. They were up early this Sunday because a few planned to escort their two guests 90 miles back to town.

The guests, Bruno Pereira, an activist training the indigenous patrols, and Dom Phillips, a British journalist documenting them, had to get back to meet with the federal police. Mr. Pereira was to turn over the patrol's evidence of illegal fishing and busting in this remote corner of the vast forest. It was dangerous work. Mr. Pereira had been threatened for months. A day earlier, Mr. Pereira had seen a poacher armed with a shotgun who weeks earlier had fired a shot over his head. The poacher recognized him. "Good morning," he shouted at Mr. Pereira.

But at breakfast, Mr. Pereira announced that he and Mr. Phillips would not need escorts. Instead, they would move fast and travel alone. They packed their small metal boat, turned on the outboard motor and headed off. They carried plenty of fuel, the evidence — and a gun. Then, they vanished. In the Amazon, such disappearances often go unnoticed. It is a period of growing lawlessness in the world's largest rainforest, and

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Russia Uses 'Stealth Mobilization' to Avoid Draft

By NEIL MAFARQIHAR
Four Russian veterans of the war in Ukraine recently published short videos online to complain about what they called their shabby treatment after returning to their six weeks on the battlefield. One claimed to have been denied a promised payment of nearly \$2,000. Another grumbled that a local hospital declined to remove shrapnel lodged in his body. Their public pleas for help were being, but not the kind they were hoping for. Instead, an aide to

Rimzan Kabayrov, the autocrat who runs Chechnya, berated them at length on television as ingrates and forced them to recant. "I was paid much more than you promised," said Nikolai Lipa, the young Russian who had claimed that he had been cheated. Ordinarily, these sort of complaints might be ignored, but the swift rebuke underscores how Russian officials want to stamp out dissent.

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Democrats Sour on Biden, Citing Age and Economy

Poll Shows Most Want New '24 Candidate as Pessimism Becomes Pervasive

By SHANE GOLDMACHER
President Biden is facing an alarming level of doubt from inside his own party, with 64 percent of Democratic voters saying they would prefer a new standard-bearer in the 2024 presidential campaign, according to a New York Times/Siena College poll, as voters nationwide have soured on his leadership, giving him a meager 33 percent job-approval rating.

Widespread concerns about the economy and inflation have helped turn the national mood decidedly dark, both on Mr. Biden and the trajectory of the nation. More than three-quarters of registered voters see the United States moving in the wrong direction, a pervasive sense of pessimism that spans every corner of the country, every age range and racial group, cities, suburbs and rural areas, as well as both political parties. Only 13 percent of American voters said the nation was on the right track — the lowest point in Times polling since the depths of the financial crisis more than a decade ago.

Mr. Biden, that bleak national outlook has pushed his job approval rating to a perilously low point. Republican opposition is predominantly overwhelming, led more than two-thirds of independents also now disapprove of the president's performance, and nearly half disapprove strongly. Among fellow Democrats his approval rating stands at 70 percent, a relatively low figure for a president.

Ms. Farrier, a Democrat who voted for Mr. Biden in 2020, said she had hoped he might have been able to steer the nation through divisions, but now, as a single mother, she is preoccupied with

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Why the Jan. 6 Panel Hurried A White House Aide's Hearing

By ROBERT DRAPER
WASHINGTON — The day before Cassidy Hutchinson was deposited for a fourth time by the Jan. 6 committee, the former Trump White House aide received a phone message that would dramatically change the plans of the panel and write a new chapter in American politics.

On that day in June, the caller told Ms. Hutchinson, as Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chairwoman, later disclosed: A person let me know you have your deposition tomorrow. He wants me to let you know he's thinking about you. He knows you're loyal. And you're going to do the right thing when you go in for your deposition.

At Ms. Hutchinson's deposition the next day, committee members investigating the attack on the Capitol were so alarmed by what they considered a clear case of witness tampering — not to mention Ms. Hutchinson's shocking account of President Donald J. Trump's behavior on Jan. 6, 2021 — that they decided in a meeting on June 24, a Friday, to hold an emergency public hearing with Ms. Hutchinson as the surprise witness the following Tuesday.

The appeal, close people to the committee said, was for two cu-

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U.S. Spies Said to Back Bid for Hacking Firm

By MARK MAZZETTI and RONEN BERGMAN
A team of executives from an American military contractor quietly visited Israel numerous times in recent months to try to carry out a bold but risky plan: purchasing NSO Group, the cyber-hacking firm that is as notorious as it is technologically accomplished. The impediments were substantial for the team from the American company, LHarris, and NSO Group, the cyber-hacking firm that is as notorious as it is technologically accomplished. The impediments were substantial for the team from the American company, LHarris, and NSO Group, the cyber-hacking firm that is as notorious as it is technologically accomplished.

