

What's News

Business & Finance

An unusually large number of venture-capital investments have logged multi-billion-dollar profits in recent months, setting many firms up for their greatest returns since the dot-com boom. **A1**

◆ **The SEC's enforcement chief** resigned after just days on the job, the agency said, following a judge's questioning of her conduct in a lawsuit involving Exxon. **A1**

◆ **The Fed held** its key interest rate near zero and said it plans to continue supporting the economic recovery, while acknowledging progress in growth and employment. **A2**

◆ **Apple signaled** that the historic rise in sales it has seen during the pandemic is set to continue, as the company posted blowout results for its latest quarter. **B1**

◆ **Facebook reported** a sharp increase in revenue and profit as it benefited from a wave of digital ad spending, but said it expects growth to slow later this year. **B1**

◆ **Verizon is exploring** a sale of assets including Yahoo and AOL as it looks to exit an expensive and unsuccessful bet on digital media. **B1**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell**, with the Dow, Nasdaq and S&P 500 retreating 0.5%, 0.3% and 0.08%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **Amazon is raising wages** for its hourly employees after a majority of workers at one of its warehouses voted not to unionize. **B5**

◆ **Boeing posted** its sixth straight quarterly loss, with the patchy recovery of global air travel remaining the biggest issue for the company. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden declared** that "America is ready for a takeoff," as he pitched a sweeping vision for greater government investment to boost the economy, including a \$1.8 trillion proposal for new spending on child care, education and paid leave. **A1, A4, A6**

◆ **The Biden administration** intends to pursue a ban on menthol cigarettes, a move that could sweep from the market more than a third of all cigarettes sold in the U.S. **A1**

◆ **The Senate voted** 52-42 to restore regulations on methane that seep into the air from U.S. oil and gas production, reversing a Trump-era policy. **A8**

◆ **Federal investigators** executed a search warrant at Giuliani's New York City apartment, an escalation of an investigation by Manhattan federal prosecutors. **A3**

◆ **Vaccines appear** to be starting to curb new U.S. Covid-19 cases, a breakthrough that could help people return to more normal activities, public-health officials say. **A8**

◆ **Cruise operators** can restart sailings out of the U.S. as early as mid-July, the CDC said, paving the way for resuming operations suspended due to the pandemic. **B3**

◆ **Three men were indicted** on federal hate crimes charges in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was fatally shot while jogging in Georgia in 2020. **A3**

◆ **A judge rejected** motions to dismiss much of Amazon's challenge to the awarding of the Pentagon's JEDI contract to Microsoft. **B5**

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Biden Urges Broad Economic Plan



President Biden addresses a joint session of Congress on Wednesday on the eve of his 100th day in office, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Kamala Harris applauding behind him. Pandemic seating restrictions were observed.

President, in first speech to Congress, seeks \$1.8 trillion for education, workers

BY CATHERINE LUCEY AND SABRINA SIDDIQUI

WASHINGTON—President Biden declared "America is ready for a takeoff," as he pitched a sweeping vision for greater government investment to boost the economy, including a \$1.8 trillion proposal for new spending on child care, education and paid leave.

Addressing a joint session of Congress for the first time as president, Mr. Biden sought to strike a hopeful tone just ahead of his 100th day in office, stressing his efforts to combat the pandemic, expand Covid-19 vaccinations—which he urged people to get—and spur economic growth.

"America is moving. Moving forward. And we can't stop now," he said Wednesday, in remarks that ran just over an hour. "We're in competition with China and other countries to win the 21st century."

The prime-time address looked different this year under pandemic restrictions, with a small group of masked attendees, no in-person guests hosted by the first lady and more muted applause. Mr. Biden used the moment to sell

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◆ Gerald F. Seib: Biden gambles on his sense of the voters... A4

Venture Funds Bask in Blockbuster Profits

BY ELIOT BROWN

Nearly a decade ago, venture-capital firm Sutter Hill Ventures made a small wager on an idea for a cloud computing services company, helping found and fund Snowflake Inc. The bet paid off: Last month, Sutter Hill distributed a profit of nearly \$12 billion on the less than \$190 million it ultimately invested, as it

transferred its shares in the company to its investors and partners, marking one of the most profitable investments ever in venture capital.

The venture sector has long been defined by big wins on disruptive tech companies, balanced by far more numerous losing bets. But in recent months, an unusually large number of venture investments have logged multibil-

lion-dollar profits, setting many firms up for their greatest returns since the dot-com boom of the late 1990s.

