

**T-storm 64/58 •** Tomorrow: Shower 73/58 **B6** 

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 · \$3

## As crime drops in D.C., fears over it rise

Poll shows an increase in city residents who are worried about safety

> BY EMILY DAVIES AND SCOTT CLEMENT

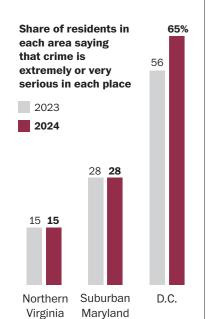
D.C. residents are more worried about public safety now than they were a year ago despite a significant drop in violent crime in early 2024 and a raft of popular local legislation aimed at curtailing some of the city's more liberal public safety policies, according to a Washington Post-Schar School poll.

Sixty-five percent of Washingtonians say crime is an "extremely serious" or a "very serious" problem in the District, up from 56 percent in a 2023 Washington Post-Schar School poll. While 70 percent of D.C. residents feel at least "somewhat" safe from crime in their neighborhoods, that is down from 77 percent last year. That includes 23 percent who feel "very safe," down slightly from 29 percent last year.

The drop in the perception of safety in the nation's capital is stark compared with attitudes in D.C.'s suburbs, where residents' levels of concern are largely unchanged from last year. Fewer than 3 in 10 residents in suburban Maryland and 15 percent of those in Northern Virginia say crime is an extremely serious or a very serious problem in their areas, almost identical to a poll last spring.

In Maryland, 44 percent of residents reported feeling "very safe" in their neighborhoods; SEE CRIME ON A14

Metro riders: In a poll, they praise the service but are crime-wary. **B1** 



Source: Washington Post-Schar School poll



A natural gas field belonging to state-owned energy company Petronas as seen from Bintulu, Malaysia, on March 6.

TROUBLE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Malaysia's offshore obstacle

n the open sea off the coast of Malaysian Borneo, industrial rigs extract massive amounts of oil and gas that fuel the economy of Malaysia.

Slightly beyond that, in waters Malaysia also considers its own, Chinese coast guard vessels and maritime militia boats maintain a near-constant presence, say Malaysian officials. For 10 years, their country has done little to

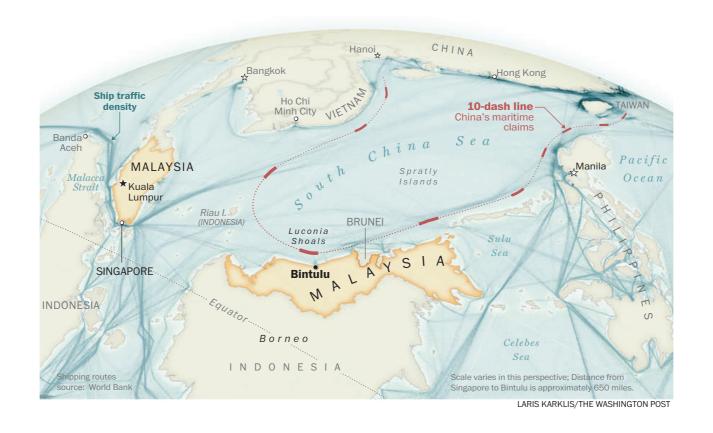
Venturing farther out to drill oil and gas crucial to its economy risks a confrontation with Chinese forces

BY REBECCA TAN

contest them.

But Malaysia is running out of oil and gas close to shore. Increasingly, it has to venture farther out to sea, raising the likelihood of direct confrontation with Chinese forces in the South China

 $As \, tensions \, rise \, throughout \, the$ South China Sea, one of the world's busiest and most contest-SEE MALAYSIA ON A10



## Russian assault has Kyiv on heels

### **BIG LOSSES OF TURF** IN KHARKIV REGION

Ukraine slow to fortify its lines as U.S. aid stalled

#### BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN, SERHII KOROLCHUK AND MARY ILYUSHINA

KHARKIV, UKRAINE — Russia's new offensive across Ukraine's northeastern border had been expected for months - yet it still surprised the Ukrainian soldiers stationed there to defend against

Ukraine's 125th Territorial Defense Brigade — stretched thin along a roughly 27-mile stretch of the Kharkiv region's border with Russia — used reconnaissance drones to monitor, daily, how Moscow was steadily building up forces for a possible attack. But the morning it happened, May 10, the brigade lost all its video feeds due to Russian electronic jam-

Its Starlink devices — satellite internet the Ukrainian military relies on for basic communication — failed, the first time it was knocked out completely for them since Russia's invasion in Febru-

"We were left at a certain point completely blind," said a drone unit commander in the brigade. The Post agreed to identify him by his call sign, Artist, in keeping with Ukrainian military proto-

"This was the biggest problem, we didn't see how they were moving, we only worked through radio or through phones where they still worked," Artist, a 53year-old sergeant, said. The drone feeds, he said, "simply disappeared.'

