

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The first face-to-face talks in two weeks between Russia and Ukraine have begun in Turkey. The talks Tuesday raised flickering hopes there could be progress toward ending a war that has ground into a bloody campaign of attrition. Ahead of the meeting in Istanbul, the Ukrainian president said his country is prepared to declare its neutrality and is open to compromise over the contested eastern region of Donbas. Those comments might lend momentum to negotiations. But he warned that the “ruthless war” continued. Even as the negotiators assembled, Russian forces hit an oil depot in western Ukraine and a government building in the south.

BERLIN (AP) — The head of the International Renewable Energy Agency says “radical action” is needed to shift away from fossil fuels and ensure global warming doesn’t pass dangerous thresholds. A 348-page report published by the agency Tuesday concludes that investments of \$5.7 trillion in renewable energy are needed globally each year until 2030 to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord. Currently those emissions are going up, not down. IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera says the energy transition is “far from being on track.” His intergovernmental organization based in Abu Dhabi suggests that investments of \$700 billion should be diverted away from the fossil fuel sector annually to avoid creating wells, pipelines and power plants that can’t be used anymore.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol has voted unanimously to hold two men who served as advisers to then-President Donald Trump in contempt of Congress. Trade adviser Peter Navarro and communications aide Dan Scavino have refused for months to comply with subpoenas. Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee’s Democratic chairman, said before the vote Monday that “They’re not fooling anybody.” The resolution now goes to the House, where the Democratic majority is likely to pass it. Approval there would then send the charges to the Justice Department, which has the final say on prosecution.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee is pushing Ketanji Brown Jackson closer to confirmation, setting up a vote next week to recommend her nomination to the full Senate and seat her as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court. Jackson appears to be on a glidepath to confirmation by mid-April, even if she doesn’t receive the bipartisan votes that President Joe Biden has sought. Democrats can confirm her without one Republican vote in the 50-50 Senate, as long as every Democrat supports her and with Vice President Kamala Harris’s tie-breaking vote. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin set the committee vote for April 4.

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has walked into Westminster Abbey through a side door to make good on her wish to attend a memorial service for her beloved husband Prince Philip. The monarch entered the church Tuesday on the arm of her second son Prince Andrew. She then separated from him to walk to her seat alone. That eased concerns about her health that had raised questions about whether she would attend. The 95-year-old monarch was deeply involved in planning the event. But unspecified mobility issues prevented her from attending the Commonwealth Day service earlier this month.

ISLAMABAD (AP) — An airport official says Afghan women unaccompanied by a male guardian have been allowed to board aircraft in the capital Kabul since Saturday. That's despite a Taliban order banning them from flying. There has been no official reversal of the order by the hard-liners in the Taliban leadership, who have been crafting increasingly repressive edicts. A senior airport official told The Associated Press on Tuesday that it is business as usual for women traveling alone, a sign that at least some of the orders coming from a conflicted Taliban leadership are being ignored.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Job openings stayed at a near-record level in February, little changed from the previous month, continuing a trend that Federal Reserve officials see as a driver of inflation. The Labor Department said Tuesday that there were 11.3 million available jobs last month, matching January's figure and just below December's record of 11.4 million.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli officials say at least four people have been killed by a gunman who opened fire in a crowded city in central Israel. The shooter was killed by police at the scene. It is the second mass shooting rampage in Israel this week. While circumstances of Tuesday's shooting were not immediately clear, it appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks by Arab assailants ahead of the volatile Ramadan holy month. Israeli media say the attacker was a Palestinian from the West Bank. The previous two attacks, carried out by Arab citizens of Israel inspired by the Islamic State extremists group, have raised concerns of further violence.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The U.S. Border Patrol chief says about 7,000 migrants are being stopped crossing the border daily from Mexico. It marks a sharp increase from February and comes as the Biden administration nears a decision on whether to end sweeping asylum restrictions designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Chief Raul Ortiz said 1,500 Cubans were stopped the previous day, which is well more than double the daily average from the Caribbean nation who came in February. Migrants have been expelled from the U.S. more than 1.7 million under COVID-related asylum restrictions since March 2020 and set to expire this week.