Today, Sequoia Capital, an early backer of giants including Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google, holds more than \$14 billion of stock in Airbnb Inc. that it got by investing about \$235 million, as well as \$8.4 billion in stock in DoorDash Inc. that came from in-

vesting more than \$240 million, securities filings show.

Accel holds more than \$7.5 billion of stock in recently listed software company UiPath Inc., a huge profit on the \$172 million it invested. Altos Ventures put nearly \$400 million into gaming platform Roblox Corp., according to a person familiar with the matter, for a stake now worth \$8.5 billion. Andreessen Horowitz,

an early backer of Coinbase Global Inc., holds over \$6 billion of stock in the company and recently sold or transferred to its investors an additional \$3.2 billion.

Venture firms generally hold most of their investment in a company until it goes public. Depending on the firm, some sell or transfer shares in a company to the firm's inves-

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New Enforcement Chief At SEC Abruptly Quits

BY DAVE MICHAELS

WASHINGTON—The new enforcement chief for the Securities and Exchange Commission resigned after just a few days on the job, the agency said Wednesday, following a judge's questioning of her conduct in a lawsuit involving Exxon Mobil Corp.

Alex Oh, a former partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, will be succeeded on an acting basis by Melissa Hodgman, the SEC said.

Ms. Oh was the first major hire announced by new Chairman Gary Gensler, who was sworn into his role on April 17. The enforcement director is the SEC's most high-profile staff job, managing a division of 1,300 people and fashioning a strategy for regulating Wall Street.

Ms. Oh decided to resign after U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, in an order issued Monday, questioned her conduct during a deposition in a

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INSIDE



OBITUARY

Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who piloted module in orbit around the moon, 90. **A7**

U.S. to Propose Ban On Menthol Cigarettes

BY JENNIFER MALONEY

The Biden administration intends to pursue a ban on menthol cigarettes, a policy move that could sweep from the market more than a third of all cigarettes sold in the U.S., people familiar with the matter said.

The proposal, expected to be made public this week, stems from the Food and Drug Administration's finding in 2013 that menthols are harder to quit than regular cigarettes

and likely pose a greater health risk.

The agency also found that menthols are likely associated with increased smoking initiation by young people because the cooling properties of menthol mask the harshness of cigarette smoke.

The FDA must respond in court by Thursday to a citizens' petition to ban menthols by disclosing whether the agency intends to pursue such a policy. A nationwide menthol

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Post-Covid's Poster Child: Gibraltar

Broad vaccination brings back hugs, visits, pub life

BY WILL HORNER

GIBRALTAR—On this strip of densely populated rock jutting into the Mediterranean Sea, people are tasting freedom.

Gibraltar, thanks to its small size and access to U.K.-supplied vaccines, is among a handful of places in the world to have vaccinated most of its population against Covid-19.

"I walked out of my flat and put my mask on and then remembered that I didn't have to do that anymore," says Albert Stagnetto, director of a family chain of tobacco and liquor stores. "It's liberating."

Gibraltar, population 34,000. Please turn to page A10

Elon Musk's War With Regulators

The Tesla and SpaceX chief courts conflict with an alphabet soup of agencies

He's become one of the world's most successful entrepreneurs by reinventing industries from electric cars to rockets. Along the way, he's also rewritten the rules of engagement with U.S. regulators.

By Susan Pulliam, Rebecca Elliott and Ben Foldy

Elon Musk has emerged a winner in a series of run-ins with a range of regulatory agencies that have watched as he sidestepped rules or ignored enforcement attempts. He has overmatched an alphabet soup of agencies that oversee financial markets and safety in the workplace, on highways and in

space flight.

Most chief executives try to avoid regulators—or at least stay in their good graces. Many accused of overstepping have paid fines or agreed to make improvements.

Mr. Musk, revered by some investors for his iconoclastic approach, has taken a different tack on his way to becoming one of the richest men in the world, not letting regulations hinder his goals to revolutionize transportation with Tesla Inc.'s electric cars or colonize Mars using SpaceX rockets.

Federal agencies say he's breaking the rules and endangering people. Mr. Musk

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Game of chance

Perceived risk changes as we emerge from lockdowns — NOTEBOOK, PAGE 14

Credit Suisse woes

Can the bank bounce back from a series of mishaps? — BIG READ, PAGE 13



SEC's new man

Wall St beware as Gensler prepares to get tough — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 15

Breath of life India's oxygen crisis deepens

A husband adjusts his wife's oxygen mask as they wait in a car to gain entry to hospital for treatment for Covid-19 in Ahmedabad yesterday.

