**The world in brief**

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Emmanuel Macron, the French president, is fighting to keep his parliamentary majority after the first round of voting in legislative elections on June 12th. His centrist alliance, Ensemble, came in neck-and-neck nationally with Jean-Luc Mélenchon’s radical-left grouping, NUPES. A final run-off vote will be held on June 19th.

Amnesty International accused Russia of committing war crimes in Ukraine. The NGO said it had proof that Russian forces killed hundreds of civilians in Kharkiv through indiscriminate shelling and the use of cluster munitions, which violates international conventions. Meanwhile Russia destroyed the last remaining bridge linking besieged Sever Donetsk to another city in eastern Ukraine, rendering the evacuation of civilians all but impossible, a Ukrainian official said.

America’s House of Representatives heard new testimony in the hearings on the Capitol riot of January 6th 2021. In video depositions, former attorney-general William Barr and Bill Stepien, Donald Trump’s campaign manager at the time, described how the former president continued to peddle claims of widespread fraud in the 2020 election, despite being warned that they were untrue. Mr Stepien had pulled out of testifying in person shortly before the hearing because his wife went into labour.

Celsius Network, an American cryptocurrency lender, blocked all withdrawals from its platform, sending the price of cryptocurrencies sliding. Bitcoin, the world’s biggest token, reached an 18-month low. Binance, the biggest crypto exchange, froze withdrawals of the coin. Cryptocurrencies had already suffered a bruising fall last month.

The owner of Wikipedia lodged an appeal against a Russian court after it was fined for refusing to remove material related to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The Wikimedia Foundation was fined 5m roubles ($87,000) over Russian-language articles that the Kremlin claims constitute “disinformation” under a new law enacted in March. The company said all information on its crowd-sourced website was verified and that removing it would be “a violation of people’s rights to free expression and access to knowledge”.

Police in India waded deeper into its sectarian unrest. Last week Indian Muslims started protesting against derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad made by representatives of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, after foreign governments complained. Police killed two teenagers during clashes on Friday. At the weekend the BJP-led state of Uttar Pradesh demolished the homes of Muslims alleged to have organized the demonstrations.

Ireland’s foreign minister, Simon Coveney, attacked the British government’s plan to publish draft legislation on Monday that would give it the power to change the Northern Ireland protocol, part of the Brexit treaty. He told his British counterpart, Liz Truss, that it would be “deeply damaging to relationships on these islands and between the UK and EU.”

Fact of the day: 1,000, the number of images produced by a bot for this week’s cover of The Economist