Pegasus is a "zero-click" hacking tool that can remotely extract everything from a target's mobile phone, including messages, contacts, photos and videos without the target's knowledge.

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

Bannon brings new focus to Jan. 6 role

Possible testimony before House panel could clarify several matters

By ISAAC ANNEBORG, JACQUELINE ALBRYANT, RONALD S. HELDERMAN AND JOSH DAWNEY
Two nights before supporters of President Donald Trump were set to march on the Capitol, Stephen K. Bannon was working to get the head of the Proud Boys out of jail.

The leader of the far-right extremist group, Enrique Tarrio, was arrested by D.C. police that night for burning a church's Black Lives Matter banner during a demonstration the month before. When Bannon took the news, he started making calls to help Tarrio post bail.

"I just got up that night trying to post bail for the 'Red' Bannon said the next morning on his "War Room" podcast. "It's just not acceptable. In an interview with The Washington Post, Bannon said he was later warned off helping the Proud Boys, though he declined to specify who had done so. "They said they were all white jobs so don't get involved," he said. Bannon also denied any direct contact with Proud Boys or Oath Keepers, the other extremist group charged with sedition conspiracy in the planning the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

The death to bail out Tarrio is just one of many episodes involving Jan. 6 that Bannon could clarify if he ends up testifying before the House committee investigating the attack on the Capitol, which will hold a public hearing Tuesday that is expected to focus on extremist groups. Bannon's members see him as a key figure because they think his podcasts contributed to radicalizing some of Trump's supporters and they have evidence showing that Bannon repeatedly talked to Trump and his advisers in the lead-up to Jan. 6. Bannon also stands out, amid the scramble for pardons among lawmakers and Trump advisers working to overturn the election, as the only one who ultimately received clemency after Jan. 6. Though the reprieve was for a fraud case unrelated to Jan. 6, Bannon's support for Trump after the election was a factor in

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As firm steamrolled into France, Macron was a 'true ally'

By RICK NOACK
PARIS — An Uber rushed to expand across Europe, company executives received worrisome news out of southern France. A local official in the port city of Marseille just appeared to have banned the UberX service, threatening the company's plans for the country into turmoil.

MacK McGinn, Uber's top European lobbyist, called for help. He texted Emmanuel Macron, who in the fall of

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Latest omicron offshoot has quickly become dominant in the U.S.

By JOEL ACHENBACH
America has decided the pandemic. The coronavirus has other ideas. The latest omicron offshoot, BA.5, has quickly become dominant in the United States, and thanks to its elusiveness when encountering the human immune system, is driving a wave of new cases across the country.

The size of that wave is unclear, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the past week has reported 162,000 patients nationally with covid as of Friday, according to data compiled by the Washington Post. That figure has been steadily rising since early March, but remains far below the record 162,000 patients



Uber leveraged attacks against its drivers to pressure politicians

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By ALAN WASSERMAN
Uber leveraged attacks against its drivers to pressure politicians

ambition, a trove of documents from inside the corporation show. In the previous year, more than 80 Uber drivers had been physically attacked across Europe, and dozens of their cars destroyed, in clashes with taxi drivers who were fearful of losing their livelihoods as Uber's low fares upended their industry. When protests against the company erupted in Paris, managers began working from a makeshift office and for safety reasons were ordered not to wear Uber-branded clothing in public, the documents show.

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In Japan, ruling party wins after Abe killing

By MICHELLE YU HEE LEE AND JULIA MIO ISHURA
TOKYO — Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, or LDP, and its coalition partners have secured a two-thirds supermajority in the nation's parliament, according to Sunday's election results, a powerful showing that could allow the LDP to carry forward former prime minister Shinzo Abe's big ambitions in the aftermath of his assassination.

The overwhelming victory could usher in at least three years of political stability for Kishida. It would clear the way for him to enact some of the party's most controversial goals, including increasing defense spending and pursuing Abe's long-running desire to amend Japan's pacifist constitution. The party's victory also means that Japan can become a stronger global military power. "When they get ahead of these 'golden decade years' the focus will be on what the Kishida administration will hammer out," said Yuichi Kishida, a political science professor at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The Kishida administration can ease up with policies that appeal to the people, there is a strong possibility that the administration will last long-term.

Djokovic soars above

Tennis star Novak Djokovic defeated Nick Kyrgios in four sets to claim his fourth consecutive Wimbledon title Sunday. It was the 35-year-old's 21st Grand Slam championship.