India's brutal second wave of coronavirus has overwhelmed its health system and pushed its complex medical oxygen supply chain past its limits. While more than 360,000 infections and 5,293 deaths were reported yesterday, experts say the real figures are far higher.

People have engaged in frantic hunts for oxygen cylinders or hospital beds for sick loved ones. The crisis has fuelled claims that the government failed to prepare for a second wave.

Indian crisis page 3
Ellen T Hoen page 15



Andi Danks/Reuters

Biden charts \$1.8tn plan to spread social safety net with higher taxes

◆ Further expansion of spending ◆ Focus on childcare and health ◆ Battle ahead in Congress

JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON

Joe Biden is putting the finishing touches to a \$1.8tn plan to expand America's social safety net, to be funded by hefty tax increases on the wealthiest US households.

The proposal, spanning a decade and covering areas such as childcare, paid leave, education and healthcare, marks the third leg of the US president's multi-trillion-dollar economic agenda. Last night it was set to be the focus of his first speech to a joint session of Congress on the eve of his 100th day in office.

The scale of the latest proposal — to be called the American Families Plan — is larger than was expected just a few weeks ago, and reflects Biden's ambition to remake the US economy with greater

government support for struggling households far beyond immediate relief provided during the pandemic.

Among its main features are \$225bn in funding for childcare expenses and a further \$225bn for the creation of a national family and medical leave programme, measures designed to help middle-class households and boost female participation in the jobs market.

The plan provides for \$200bn in funding for universal access to pre-kindergarten schooling and \$109bn for two free years of community college, as well as subsidies for buying health cover.

The plan comes on top of Biden's \$1.3tn fiscal stimulus bill enacted in March, and a second plan, which has yet to be passed by lawmakers, to plough \$2.3tn in federal funds into infrastruc-

ture spending, to be paid for with higher corporate taxes.

Because Biden's economic plans are so ambitious, wide-ranging and costly, they face an uncertain path in Congress. Republicans are expected to oppose them, probably forcing Biden to rely on Democrats' exceedingly thin majority in each chamber to pass the legislation.

The most controversial aspect of the American Families Plan is that it is to be paid for with roughly \$1.5tn in tax increases on wealthy Americans, a proposal Biden laid out in his 2020 presidential campaign that has already triggered a backlash among some critics on Wall Street and corporate America.

Senior administration officials confirmed that the plan would include an increase in the top income tax rate from



Joe Biden's ideas will 'reform the tax code so that the wealthy have to play by the same rules as everyone else'

37 per cent to 39.6 per cent for Americans earning more than \$400,000, eliminate the preferential tax treatment of capital gains and dividends for those earning more than \$1m and scrap provisions allowing people to pass unrealised capital gains to their heirs free of tax.

"The president's tax agenda will not only reverse the biggest 2017 tax law giveaways but reform the tax code so that the wealthy have to play by the same rules as everyone else," the White House said.

Biden wants to combine higher taxes with tougher enforcement of existing laws by boosting funding for the Internal Revenue Service, aiming for \$700bn in revenue over the next decade.

Democrats pose threat page 4
FT View page 14

Johnson faces investigations over who paid for renovations at Downing Street

SEBASTIAN PAYNE AND GEORGE PARKER LONDON

British prime minister Boris Johnson is facing two investigations into alleged donations for the refurbishment of his Downing Street residence, as the UK's electoral watchdog said that it suspected an offence may have occurred.

The Electoral Commission yesterday opened a formal probe into whether a donation to the Conservative party paid for decoration work at Johnson's apartment, which leaked emails have suggested cost £58,000.

The Electoral Commission said it had been in contact with the Tory party since last month and had found grounds to launch a formal investigation. "We are now satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence may have occurred. We will

therefore continue this work as a formal investigation to establish whether this is the case," it said.

Downing Street has said that Johnson was entitled to a £30,000 grant for work on the flat and that no party funds were presently being used to cover the extra work. "Any costs of wider refurbishment this year beyond those provided for by the annual allowance have been met by the prime minister personally. Conservative party funds are not being used for this," a spokesperson said.

The second investigation into the decorating bill will be overseen by Lord Christopher Gidd, a former private secretary to the Queen who was yesterday announced as the new independent adviser on ministerial interests.

