

What's News

Business & Finance

Ant Group will apply to become a financial holding company overseen by China's central bank, overhauling its business to adapt to a new era of tighter regulation for internet firms. **A1**

Microsoft agreed to buy artificial-intelligence company Nuance Communications for \$16 billion, extending CEO Nadella's run of big acquisitions. **A1**

The U.K. government announced an independent review into contracts it handed Greensill and the role played by ex-Prime Minister Cameron in lobbying on the firm's behalf. **A9**

Uber Technologies reported record monthly bookings for March as Covid-19 vaccination rates accelerated across the U.S. **B1**

Some SPACs have improperly accounted for warrants sold or given to investors, the SEC said, stepping up scrutiny of the popular vehicles. **B1**

GameStop is looking to replace CEO Sherman in an effort being led by Chewy co-founder Cohen, who became a director in January. **B1**

Nvidia is increasing the competitive pressure on Intel with plans to start selling central-processing units to serve the booming data-center market. **B1**

U.S. stocks edged lower, with the Dow and Nasdaq losing 0.2% and 0.4%, respectively, and the S&P 500 slipping 0.81 point. **B9**

France's Veolia reached a \$15.5 billion deal to acquire Suez, creating a water and waste-management giant. **B3**

World-Wide

The U.S. budget deficit grew to a record \$1.7 trillion in the first half of the fiscal year as a third round of stimulus payments sent government spending soaring last month. **A1**

Biden and a bipartisan group of lawmakers discussed how to pay for his \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package during a meeting at the White House. **A4**

The president called for a push to strengthen the U.S. chip industry at a meeting with auto and tech executives that he used to pitch the infrastructure proposal. **A4**

The Minneapolis area braced for further unrest Monday, a day after a police officer in Brooklyn Center fatally shot a Black man in what the suburb's police chief described as a tragic mistake. **A3**

Prosecutors called their last witness after 11 days of testimony designed to bolster their argument that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd. **A3**

Iran accused Israel of orchestrating an attack on its main nuclear facility that stirred fears for the future of talks involving Washington and Tehran. **A8**

Efforts to broker an Afghanistano peace settlement suffered a blow as the Taliban backed out of participating in a U.S.-supported summit that was set to start this week. **A9**

The White House will nominate two critics of the Trump administration's border policies to lead key immigration agencies inside the DHS. **A3**

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After Latest Police Shooting, Tensions Rise in Minnesota



ON EDGE: Protesters demonstrate outside of the Brooklyn Center, Minn., Police Department on Monday, after police shot and killed a 20-year-old Black man during a traffic stop Sunday. The police chief said the officer mistook her gun for a Taser. **A3**

Microsoft Boosts Buying Spree With \$16 Billion Software Deal

By Aaron Tilley

Microsoft Corp. agreed to buy artificial intelligence company Nuance Communications Inc. for \$16 billion, extending Chief Executive Satya Nadella's run of big acquisitions to accelerate growth in everything from healthcare to videogaming.

Microsoft said Monday it would pay \$56 per Nuance share, a 23% premium over Friday's closing price, in a bet on the growing demand for digital tools within healthcare. The

all-cash deal is Microsoft's second-largest acquisition under Mr. Nadella. The company spent in 2016 about \$26 billion for professional network LinkedIn Corp.

Mr. Nadella's deal making has taken off since that landmark purchase. Microsoft has undertaken more than 100 acquisitions in the past four years, according to data provider Dealogic, committing more than \$26 billion not including the Nuance deal.

Last year, Mr. Nadella tried to acquire parts of short-video

app TikTok, before talks fell apart. Soon after, Microsoft struck a \$7.5 billion deal for videogame company ZeniMax, the maker of the popular Doom franchise. Microsoft has held talks this year to acquire messaging platform Discord Inc. for \$10 billion or more. The Wall Street Journal reported last month.

"Over the past seven years, we've taken a consistent approach to mergers and acquisitions of all sizes," Microsoft finance chief Amy Hood said on an investor call Monday. Driv-

ing the deals, she said, is Microsoft's desire to expand into high-growth markets.

That pursuit comes as tech rivals of Microsoft, notably Facebook Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google, might be distracted by anti-trust probes that potentially could hobble their ability to strike deals.

Google and Facebook have done blockbuster acquisitions

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◆ Heard on the Street: Microsoft isn't landing bargains B10

Virus Aid Drives U.S. Deficit to A Record

By John McCormick

The U.S. budget deficit grew to a record \$1.7 trillion in the first half of the fiscal year as a third round of stimulus payments sent federal spending soaring last month.

The budget gap, widened by the Covid-19 pandemic and related shutdowns that sent the economy into a tailspin starting in March 2020, is now more than double what it was for the same period a year ago, the Treasury Department said Monday.

The deficit was \$660 billion in March, 454% wider than it was in the same month a year earlier. Revenue rose 13% to \$268 billion, while spending increased 161% to \$927 billion—the third-highest total on record, after June and April of last year.

The government's spending surge has provided some cushion to the economy from the pandemic's devastation. But it also has sent the federal debt to levels not seen since the end of World War II as a proportion of the economy. Weaker corporate tax revenue has contributed to the budget shortfall.

"While much of the borrowing of the past year was unquestionably warranted, we are now becoming dangerously numb to the trillions in debt that are piling up," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "We need to start paying for what we spend. We need a

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◆ Biden plan has \$400 billion for home care for elderly..... A4
◆ Talks begin on how to pay for infrastructure..... A4

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL Biohacking goes mainstream, tracking everything from blood tests to body fat. **A11**

WORLD NEWS Saudi leader's yacht was home to Leonardo da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi.' **A18**

Beijing's Message to America: We're an Equal Now

Xi Jinping is confronting Biden administration with a new world view

By Lingling Wei and Bob Davis

It quickly became obvious in Anchorage, Alaska, last month that Chinese President Xi Jinping's diplomatic envoys hadn't come carrying olive branches. Instead they brought a new world view.

As Biden administration officials expected in their first meeting with Chinese counterparts, Yang Jiechi, Mr. Xi's top foreign-policy aide, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi asked them to roll back Trump-era policies targeting China. Beijing wanted to restore the kind of recurring "dialogue" Washington sees as a waste of time, say U.S. and Chinese officials briefed on the Alaska meeting.

Mr. Yang also delivered a surprise: a 16-minute lecture about America's racial prob-

lems and democratic failings. The objective, say Chinese officials, was to make clear that Beijing sees itself as an equal of the U.S. He also warned Washington against challenging China over a mission Beijing views as sacred—the eventual reunification with Taiwan.

That is a big shift for Chinese leaders, who for decades took care not to challenge the U.S. as the world's leader and followed the dictum Deng Xiaoping set decades ago: "Keep a low profile and bide your time." Some senior Chinese officials privately—often sarcastically—called the U.S. *Lao Dao*, or Big Boss.

Now Mr. Xi is reshaping the relationship. As far as he is concerned, China's time has arrived.

"China can already look at the world on an

Please turn to page A10

Hey 'Big Shot,' Crank Up The Vaccine Theme Music

Songs evoking inoculation are spreading: 'Moderna Love Story' and Pat Benatar

By Myles Tanzer

On a March episode of "Saturday Night Live," host Maya Rudolph donned cropped, bedazzled denim and a dusty wig and sang about immunization. The song, "Boomers Got the Vax," is about baby boomers partying after their Covid-19 vaccinations. It has been watched more than four million times on YouTube.

