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KREMLIN DEPLOYS

FORCES TO BLOCK

EXODUS OF MEN

FLEEING DRAFT ORDERS

Europe Worries Moscow

Is Close to Annexing

Swaths of Ukraine

Nagaurup:

KYIY, Ukraine — The Kremlin has dispatched till more forces to shore up its faltering wer effort, but the units are headed not to Ukraine but to Russiah's borders with other countries, where on Tuesday they were confronting young flussian men trying to jein an exudus so to for the country. As the avenues for Russians to escape a draft order issued last week narrowed, the Federal Sectify Service send to armored whelices.

rity Service sent armored vehicles to the frontiers, where some men waiting to fiee were being served

military call-up papers, the state news media reported. The rush to the borders began

thin hours of President Vlad

flow has gotten only bigger since then. Though the Kremlin dis-

then. Though the Kremlin dis-missed reports that it may soon forbid nearly all military-age men from leaving the country, many Russians were taking no chances. On Tuesday, at the borders of Georgia, Kazakhstan and even Mongolia, their numbers contin-ued to swell, at times raising ten-sions.

In Kazakhstan, responding to calls that the 4,690-mile border with Russia be closed, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev urged "humanity, patience and organi-

the current hopeless situation." With cars lined up for miles at

48 hours. Georgia said it would al

about 10,000 a day, the country's

nds of Russians, and the

Right Ties Up Voting Process With Red Tape

Fraud Theories Driving Challenges to Rolls

By NICK CORASANITI and ALEXANDRA BERZON

Activists driven by faise the ing to toss out tens of thos oter registrations and ballots i battleground states, part of a loosely coordinated campaign that is sowing distrust and threat ening further turmoil as election officials prepare for the Novem ber midterns.

rations across eight coun laiming to have evidence

dents sent in 186 affidavits chal-lenging the eligibility of more than 6,000 voters in Harris County, which is heme to Housers and is the state? largest county. The recent wave of challenges have been filled by right-wing ac-tivists who believe consplacy theories about fraud in the 2020 presidential election. They drain to be using state laws that allow people to question whether a ve-

have long pushed to aggre cull the voter rolls, claiming that inaccurate registrations can lead to voter fraud — although exam-ples of such fraud are exceptionally rare. Voting rights groups say the greater concern is inadverently nurging an eligible voter

The new tactic of flooding of-fices with challenges escalates that debate — and weaponizes the process. Sorting through the piles of petitions is costly and tim ing, increasing the chances overburdened election offiwhile election officials say they they worry about the toll on trust in elections. The challenge erections. The challenge ess, as used by election de-, has become another plat-for spreading doubt about recurity of elections.

niers, has become another plat-form for spreading doubt about the security of elections.
"It's a tractic to distract and un-dermine the electoral process," said Dele Lowman Smith, chair-wessan of the DeKalb County Bound of Elections in Georgia. Her Bound of Elections in Georgia. Her gis that have had to hold special meetings just to address the chal-lenges. The state's new Republi-can-backed election law requires Continued on Page A15

British Leader in Political Peril As Her Policies Rattle Economy

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON - Prime Minister Liz gripped by anxiety, with a new russ of Britain campaigned as a poll showing that the opposition Truss of Britain campaigned as a tax cutter and champion of sup-ply-side economics, and she won Labour Party has taken a 17-per centage point lead over the Torier It's a treacherous place for prime minister in only her third week on the job.

tax cutter and champion of sup-ply-side economics, and she won the race to replace her scandaln-scarred predecessor, Borts John-son. Now she has delivered that free-market agenda, and it may sink her government. Four days after Ms. Truss's tax cuts and deregulatory plans stunned financiel markets and threw the British pound into a tail-spin, the prime minister's political Labour is seizing the mor Labour is seizing the moment to present itself as the party of fiscal responsibility. With some experts predicting the pound could tumble to parity with the dollar, economists and political analysis said the uncertainty over Britain's economic path would continue to hang over the markets and Ms. future looks increasingly precari-ous as well.

Continued on Page A6

mir V. Putin's announcement last week of a draft affecting hundreds

SUSPICIOUS Gas is leaking from the Nord Stream 2, above, and Nord Stream 1 pipelines running to Germany from Russia, Page A10.