This week cabinet secretary Simon Case said Johnson had also asked him to review the financing of the flat. Sir Keir

Starmer, the opposition Labour leader, said that Johnson could save some time "Why doesn't he just tell him?"

Johnson yesterday told the House of Commons he had "covered the costs" of the refurbishment but he repeatedly refused to say who paid the original invoices. He also denied a claim that he had said last year he would rather see "bodies piled high" than introduce a third Covid-19 lockdown, in spite of several people insisting that he did.

"Someone here isn't telling the truth," Starmer said, reminding Johnson that the ministerial code requires that any minister misleading the House of Commons should tender their resignation. SNP leader Ian Blackford asked bluntly: "Are you a liar, prime minister?" Johnson said they were obsessing over issues that are of little interest to voters.

Robert Shrimley page 15



One tiny auditor signed off Gupta assets' £2.5bn books

An obscure accountancy firm audited more than 60 of Sanjeev Gupta's British companies, with combined revenues of nearly £2.5bn, analysts by the Financial Times has found. King & King played a pivotal role in checking the books across the GFG Alliance, the group of family-owned assets that make up Gupta's teetering empire. The quality of GFG's audits has come under fresh scrutiny as Gupta tries to save his group after Greensill Capital's collapse.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Apr 28	prev	%chg		Apr 28	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4185.48	4185.72	-0.03	\$ per €	1.258	1.258	0	US Gov 10 yr	147.13	1.64	0.05
Nasdaq Composite	14369.22	14369.22	-0.25	£ per \$	1.381	1.382	-0.01	UK Gov 10 yr	147.13	1.64	0.05
Dow Jones Ind	33942.16	33944.93	-0.42	€ per \$	0.889	0.888	0.01	Gov 10 yr	116.57	0.23	0.02
FTSE100	1693.17	1692.80	0.02	¥ per \$	108.905	108.480	0.42	Jpn Gov 10 yr	116.57	0.23	0.02
Govt 10 yr	4017.30	4017.91	-0.13	₹ per \$	151.444	150.922	0.35	US Gov 30 yr	107.09	2.30	0.04
FTSE 100	6963.67	6944.97	0.27	SFr per €	1.104	1.103	0.01	Gov 2 yr	106.31	-0.68	0.01
FTSE All-Share	3879.35	3870.50	0.22	€ per \$	0.827	0.828	-0.01				
CAC 40	6306.96	6273.76	0.53								
Xetra Dax	15292.18	15249.27	0.28								
Nikkei	29053.97	28991.09	0.21								
Hong Kong	29071.34	28941.54	0.45								
MSCI World	2952.01	2959.13	-0.24								
MSCI EM	1381.96	1380.64	0.10								
MSCI ACWI	705.54	705.32	-0.11								

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Late Edition
Today, cloudy skies, rain, thunderstorms, high 74. Tonight, cloudy, rain, thunderstorms, low 58. Tomorrow, variably cloudy, rain, windy, high 68. Weather map, Page B10.



President Biden, with Vice President Kamala Harris and Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday night, became the first president to address Congress with two women behind him as the next officials in the line of succession. "Our government still works," he said.

BIDEN MAKES CASE TO VASTLY EXPAND GOVERNMENT ROLE

**\$1.8 Trillion Aid Plan Invokes F.D.R. —
'In America, We Never Stay Down'**

By PETER BAKER

President Biden laid out an ambitious agenda on Wednesday night to rewrite the American social compact by vastly expanding family leave, child care, health care, preschool and college education for millions of people to be financed with increased taxes on the wealthiest earners.

Invoking the legacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Biden unveiled a \$1.8 trillion social spending plan to accompany previous proposals to build roads and bridges, expand other social programs and combat climate change, representing a fundamental reorientation of the role of government not seen since the days of Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society and Roosevelt's New Deal.

"We have to prove democracy still works, that our government still works and we can deliver for our people," Mr. Biden said in his first nationally televised address to a joint session of Congress.

Taken together, the collection of initiatives that Mr. Biden has introduced in his first 100 days in office suggest a breathtaking scope of change sought by a 78-year-old president who spent a lifetime as a more conventional lawmaker. After presenting himself during last year's campaign as a "transition candidate" to follow the volatile tenure of Donald J. Trump, Mr. Biden has since his inauguration positioned himself as a transformational president.

But the succession of costly proposals amounts to a risky gamble that a country deeply polarized along ideological and cultural lines is ready for a more activist government and the sort of redistribution of wealth long sought by progressives. Mr. Biden's Democrats have only the barest of majorities in the House and Senate to push through the most sweeping of legislation and, successful or not, he may have framed the terms of the debate for the next election.