The tune joins a wave of vaccine-theme songs, the genre offering of the moment. While new numbers are going viral, older ones that mention "shot" or have vax-evoking titles are experiencing a popularity boom, too.

Spotify says its users have created more

than 7,700 vaccine-related playlists since Jan. 1. The streaming-service company says it has seen an over-fourfold increase in vaccine-related playlists in the past 90 days, adding that many of them are named after vaccine manufacturers. A sampling: "Shot Girl Summer 2021," "Moderna Love Story" and "Pfizer Warmth and Serotonin."

These playlists often include additions like Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot," Billy Joel's "Big Shot" and "The Cure" by Lady Gaga.

Then there's "Jolene" by Dolly Parton, who made a donation to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center to

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Fast food

The growing appetite for grocery delivery apps — BIG READ, PAGE 15

Computer yearning

AI cannot repair dehumanising working conditions — OPINION, PAGE 17

Tax deductions

Biden's reforms are calculated to benefit trade — GLOBAL INSIGHT, PAGE 4

Friend and foe

German rivals divide alliance

After 16 years of relative stability under Angela Merkel, German politics is poised for a showdown over who should succeed her as chancellor, with the parties in the Christian Democratic alliance endorsing rival candidates.

Despite plunging poll ratings, the CDU, the bigger partner, yesterday confirmed its support for leader Armin Laschet, right, prompting him to demand that the alliance stop spending "all our time dealing with internal party issues".

But Markus Söder, left, backed by the CSU, showed no sign of backing down and said the alliance should not ignore popular sentiment. "We can't decouple ourselves from the majority of the people in this country," he said.

Merkel succession clash page 2



FT Montage/EPRA/Getty

Beijing orders Ant to sever links between payments and products

◆ Total overhaul demanded ◆ 'Improper connections' targeted ◆ 'Huge' impact expected

YUAN YANG AND SUN YU — BEIJING

Ant Group has been ordered by Beijing to "cut off" the "improper connections" between its payment platform and its financial products. In the first public comments on the fintech giant's "rectification programme" since its blockbuster public offering was shelved.

The move by regulators could strip Ant down to a mobile payments platform and severely weaken its credit businesses, said analysts. Only 36 per cent of Ant's revenues come from its payment services, with the remainder generated by digital finance.

The announcement yesterday by the People's Bank of China clarifies some of the uncertainty that has hung over Ant Group since November when Beijing

halted its initial public offering days before it was set to raise a record \$37bn.

It also comes after Alibaba, the Chinese technology group that owns a 33 per cent stake in Ant, was fined a record \$2.8bn by Chinese antitrust regulators over restrictions it placed on merchants on its e-commerce platform.

"The aim is to restrict the financial nature of Ant's activities and to make it return to its origins as a payments platform. It will have a big impact on suppressing Ant's consumer credit-lending businesses," said a senior official at a state-owned bank who deals with Ant.

"The plans will force Ant to completely restructure its business," said Zhao Xijun, professor of finance at Renmin University of China. "It will need to put walls among its different businesses,

and each business shall be under the regulation of its specific industry. The impact could be huge."

China's financial regulators met the company yesterday to "demand Ant Group face up to the severe problems existing in its financial business activities and the seriousness of its rectification work", according to Pan Gongsheng, PBOC deputy governor, in a summary posted on the bank's website.

"The need for a second meeting [since the first in December] suggests the PBOC has not been 100 per cent happy with Ant's progress on its rectification plan so far," said Chen Long, a partner at Beijing research company Plenum. "It is likely that what Ant was putting on the table was not deemed harsh enough."

Since December, the PBOC and Ant



Regulators' demands could strip Ant down to a mobile payments platform and severely weaken its credit businesses, analysts say

had conducted "in-depth communications" on the rectification programme, Pan said. The two sides had reached an initial deal this year, according to people with knowledge of the talks.

"Under the guidance of financial regulators, Ant Group will spare no effort in implementing the rectification plan... we will put our growth proactively within the national strategic context," the company said.

Ant arranged about a tenth of China's consumer lending in 2020 via two products: Huabei, which is similar to a credit card; and Jiebei, which offers small unsecured loans through Ant's Alipay app. Chen said the changes would "eliminate a lot of the business that Jiebei and Huabei have at the moment".

Additional reporting by Nian Liu



Toned-down Orcel faces early discord at UniCredit

Andrea Orcel has mellowed since the days when he used to bark demands to staff at 6am while leading UBS and he will need all his new diplomatic skills when he takes the helm of UniCredit. A storm over his potential €75m pay package looms over his appointment. He is still locked in a €12m legal battle with Santander over its retraction of an offer for its top job. All this comes before he can consider how UniCredit fits into the shake-up of Italy's banks.

Analysis — PAGE 9

Credit Suisse bankers to lose bonuses over \$4.7bn losses in Archegos crash

OWEN WALKER — LONDON

Credit Suisse is set to cut bonuses by hundreds of millions of dollars after losses of \$4.7bn from the collapse of Archegos Capital and amid the fallout from the failure of Greensill Capital, people familiar with the situation said.

The \$4.7bn loss related to Archegos that Credit Suisse has revealed so far is equivalent to 18 months of average net profit for the bank. It comes shortly after the crisis involving the lenders' funds linked to Greensill Capital, the supply-chain finance firm.

Switzerland's second-biggest lender by assets was the worst hit of several global banks by the collapse of the Archegos family office, which was run by former hedge fund manager Bill Hwang. The office was a client of Credit Suisse's prime brokerage division, which lends

cash and securities to hedge funds and processes their trades.

The Archegos and Greensill debacles have led to internal and external inquiries, the ousting of several executives and renewed doubts over Credit Suisse's risk management systems.

Last week the bank said the Archegos writedown would push it to a \$960m loss in the first three months of the year, despite significantly outperforming analyst expectations in its strongest underlying quarter for a decade. People briefed on its performance said underlying pre-tax income for the quarter was expected to be just over \$3.7bn.

The performance presented management with a dilemma over whether to pay out bonuses to maintain staff morale while shareholders nurse losses. Credit Suisse shares are down more than a quarter since March 1 when it was

forced to suspend its Greensill funds.

"It's a tough one for the bank. You don't want disgruntled employees as you end up creating this negative feedback loop," said Thomas Hallett, an analyst at Keele, Bruyette & Woods.

The investment bank and Asia-Pacific divisions performed particularly strongly, with bankers outside the prime brokerage unit frustrated that their efforts have been overshadowed by the two crises.

When announcing the Archegos losses last week, the Swiss bank suspended its Sfr1.5bn share buyback programme and cut its dividend by two-thirds, to Sfr0.10 per share. The bank's senior executives had their bonuses for the year withdrawn.

