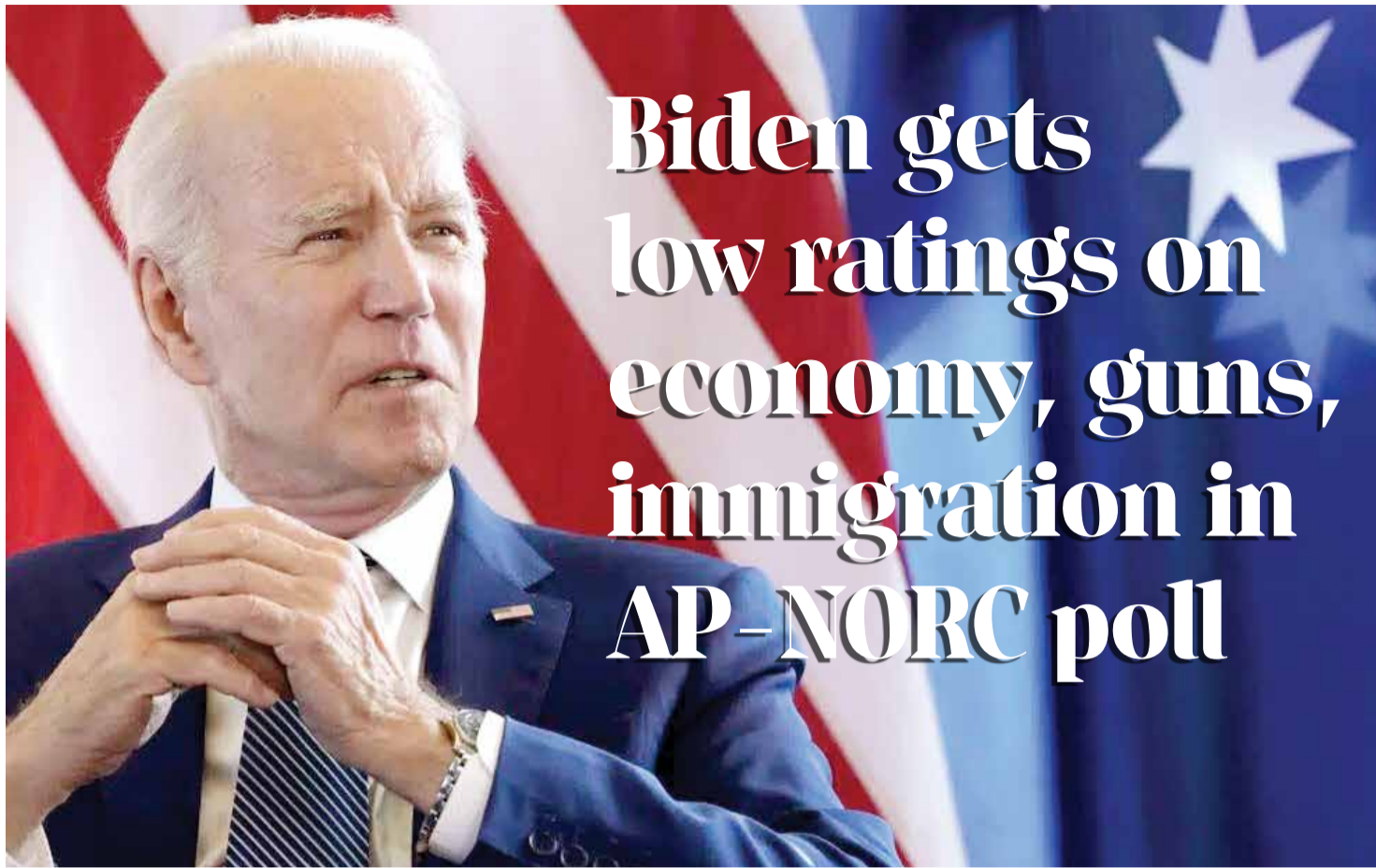


As President Joe Biden embarks on his reelection campaign, just 33% of American adults say they approve of his handling of the economy and only 24% say national economic conditions are in good shape, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Public approval of Biden's handling of the economy remains low in a time of high inflation, a difficult housing market and concerns about a potential U.S. government debt default. American opinion is also gloomy about Biden's efforts on gun policy and immigration, with only 31% saying they approve of the president's performance on those hot button issues. Overall, 40% say they approve of the way Biden is doing his job, similar to where his approval rating has stood for much of the past year and a half.

Poor underperformance among Democrats

Even among Democrats, the poll finds only about half approve of his handling of immigration and gun policy. Biden underperforms on the economy even among Democrats: 61% approve of him on the issue, compared with 75% for his job overall. Democrats feel even more dour about the current condition of the nation's economy, though they continue to be more likely than Republicans to say the country is headed in



Biden gets low ratings on economy, guns, immigration in AP-NORC poll

● SUSAN WALSH/AP

the right direction (36% vs. 7%) or to rate the economy as good (41% vs. 7%).

Some Democratic respondents who approve of the president's performance said they felt flummoxed by life in post-pandemic America and what often seems like a total abandonment of bipartisanship in Washington.

The Biden administration oversaw two of the bigger Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in recent decades, with a 5.9% in-

crease that took effect in 2022 and 8.7% in 2023. But Bob Vought, a retired auto parts warehouse manager in Florida said that's not enough to keep up with a rental increase at the trailer park where he lives with his father and the rising costs of food and other basic necessities.

In the 2022 budget year, which ended in September, agents apprehended immigrants a record 2.38 million times at the southern border.

Coronavirus restrictions implemented under the former president Donald Trump, which were known as Title 42, allowed border officials to turn away migrants to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions recently ended.

