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Russians

country

mobilize to flee the

Putin's call-up sends men dashing for border.

and leaving much behind

BY KAREEM FARIM.

fight in Ukraine, the 42-year-old Russian construction worker flew through two countries in four

days, spending so much on tick-ets, so quickly, that he lost track of it all. Finally, he ended up in Turkey, where it was safe. As he stopped to breathe Tuesday, on

where to go next.

But maybe it didn't matter.

The main task is to save your

life," he said, as he picked at

peanuts from a plastic dish. The walanche of men fleeing Russi "don't know what to do next," he

nouncement last week of a "par-tial" military mobilization of Rus-sian reservists for his war in Ukraine set off a fremried dash for

the country's borders by tens o

thousands of men affected by the

order — but also many who sim-ply assumed that their govern-ment, desperate for troops, would conscript any man who could

carry a gun.

The mobilization is a risky and

unpopular decision, bringing home the grim reality of the war

to many Russians who were pre-

tic seats in the airport arrival plastic seats in the had no idea hall, he conceded he had no idea

This article is by Patricia Mazzei. ren Sweeney, Nicholas Bagel-roughs and Frances Robles.

TAMPA, Fla. - Hurricane Ian outhwestern Florida on Wednes lay as one of the most powerful ringing fierce winds, unrelenting ains and drastic inundations to

our, at approximately 3:05 p.m. But a huge stretch of coastlin rely affected by lapping in waves that drowned

arrings about its possible e-cits, with officials learing wide-sread inland flooding — as much i two feet in some areas — and one storm surge along Florida's ilentic Court on Thurwhov when the peninsula. It is forecast we offshore around Daytona ach by Thursday evening, be-

fore landfall. More than 1.3 million y in the state by late afternoon

fore turning north toward Georgia and South Carolina. Ian will go down in history as one of the worst storms to hit the one of the worst storms to hif the state, Gov, Non DeSentis said, af-ter the Labor Day Hurricane in 1935, Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and Hurricane Michael in 2018. It will "rank as one of the top live hurricanes to ever hit the Florida peninsula," he said.

Gulf Harbor neighborhood of Fort The authorities linked at least der hut decided to stay

Lilya Cattani, 40, rode out the

"Propaganda show": Kylv and E.U. decry Russia's staged votes. A10 Pipeline leaks: European leaders

'Ferocious' hurricane wallops Florida



The Washington Post

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: Wind gusts blow across the John Ringling Causeway on Wednesday in Sarasota, Fla. Brian Reschke and Susan Fassy walk on Bayshore Boulevard in Tampa. The Category 4 storm made U.S. landfall packing peak winds of 150 mph.



looking up at the sky in the

BY NITASHA TIKU

DALL-E in April, the AI has daz-zled the public, attracting digital artists, graphic designers, early

adopters, and anyone in search of online distraction. The ability to

Since the research lab OpenAl



Fuel watver: Ship will be allowed

POUND COASTLINE

Storm knocks out power for more than 2 million

TAMPA — One of the strongest hurricanes over to strike the Unit-ed States slammed into southwest Florida on Wednesday afternoon

with Category 4-level winds, inun

dating coastal communities and

threatening to besiege the entire peninsula with devastating gusts and flooding as the storm slowly swirled east.

rwirled east.
Packing peak winds of 150 mph,
turricane Ian made landfall just
after 3 p.m. near the barrier island
of Cayo Costa, west of Cape Coral
and Fort Myers, hours after a se-

vere storm surge began turning roads into rivers. After rapidly in

reast into rivers. After rapidly in-tensifying overnight Tuesday, Ian tied for the fifth-strongest hurri-cane to hit the United States, and Gov. Ron DeSantis said he had

asked President Biden to free up

The hurricane was 'a ferociou

storm coming in, very hazardous, very ominous," DeSantis (R) said Wednesday evening. He warned:

"Once the storm goes, once there's apparent calm, there are still pleo-ty of hazards out there."

damage to life and property re-mained unclear Wednesday eve-

communities from carrying out res-cues and several jurisdictions im-

posed curiews. Post-storm danger

67 Florida counties.

Flooding in Fort Myers, Fla., on Wednesday from Hurricane Ian, the most powerful storm to strike the region in nearly two decades

Moscow's Proxies Issue Appeal For Annexing Ukraine Regions

This criticle is by Andrew E. Kro-ner, Marc Santora and Eric Adding a Formal Veneer

Nagoursey.

KYIV, Ukraine — In a display of pageantry intended to give Moscow's land grab a veneer of legitimacy, Russian proxy officials in occupied areas of Ukraine appealed to President Vladimir V. Putin on Wednesday to annex the

The annexation requests had an air of order and formality at odds with the chaos Russia's leaders are facing both on the battlefield, where they continue to suffer losses, and at home, where tens of

e country to avoid a military

By KATRIN BENNHOLD and DAVID E. SANGER

to Sham Referendums to no one's surprise, purported to put voters' stamp of approval on joining Russia. Many of the ballots were cast at the point of a gun, wit-

"When they first came to our brown, they bear me up and took both of my cars," the man, Pavlo, add of Russian soldiers. "And on soldiers when they threatened that if I don't vote they will evict me and my family rais's invasion of Utraine. New York of the work of the wo

Paylo - who insisted that his sur-

Burst Pipelines Seen as Attack, But the Mystery Is Who Did It

and DAVID E. SANGER

BERLIN — Two days after a
pair of explosions under the Baltic
Sea apparently reptured gaint
natural gas pipelines from Russia
to Germany, the consensus bridend on Wednesday that it had
been an act of sabotage, as it he dupean governments labeled in an attack and demanded an investigation.