"Our best future won't come

from Washington schemes or socialist dreams," Senator Tim Scott, Republican of South Carolina, said in his party's televised official response, according to advance excerpts. "It will come from you — the American people."

For Mr. Biden, who watched such speeches as a senator or vice president for nearly a half-century, it was the first time behind the microphone setting the agenda for what was the functional equivalent of a State of the Union address. "It's good to be back," he said as he greeted lawmakers.

But coming in the latter days of the coronavirus pandemic and less than four months after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the



Security was tight, with streets around the Capitol closed.

Capitol, the event was unlike any other presidential speech as Mr. Biden faced a half-empty chamber.

On the advice of the Capitol physician, only 200 members of Congress and other officials were invited instead of the usual 1,600, all wearing masks in assigned seats at least six feet apart. The president, who fist-bumped his way down the aisle, arrived amid tighter security than usual, with streets around the building closed and patrolled by swarms of police.

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Betting a Country Tested by Crisis Is Ready to Invest in Itself

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — President Biden's \$4 trillion economic agenda might have seemed unthinkable as the United States was emerging from its last recession, when austerity politics still ruled the Capitol and even a Democratic president was reluctant to push huge tax increases on corporations and the rich.

But Mr. Biden has a significant chance of signing at least a large chunk of his plans into law this year, partly because of a pandemic that reminded many Americans that big government could deliver money to help sustain them and speed efforts to end the crisis.

What the president is promising from the government in the years to come is a long list of tangible improvements in Ameri-

NEWS ANALYSIS

cans' daily lives: smoother roads, cheaper child care, cleaner and more reliable electricity, more years of free schooling for toddlers and young adults, paid leave for workers whose lives are upended by illness and faster internet service in rural areas and elsewhere. Those sweeping spending

plans, which Mr. Biden made the centerpiece of his first address to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday, would be paid for by raising \$4 trillion in tax revenue from high earners and corporations. While Republicans have begun complaining about that price tag, they have yet to galvanize a public backlash like the Tea Party movement that engulfed President Barack Obama's

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Giuliani Phones Seized in Raids By Investigators

This article is by William K. Rashbaum, Ben Protess, Maggie Haberman and Kenneth R. Vogel.

Federal investigators on Wednesday seized cellphones and computers from Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City who became President Donald J. Trump's personal lawyer, stepping up a criminal investigation into Mr. Giuliani's dealings in Ukraine, three people with knowledge of the investigation said.

F.B.I. agents executed search warrants around 6 a.m. at Mr. Giuliani's apartment on Madison Avenue and his Park Avenue office in Manhattan, carting away the electronic devices, Mr. Giuliani confirmed in a statement.

The execution of search warrants is an extraordinary action for prosecutors to take against a lawyer, let alone a lawyer for a former president. The move is a major development in the long-running investigation into Mr. Giuliani, which examines some of the same people and conduct that were at the center of Mr. Trump's first impeachment trial.

It was also a remarkable moment in Mr. Giuliani's long arc as a public figure. As mayor, Mr. Giuliani

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Cuomo's Aides Hid Covid Data For 5 Months

This article is by J. David Goodman, Jesse McKinley and Danny Hakim.

The effort by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's office to obscure the pandemic death toll in New York nursing homes was far greater than previously known, with aides repeatedly overruling state health officials over a span of at least five months, according to interviews and newly unearthed documents. Mr. Cuomo's most senior aides engaged in a sustained effort to prevent the state's own health officials, including the commissioner, Howard Zucker, from releasing the true death toll to the public or sharing it with state lawmakers, these interviews and documents showed.

A scientific paper, which incorporated the data, was never published. An audit of the numbers by a top Cuomo aide was finished months before it became publicly known. Two letters, drafted by the Health Department and meant for state legislators, were never sent. The actions coincided with the period in which Mr. Cuomo was pitching and then writing a book on the pandemic, with the assistance of his top aide, Melissa DeRosa, and others.

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ATUL LOKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

India Blames Variant for 2nd Wave

Data is thin, but doctors point to anecdotal evidence of infections among the vaccinated. Page A6.

2020 Census Spurs Debate Over Hispanic Tally

By REID J. EPSTEIN and JENNIFER MEDINA

Minnesota started its 2020 census outreach in 2015, bringing together local governments, foundations and businesses to spur participation. California allocated \$187 million beginning in 2019 to get its people counted. And New York City alone spent \$40 million on census advertising, texts and events.

