VOL. CLXXI No. 59,355

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

Today, cloudy, near-record warmth, windy, rain late, high 69. **Tonight,** intervals of rain, breezy, low 41. **To**morrow, cooler, sunshine, high 49. Weather map appears on page D8.

Black Sea Line

Is Tenuous

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ MYKOLAIV, Ukraine - The remains of a Russian Tigr fighting vehicle sat smoldering on the side of the road, as Ukrainian troops lounged outside their trenches smoking cigarettes. Nearby, a group of local villagers was tinkering with a captured T-90 tank, trying to get it running again so that the Ukrainian Army might put it

For three days, Russian forces had fought to take Mykolaiv, but by Sunday, Ukrainian troops had driven them back from the city limits and retaken the airport. halting the Russian advance along the Black Sea, at least tem-

"Few expected such strength from our people because, when

and when you only have one dry ration because the rest burned up, when it's negative temperature out and there is nothing to warm

in the fight, believe me, it is physically very difficult," an exhausted Col. Sviatoslav Stetsenko, of the Ukrainian Army's 59th Brigade, said in an interview. "But our peo-

Taking Mykolaiv remains a key objective for Russian forces, and the thwomp of artillery in the distance on Sunday suggested that the Ukrainians had not pushed them back that far. But the unexpected Ukrainian success of defending this critical port, about 65 miles from Odessa, underscores two emerging trends in the war. Russia's failure to seize Mykolaiv and other cities quickly, as

President Vladimir V. Putin of

Russia appears to have intended, is largely a function of its military's faltering performance. Rus-

sian forces have suffered from logistical snafus, baffling tactical

ian forces, who are significantly

outgunned, that has largely

stalled the Russian advance and,

for now, prevented Mykolaiv from

For three days, troops from the Ukrainian Army's 59th Brigade,

together with other military and

territorial defense units, have

been defending Mykolaiv from

Russian attack along several

fronts, facing down punishing ar-

tillery barrages, helicopter at-

tacks and rocket strikes, some of

which have hit civilian neighbor-

Civilians elsewhere in Ukraine

on Sunday bore the brunt of an un-

relenting Russian assault. For the

second day in a row, Ukrainians

Continued on Page A5

falling into Russian hands.

decisions and low morale. But it is the fierce and, according to many analysts, unexpectedly capable defense by Ukrain-

ple endured this."

porarily.

OUTGUNNED UKRAINE FENDS OFF ATTACKS



Weapons Flow From the West In a Vast Airlift

This article is by David E. Sanger, Eric Schmitt, Helene Cooper, Julian E. Barnes and Kenneth P. Vogel.

On a snowy tarmac at Amari Air Base in northern Estonia on Sunday morning, pallets of rifles, ammunition and other weapons were being loaded onto one of the largest cargo planes in the world, an Antonov AN-124, belonging to the Ukrainian air force. It is an artifact of the Cold War, built and purchased when Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union.

Now it is being turned back against the Russian invasion of Ukraine, part of a vast airlift that American and European officials describe as a desperate race against time, to get tons of arms into the hands of Ukrainian forces while their supply routes are still open. Scenes like this, reminiscent of the Berlin airlift - the famed race by the Western allies to keep West Berlin supplied with essentials in 1948 and 1949 as the Soviet Union sought to choke it off - are playing out across Europe.

In less than a week, the United States and NATO have pushed more than 17,000 antitank weapons, including Javelin missiles, over the borders of Poland and Romania, unloading them from giant military cargo planes so they can make the trip by land to Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, and other major cities. So far, Russian forces have been so preoccupied in other parts of the country that they have not targeted the arms supply

lines, but few think that can last. But those are only the most visible contributions. Hidden away on bases around Eastern Europe, forces from United States Cyber Command known as "cybermission teams" are in place to interfere with Russia's digital attacks and communications - but measuring their success rate is diffi-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

decree, only men can play.

Muting a Powerful Sound

In Burundi, the drum is a revered sym-

bol of culture and unity. But after a 2017

As Shell Falls, Family's Dash To Safety Ends

and ANDREW E. KRAMER

IRPIN, Ukraine — The bridge was just a skeleton of its old self, blown up days earlier by Ukrainian soldiers intent on slowing the Russian advance on the capital, Kyiv, but battered as it was, it offered a lifeline to civilians desperate to flee the fighting.