Tampa Braces For Hurricane: By MICHAEL D. SHEAR Cuba Is in Dark

This article is by Patricia Mazzei, Charles Ballaro and Elisabeth Parker.

TAMPA. Fla. - With so many Florida's Tampa Bay region was somehow protected from hurri canes. The last one hit more than a century ago, in 1921, inundating much of Tampa and surrounding towns

Since then, eleaming high-rises see shore Acres have crept ragner ind higher, even though many of he properties are barely a foot shove sea level. As Hurricane lan winds its way north after swiping western Cuba.

As Hufricane an bases of the horth after swiping western Cuba, the Tampa Bay region and south-west Florida could now face a level of destruction that many who live along the densely populated coast and its white-sand beaches have never experienced. No mathematical stress hits millions

For Backlogged Border, a Faster Asylum Process

WASHINGTON --- Even before WASHING FON — Even before e pelitical spectacle of a Repub-ian governor flying migrants to iny resort island in Massachu-its, President Biden's top bor-r officials decided there had to a better asylum system in

merica.

Because of new global migra-ion patterns, people are heading oward the southern border of the United States, many fleeing insta-olity, persecution, war, famine nomic distress. The numers are overwhelming; for the first time, the number of arrests of undocumented immigrants along the southwestern border ex-

ceeded two million in one year. Venezuelans, Cubans and

Biden's Goal Is to Trim Years Off the Wait for a Decision

who are lured by America's roaring job market and the fact that Mr. Biden has promised not to sep-arate families, build a wall across arane sammes, ound a want across the border or force asylum seek-ers to wait in squalid camps in Mexico — all policies embraced by former President Donald J.

has vexed presidents and law-

makers from both parties for decades. What do we do with all of these

Congress, a prespect that no one in Washington expects anytime son. But after months of debate in the White House, the Bilden and ministration has begun to address a small silice of the problem: the worfully backlogged process to decide who qualifies for asylum, or protection from persecution in

Mr. Biden has no silver bullet to

overhaul the immigration system

the United States. The goal is to make the system

or protection from persecution, in

terior minister said. The forces of Russia's Federal ney to the K G R, were de ployed at border crossings to en-sure that reservists not leave the

> in a statement.
>
> Tensions were also high on Tuesday in Europe, where some officials were pointing fingers and Moscow after suspicious leaks were discovered in two gas pipeines running to Germany free Russia under the Baltic Sea. Amid concerns about possible sabstage, sweden's national seismic net-Sweden's national setsmic net-work said it detected two large un-dersea explosions on Monday near the locations of the leaks, and three countries were conducting

Europeans also looked on in dismay as Russia moved forward with a political prong of its incur-sion into Ukraine. In four Russiancupied regions of Ukraine, rerendums - if in name only - or whether to abandon Ukraine for a uture with Russia ended Tuesday,

Immigrants last week on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, where they planned to request asylum.

At Rikers, Officials Game Numbers to Keep the Death Toll Down

By JAN RANSOM

After learning that a man held at the Rikers Island jail complex at the Ricers Island jail complex had suffered cardica arrest and alwass on the british of death, Louis A, Molina, the cemmissioner of the New York City Department of Correction, issued a directive to his subordinaste.

Mr. Molina wrote on Thursday in an email obtained by The New Early Release Is Urged York Times, to ensure the man was "off the Department's count." for Ailing Detainees

as having occurred in its custody, issuing no news release and pro-viding no notice to the city's Board "Make sure we do what we can," had been freed, the Correction De- of Correction, a jails oversight

authority to free people from cus-tody on his own, and how much ultimate decision to release Mr Pondexter was not clear. But the

Continued on Page A20

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 - 83

Rematch might be underway already

Biden and Trump appear to be nudging each other into rare second face-off

BY MATT VISER

President Biden was at a Dem-President Biden was at a Democratic reception in Maysland a few weeks ago when his rhetoric turned toward an increasingly frequent topic—"what Trump is adding and the Trumpers are doing." An audience member called out, "Lock him upf" and Biden went on to cits "the new polls showing me beating Trump by at or eight pointe." From the president Donald Trump was at a rally in Pennsylvania when he, too, turned toward a frequent topic: "We're leading Biden ... by record numbers in the polis." He

record numbers in the polls." He record numbers in the point. He said three times, with growing enthusiasm, "So I may just have to do it againt."