Did States' Resistance Lead to Undercount?

By contrast, Texas didn't invest in a census program until last September, dedicating \$15 million months after the count had begun. Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, said in 2019 that the state would

not "have a role" in aiding the count, before ultimately agreeing to an unfunded committee in January 2020. And Arizona spent less than \$1.5 million on census efforts in what remains one of the fastest-growing states.

The sharply divergent ways that states either embraced census efforts or treated them as a low priority are now having significant repercussions for each

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Senate Revives Methane Rules Trump Reversed

By CORAL DAVENPORT

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted on Wednesday to effectively reinstate an Obama-era regulation designed to clamp down on emissions of methane, a powerful, climate-warming pollutant that will have to be controlled to meet President Biden's ambitious climate change promises.

Taking a page from congressional Republicans who in 2017 made liberal use of a once-obscure law to roll back Obama-era regulations, Democrats invoked the law to turn back a Trump methane rule enacted late last summer.

That rule had eliminated Obama-era controls on leaks of methane, which seeps from oil and gas wells. The 52-42 vote was the first time congressional Democrats have used the law, called the Congressional Review Act, which prohibits Senate filibusters and ensures one administration's last-minute regulations can be swiftly overturned with a simple majority vote in both chambers of Congress. Three Republican senators — Susan Collins of Maine, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Rob Portman of Ohio — joined Democrats and Democratic-leaning

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OBITUARIES B11-12

Moon Landing's 'Third Man'

Michael Collins orbited in the Apollo command module as his crewmates set foot on the moon. He was 90. PAGE B12

A Pharmaceutical Innovator

John Martin, who made Gilead Sciences a leader in single-pill treatments for H.I.V. and hepatitis C, was 69. PAGE B12

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Charges in Black Jogger's Death

Three Georgia men have been indicted on federal hate crime and attempted kidnapping charges in the 2020 shooting of Ahmaud Arbery. PAGE A16

Fatal Pining in Police Custody

An officer in California appeared to press his knee into a man's back for nearly three minutes, an analysis of body-camera video showed. PAGE A19

Menthol Cigarettes Targeted

The Biden administration's plan to ban the product has long been sought by civil rights groups because of marketing aimed at Black people. PAGE A12

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No Testing at the Border

The failure of the U.S. to test adult migrants for the coronavirus risks new transmissions, experts warn. PAGE A8

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Brexit Clears Last Hurdle

The European Parliament's lopsided vote belied lingering mistrust. PAGE A10

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Court Eyes Trump Role in Deal

A federal court said it could weigh the idea that the ex-president interfered in a cloud-computing contract. PAGE B5



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Some Cello With That Hay?

A collaboration between two cattle farmers in Denmark and a music training program brings regular classical recitals to pampered livestock. PAGE C1

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Ross Douthat

PAGE A22

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Score. Pass. Rebound. Repeat.

Washington's Russell Westbrook is on track to average a triple-double for the fourth time in five seasons, making it seem almost routine. It is not. PAGE B7

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The Look of a Leader

It took Joseph R. Biden Jr. decades to reach the presidency, but in terms of image, every day counted. PAGE D1



Biden pushes ambitious agenda

He promotes his spending plans to boost families, democracy as pandemic ebbs



BY CHRIS MEGERIAN AND ELI STOKOLS

WASHINGTON — In a pitch for lifting American workers to prevail in global competition with China, President Biden on Wednesday used his first address to a joint session of Congress to press his case that massive spending on infrastructure, education, technological initiatives and social services will ensure the United States emerges from the coronavirus crisis in a stronger position than before.

The president rooted his proposals in working-class demands for steady paychecks, affordable child care and better schools. But he also framed them as part of a broader struggle between democracies and autocracies, saying the investments are needed to prevent Beijing from supplanting Washington in a position of international leadership.

"We have to prove them wrong," Biden said. "We have to prove that democracy still works, that our government still works and we can deliver for our people."

The nationally televised, prime-time speech of just over an hour came as Biden approached the end of his first 100 days in office, a period dominated by his efforts to extend economic relief, expand vaccine distribution and bring an end to the pandemic. Although Biden cautioned that the threat isn't over, he described the inoculation campaign as "one of the greatest logistical achievements our country has ever seen."

