



NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

RUSSIA, REMASTERED

A wartime generation of youth molded by Putin’s propaganda

At age 25, Maryana Naumova is one of the freshest faces of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s wartime propaganda machine.

She has a show on the flagship Kremlin-controlled television network Channel One, 85,000 subscribers on Telegram, the messaging app that is now the main news platform for Russian speakers worldwide, and is a regular speaker at youth forums, universities and talk shows across the country.

Formerly a child-prodigy power-lifter with little experience in journalism, Naumova has reported from most of the major battles of the war in Ukraine — including, most recently, Kyiv’s incursion into Russia’s Kursk

BY FRANCESCA EBEL
IN MOSCOW

region, as well as from Mariupol and Bakhmut, two Ukrainian cities that Russian forces nearly demolished and then seized. Her dispatches have focused not on Russia’s military as an invading force but as liberators of Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine.

“We showed everything as it was,” Naumova said in an interview with The Washington Post about her coverage of Russia’s siege of Mariupol, in which she claimed without evidence that Ukrainian forces attacked civilians. “It was very strange that the state of Ukraine shelled its own citizens,” she said. “I felt such dissonance. It was

incomprehensible to me. ... I mean ... they call them their people.”

Naumova is one of thousands of young Russians who have inserted themselves into their country’s new wartime system, adopting Kremlin spin as their own beliefs and ensuring that Putin’s core ideology, of ultra-nationalist patriotism and Orthodox Christian values, will be carried forward by a new generation. This includes the idea that the United States wants to destroy Russia and that Russia is a peace-seeking victim rather than an aggressor. Like Naumova, they see themselves as patriotic truth-tellers, not instruments of spin.

About 7 in 10 Russians between ages

SEE RUSSIA ON A14

Young Russians march in a parade in Kirov on June 12 in honor of Russia Day and the city’s 650th anniversary.

Drone attack: Kyiv struck a weapons depot filled with missiles some 300 miles inside Russia. A11

In long-awaited pivot, Fed trims rates by half-point

AGGRESSIVE MOVE IS FIRST CUT SINCE 2020

Focus shifts from inflation to a slowing job market

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates Wednesday by a half-point, turning the page on an era of dangerously high inflation and marking a major shift at the central bank that could bring relief for households and businesses alike.

The rate cut, announced at the end of the Fed’s two-day policy meeting, marks the first time officials trimmed borrowing costs since the pandemic’s early days. While central bankers were practically guaranteed to cut rates this week, it was unclear how aggressively they were going to move. They ultimately decided

that the economy was strong enough to take an extra dose of pressure off, and that such a big swing would help ensure the job market doesn’t weaken any more than it already has. The Fed’s benchmark rate now sits between 4.75 and 5 percent.

“The U.S. economy is in good shape,” Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said at a news conference. “It’s growing at a solid pace, inflation is coming down, the labor market is in a strong place. We want to keep it there.”

Powell’s remarks highlighted

SEE INTEREST RATES ON A17

Political impact: Lower rates could be a tailwind for Harris. A17

Lebanon reels as more are killed in explosions

Handheld devices used by Hezbollah detonated in second-wave attack

This article is by Mohamad El Chamaa, Susannah George, Kareem Fahim, Annabelle Timsit and Suzan Haidamou

BEIRUT — New explosions linked to electronic devices killed at least 20 people and injured more than 450 across Lebanon on Wednesday, a day after 12 people were killed and thousands wounded by exploding pagers used by members of the militant group Hezbollah in a suspected Israeli attack.

The source of Wednesday’s explosions was not immediately clear. The state news agency said

some of the explosions occurred in a brand of two-way radio. At least one of the explosions occurred at a funeral in Beirut’s southern suburbs, held by Hezbollah for people who were killed in Tuesday’s blasts.

Crowds had begun gathering for the funerals when a blast sent people running.

“Anyone who has a device, take out the battery now!” Hezbollah security members yelled to mourners. “Turn off your phones, switch it to airplane mode,” young men in black T-shirts and khakis shouted.

