

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

30 U1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny 85/64 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 87/70 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 • B3

Pentagon will review clandestine operations

White House worries over use of fake online profiles in psychological warfare

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA

The Pentagon has ordered a sweeping audit of how it conducts clandestine information warfare after major social media companies identified and took offline fake accounts suspected of being run by the U.S. military in violation of the platforms' rules.

Colin Kahl, the undersecretary of defense for policy, last week instructed the military commands that engage in psychological operations online to provide a full accounting of their activities by next month after the White House and some federal agencies expressed mounting concerns over the Defense Department's attempted manipulation of audiences overseas, according to several defense and administration officials familiar with the matter.

The takedowns in recent years by Twitter and Facebook of more than 150 bogus personas and media sites created in the United States was disclosed last month by internet researchers Graphika and the Stanford Internet Observatory. While the researchers did not attribute the sham accounts to the U.S. military, two officials familiar with the matter said that U.S. Central Command

SEE PENTAGON ON A9

Judge frees Syed in 1999 murder; new trial possible

BY OMARI DANIELS AND EMILY DAVIES

Adnan Syed, whose murder case captivated the nation after it was featured on the true-crime podcast "Serial," was freed from prison Monday after 23 years, his conviction vacated — at least for now — by a judge who found deficiencies in how prosecutors had turned over evidence to defense attorneys decades ago.



Adnan Syed

Acting on a request from Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, Circuit Judge Melissa Phelan ordered Syed unshackled in the courtroom and sent home while he waits to find out whether prosecutors will seek a new trial or drop their pursuit of him.

Now 42 years old, Syed emerged from the courthouse to a roaring crowd. Dressed in white with a blue tie, he smiled and waved before he was ushered into a car and driven away.

But his continued freedom is not guaranteed.

SEE SYED ON A4



JACK HILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The world pauses to remember

In historic halls and along solemn streets, a seemingly timeless queen is bid a final goodbye

LONDON — Big Ben gonged, one peal from the Great Bell for each of her 96 years on Earth, and the body of Queen Elizabeth II passed for the last time through Westminster Abbey — scene of her 1947 wedding and 1953 coronation — for a state funeral attended by 90 world leaders and hundreds of dignitaries, including emperors and sultans, and Harry and Meghan, too.

London was fully given over to the event, which was invested with all the pomp, circumstance and showmanship that the monarchy, military and state could put on display for a global broadcast audience of millions.

The new king declared Monday a national holiday, and so hundreds of thousands were able to pour into the capital to say goodbye — some tossing flowers onto the hearse, others shouting "God bless the queen!"

This article is by William Booth, Karla Adam, Mary Jordan, Kevin Sullivan and Anthony Fialta.

— in the most complex security challenge the capital has faced since World War II, far bigger than the 2012 Summer Olympics.

By evening, no significant police incidents had been reported.

The quiet, the solemnity, that is what people remarked upon — especially the two minutes of silence that brought the country and a city of 9 million to a full stop.

Even air traffic into Heathrow International Airport was paused. News helicopters were barred during the service.

The day began at dawn, when the last members of the public were shooed from Westminster

SEE FUNERAL ON A14



JAMES FORD/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II is carried into Westminster Abbey for her state funeral. Hundreds of dignitaries were among the guests. ABOVE: King Charles III and other members of the royal family after the service. The queen was laid to rest at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The day, in photos: Moments of pageantry and quiet grief. A12

Monica Hesse: Finding meaning in the farewell to the queen. C1

SEE UKRAINE ON A24

Parts of Ukraine beg to be annexed

APPARENT SIGN OF SEPARATISTS' PANIC

Russia's goals elusive as forces lose more ground

BY DAVID L. STERN

KYIV, UKRAINE — Pro-Russian officials in the two self-declared separatist "republics" in eastern Ukraine pleaded Monday for urgent votes calling on Moscow to immediately annex the territories, a sign of apparent panic that the Kremlin's war in Ukraine is failing.

The appeals from authorities in the Luhansk and Donetsk people's republics came as Ukrainian forces continued to extend their gains of recent days, having already pushed Russian troops out of most of the northeast Kharkiv region.

Access to the front line by journalists is restricted. But there were reports that Ukrainian troops had pushed into the city of Lysychansk in the Luhansk region, and also of fighting around the city of Sloviansk in the Donetsk region — indications that Russia was at imminent risk of losing territory it had previously controlled in the eastern Donbas region.

In a statement published on the website of the Luhansk People's Republic "public chamber," the deputy head of the chamber, Lina Vokalova, called for a public referendum to approve annexation and said the vote would "fulfill our dream of returning home — to the Russian Federation."

A similar message came from the pro-Kremlin puppet authorities in Donetsk.

"It is time to erase the nonexistent border between our countries, as it has long been erased in our hearts, and to conduct a referendum on the question of the DPR becoming part of Russia," the Do-

SEE UKRAINE ON A24



RICARDO ARCE/AGENCY/REUTERS

A man walks through debris after Hurricane Fiona swept through Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, on Monday. The storm knocked out power to over 3 million people when it made landfall on Sunday.

Fiona reveals fragility of Puerto Rico's power grid

Even before latest storm, plan to modernize made little progress since 2017

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW AND ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ

The hurricane winds that knocked out power to the entire island of Puerto Rico over the weekend encountered an electrical grid that experts liken to a house of cards: a fragile, decrepit, patchwork system running on old equipment that has failed to substantially modernize since the U.S. territory's deadliest storm, Hurricane Maria, swept through five years before.

The state-run utility that is responsible for electricity generation is bankrupt, and mediation to restructure its \$9 billion debt to bondholders ended without a deal last week. Luzma Energy, the private consortium that was hired in 2020 to handle transmission, has failed to satisfy critics, as power outages have increased in duration this year even apart from destructive storms, according to a report last month by the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau.

And a major plan to modernize the island's electricity system, funded with billions from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency as a response to Hurricane Maria — which killed about 3,000 people and left some residents out of power for nearly a year — has

SEE FIONA ON A7