EAU CLAIRE Wis. (WLAX/WEUX) – A program that centers on kids and bicycles is gearing up for another summer of fun in the Chippewa Valley. 906 Adventure Team is a bike-riding summer youth program with a chapter in Eau Claire. Tiffany Tibbitts says the program helps build character while getting kids outside. “We’re building skills like respect, consistency, effort, and grit while they’re on the bike. So, we use that bike as a tool to get them out and get them in nature where they can practice those skills,” said Tibbitts. Tibbitts says registration for kids opens May 7th. The program runs from June 14th through August 25th. Tibbitts says the number of available slots depends on how many volunteers sign up and complete background checks and training.

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — A judge has delayed the trial for a man accused of firing off a “warning shot” on the night two people were killed in Wisconsin during protests over the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Jury selection was set to start in Kenosha Monday in the case of 37-year-old Joshua Ziminski. He's charged with arson, obstructing an officer and disorderly conduct with a deadly weapon. Trial was rescheduled for June 21 because defense attorney Michael Barth is tied up in another case. Ziminski, of Caledonia, is accused of participating in protests and riots on the night of Aug. 25, 2020. That's when Kyle Rittenhouse of Antioch, Illinois, shot and killed two people and wounded another. A jury found Rittenhouse not guilty on all counts.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Attorneys for a man accused of driving his SUV through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee are looking to push a trial date into 2023. Prosecutors allege Darrell Brooks drove through the parade in downtown Waukesha on Nov. 21, killing six people and injuring dozens more. Judge Jennifer Dorow had scheduled Brooks' trial to begin Oct. 3. But defense attorneys told her Tuesday that they can't be ready by then given the volume of evidence they need to review. Dorow gave them until Friday to file a motion to delay the trial and scheduled a hearing for Monday. She said she may rule on a defense motion for a change of venue then as well.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Hillary Clinton has landed a role in an upcoming stage production in her home state of Arkansas. But the backstage crew for Stephen Sondheim won't necessarily have to “make her up” for the show. That's because the role she's landed is an offstage one. She will play Giant in the play, which is about the vengeful widow of the giant that Jack killed after climbing the beanstalk. Clinton herself didn't pass up a chance to mock one of the catch phrases ex-President Donald Trump and his followers chanted at 2016 campaign events. In a tweet, Clinton calls a post about her role in the play “real news” — not “fake” — as she invited people to watch.

PHOENIX (AP) — Corbin Burnes showed his 2021 Cy Young Award-winning stuff to the San Francisco Giants on Monday. The Milwaukee Brewers ace allowed one hit — a double to leadoff man LaMonte Wade Jr. — and then stopped the Giants in a five-inning, eight-strikeout performance. He hasn't been named the opening day starter yet by manager Craig Counsell, but the fourth-year veteran is lined up to pitch one more Cactus League game and could get the ball for the Brewers' opener April 7 against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin running back Chez Mellusi says he has reached out to former Clemson teammate and current Green Bay Packers wide receiver Amari Rodgers for advice on recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Rodgers tore the ACL in his right knee in March 2019 but was playing for Clemson less than six months after undergoing surgery. Mellusi is hoping to be ready for the start of the 2022 season after tearing his left ACL last November. Mellusi played for Clemson from 2019-20. He rushed for 815 yards in nine games with the Badgers last year before getting hurt Nov. 6.

Today

Mostly sunny, with a high near 23. East wind 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight

Mostly clear, with a low around 8. East wind 15 to 20 mph.

Tomorrow

Sunny, with a high near 24. East wind around 20 mph.

Tomorrow Night

Partly cloudy, with a low around 12. East wind 10 to 15 mph.

Commercial: Piala's Nursery and Garden Shop

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