Experts said it could take a possible attack on the lines heightened already intense fears of painful energy shortages in Eu-rope over the winter.

Repairs in Baltic Sea Could Take Months

"All available information indi-cates those leaks are the result of cates those leaks are the result of a deliberate act," the Europulous Union's foreign policy chief, Josep borrell Fontelles, said in a state-ment on Wednesday. "We will sup-port any investigation aimed at getting bill clarity on what hap-peade and why."

Jake Sollivan, President Bi-den's national security adviser, called the ensioned "annevent sub-

called the episode "apparent sabo

But with little evidence to go or plosive gas pouring from the brosuffered a direct hit. But while the former was a compact, fast-mov-ing storm that inflicted destrusheer size that it dwarfed Charley In Lee County: which is home to

a sense that our community has



storm with her husband and their two toddlers in South Fort Myers,

Math Scores in New York City Reflect Pandemic's Disruption

the first sign of how New ared during the pandemic, test core data released Wednesda ed sharp declines in math

argest school system.

The results of the state's standindiced exams highlighted the unwen effects of the past two and a alf years on learning. Less than 8 percent of third through eighth praders demonstrated proficien-46 percent of students before the vere given to most of the city's choolchildren.

points compared with students in

a referendum on a young democracy

In Brazil.

SÃO PAULO, ERAZII - He's sewed doubt about electronic voting ma-chines, undermined election offi-cials and dubbed his main challenger a corrupt "thief." An un-abashed fan of the former military dictatorship, he has prodded his adoring base to "go to war" if the election here Sunday is "stolen."

In the process, Brazilian Presi-dent Jair Bolsonaro, trailing in the polls for reelection to a second term, has raised fears of the old ghost that still haunts Latin America: a coup. Or, perhaps, a Brazilian take on the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"There's a new type of thief, the ones who want to steal our liber

will go to war."
Thirty-seven years after Latin America's largest nation threw off the military dictatorship, the presidential election is shaping

tional Photoshop, has startled even jaded internet users with

how quickly AI has progressed. OpenAI removed its waitlist for DALL-E, giving anyone immedi-

Al opens new frontiers in disinformation

Creating photorealistic images is now as easy as typing a few words

had each been developing similar systems but said their models systems but had their models weren't ready for the public, Rival start-ups soon went public, in-cluding Stable Diffusion and Midjourney, which created the image that sparked controversy in August when it won an art compe-tition at the Colorado State Fair.

PERSPECTIVE

A duet with history: Lizzo and lames Madison's flute

BY THERESA VARGAS

In a city where history usually shows up in its faded and patina forms, Tuesday night saw it

Wearing a sparkling bodysuit, Lizzo stood onstage during her concert at Capital One Arena and blew into a crystal flute that belonged to James Madison. Yes, that James Madison. The James fourth president and is consid-ered the "Father of the Constitu-

"History is freaking cool, you guyst" the singer shouted as t crowd screamed and clapped and sent social media posts

ing glory, marked an unexpecte ion of the past and pre

But a day before that public ormance came some private sents at the Library of Congress that proved powerful for those who witnessed them and led to that flute ending up in the singer's hands at the concert. On a day when the library was closed to the public, Lizzo spent Library of Congress this week before her concert at D.C.'s an afternoon exploring its flute

Lizzo holds a crystal flute at the

collection and trying out several of the historic instruments. No media organizations were allowed to join the tour, but people who were there described the day as bringing excitement, history lessons and some impressive flute playing.

"She is amazingly talented," said Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford



and intervened forcefully on Vednesday to relieve days of market turmoil after the new govern ment's fiscal plans sent bor ment's iscar paint sent corrowing costs soaring and the British pound sinking to record lows. In an extraordinary interven-tion, the bank said it would under-take large-scale purchases of British government bonds in the oming weeks. In addition to

whose weakening has added to the nation's inflation worries.

Wall Street registered their rst gain in more than a week.

Kong's self-appointed title, after ing with Covid-19: scrapping a

Over the Wall, and Into History With his 61st home run, Aaron Judge tied Roger Maris's 1961 single-season A.L. record. Page B6.

Hong Kong Plans Rebound, but It Won't Be Easy By ALEXANDRA STEVENSON Pandemic and Politics

HONG KONG - Luxury store-Have Changed City fronts have been replaced by pop-up shops selling masks. Whole ors of skyscrapers are deserted. Streets once crammed with lo-cals and visitors jostling for space rules. The city now wants to re-

ines that gave it its reputat claim that cosmopolitan status by

that at one point required 21 days in a designated hotel, and easing

Continued on Page A12

vere proficient in reading, for ex-

The results, which come after



Students on the first day of

families, fared worse as education was disrupted.

The results add pressure to

Continued on Page A21