

Ukraine Is Set To Face Troops From N. Korea

10,000 Soldiers to Aid Russia in Kursk Fight

By CONSTANT MÉHEUT  
KYIV, Ukraine — The United States warned on Monday that North Korean soldiers were moving toward Russia's western Kursk region, which Ukraine invaded in August, as Ukrainian forces braced for what they said could be imminent assaults involving the new troops.  
The Pentagon said North Korea had now sent about 10,000 soldiers to train in eastern Russia, with many moving toward the battlefield in the Kursk region. The NATO secretary general, Mark Rutte, on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops had been deployed in Kursk, saying it represented “a dangerous expansion” of the war.

Ukrainian and American officials said last week that several thousand North Korean troops had already arrived in the Kursk area. Military experts say that is too small a number to affect the overall situation on the broader battlefield, where both sides have deployed hundreds of thousands of soldiers, but potentially enough to help Moscow reclaim its territory in the Kursk region.

“As their numbers grow, I expect their impact to be seen by the progress of a steady Russian counterattack,” said John Foreman, a former British defense attaché in Moscow and Kyiv.

A Ukrainian official said Monday that the North Korean soldiers had been deployed to camps and were living in temporary barracks between 25 to 40 miles from the Ukrainian border. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal military information, said the North Koreans had not yet joined the fighting.

It is unclear how exactly North Korean troops will support Russia's counterattack in the Kursk region. Analysts say the soldiers could be used in direct attacks or to guard areas behind the combat zone, thus freeing up Russian troops for assaults, but their effectiveness in battle is untested and could be hampered by coordination issues with the Russians.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said on Friday the North Korean troops were expected to enter combat operations early this week. Two Ukrainian soldiers fighting in the Kursk area said they had been warned by their commanders that an assault could be imminent.

“They have warned us about an attack in the near future,” Lt. Col. Artem Kholodkevych, the deputy commander of Ukraine's 61st Mechanized Brigade, said on Saturday by text message. “Probably in the next few days.”

The Ukrainian Army has also issued a Ukrainian-Korean phrase

Continued on Page A11



ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Danielle and Nathan Clark in their son Aiden's room holding his baby blanket, which he used his whole life. It still smells of him.

The Pain of a Son's Death, Worsened by Politics

By ELI SASLOW

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — A sheriff's deputy arrived at Nathan and Danielle Clark's front door on the outskirts of Springfield last month with the latest memento of what their son's death had become. “I'm sorry that I have to show you this,” she said and handed them a flier with a picture of Aiden, 11, smiling at the camera after his last baseball game. It was the same image the Clarks had chosen for his funeral program and then made into Christmas ornaments for his classmates, but this time, the photograph was printed alongside threats and ra-

A Springfield Family's Anguish Is Met With Hate and Threats

cial slurs.

“Killed by a Haitian invader,” the flier read. “They didn't care about Aiden. They don't care about you. They are pieces of human trash that deserve not your sympathy, but utter scorn. Give it to them . . . and then some.”

Nathan reached into his pocket and squeezed a piece of Aiden's old blanket that he kept with him to help stave off panic attacks.

Danielle buried her head into Nathan's shoulder and folded the flier into tiny squares.

“They have no right to speak for him like this,” Danielle said. “It's making me sick. There must be some way to stop it.”

“We're checking the fliers for fingerprints,” the deputy said. “They put them online and dropped them off all over the neighborhood. It's awful. It's grotesque.”

“Once upon a time, it would have surprised me,” Nathan said. “But nothing's off limits anymore. We keep hitting new lows.”

This was the version of the country the Clarks and their two

Continued on Page A18

At the Garden, A Vivid Display Of MAGA Fury

This article is by Shane Goldmacher, Maggie Haberman and Michael Gold.

Donald J. Trump's closing rally at Madison Square Garden on the second to last Sunday before the election was a release of rage at a political and legal system that impeached, indicted and convicted him, a vivid and at times racist display of the dark energy animating the MAGA movement.

A comic kicked off the rally by dismissing Puerto Rico as a “floating island of garbage,” then mocked Hispanics as failing to use birth control, Jews as cheap and Palestinians as rock-throwers, and called out a Black man in the audience with a reference to watermelon.

Another speaker likened Vice President Kamala Harris to a prostitute with “pimp handlers.” A third called her “the Antichrist.” And the former Fox News host Tucker Carlson mocked Ms. Harris — the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father — with a made-up ethnicity, saying she was vying to become “the first Samoan-Malaysian, low IQ former California prosecutor ever to be elected president.”

By the time the former president himself took the stage, an event billed as delivering the closing message of his campaign, with nine days left in a tossup race, had instead become a carnival of

Continued on Page A22

Gaza in Ruins After a Year of War

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of people, and destroyed countless buildings. Images from before and after the start of the war, like these of the Grand Mosque in Khan Younis's Citadel Square, show the magnitude of ruin. Page A5.