While Title 42 was used to deny asylum more than 2.8 million times, it carried no legal consequences, which encouraged repeat attempts by migrants to enter the U.S. Border Patrol agents returned to

pre-pandemic immigration laws on May 11 that impose stiffer penalties on migrants who enter the U.S. without permission than the emergency health order did.

The poll of 1,680 adults was conducted May 11-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.



International Desk

Israeli forces fatally shot three young Palestinian men during an early morning raid on a refugee camp near the city of Nablus in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, drawing severe condemnation from the Arab League.

The statement read, "The Arab League condemns the escalating violations and overt war policies of the fascist right-wing Israeli cabinet and the massacres committed throughout occupied Palestine," IRNA reported.

According to the statement, these crimes include premeditated massacres, daily extrajudicial

Mourners march with the bodies of Palestinians killed in the Balata camp for Palestinian refugees on the outskirts of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, on May 22, 2023. ● AFP

executions, demolitions of homes and sites, settlement expansion, and desecration of Islamic and Christian holy places. The latest instance of these atrocities was the raid on the Balata refugee camp, east of the city of Nablus. Israeli forces killed three Palestinians in the raid on the refugee camp in what the regime described as an operation targeting "terrorist" suspects.

In a statement, the Pal-

Israeli forces kill three Palestinians, draw strong AL's condemnation

estinian Health Ministry identified the three men killed in the Balata camp in Nablus as Muhammad Abu Zaytoun, 32, Fathi Abu Rizk, 30, and Abdullah Abu Hamdan, 24, AFP reported.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, said in a statement that the three were among the group's "fighters".

The group's emblem was wrapped around the foreheads of the men in a morgue, and their bodies were shrouded in the Palestinian flag.

An unspecified number of Palestinians were also injured during the raid on the refugee camp, some of them critically.

Israeli forces, who were accompanied by two military bulldozers during the raid, then surrounded the camp, blocking all entry points and demolishing three Palestinian homes,

Press TV reported.

'Veritable massacre'

Palestinian Presidency Spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh described the killings as a "veritable massacre" and charged that repeated Israeli raids and attacks by settlers constituted a "major war crime and a collective punishment".

He said "silence" from the United States had emboldened Israelis to escalate attacks, calling on Washington to "immediately intervene to stop the Israeli madness that will drag the region toward explosion".

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the 1967 Six-Day War, and its forces regularly launch incursions into Palestinian cities, which are nominally under the control of Abbas's Palestinian Authority.

Deadly military operations have surged in re-

cent months across the Palestinian territory.

Muhammad Zuhd, an activist from the camp, said "violent clashes took place between resistance fighters and the Israeli army" after hundreds of soldiers entered Balata.

Samer Thouqan, from Fatah, said residents "were surprised by an extreme, barbaric attack".

"They (Israeli troops) started shooting from all sides and destroyed many homes in this camp," he said.

Following the raid, Palestinians inspected the rubble of a damaged building and salvaged belongings.

The Hamas militant group, which rules the blockaded Gaza Strip, described those killed as "freedom fighters".

"Hamas reiterates that resisting the (Israeli) occupation is a legitimate right of the Palestinian people in their quest for freedom," the group said

in a statement.

Densely-populated Balata is home to some 27,000 people, making it the largest camp in the West Bank, according to the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

The Israeli army also reported clashes in an operation in Jenin, north of Nablus, where it said suspects hurled explosive devices and fired at the soldiers.

The troops "responded with live fire" and in two cases "a hit was identified", the statement said. Israeli forces arrested three suspects in Jenin and seven others in other parts of the West Bank, it added.

Since the start of the year, at least 153 Palestinians, 20 Israelis, a Ukrainian, and an Italian have been killed in violence linked to the conflict, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources from

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek PM gunning for outright victory in second vote



REUTERS - Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Monday he will not seek to form a coalition government following this weekend's election, paving the way for a second vote in June he hopes his conservative party will win outright. New Democracy won 40.8% of the vote versus 20.1% for the leftist Syriza, in a stunning boost for Mitsotakis. But it fell short of the number of seats needed to govern on its own, triggering a round of coalition talks among the three biggest parties.

Turkey's third-place candidate endorses Erdogan

REUTERS - Turkey's third-place election candidate endorsed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday, boosting the incumbent and intensifying the challenges for opposition candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu in a Sunday runoff vote.

Sinan Ogan, a hardline nationalist who was little known among the broader public before the campaign, won 5.2% support in the initial presidential election on May 14, prompting some analysts to call him a potential "kingmaker" for the runoff.

China chides Japan, UK over G7 summit



AP - China's Global Times on Monday called the Group of Seven summit an "anti-China workshop," after Beijing summoned Japan's envoy and berated Britain in a fiery response to statements issued at the weekend G7 summit in Hiroshima.

A joint communique issued on Saturday singled out China on issues from Taiwan and nuclear arms to economic coercion and human rights abuses, underscoring the wide-ranging tensions between Beijing and the group of rich countries that includes the United States.

Armenia will recognize Karabakh ...

"The 86,600 sq km of Azerbaijan's territory includes Nagorno-Karabakh," Pashinyan told a news conference, according to Ostorozhno, Novosti.

"If we understand each other correctly, then Armenia recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within the

named limits, and Baku - the territorial integrity of Armenia at 29,800 sq km." The outlet quoted him as saying he was prepared to do this - in effect accept Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders - if the rights of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh were guaranteed. He said the issue should

be discussed in talks between the two countries.

"Armenia remains committed to the peace agenda in the region. And we hope that in the near future we will come to an agreement on the text of the peace treaty and be able to sign it," he said, according to TASS.

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