Credit Suisse declined to comment. Additional reporting by Stephen Morris Patrick Jenkins page 6

Briefing

Alibaba shares boosted as probe ends

The Chinese e-commerce group founded by Jack Ma has risen sharply after executives told analysts that a record \$2.8bn fine at the weekend marked the end of an antitrust probe. — PAGE 10; LEX, PAGE 18

Kyiv accuses Putin of blocking talks

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky has not received a response to his request to speak to his counterpart, his office said, as fears mount over a Russian troop build-up near the border. — PAGE 2

China official backtracks on job efficacy

Gao Fu, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control, has insisted he was "misunderstood" when he appeared at the weekend to question the efficacy of locally developed coronavirus vaccines. — PAGE 4

Far-left firebrand ahead in Peru race

Pedro Castillo, a provincial teacher who rode to cast his vote on a horse, has taken first place in the presidential poll. He pledges nationalisation and control of the media. — PAGE 3

Inside trading probe opened at Hyundai

South Korean regulators have started to examine allegations that Hyundai Motor executives traded on inside information about talks on a tie-up with Apple. Negotiations subsequently failed. — PAGE 6

EU split over paying for recovery fund

Divisions have emerged between states over how to raise up to €1.5tn a year to service the borrowing it will issue in coming months to pay for its €750bn recovery plan. — PAGE 2; GIDEON RACHMAN, PAGE 17

Questions for KPMG over M&C Saatchi

UK regulators have made inquiries over whether the audit of the advertising group that misstated profits by £14m, led by chief risk officer John Bennett from 2013 to 2017, met standards. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Furlough strains

What impact has the lay-off had on your mental health? (Of UK workers surveyed)



Source: YouGov (Feb 2021)

The British government's job retention scheme may have spared millions from redundancy but half of furloughed workers have said the experience has had a negative impact on their mental health, according to a YouGov survey

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No: 40,680 ★

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Dubai



World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES			
	Apr 12	prev %Chg		Apr 12	prev		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4124.00	4128.00 -0.11	\$ per €	1.191	1.189	US Gov 10 yr	145.88	1.87	0.03
Nasdaq Composite	13829.55	13900.19 -0.51	£ per \$	1.375	1.373	UK Gov 10 yr		0.79	0.02
Dow Jones Ind	33764.55	33800.00 -0.11	€ per \$	0.896	0.896	Ger Gov 10 yr		-0.30	0.01
FTSE100	1675.07	1683.04 -0.43	¥ per \$	109.400	109.590	Jpn Gov 10 yr	116.18	0.11	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	3987.00	3979.84 -0.30	₹ per \$	150.370	150.488	US Gov 30 yr	103.36	2.34	0.03
FTSE 100	6889.12	6895.75 -0.39	Sfr per €	1.089	1.100	US Gov 2 yr	106.46	-0.71	-0.01
FTSE All-Share	2923.89	2949.51 -0.40	₹ per \$	0.943	0.941				
CAC 40	6161.60	6169.41 -0.13							
Xetra Dax	15215.00	15234.16 -0.13							
Nikkei	29538.73	29598.06 -0.77							
Hang Seng	29453.20	29688.00 -0.86							
MSCI World \$	2910.10	2895.61 0.50							
MSCI EM \$	1330.36	1343.36 -0.97							
MSCI ACWI \$	694.71	692.56 0.31							
COMMODITIES									
	Apr 12	prev %Chg		Apr 12	prev		price	prev	chg
Oil WTI \$	59.59	58.32 0.46	Feed Funds Eff				0.07	0.08	-0.01
Oil Brent \$	63.16	62.95 0.33	US 3m Bill				0.02	0.01	0.01
Gold \$	1741.20	1755.50 -0.81	Euro Liber 3m				-0.54	-0.54	0.00
			UK 3m				0.09	0.09	0.00

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A new message was written near the memorial for George Floyd after Daunte Wright was shot on Sunday in a Minneapolis suburb.

C.D.C. at Odds With Michigan Over Outbreak

By NOAH WEILAND and MITCH SMITH

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration and Michigan's Democratic governor are locked in an increasingly tense standoff over the state's worst-in-the-nation coronavirus outbreak, with a top federal health official on Monday urging the governor to lock down her state.

As the governor, Gretchen Whitmer, publicly called again for a surge of vaccine supply, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said at a White House news conference that securing extra doses was not the most immediate or practical solution to the crush of infections.

"The answer is not necessarily to give vaccine," said the director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "The answer to that is to really close things down, to go back to our basics, to go back to where we were last spring, last summer, and to shut things down."

Michigan's outbreak — driven by a highly infectious virus variant, loosened restrictions, travel, youth sporting events and uneven compliance with the remaining rules — is by far the worst in the country. The state is averaging seven times as many cases each day as it was in late February, and hospitalizations have roughly doubled in the past two weeks. Nonetheless, Ms. Whitmer has stopped well short of the far-reaching shutdowns that made her a political lightning rod last summer, with armed protesters storming the Statehouse to de-

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Albany Boys Club Hasn't Gotten #MeToo Memo

This article is by Sydney Ember, J. David Goodman and Luis Ferré-Sadurni.

A legislative aide in New York's state capital grabbed the thigh of a lobbyist so hard at a fund-raiser that he left finger-shaped bruises on her skin. A top official at a state agency projected a picture of a colleague in a bikini for all to see in a meeting she was attending.

Another lobbyist described a legislator touching her thighs and feeling her chest in his State Assembly office. And a state senator said a male colleague told her she looked "like a Bond girl" as they sat near each other in the chamber.

The senator, Julia Salazar, who declined to identify her colleague, also recalled attending a fund-

Culture of Harassment Goes Beyond Claims Against Cuomo

raiser just outside the Capitol in 2019 where another legislator's staff member began commenting on her appearance. "He said, 'You should be on a calendar,'" recalled Ms. Salazar, who was 28 at the time. "I was so embarrassed that I left."

If encounters like these are unacceptable and potentially career-ending, especially in the #MeToo era, they are also a defining part of the culture of government in Albany, N.Y., and so endemic that they have continued even after

sex scandals took down a governor (Eliot Spitzer) and several members of the State Assembly. Sexual misconduct in Albany has been thrown into sharp relief by allegations against Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo from multiple current and former aides who have accused him of sexual harassment and, in one case, groping during an encounter in the Executive Mansion.

"There are all of these patterns that we just keep seeing over and over again," said Leah Hebert, a former state legislative aide and a member of the Sexual Harassment Working Group, which advocates better workplace conditions in New York. "You could definitely look at Albany and say nothing has changed."

Continued on Page A16

MINNESOTA POLICE KILL ANOTHER MAN AS TENSIONS BUILD

Chief Says Officer Who Shot Black Driver Meant to Use Taser Instead of Gun

This article is by Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs, Julie Bosman and Shawn Huber.

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. — The officer who fatally shot a Black man during a traffic stop near Minneapolis mistakenly confused her gun for her Taser, police officials said on Monday, quickly releasing video as they tried to ease tensions in a state on edge over the Derek Chauvin trial.

In a brief clip of body camera video, officers from the Brooklyn Center Police Department can be seen trying to handcuff the driver, Daunte Wright, before he suddenly lunges back into his car. One of the officers, whose name has not been released, aims a weapon at Mr. Wright and shouts, "Taser! Taser!"

She fires one round, and Mr. Wright groans in pain.

"Holy shit, I just shot him," the officer can be heard shouting.

The fatal shooting on Sunday took place in a region already at the center of a national reckoning over police officers' use of force against Black people. As the investigation into Mr. Wright's death in Brooklyn Center was beginning on Monday, prosecutors in a courtroom less than 10 miles away completed the questioning of their witnesses in the trial of Mr. Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer charged with murdering George Floyd last May.