The Russian mortar hit just as they made it across into Kyiv.

into the morning air. When it settled, Ukrainians could be seen running madly from the scene. But not the family. A mother and her two children lay still on the roadway, along with a family

Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, has repeatedly denied that his forces are targeting civilians fleeing battle zones. He did so again on Sunday, a day after a railroad track used to evacuate Ukrainians came under fire.

troops were near the bridge when mortar shells began raining down. The soldiers there were not enrefugees carry their children and luggage toward the capital.

bitterly. "But these are civilians,

The attack at the bridge was witnessed by a New York Times team, including the photojournalist Lynsey Addario, a security adviser and Andriy Dubchak, a free-

By LYNSEY ADDARIO

On Sunday, as Ukrainian refugees were milling near the entrance to the structure, calculating their odds of making it safely over the Irpin River, a family laden with backpacks and a blue roller suitcase decided to chance

A cloud of concrete dust lofted

But only a handful of Ukrainian gaged in combat but in helping

"The military is the military and that is one thing," one soldier said people who waited until the last

Continued on Page A5

Above, Ukrainian soldiers rushed to aid a family hit by Russian mortar fire on Sunday in the village of Irpen, but there was little to be done. Below, a Ukrainian soldier ran to check on the family.



Talking to Relatives in Russia, Ukrainians Hear, 'What War?'

By VALERIE HOPKINS

LVIV, Ukraine — Four days after Russia began dropping artillery shells on Kyiv, Misha Katsiurin, a Ukrainian restaurateur, was wondering why his father, a church custodian living in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod, hadn't called to check on him.

"There is a war, I'm his son, and he iust doesn't call," Mr. Katsiurin, who is 33, said in an interview. So, Mr. Katsiurin picked up the phone and let his father know that Ukraine was under attack by Rus-"I'm trying to evacuate my chil-

dren and my wife — everything is extremely scary," Mr. Katsiurin told him.

He did not get the response he expected. His father, Andrei, didn't believe him.

"No, no, no, no stop," Mr. Katsiurin said of his father's initial re-

'He started to tell me how the things in my country are going," said Mr. Katsiurin, who converted his restaurants into volunteer centers and is temporarily staying near Ternopil, a city in western Ukraine. "He started to yell at me and told me: 'Look, everything is going like this. They are Nazis."

As Ukrainians deal with the devastation of the Russian attacks in their homeland, many are also encountering a confounding and almost surreal backlash from familv members in Russia, who refuse to believe that Russian soldiers could bomb innocent people, or

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The payments platform is a popular target of scammers. But banks have been loath to make fraud victims whole, despite owning the system. PAGE B1

The Business With Russia

Of E.U. countries, Germany has by far the most business ties with Russia, and for many, those ties have become personal. Now come hard choices. PAGE B1

More Internet Options, Maybe Women's Marches in Pakistan

What began in 2018 as a single rally has become an annual event in multiple PAGE A10 cities. Opposition is rising.

BUSINESS B1-5

Little Recourse for Zelle Fraud

Americans pay more for worse internet

service. But fresh congressional funding and advances in technology may finally bring change. PAGE B5



Painful Goodbyes at the Border

As Men Stay to Fight Russians

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN and MONIKA PRONCZUK

Dukhota has been married to her

husband for 26 years. She met him

when they were young, as he was

riding his bike through her neigh-

borhood in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

windswept morning, with thou-

sands of people rushing around

them, the couple stood at the

Ukraine-Poland border, lips quiv-

ering. After all these years, it was

will see each other soon," Ms.

know when or even if she will ever

Dukhota said, her eyes pooling.

"I told him 'I love you' and 'We

Now, she says, she does not

As the Russian Army bears

down on Ukraine from the north,

south and east, a mass migration

time to say goodbye.

see him again.

But a few days ago, on a gray,

MEDYKA, Poland — Iryna of millions of civilians is gathering

like a storm over the plains.

But the international border

gates are a painful filter, splitting

families apart. The Ukrainian gov-

ernment has mandated that men

aged 18 to 60 are not allowed to

leave the country, so the crowds

pouring into Poland, Hungary and

other neighboring nations are

eerily devoid of men. It is almost

exclusively women and young

children who pass through the

checkpoints after heartbreaking

goodbyes. The Ukrainian men,

whether they want to or not, turn

Some Ukrainian women re-

ferred to the separations as "a lit-

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back to fight.

NATIONAL A11-14

Convoy Encircles Washington Truckers protesting Covid mandates

slowed traffic on the Beltway for hours before fading in the afternoon. PAGE A14

Seeking Safety From Attacks

Younger Asian Americans in New York are less likely than their elders to back traditional policing solutions. PAGE A11

ARTS C1-8

Not Her First 'Mockingbird'

Six decades after she played the little girl Scout in the film version of Harper Lee's novel, Mary Badham takes on the role of a mean, racist neighbor in the play's national tour.

Satisfyingly Creepy Viewing

Netflix's "Archive 81," Epix's "From" and Starz's "Shining Vale" all offer clever variations on a horror genre that is a perfect fit for our stir-crazy age, Mike Hale reports. PAGE C3

OPINION A16-17

Boris Johnson PAGE A16



SPORTS D1-7

One Last Night at Home

Mike Krzyzewski walked Cameron Indoor Stadium's sideline for the last time on Saturday, and a coaching legacy at Duke was celebrated.

