

# The Forward Eagle

News, Reviews & Elisions  
Of Mutual Interest  
Compiled Weekly by Tim Forward  
for  
The Riverdale Senior Services Center  
Bronx, NY

## Current events

### Briefly Noted

#### Ukraine

Russia launched strikes on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities for the second consecutive night, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens. According to Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, the attacks suggest that the Kremlin is “prolonging the war.”

Earlier, Ukrainian sources said that almost all of the citizens returned to it by Russia as part of a swap of 1,000 prisoners of war this weekend had been tortured, deprived of food and brainwashed.

#### Japan

Masayoshi Son, the boss of SoftBank, a Japanese tech giant, has reportedly proposed creating a joint American-Japanese sovereign wealth fund.

According to the *Financial Times*, Mr. Son has discussed the plan with Scott Bessent, America’s treasury secretary, and other senior officials. The fund would be jointly operated by the Treasury Department and the Japanese Finance Ministry, and would invest in technology and infrastructure across America.

#### North Korea

North Korean authorities detained three people accused of being responsible for the botched launch on Wednesday of a new warship. All worked at the Chongjin shipyard where the vessel was built; one of those arrested was the yard’s chief engineer. The accident happened when the ship tipped over. It is now lying on its side, mostly in the water, covered by a tarpaulin.

#### Gaza

Gaza’s Hamas-run health ministry reported that at least 79 people had died in the territory in the 24 hours up to midday Saturday. Among these were nine of the ten children of a doctor, killed after a strike in the city of Khan Younis.

The Israel Defense Forces have confirmed that they struck more than 100 targets in Gaza during this period. The ministry has yet to comment on the particular incident in Khan Younis.

#### India

Pre-monsoon downpours led to severe flooding in India’s capital Delhi, disrupting air and road traffic. On Saturday the monsoon itself arrived in the south-western state of Kerala eight days earlier than expected. The rains, vital to Indian agriculture, started on their earliest date since 2009 and are expected to spread across the country by mid-July.

#### The United States

The Commander-in-Chief of the United States treated graduates of West Point military academy to a speech studded with bombast. He criticized diversity, equity and inclusion policies and the “ripping off” America by existing trading partners through



University gates  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ordered her department to terminate Harvard University's student and exchange visitor program certifications effective for the 2025-2026 school year. Noem accused the university of "fostering violence, antisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party."

The decision marked a significant escalation in the administration's campaign against the elite ivy league university in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The move came after Harvard refused to provide information that Secretary Noem demanded regarding foreign student visa holders at Harvard.

agreements. He boasted about an untested, unbuilt, “golden dome” continent-wide missile-defense system

His eyes shadowed under the visor of a bright red baseball hat the President told graduating officers to: “dominate any foe and annihilate any threat to America, anywhere, anytime, in any place.” The some 1,000 graduating officers present were left with their own thoughts on how they might carry out future orders of annihilation.

#### France

A major power outage in Cannes and the surrounding areas of south-eastern France was blamed on damage to an electrical substation by unknown saboteurs. Some events on the last day of the town’s famous film festival were affected.

The film festival’s closing ceremonies, where “It Was Just an Accident”, a film by a dissident Iranian director, was awarded the Palme d’Or, were able to proceed as usual.

#### Vietnam

Emmanuel Macron arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam’s capital, on Sunday for the first stop of a three-country Asian tour. The French president will also go to Indonesia and then Singapore. On May 30th he will open the Shangri-La Dialogue, a regional forum. Amid tensions between America and China, France has been seeking to strengthen its position in the Indo-Pacific to amplify Europe’s voice in the region.

#### Venezuela

Ten months after a fabricated presidential-election victory, Nicolás Maduro is

summoning voters to the polls again, this time to elect governors, mayors and National Assembly representatives. Few are expected to heed the call. A clear majority voted to remove the autocrat from office last July, only for the sham electoral authority to declare him the winner.

The opposition leader, María Corina Machado, who is in hiding, has called for a boycott. The official result will exaggerate the turnout and perhaps give a few seats to opposition candidates who have agreed to take part in the election.

The most surreal part will be a vote in the “state” of Guayana Esequiba, an area encompassing two-thirds of the landmass of neighboring Guyana, which the Maduro regime declared part of Venezuela in 2023. No one will be able to cast a ballot inside that territory. But the regime will still declare a victory there.

## The Forward Eagle

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This paper is offered as a review of recent topics taken up by the current events discussion group at Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living, 2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY each Monday at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon for Current Events with Tim.

This week’s articles were excerpted and edited from *The Economist*, *Reuters* and *Associated Press*.