The Twin Cities braced for unrest on Monday evening, and a 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew was issued for much of the metro area. Protests were announced in cities including Portland, Ore., and New York, and in Brooklyn Center, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Police Department, violating curfew as they chanted in a steady rain while officers clad in riot gear stood guard near newly erected fencing. The mayors of

Minneapolis and St. Paul declared states of emergency. Professional baseball, basketball and hockey games in Minnesota were postponed.

The shooting of Mr. Wright, 20, whose autopsy revealed that he was shot once in the chest, caused an immediate outcry across the state, protests and looting in Brooklyn Center, and recognition by President Biden, who said he was praying for the Wright family and called for an investigation.

"We do know that the anger, pain and trauma amidst the Black community is real," Mr. Biden said at the White House.



THE CHAUVIN TRIAL, Mr. Floyd's brother Philonise and a cardiologist testified. Page A19.

He also said: "In the meantime, I want to make it clear again: There is absolutely no justification for violence. Peaceful protest? Understandable."

Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, angrily demanded that state lawmakers pass police reform that has languished since Mr. Floyd's death. He said he was going straight from the news conference to the Capitol in St. Paul.

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Israel's Role in Iran Blast Casts A Shadow on U.S. Nuclear Talks

This article is by Patrick Kingsley, David E. Sanger and Farnaz Fassihi.

JERUSALEM — The last time the centrifuges crashed at Iran's underground nuclear fuel-production center at Natanz, more than a decade ago, the sabotage was the result of a joint Israeli-American cyberattack intended to slow Tehran's progress toward nuclear weapons and force a diplomatic negotiation.

When they crashed again this weekend, the White House asserted that the United States had no involvement.

The operation raised the question of whether Israel was acting on its own to strike Iran and undermine American diplomacy as the Biden administration seeks to reconstitute a nuclear agreement.

Or, alternatively, whether Israel was operating in concert with American interests, carrying out dirty work that would weaken Iran's position in the talks.

The White House was saying almost nothing in public on Monday about the apparent explosion inside Iran's Natanz facility, below more than 20 feet of reinforced concrete, which destroyed the power supply that keeps the centrifuges spinning at supersonic speeds, enriching uranium.

"The U.S. was not involved in any manner," the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, said Monday. "We have nothing to add on speculation about the causes or the impacts."

White House officials did not comment on whether the United

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Japan's New Hero, Whether He Likes It or Not

By BEN DOOLEY

TOKYO — Hideki Matsuyama has never been a fan of the spotlight. Even as he rose to become Japan's most successful male golfer, he did his best to avoid the attention lavished on the every move of other Japanese athletes who have shined on the global stage.

But with his win on Sunday at

Winning Golf Fame at the Cost of Privacy

the Masters in Augusta, Ga., the glare will now be inescapable. His victory, the first by a Japanese man in one of golf's major championships, is the fulfillment of a long-held ambition for the coun-

try, and it guarantees that he will be feted as a national hero, with the adoration and scrutiny that follows.

Japan is a nation of avid golfers, and the game's status as the sport of choice for the Western business and political elite has given it a special resonance. Success in sports has long been a critical gauge of the country's global standing, with the United States

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In Southeast Asia, the Strongman Era Returns

By HANNAH BEECH

Late last month, foreign officials in army regalia toasted their hosts in Naypyidaw, the bunkered capital built by Myanmar's military. Ice clinked in frosted glasses. A lavish spread had been laid out for the foreign dignitaries in honor of Myanmar's Armed Forces Day.

That very day, the military, which had seized power on Feb. 1,

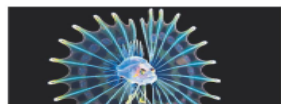
Myanmar Coup Shows Autocracy's Rise

gunned down more than 100 of its own citizens. Far from publicly condemning the brutality, the military representatives from neighboring countries — India, China, Thailand and Vietnam among

them — posed grinning with the generals, legitimizing their push.

The coup in Myanmar feels like a relic of a Southeast Asian past, when men in uniform roamed a vast dictators' playground. But it also brings home how a region once celebrated for its transformative "people power" revolutions — against Suharto of Indonesia and Ferdinand Marcos of

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The Tiniest Sea Monsters

Blackwater photographers are capturing some of the oceans' prettiest creatures. Above, a larval lionfish. PAGE D1

Locusts Plagued by High Tech

An innovative approach to contain the insects in East Africa could help manage other disasters. PAGE D1

INTERNATIONAL A9-14

On the Hunt in Taiwan

The island's Indigenous hunting cultures are circumscribed by ancient rituals even as they face modern legal restrictions. PAGE A9

Sectarian 'Troubles' Remain

A peace agreement ended decades of conflict in Northern Ireland, but new issues are reviving old feuds. PAGE A10

SPORTSTUESDAY B7-10

Where Chaos Replaced Titles

A high school football power in Valdosta, Ga., is dealing with a racial divide and a secret recording. PAGES B8-9

NATIONAL A15-21

School Shooting in Tennessee

Multiple people were shot, including a Knoxville police officer, at a high school on Monday afternoon, the authorities said. A motive for the attack was not immediately clear. PAGE A21

A New Flock on TikTok

Abraham Piper, the son of an influential evangelical pastor, has gained a large following almost overnight, posting videos critiquing the faith. PAGE A16

Nominee for Border Patrol

Chief Chris Magnus of the Tucson Police was a critic of the Trump administration's immigration policy. PAGE A20



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It's History vs. Golf

An effort to preserve a Native American "Stonehenge" in Ohio is facing a fairway-size obstacle. PAGE C1

A Fashion Extravaganza

The Met Gala will be in September, but it's unclear if the world will be ready by then to fully embrace a party. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-6

China Aims to Curb Tech Giant

Ant Group, Alibaba's fintech sister, announced an overhaul after Beijing accused it of flouting regulations. PAGE B1

Staying Firm on Voting Laws

A coalition of law firms has joined business leaders in opposing state restrictions on voting. PAGE B1

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Bret Stephens

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Officer meant to draw Taser, chief says

The shooting death of Daunte Wright, 20, reignites tensions in Minneapolis area as Chauvin trial proceeds.

BY KURTIS LEE
AND TANIA GANGULI

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. — The police shooting of a Black man in a Minneapolis suburb — a short drive from the courthouse where a former Minneapolis police officer is on trial, accused of murdering George Floyd — further devastated a community already facing persistent headlines about police brutality.

On Monday, the police chief of Brooklyn Center, Minn., north of Minneapolis, said the officer who shot and killed 20-year-old Daunte Wright during a traffic stop the day before may have intended to use a Taser, not a firearm.

"It is my belief that the officer had their intention to deploy the Taser but instead shot Mr. Wright with a single bullet," said Brooklyn Center Police Chief Tim Gannon, adding that he believes this was an "accidental discharge."

The officer, Kim Potter, has been placed on administrative leave.

The shooting of Wright yet again ignited tensions in Minneapolis and a nation torn and rising in the streets in a call for racial justice and an end to police brutality.

Residents and activists quickly pushed back on police, calling for justice for Wright, who was unarmed, officials said.

"Daunte Wright is yet another young Black man killed at the hands of those who have sworn to protect and serve all of us — not just the whitest among us," Benjamin Crump, a civil rights lawyer, said.