With nearly one-third of Americans fully vaccinated, Biden has begun to pivot toward an increasingly ambitious agenda that, if successful, would make his presidency among the most [See Address, A7]

PRESIDENT BIDEN delivers his first address to Congress as Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi applaud.

'Pleasantly boring'

Colorado swing voters give Biden a passing grade — for not being Trump. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Promises kept, broken

A scorecard of which goals have been met and which are still a work in progress. NATION, A6

Harris' central role

She is in the right position at the right time, Erika Smith writes. CALIFORNIA, B1

A stronger safety net

Plan on families is an investment, not spending, Michael Hiltzik writes. BUSINESS, A5

BAY AREA MAN'S DEATH FEELS FAMILIAR

Mario Gonzalez died in an Alameda park after police there knelt on his back.

BY RICHARD WINTON AND LILA SEIDMAN

In a case drawing comparisons to the killing of George Floyd, authorities in the Bay Area city of Alameda are facing rising outrage after a body-camera video showed a police officer appearing to put a knee on the back of a 26-year-old Latino man for more than four minutes as he gasped for breath and eventually died.

The incident has drawn scrutiny in part because the man who died, Mario Gonzalez, appeared to pose no imminent threat to the officers when they arrived at a local park on April 19 after calls about an intoxicated man and a possible theft.

One of the 911 callers told a dispatcher, "He seems like he's tweaking. But he's not doing anything wrong, he's just scaring my wife." A second caller told a dispatcher about a man with a Walgreens basket with alcohol and "it looks like he is breaking off the security tags." That caller added that the man had been loitering for half an hour.

Some law enforcement experts said the video raises serious questions about police tactics.

"There is going to be a very intensive inquiry on this," said Ed Obayashi, a Northern California sheriff's deputy, legal advisor and [See Death, A12]

A costly rush back to normality

India's virus surge has left families, hospitals and crematoriums in lurch



BY DAVID PIERSON AND PARTH M.N.

MUMBAI, India — The bodies have burned for so long at crematoriums in the western state of Gujarat that furnaces have started to melt.

Firewood for funeral pyres is rationed and sparse, leaving the dead half-cremated on the banks of the Ganges. Gravediggers in the capital, New Delhi, are in such high demand that families are hiring them to excavate plots while stricken loved ones are still alive.

All across India, a trail of death and misery is devastating a country whose leaders boasted of defeating the coronavirus just a few months ago. A surge of new cases fueled by the so-called double mutant variant of the [See India, A4]

A COVID-19 victim's body awaits cremation next to other funeral pyres in New Delhi. India is seeing a surge months after leaders boasted of defeating the virus.

State braces for a bad fire season. But just how bad?

BY ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

Still reeling from several years of unprecedented wildfires that flattened entire communities, forced widespread blackouts and bathed parts of Northern California in alarming orange light, the state is bracing for yet another dangerous year of fire, following a meager 2021 rainy season that left vegetation and soils parched.

Experts say it's still too early to tell just how bad it will get. While dry conditions and rising temperatures due to climate change have helped set the stage for increasingly devastating fires, other factors also come into [See Fire season, A9]



CREWS battle the Bobcat fire last September. The blaze caused weeks of smoky air in the L.A. region.

Beijing grows more bellicose

Faced with increasing pressure from the U.S. and its allies, China adopts a "wolf warrior" stance. WORLD, A3

U.S. agents raid Giuliani's home

Ex-President Trump's attorney is the subject of a federal probe into his work for Ukrainian officials. NATION, A12

Quarterbacks will top draft

Jaguars to take Trevor Lawrence, Chargers look at linemen, and Rams don't have first-round pick. SPORTS, B6

Weather

Sunny and warm. L.A. Basin: 88/68. B10



ANALYSIS

Populist message, with a left spin

BY DAVID LAUTER

WASHINGTON — After four years of conservative populism focused on cultural grievances, President Biden's first speech to a joint session of Congress delivered a dose of left-leaning economic populism. On Wednesday, redoubling his wager that Democrats can build a lasting majority by using the power of government to deliver tangible benefits to working- and middle-class voters.

Instead of former President Trump's denunciations of out-of-touch elites selling out American interests to foreigners, Biden demanded that the rich pay more taxes and proposed to use that money to provide benefits to families.

"It's time for corporate America and the wealthiest 1% of Americans to just begin to pay their fair share — just their fair share," he said.

Biden's policies contrast with Trump's on nearly every issue, but the language both presidents embraced — their emphasis on the fears and concerns of blue-collar Americans — shows how a populist approach to politics has taken hold in the aftermath of economic and political shocks that have hit the U.S. since the start of the century.