BEFORE



AFTER



LEFT: MAMDOUH ALJIBOUR, VIA FACEBOOK; RIGHT: BILAL SHBAIR

Sneakier Than Fire, Chemicals Kill Brazil's Trees

By JACK NICAS and FLÁVIA MILHORANCE

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's satellites did not detect anything alarming. Yet down on the ground, the trees were dying.

Slowly but surely, a stretch of protected forest the size of New York City was drying out. Leaves were falling off the trees, and, as the sun spilled through the disintegrating canopy, pastures of grass were sprouting below.

It was all intentional.

When Brazilian authorities responded to anonymous complaints about the destruction last year, they found troves of empty herbicide containers. Cattle roamed on some of the newly grown pastures.



An image from drone footage of chemically damaged forest.

The land was owned by Claudecy Oliveira Lemes, a rancher who has supplied some of the world's biggest meatpackers, including JBS, a Brazilian beef giant that exports to the United

States.

Mr. Lemes is now also a defendant, charged this month with committing one of the single biggest acts of illegal deforestation in Brazil. The authorities are seeking nearly \$1 billion in compensation. Mr. Lemes has denied any wrongdoing.

What separates Mr. Lemes from the thousands of other loggers and ranchers who have razed stretches of the Amazon and other forests across Brazil is that he employed what the authorities say is a dangerous new technique: chemical deforestation.

In other words, he used chemicals, instead of chain saws, to clear the forest.

As governments try to advance their fight against deforestation,

Continued on Page A12

Village So Spooky, Even Skeptics Get the Jitters

By STEPHEN CASTLE

PLUCKLEY, England — Whether or not you believe in the phantom coach and horses, the screaming man, the “watercress lady” engulfed in flames or the

legend of the highwayman killed at “fright corner,” it's hard to ignore ghost stories in Pluckley, England.

In this quaint, ancient settlement of around 1,000 souls, 50 miles southeast of London, at least a dozen otherworldly spirits are said to occupy St. Nicholas Church, its graveyard, Pluckley's pubs and other buildings. If that's not enough, the “screaming woods” — supposedly the



ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A black cat at Elvey Farm, a small inn in Pluckley, England.

source of terrifying nocturnal shrieks — are nearby.

A small industry has blossomed around the supernatural, but some in the village wish the ghost hunters who descend on

Pluckley in large numbers around Halloween would find other haunts.

“We've had 2,000 people arriving in the village — there would be hundreds on every corner where there is supposed to be a ghost, and they would trash the churchyard, light fires,” said James Buss, owner of the Dering Arms, one of Pluckley's pubs (haunted, of course).

When a train arrives on Halloween at the nearby rail station, Mr. Buss will sometimes turn off the lights, lock the doors and pretend the Dering Arms is closed until the crowd heads farther up the road, toward the sign that urges drivers to “slow down or you will upset our ghosts.”

Continued on Page A13

BUSINESS B1-6

Email Sheds Light on Crash

An exchange shows that a Boeing official said the company could answer a pilot's safety query, but it didn't. PAGE B1

Cleaning Up Cement Pollution

A company aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions from one of the world's most polluting industries. PAGE B1



INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Political Instability in Japan

Deep-seated grievances among voters have put the Liberal Democrats, the longstanding custodians of the status quo, on notice. PAGE A10

A Heavy and Tasty Heist

A cheese retailer in London reported that scammers stole a shipment of 22 metric tons of rare Cheddar. PAGE A13

OBITUARIES B11-12

Singer Who Fought Injustice

Barbara Dane, a highly regarded folk, blues and jazz artist, prioritized social change over sales. She was 97. PAGE B11

NATIONAL A14-25

Storm's Effect on Health Care

Damage from Hurricane Helene left North Carolina hospitals in disarray and patients stuck at home. Volunteer doctors help fill the gap. PAGE A25

Subway Chokehold Case

Daniel Penny, who is facing manslaughter charges in New York City, hired a jury consultant. PAGE A25

SPORTS B7-10

Getting a Lot From a Little

Iowa State men's basketball eschews flashy portal pickups in favor of lesser-known, physical players. PAGE B7

SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

Nobel-Worthy Worms

A tiny invertebrate named Caenorhabditis elegans has an outsize role in the world of scientific discovery. PAGE D1

Waiting for Tippi Hedren

Crows seem to have a Hitchcockian flair for holding grudges, but can make mistakes choosing their targets. PAGE D1



ARTS C1-8

Bedeveled by Hysteria

Movies and TV shows revisit the so-called Satanic panic of decades past that touched parts of America. PAGE C1

Focus on 'Ketamine Queen'

One year after the actor Matthew Perry's death, Jasveen Sangha awaits trial on charges related to his death. PAGE C1

OPINION A26-27

Anita Hill

PAGE A26



0 354613 9