[See Wright, A6]



KATIE WRIGHT, left, mother of Daunte Wright, is embraced during a vigil for her son on Monday in Brooklyn Center, Minn. The police chief there said the shooting of the 20-year-old was an "accidental discharge."

Union shaped school openings

L.A. teachers held firm on top priorities, which were adopted

BY HOWARD BLUME

The Los Angeles school district is set to unfold a gradual and partial reopening plan on Tuesday, one that was heavily influenced by teachers union demands that led to a delayed start date and limited live instructional time — and also by strict safety imperatives shared by both the district and union.

L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner has hailed the reopening as a nation-leading model for school safety that is sensitive to families in low-income communities hardest hit by illness and death during the pandemic. But the approach has also generated criticism from those who say the quantity and quality of instruction for 465,000 students have been sacrificed this year as a result of union concerns.

The key safety provisions — including mandatory

[See Schools, A7]



LOS ANGELES schools Supt. Austin Beutner talks to third-grade teacher Derrick Lietz at Westminster Avenue Elementary School in Venice on Monday.

LAUSD to consider adding two weeks to school year

The plan would address learning loss and trauma from campus closures, Supt. Beutner says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Child care seen as priority when campuses relaunch

Supervised care — not class instruction — will make up most of the day when students return. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Red flags were raised before 3 kids' deaths

The father of siblings found slain in Reseda had concerns about mom's state of mind.

BY RICHARD WINTON
AND MATT HAMILTON

In the months before three young siblings were slain inside a Reseda apartment, the alarms about Lilianna Carrillo's ability to care for the kids grew louder and louder.

Carrillo was "extremely paranoid" and erratic, according to her boyfriend's account in court papers, which described her increasingly bizarre claims: that she was "solely responsible" for the COVID-19 pandemic and that his hometown of Porterville was beset by a pedophile ring.

"I am afraid for my children's physical and mental well-being," the kids' father, Erik Denton, told a Tulare County judge last month before he was granted physical custody.

The warnings reached officials in Los Angeles County as well. The county's child welfare agency and the Los Angeles Police Department were alerted, on numerous occasions, that Carrillo was a danger to the young children, according to interviews by The Times with Denton and his family along with court records and sources familiar with the ongoing investigation.

L.A. County's Department of Children and Family Services had received at least two separate reports involving the family. But despite repeated conversations with the children's father, the agency failed to act. [See Slayings, A12]

Where the latest Iran-Israel feud might be headed

Apparent Natanz nuclear plant attack seems to bring some unity to one nation and division to the other. **WORLD, A3**

Tenn. student killed in gunfire

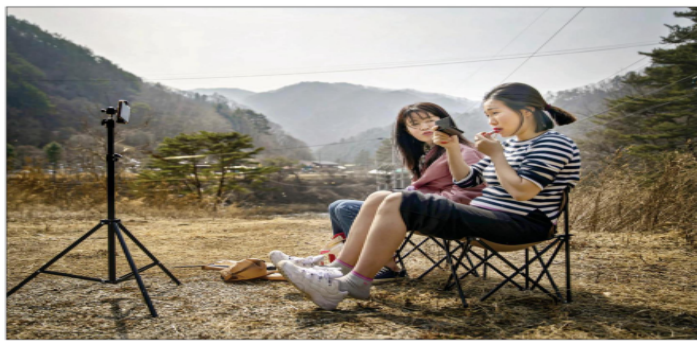
Male pupil dies after shooting at Knoxville police at school, authorities say. One officer is wounded. **NATION, A6**

Friend recalls Kobe's sendoff

Fellow NBA star DeMar DeRozan learned his idol still had something to show in his final game. **SPORTS, B6**

Weather Low clouds. L.A. Basin: 66/55. B10

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



NORTH KOREAN refugees Sim Ha Yoon, left, and Seok Hyeon Ju prepare to record an interview for Seok's YouTube channel in Inje, South Korea.

COLUMN ONE

Windows on a closed society

North Korean refugees find voices on YouTube, and share scenes no one else could fathom

VICTORIA KIM
REPORTING FROM INJE, SOUTH KOREA

Her hair pulled back in a carefree ponytail and a GoPro camera trailing her every step, Seok Hyeon Ju wanders with a kitchen knife across an empty cornfield strewn with fallen stalks.

She's on the hunt for naengi, a spring green known as shepherd's purse that grows in the toughest soil, which years ago she foraged as a starving child in the

mountains of North Korea. She picks some and then lets out a delighted squeal when she spots a shriveled ear of corn left over from last year's harvest.

She turns toward the camera — and some 9,000 of her YouTube subscribers — and says such a discovery would have been unbelievably lucky when she lived through a devastating famine before making her way south to a new life.

"We were so, so hungry when we were young," the 33-year-old says, popping a hard kernel into her mouth, before pro-

[See North Koreans, A4]

A plan to create shelters, clear streets

L.A. is nearing settlement of a federal suit that would entail beds for homeless people across the city.

BY BENJAMIN ORESKES
AND DOUG SMITH

The Los Angeles City Council appears to be heading toward a settlement of a federal lawsuit by agreeing to provide new housing or shelter for thousands of homeless people, while being able to use anti-gleaning laws to clear anyone remaining on the streets.

The new beds would be spread across the city, based on the number of homeless people estimated to be living in each City Council district in 2020, and could require every council member to find locations for hundreds of new beds.

It's unclear how much the city might have to spend to fund this ambitious expansion, although it's a question council members have asked city finance officials. It's also unclear what the balance would be between permanent housing and homeless shelters, which are designed to be temporary stops.

Spokesmen for Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Atty. Mike Feuer declined to comment.

Late last month, the City Council celebrated more than four hours in closed [See Homeless, A12]

Pacific, ArcLight theaters fade to black

BY RYAN FAUGHNDER

In a stunning blow to moviegoers in Southern California, the owner of Pacific Theatres and ArcLight Cinemas said Monday the popular cinema locations will not reopen as Hollywood struggles to recover from the pandemic.

"After shutting our doors more than a year ago, today we must share the difficult and sad news that Pacific will not be reopening its ArcLight Cinemas and Pacific Theatres locations," Pacific Theatres said in a statement. "This was not the outcome anyone wanted, but despite a huge effort that exhausted all potential options, the company does not have a viable way forward."

Los Angeles-based Pacific, whose locations include the ArcLight Hollywood on Sunset Boulevard, is the latest victim of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has buffeted the theatrical exhibition industry.

Theaters in Los Angeles just started to reopen last month in time for the release of Warner Bros.' "Godzilla vs. Kong." Although large chains such as AMC reopened slowly, smaller companies have taken longer to get back on their feet.