The country seems to be bar-reling toward a rematch that few

voters actually want, but that two presidents — one current, one former — cannot stop talk-ing about. Biden and Trump both ing about. Biden and Irump rotal say they are planning to make months, but with a lingering codependency between them, they each appear to be nudging the other into what would be a THE REMATCH ON AN

Electoral count revamp: Senate leaders support legislation. A3

ELECTION 2022

McCarthy's political machine holds sway

BY MICHAEL SCHERER. JOSH DAWNEY,
ISAAC ARNSDORF
AND MARIANNA SOTOMAY

Rep. Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.) made a name for himself (R-NC.) made a name for himself as a firebrand social media phe-nomenon who delighted in troll-ing the left, famously boasting to colleagues that he had built his House office by focusing on com-munications not legislation.

munications not legislation.

But the strategy made him vui-nerable to forces within his own party that helped end his time in office. Top allies of Kevin McCarthy, the House Republican leader, worked this spring to deny Cawthorn a second term in office, after the Donald Trump-endorsed law-maker made controversial com-McCarthy to announce he had "lost my trust," according to muirt, which has not been previ



Myanmar's invisible toll

In year and a half since coup, losses suffered by citizens go well beyond the front line

packed up his family to leave Myanmar, he knew there wasn't much be could bring. The military was looking for him and the journey to the border was going to be long. In a backpack, he stuffed a few sets of clothes, his phone and his reading glasses. Then, carefully, he folded in a Burmese cheroot cigar

sy, he rested in a surmess cheroot cagar and five packets of instant coffee. One recent afternoon, in an empty house along Thailand's western bor-der where he's been sheltering, Kyaw Shwe retrieved the coffee packets. He wanted to explain that his 18-year-old son had given him the coffee and the cigar the day before he disappeared. te wanted to say his name, Bhone Wai Yan Kyaw and talk about what soldiers



Floridians evacuate, hunker down as Ian nears



BY REST THURSDAY SCOTT DANCE AND LOSI ROZSA

TAMPA - Floridians streamed out of low-lying coastal communi-ties, stocked up on sandbags and supplies, and boarded over windows Tuesday as Hurricane Ian barreled toward the state with what Gov. Ron DeSantis called oric storm surge and flood

potential."

The storm is forecast to make landfall along Florida's southwest or west central coast between Wednesday afternoon and night

as a major Category 4 storm.

Although officials in Tampa expressed relief that the hurricane forecast's path had moved south, possibly reducing the risk of cata-strophic flooding in the uniquely SEE EVACUATIONS ON A18

Health care: Hospitals transfer

Russia on cusp of land seizure

PROXIES HAIL 'VALID' ANNEXATION VOTE

After a farcical process, officials cite 95% support

Russian President Vladimi Putin's plan to illegally annex four partially occupied regions in eastern and southern Ukraine lurched forward Tuesday, as Rus-sian officials and Kremlin proxy endums showed that more than 95 percent of voters want to join 95 percent of voters want to join Russia — an absurd level of sup-

port. Defying international condem Western economic sanctions, Pu-tin could declare Russia's absorp-tion of the four regions — Lu-hansk, Donetsk, Kherson and

Zaporizhzhia — as soon as Friday, the British Defense Ministry said. Western leaders, including President Biden, have denounced the staged referendums, which are illegal under Ukrainian and any of the four Ukrainian regions,

SEE UNBAINE ON AS

Gas pipeline: European leaders blame Russia for explosions. A9

What is chess's next move if trust is taken off the board?

BY SALLY JENKINS

Don't kid yourself: Thinking is hard. You can see this in grand-master chess players, whose rates champion Magnus Carlses is his lethal stillness, a sunreme is nis setnal stillness, a supreme-ly thoughtful chill under pres-sure, which makes his recent be-havior more startling. Basically, what Carlsen has done to ches what carises in as come to chess is the equivalent of upending the board and scattering the pieces. Carlsen never gets upset — so he must be pretty upset. What's upset him is the possi-

bility that Hans Niemann, a 19 year-old American, may have in filtrated the undefended world of table chess to beat him with a machine. Unless he's just upset that Niemann beat him. Carlsthat Niemann beat him. Carls-en's explicit accusation Monday that Niemann cheated in a match by relying on artificial in-telligence to help select his next

moves — an allegation Niemann denies — has plunged chess into smirky speculations of devices smirky speculations or our sur-