Bystanders at the funeral said a handheld radio exploded in someone’s hand at the edge of the crowd. Ambulances pushed through streets filled with men and women in black who were waving flags.

The explosions, on consecutive

SEE LEBANON ON A12

Why now? Turmoil in Israel raises questions about strategic aims. A12

Ship’s issues known before bridge crash, DOJ alleges

BY KATIE METTLER

The owners of the cargo ship that crashed into Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge earlier this year, collapsing the span and killing six workers aboard it, prioritized profits over safety and knowingly let a dangerous, unseaworthy vessel loose on the open water, Justice Department attorneys asserted in a new civil claim seeking more than \$100 million Wednesday.

The court filing — signed by attorneys for the Justice Department and the U.S. attorney’s office in Maryland — revealed new details of mechanical problems on the Dali container ship and described how its owners took a “Band-Aid approach” to fixing some of them before the crash. It came as part of a civil case in which the ship’s owner, Grace Ocean Private Limited, and operator, Synergy Marine Pte Ltd, are trying to cap how

SEE DALI ON A8

ELECTION 2024

Trump camp hemmed in by new safety constraints

BY JOSH DAWSEY
AND MICHAEL SCHERER

Less than two weeks after an assassin’s bullet grazed Donald Trump’s ear this summer, he was held backstage at a Nashville event for more than an hour because of a potential security threat.

A man had evaded security and disappeared into the crowd without being checked. There was a lengthy Secret Service search to review video, interview those he was seen with and learn why he had broken procedures. Advisers discussed whether Trump should go onstage, as a crowd of 20,000 people waited in the large auditorium. Should they cancel the event? But if they canceled the first large event after the shooting, what signal would that send?

Eventually the all-clear was given, and the event went off without a hitch.

“Former President Trump’s remarks were delayed at the 2024 Bitcoin conference in Nashville Tennessee while two credentialed and screened individuals were removed from the premises for not

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A4



SARA STATHAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Donald Trump delivers a speech this month in Mosinee, Wis., from behind a wall of bulletproof glass.

Pennsylvania: Poll finds statistical tie in the pivotal battleground. A3

Teamsters: Union will not make a presidential endorsement. A5

Rumors: How the Haitian Times is covering false pet-eating claims. C1

For suspect, unraveling followed life of anonymity

This article is by Emmanuel Felton, Brady Dennis, Joanna Slater, Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Emily Wae-Thibodeaux and David L. Stern

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Months before he allegedly pointed a semi-automatic rifle into a Florida golf course as former president Donald Trump approached, Ryan Routh described himself as a failure.

Nearing 60, he was running a small business building tiny homes and sheds in Hawaii. He had tried to reinvent himself by volunteering to fight in Ukraine but was rejected.

He had no assets, no retirement savings, no bank account, he wrote in an e-book describing his time in Ukraine that he predicted no one would read.

One topic that appeared to preoccupy him: political assassination. In his book, Routh

SEE SUSPECT ON A6

IN THE NEWS

Ingested chemicals A new study details the metals, volatile organic compounds and many other substances finding their way into human bodies from contact with food. A9

30-year prison term A former CIA officer was sentenced for drugging, sexually abusing and recording more than two dozen women. B1

THE NATION
Tupperware, which is facing slumping sales, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. A2
The House rejected a six-month funding plan ahead of a potential shutdown on Oct 1. A8

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A shredding service in China has found a lucrative niche in a country where millions of marriages end each year: making the wedding photos of urban divorcees disappear. A10

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Boeing will implement temporary furloughs for thousands of U.S.-based workers during the machinists strike, the company’s CEO said. A18

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The trial began for a former Fairfax County police officer charged with involuntary manslaughter in a shooting death outside a mall. B1
Top Navy officials could be compelled to testify in the bribery case against a retired admiral. B1

STYLE
Sean “Diddy” Combs helped rap go pop. But new allegations of sex trafficking and racketeering change his music’s meaning. C1

LOCAL LIVING
Instead of being fazed by botanical blunders, learn to celebrate your gardening failures.

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