Hollywood studios delayed their big blockbusters for months, waiting for more theaters to reopen across [See Theaters, A9]

Hallaron en un campo de Alperovich 200 vacas robadas

Son algunos de los 3500 animales cuyo robo había sido denunciado en Santiago del Estero; el senador dice que fue víctima de "una estafa". **Página 16**



MAURO VIALE: UN DESENLAZQUE QUE IMPACTÓ AL PAÍS

—espectáculos

Desde su programa *La pura verdad*, se dedicó obsesivamente a cubrir el drama de la pandemia; el viernes pasado había empezado a sentir los síntomas de la enfermedad

JUEGOS OLÍMPICOS, UNA INCÓGNITA Y SOLO FALTAN 100 DÍAS

—deportes

Pese a un fuerte rechazo de los ciudadanos de Tokio y muchas alertas sanitarias, los organizadores mantienen el optimismo de llegar a tiempo para el inicio

LA NACION

MARTES 13 DE ABRIL DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Analizan un cierre total "por poco tiempo" para evitar un colapso sanitario

RESTRICCIONES. Los expertos que recibió la Casa Rosada aconsejaron un regreso a la fase 1

En medio de las advertencias sobre un colapso del sistema sanitario, el Gobierno analiza medidas más duras que las anunciadas la semana pasada para contener el coronavirus. El comité de epidemiólogos que aconseja a la Casa Rosada recomendó un cierre total, similar a la fase 1 del año pasado, durante un corto

período. Los recibieron el jefe de Gabinete, Santiago Cafiero, y otros cuatro ministros.

Fuentes oficiales indicaron que el Gobierno prevé esperar unos días antes de resolver un cambio. En la reunión se habló de mantener las clases presenciales y de que una potencial cuarentena debería tener

principio y final claro y acotado.

La ocupación de camas de terapia intensiva sigue creciendo. Se siente especialmente en las clínicas privadas del área metropolitana (con niveles superiores al 90%). En el sistema público hay algo más de margen, dicen las autoridades. **Página 2**

Los riesgos políticos de la épica sin gestión

Luciana Vázquez

Página 7

Trotta, tironeado para limitar la presencialidad

Página 4

Señal de la Corte en el litigio entre Larreta y el Gobierno

COPARTICIPACIÓN. Citó a una conciliación por el recorte de fondos

La Corte Suprema de Justicia tomó una decisión de impacto político al convocar una audiencia de conciliación entre el gobierno nacional y el porteño para tratar el litigio por el recorte de fondos a la ciudad que dispuso el presidente Alberto Fernández por decreto (y que convalidó el Congreso).

Los abogados de las dos administraciones deberán asistir a la cita el miércoles 21. El caso se inició a partir de una demanda de Horacio Rodríguez Larreta. En la Ciudad celebraron que la Corte hubiera decidido intervenir. **Página 14**

"Barbijos por fideos": florece el trueque en el conurbano

—Coronavirus

Leche, jabón o incluso tapabocas. Las ferias de trueque no son novedad en el conurbano, pero durante la pandemia crecieron de manera exponencial. En la Plaza Pinerol, de Caseros, intercambian objetos por alimentos

Página 6



HERNÁN ZENTENO

Elecciones. Las derrotas sumergen en el desconcierto a la izquierda regional

Daniel Lozano
PARA LA NACION

CARACAS.— "Si la propuesta del pueblo gana en Ecuador y Perú, volveremos al proyecto integracionista de la patria grande de Chávez,

Néstor Kirchner, Lula y Correa, ya que renacerá la Unasur y se fortalecerá la Celac, y con Runasur, que integrará a los pueblos, surgirá la América plurinacional".

Ni una cosa ni la otra. El vaticinio de Evo Morales no solo no se cum-

plió, sino que la derrota electoral se extendió a su propio país con las elecciones de gobernador. Al Grupo de Puebla y a sus líderes les costó digerir la estrepitosa derrota electoral sufrida en los tres países andinos. **Continúa en la página 10**

OPINIÓN

La UBA
(Universidad
Boudou
Argentina)

Luciano Román

—PARA LA NACION—

Página 25

Confirman un aumento del 6% en el gas desde mayo

TARIFAS. Fue anunciado por el Enargas; responde a Cristina Kirchner

El interventor en el Enargas, Federico Bernal, confirmó que las tarifas de gas aumentarán al menos 6% para los clientes residenciales y 4% para las pymes a partir de mayo. El funcionario, que responde políticamente a la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner, dijo que la suba corresponde a los rubros transporte y distribución. **Página 17**

Estudian cómo evitar saltos bruscos en los precios de las naftas
Página 17

Más presión kirchnerista por el caso del pacto con Irán

Página 15

Para tirar despesas do teto, governo estuda PEC

O governo Jair Bolsonaro estuda com aliados manobra para retirar certas despesas do teto de gastos em 2021 sem decretar o estado de calamidade pública (que libera de forma irrestrita despesas ligadas à pandemia). A ideia é editar uma nova proposta de emenda à Constituição para liberar verbas emergenciais específicas e abrir mais espaço para emendas parlamentares. **Mercado A17**

“Se você [Kajuru] não participa [da CPI], vem a canalhada lá do Randolfe Rodrigues para participar e vai começar a encher o saco. Daí, vou ter que sair na porrada com um bosta desses

Jair Bolsonaro, em conversa com o senador Jorge Kajuru (Cidadania-GO)

“Eu não tenho idade para participar de briga de rua

Randolfe Rodrigues, senador (Rede-AP), sobre a fala de Bolsonaro

Base age para minar CPI, e ala do STF, para adiá-la

Em paralelo, Bolsonaro assume pessoalmente articulação para blindar governo

A base aliada do Planalto no Senado preparou ofensiva para impedir a criação, hoje, da CPI da Covid.

A primeira tentativa será apresentar questionamentos durante a sessão, a fim de evitar a abertura oficial, com a leitura do requerimento pelo presidente da Casa, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG).

Caso ele consiga ler o documento e efetivamente criar a comissão, a estratégia dos senadores será tumultuar os trabalhos a ponto de impedir os líderes dos partidos de indicarem seus membros, medida sem a qual ela não pode funcionar.

Além de estratégias para a sessão, correm outras.

Governistas assinaram pedido para criar CPI que investigue também estados e municípios, como pediu o presidente Jair Bolsonaro (sem partido) em conversa com o senador Jorge Kajuru (Cidadania-GO).

No Supremo Tribunal Federal uma ala tenta adiar a instauração da comissão.

A ideia, que enfrenta resistência dentro da corte, é evitar riscos à saúde dos parlamentares, pois os trabalhos de uma CPI são presenciais.

Em paralelo, Bolsonaro assumiu pessoalmente a tarefa de montar uma tropa de choque que defenda sua gestão no Senado, contrapondo-se à oposição. **Poder A4 e A6**



Hannah McKay/Reuters

INGLATERRA, EM SEGUNDA FASE DO DESCONFINAMENTO, REABRE RESTAURANTES E PUBS

Jovens em área externa de estabelecimento de Londres, que retomou serviços após mais de três meses de lockdown e com imunização acelerada **Mundo A14**

Após lockdown, cidades em SP têm números melhores

Após adotar lockdown contra a Covid-19, as cidades de Araraquara, Ribeirão Preto e São José do Rio Preto em geral registram indicadores melhores do que os apresentados no período pré-fechamento. Mas o cenário ainda é crítico, com UTIs cheias. **Saúde B1**

Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*	2ª dose	1ª dose
Brasil	4,6	14,8
MS	7,0	19,1
RS	4,3	19,1
BA	4,0	17,5

Cobertura da primeira dose*



Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	13,5 mi	355,0 mil
12.abr**	71,2 mil	3.125
Varição***	-5,2%	17,7%
Em 24 h	38,9 mil	1.738

Dados das 20h de 12.abr. *Acima de 18 anos **Média móvel de 7 dias ***Em relação a 24 dias

EDITORIAL A2

Fogo na CPI

A respeito de diálogo entre Bolsonaro e senador.

Equador à direita

Acerca de vitória de Lasso sobre candidato de Correa.