Within days, the Russians had  $captured-for\,the\,second\,time$ some 50 square miles of territory along the border, capitalizing on a moment of particular vulnerability for Ukraine's military.

A U.S. aid package, including funding for precious ammunition for artillery and air defense, stalled in Congress for more than six months before it was approved last month, leaving forces on the front line often unable to fire back as their positions were pummeled.

Meanwhile, despite military personnel complaining for months of personnel shortages SEE KHARKIV ON A12

Pushed back: Ukraine's losses this year outstrip last year's gains. **A12** 

## 70 years later, assessing Brown's complicated legacy

The landmark schools ruling is revered, but 1 in 3 Black Americans say integration hasn't helped

BY LAURA MECKLER, **EMILY GUSKIN** AND SCOTT CLEMENT

Seventy years after the Supreme Court delivered its landmark decision outlawing school segregation, Brown v. Board of Education ranks as perhaps the court's most venerated decision. A Washington Post-Ipsos survey shows is overwhelmingly popular.

That's the simple part. Most everything else related to the decision - and to school segregation itself — is complex.

Nearly 7 in 10 Americans say more should be done to integrate schools across the nation — a figure that has steadily climbed from 30 percent in 1973 and is now at its apex. But a deeper look into the views of Black and White people shows skepticism about the success of Brown and mixed messages about how to move forward.

In its unanimous decision in Brown, the Supreme Court ruled segregated schools were unconstitutional and "inherently unequal," combining five cases in which Black students and their schools had far fewer resources than their White peers — longer commutes, lower-quality classes, overcrowd-

SEE INTEGRATION ON A6

Isaac Heard, who went to segregated schools in Charlotte, worries the impact of Brown v. Board of Education is "slowly receding."

## Business titans pressed NYC mayor on protests, chats show

Group that formed after Oct. 7 attacks also sought to shape opinion on Gaza

#### BY HANNAH NATANSON AND EMMANUEL FELTON

A group of billionaires and business titans working to shape U.S. public opinion of the war in Gaza privately pressed New York City's mayor last month to send police to disperse pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, according to communications obtained by The Washington Post and people familiar with the

group. Business executives including Kind snack company founder Daniel Lubetzky, hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb, billionaire Len Blavatnik and real estate investor Joseph Sitt held a Zoom video call April 26 with Mayor Eric Adams (D), about a week after the mayor first sent New York police to Columbia's campus, a log of chat messages shows. During the call, some attendees discussed making political donations to Adams, as well as how the chat group's members could pressure Columbia's president and trustees to permit the mayor to

### IN THE NEWS

A sign of distress The flying in 2021 of an upside-down flag outside Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s home spurred calls for his recusal in Jan. 6 cases. A7

Debate over Morehouse's identity President Biden's upcoming commencement address sparks mixed emotions among students. A5

THE NATION Census data showed cities saw continued growth after pandemic population loss. A2 Power may take weeks to restore after a storm with 100-mph winds clobbered Houston. A3

### **THE WORLD**

Trucks began delivering aid from a temporary U.S.-made pier in the Gaza Strip. A9 The Vatican released new guidelines on classification of supernatural events. A11

#### THE ECONOMY The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed

above 40,000 for the first time, reflecting confidence in the fight against inflation. A13 Autoworkers at a Mercedes plant in Alabama voted against joining the UAW, a setback for its Southern push. A14

#### **THE REGION STYLE**

a proposal that would

move money from the

individual schools. B1

central office budget to

**Larry Hogan** called his **Renowned** photograrecent pivot on abortion pher Platon shared his memories of capturing rights a refinement of his beliefs as he runs for intimate moments of a U.S. Senate seat. B1 celebrities. C1 The chancellor of D.C. Public Schools slammed

### **SPORTS**

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 golfer in the world, was arrested before the second round of the PGA Championship. D1

A13
C5
B4
A15
СЗ
A9

SEE GROUP CHAT ON A4

CONTENT © 2024 The Washington Post Year 147, No. 53855