Jovens são maioria em internações nas UTIs do país

Pela primeira vez desde o início da Covid-19, as internações em UTI de pessoas com menos de 40 anos são maioria absoluta. Houve ainda um salto no número de pacientes graves com necessidade de ventilação mecânica e que não têm comorbidades. **Saúde B2**

Titular do MEC demite desafeto do comando da Capes

Cotidiano B5



Adriano Vizoni/Folhapress

ESSENCIAIS À ESPERA DA VACINA

Motorista em ônibus no terminal Parque Dom Pedro 2º, em São Paulo; mantendo rotina mesmo com a piora da crise, trabalhadores encaram medo ao aguardarem dose **Mercado A16**

Esporte B8

Nova joia dos Santos, Ângelo, 16, é precoce e protagonista desde a infância

Saúde B4

Ultraprocessados aumentam risco de morte por infarto e AVC, afirma estudo

Ilustrada B9

‘Alvorada’, filme do É Tudo Verdade, entra no bunker de Dilma no impeachment

Comida B15

Com 2 variedades de trufa, Brasil já cria cães farejadores para explorá-las

ANÁLISE

Sylvia Colombo

No Equador, Lasso terá de dialogar com o Congresso

O resultado das eleições no Equador exibe uma nova radiografia do país, com a qual terá de conviver o presidente eleito, Guillermo Lasso. Coalizão correísta e movimento indígena têm as maiores bancadas no Congresso. **Mundo A13**

Morre formulador do

consenso de Washington

John Williamson ficou conhecido pela elaboração do controverso receituário liberal para a América Latina nos anos 1980. **A18**

Henry morreu uma hora antes de ser tirado de casa

Laudo aponta, a partir de imagens de elevador, que Henry Borel, 4, estava morto fazia ao menos uma hora quando a mãe e o padrasto o levaram do apartamento onde vivia. O documento diz que ele sofreu 23 lesões entre as 23h30 e as 3h30. **Cotidiano B6**

Telefonema avulta rixa do Planalto com os Poderes

A publicação da conversa em que o presidente e o senador Jorge Kajuru (Cidadania-GO) debatem ampliar o escopo da CPI da Covid levou a bate-boca que atingiu outras autoridades e ampliou o desgosto do governo com o Congresso e o Supremo. **Poder A8**

Rosa suspende partes de decretos sobre armas

Rosa Weber, do STF, suspendeu trechos de quatro decretos presidenciais que flexibilizavam posse e porte de arma a partir de hoje. Entre as normas inválidas está ampliação do número de armas por pessoa. A decisão será analisada em plenário. **Cotidiano B7**

Cristina Serra

Escravidão pandêmica

Existem várias pandemias dentro do quadro de terror produzido pelo vírus e criminalmente exacerbado pelo comandante em chefe do genocídio. Uma delas se alastra quase oculta da porta para dentro dos lares brasileiros ricos e de classe média. **Opinião A2**

Receita adia prazo de declaração do IR para 31 de maio

Mercado A19

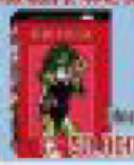
A vacinação é a melhor forma de prevenção contra a gripe.

#Protegido ContraGripe



SANOFI PASTEUR

WHO: Fatores de Risco para a Gripe: Doença em: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/diseases-causing-pneumonia-and-asthma-em: 201500001 MAT - MAT 04-2020005



Salud habilitó el sitio para el registro de los interesados en inmunizarse

Una parte ínfima de la población tiene aseguradas sus vacunas

Solo quedan 60.000 dosis disponibles para personal de blanco que falta vacunar y mayores de 85 años. Faltan otras 4.041.000 como mínimo. OPS promete nueva entrega de 134.000.

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 5



Inversión. Los dos municipios sobresalen al hacer frente a la pandemia fortaleciendo la capacidad de respuesta de los hospitales distritales.

Resalta gestión municipal de Villa Elisa y CDE en crisis

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Polladas y milanesas a la orden del día
Suman las actividades solidarias para ayudar a las personas internadas

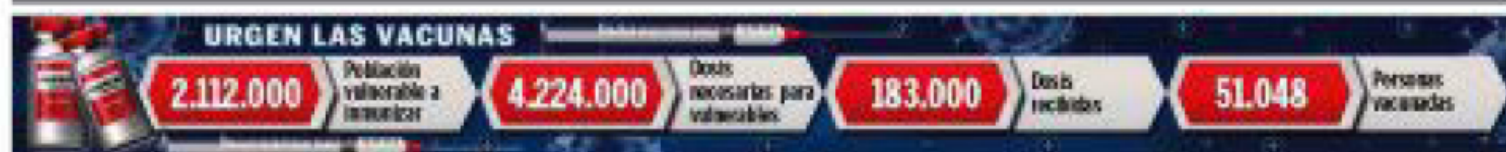
PÁGINA 24

En la zona limítrofe con Argentina
El pedido de subsidio fronterizo triplicó la cifra estimada por el Gobierno

PÁGINA 29

Dependerá de una buena negociación
La reducción tarifaria de energía de Itaipú desde 2023 traería ventajas

PÁGINA 36



LIBAN

ENQUÊTE SUR LA FAILLITE
DU SYSTÈME BANCAIRE, QUI MENACE
DES MILLIERS D'ÉPARGNANTS PAGES 6 ET 7

RELIGION

À L'HEURE DU RAMADAN,
L'ISLAM EN FRANCE PLUS
DIVISÉ QUE JAMAIS PAGES 10 ET 11



ENTRETIEN

Rachida Dati :
« Anne Hidalgo
méprise
les Parisiens »

PAGE 5

HAÏTI

Un pays à la dérive
gangrené
par les gangs armés
liés au pouvoir

PAGE 8

HONGRIE

Viktor Orban
impatient d'en finir
avec le Covid-19

PAGE 9

ANTI-5G

Le profil hétéroclite
des saboteurs
d'antennes-relais

PAGE 12

MODE

Peut-on s'habiller
100% français ?

PAGE 30

CINÉMA

Les petits secrets
de l'avance
sur recettes

PAGE 32

Face au tollé, Macron maintient la date des élections régionales

Alors que les maires consultés ce week-end par l'exécutif se sont majoritairement prononcés contre un nouveau report, le chef de l'État a finalement décidé de maintenir le scrutin en juin.

Emmanuel Macron a enfin pris sa décision : après plusieurs jours de tergiversations, le chef de l'État opte désormais pour un maintien des élections régionales et départementales au mois de juin, les 13 et 20,

comme le prévoit le projet de loi adopté au début de l'année. C'est en tout cas le scénario que défendra le premier ministre Jean Castex, aujourd'hui à l'Assemblée et demain au Sénat. Vendredi, l'exécutif

avait suscité un tollé en demandant directement aux 35 000 maires de France s'ils étaient favorables ou non à un report des élections. L'opposition y voyait une nouvelle tentative de la part d'Emma-

nuel Macron de repousser un scrutin crucial pour les oppositions et périlleux pour la majorité. Mais les maires ont fait valoir leur préférence : le non au report l'a emporté par 56 % des voix, contre 40 % pour un

nouvel ajournement des scrutins. Au total, 13 513 édiles ont considéré que les conditions préconisées par le Conseil scientifique étaient réunies pour tenir les élections selon le calendrier prévu.

→ L'ARCHER : « JE NE SUIS PAS ÉTONNÉ DE LA RÉPONSE DES MAIRES » → POUR LA DROITE, REPORTER L'ÉLECTION AURAIT « CONFINÉ LA DÉMOCRATIE » → LA CONSTITUTIONNALITÉ D'UN REPORT FAIT DÉBAT CHEZ LES JURISTES → LES CADRES DE LA MAJORITÉ ÉTAIENT PARTAGÉS → PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



HANNAH MCCAY/REUTERS

À Londres, les Anglais retrouvent le plaisir des pubs

Ces institutions phares de la vie britannique, fermées depuis plusieurs mois, peuvent de nouveau accueillir des clients en terrasse. Les consommateurs devront attendre le 17 mai pour retrouver la chaleur du zinc, à l'intérieur. PAGE 16

Eau, environ- nement : Veolia met la main sur Suez

Après sept mois d'une intense bagarre qui a animé le capitalisme français, les deux géants de l'eau et des déchets ont fini dimanche soir par s'entendre sur le périmètre et le prix de rachat de Suez. Dans un entretien au Figaro, Antoine Frérot, PDG de Veolia, se dit « très heureux de pouvoir bâtir concrètement le grand champion de la transformation écologique » dont il rêvait. Une belle victoire pour ce dirigeant persévérant. PAGES 22 ET 23

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythreard@lefigaro.fr

La démocratie, quand même !

Inquiet de l'érosion des libertés dans certains pays d'Europe centrale, Emmanuel Macron n'a jamais de mots assez durs pour dénoncer les « démocraties illibérales ». Comparaison n'est pas raison, mais il aurait été honteux que la France continue à donner des leçons de morale et de bonne politique à ses voisins en piétinant, chez elle, l'un des piliers fondamentaux de la démocratie, à savoir une élection.

Depuis un an, sa population se plie, sans trop broncher, à tous les ordres du pouvoir, même les moins rationnels. Comme si l'état d'urgence sanitaire, plusieurs fois reconduit, justifiait toutes les privations, autorisait tous les diktats. Il était maintenant question de reporter la tenue des élections régionales et départementales, déjà décalée de mars à juin. L'entourloupe était grossière. L'idée a effleuré l'Élysée. Heureusement, il n'en est rien. La démocratie a le dernier mot. Quand même !

Aucun motif impérieux ne pouvait expliquer pareille décision. S'il était possible de reprendre le chemin de l'école fin avril et des cafés et restaurants mi-mai, l'ouverture des

bureaux de vote les 13 et 20 juin semblait aller de soi. Quitte à installer, comme l'ont fait les Pays-Bas récemment, des isolements à l'extérieur. Repousser l'opération à l'automne ne pouvait être que suspect. Cette fébrilité trahissait la peur d'une déroute électorale de la majorité présidentielle bien davantage que la crainte d'une propagation virale exceptionnelle le jour du vote. Que François Bayrou et

Richard Ferrand se rassurent, quelles qu'en soient les dates, ces élections ne s'annoncent, de toute façon, guère flatteuses pour leurs candidats. Le débat, avec vote, organisé à l'Assemblée nationale, puis au Sénat, n'y changera pas grand-chose, cet épisode laissera une mauvaise impression. Le nouveau monde promis par Emmanuel Macron a toujours la tentation d'user des vieilles ficelles de l'ancien. « Sachons sortir des sentiers battus, des idéologies, et sachons nous réinventer, moi le premier », disait le chef de l'État en avril 2020. Il y a urgence, en effet... ■

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How green is your milk?

Emma Beddington's ethical dilemma → G2



'Legend of banter' Harry's tribute to his grandfather

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Cameron faces inquiry into Greensill lobbying scandal

PM orders investigation amid calls for greater ministerial transparency

Jessica Elgot
Deputy political editor

David Cameron is at the centre of an unprecedented formal inquiry after Boris Johnson ordered an investigation into lobbying by the former prime minister on behalf of

the collapsed company Greensill. The independent inquiry will examine the firm's role in the government's supply chain financing, and communications by employees, including Cameron, who joined Greensill as an adviser in 2018 two years after resigning as prime minister and stood to make millions of pounds from his role.

It is understood the inquiry will also have licence to recommend changes to lobbying regulations.

Government sources stressed the decision yesterday was not a

personal attack by Johnson on his former rival, as it will be seen by some allies of Cameron, but said it was clear the public deserved a transparent explanation of the scandal.

Cameron broke his month-long silence on Sunday with a 1,700-word statement after a slew of damaging stories about his lobbying efforts on behalf of Greensill, including messages to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, two junior ministers, senior civil servants and a No 10 special adviser. He said he had reflected on his conduct and accepted he should

have communicated "through only the most formal of channels" and there were "important lessons" to be learned.

Campaigners including Transparency International have said the saga "highlights deep flaws in the UK's approach" and that an inquiry should cover the lack of transparency in lobbying, enforcing the ministerial code, and the revolving door between government and the private sector.

The group said that ministerial meetings, which are meant to be reported, are often left

High streets feel the rush as lockdown curbs eased

Sarah Butler
Joanna Partridge

Shoppers surged back to high streets across England and Wales yesterday as fashion stores, toy shops, hairdressers and other non-essential retailers reopened their doors for the first time in more than three months.

The number of people in shopping destinations by 3pm was more than double the level of the previous Monday and only just over a quarter lower than 2019 levels, according to analysts at Springboard.

Spending in England was up 500% in hairdressing salons and nearly tripled in shops in the morning, compared with a typical Monday before the pandemic, according to the financial app Revolut.

Pubs got off to a slower start but takings were still up 150% on normal pre-pandemic levels just before lunch, with Romford and Chester seeing the biggest surges.

With snow flurries in some places and cold weather across the country, Springboard said shopping centres reported the biggest rise in footfall, followed by high streets. There was less of an increase at retail parks because many have supermarkets and DIY stores, which have been able to trade throughout lockdown.

Shoppers queued before 7am outside Primark stores, which were among the first to open in England and Wales, as well as at sports shops and the Zara and TK Maxx chains.

Paul Marchant, chief executive of Primark, said: "As expected, stores have been very busy, but we're more than ready and very confident in the safety measures we have in place. The mood has been incredibly upbeat and positive."

The crowds spurred hopes of a spending spree fuelled by £180bn of lockdown savings, put aside by British consumers after months without nights out,

BBC's Philip tributes set record for complaints

Jim Waterson
Media editor

The BBC's wall-to-wall coverage of Prince Philip's death has become the most complained-about moment in British television history, as viewers expressed annoyance that shows such as *EastEnders* and *MasterChef* were replaced with royal tributes.

At least 110,994 people have contacted the BBC to voice their displeasure at the decision to turn most of the corporation's TV channels and radio stations over to rolling tributes to the Duke of Edinburgh.

BBC One and BBC Two dedicated Friday evening to Philip, and their ratings fell as viewers switched off altogether, turned to streaming services, or watched shows such as *Gogglebox* on Channel 4.

According to an internal BBC complaints log seen by the Guardian, an unprecedented level of viewer feedback was received over the weekend, meaning the overwhelming coverage appears to have elicited one of the most negative reactions to BBC programmes ever.



'A trailblazer'
Politicians
pay respects
as Shirley Williams dies

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