The similarity reflects two realities that shape [See Analysis, A7]

BUSINESS INSIDE: A \$2-billion project could reshape downtown L.A.'s Arts District. A8

FDA said to seek ban on menthol cigarettes

Black health advocates and anti-tobacco groups have long sought move

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY

The Biden administration is expected to announce this week that it will propose a ban on menthol cigarettes, an action long sought by tobacco opponents and civil rights groups that say African Americans have been disproportionately hurt by the industry's aggressive targeting of Black communities.

The administration also is poised to say it will seek to ban menthol and other flavors in mass-produced cigars, including small cigars popular with young people, according to administration officials familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss it publicly.

It could be years before such bans would take effect, but the administration's announcement is likely to be hailed by anti-smoking organizations as a critical and long-overdue step in curbing tobacco use and improving public health. Despite sharp declines in smoking in recent years, tobacco use remains a leading cause of illness and death in the United States and worldwide, especially among people of color.

Anti-smoking groups have been frustrated for years by Washington's inaction on menthol cigarettes and have turned to states and localities to request bans, with mixed success. They became more optimistic about a possible federal ban in recent months amid President Biden's repeated vows to reduce health disparities made glaringly obvious by the coronavirus pandemic, and efforts by the Black Lives Matter movement to focus on institutionalized racism.

The Food and Drug Administration faces a court deadline Thursday to respond to a 2013 citizen petition seeking a menthol-cigarette ban. The suit was

SEE MENTHOL ON A24

Biden says U.S. is 'on the move again'

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS



President Biden addresses a joint session of Congress on Wednesday, and for the first time during such an event, two women — Vice President Harris, left, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — were within the frame of the cameras pointed at the country's leader.

With thinnest of majorities, president seeks to reverse Reagan revolution

BY DAN BALZ

As President Biden marked his first 100 days in office with a speech to the nation Wednesday, the scope and implications of his domestic agenda have come sharply into focus. Together they represent the most dramatic shift in federal economic and social welfare policy since Ronald Reagan was elected 40 years ago.

Reagan's small-government

philosophy resulted in a decades-long squeeze on the federal government, especially domestic spending, and on tax policies that mainly benefited the wealthiest Americans. If Biden ultimately gets his way legislatively, and that is a big question mark, those policies would be replaced with ones that would directly address long-standing economic, racial and gender inequities that have only become more apparent during the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden had to wait nearly 50 years to achieve his dream of becoming president. In office, he is operating as if he has no time to spare. Throughout his first 100 days, and again on Wednesday night, the presentation of his agenda shows he believes there is an urgent need to act and an opportunity to do so, but that he has limited time to get it done. Biden said that to win the competition for the future, the nation needs "a once-in-generation investment in our families and our children."

His speech was a reflection of his presidency to date: an appeal for big and bold action described in the most workaday rhetoric and by a leader whose demeanor and temperament are the very opposite of his predecessor, former president Donald Trump.

But given the Democrats' narrow majorities in Congress and a nation still sharply divided over the president's performance,

SEE TAKE ON A9

URGES EXPANSIVE GOVERNMENT AID

Frames first 100 days as turning corner on crises

BY MATT VISER AND TYLER PAGER

President Biden on Wednesday night used his first speech to a joint session of Congress to argue for a dramatic expansion of government services, making a plea for sweeping plans to provide universal preschool, free community college and expanded health care and new tax breaks for families — much of it funded for by higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

While he also renewed calls for an array of priorities — including immigration changes, gun control and police reform — Biden more broadly portrayed a country that is rapidly emerging from the depths of a global pandemic and has survived events that, in his view, tested American democracy as rarely before.

"We have stared into an abyss of insurrection and autocracy — of pandemic and pain — and 'we the people' did not flinch," he said toward the end of a 65-minute speech.

Biden delivered his address in a Capitol that had faced a lethal assault from a mob less than four months ago. He walked through the House chamber's wooden doors just after 9 p.m., passing through the same entryway that had been battered by insurrectionists on Jan. 6 in an attempt to prevent his presidency.

Biden's remarks juxtaposed a more traditional presidential cheerleading for America — a country he declared was "on the move again" — with far more unusual warnings about existential

SEE SPEECH ON A5

The Critique: History made on a dramatic but subdued night. **A2**

GOP rebuttal: Party says president betrayed pledge to be a uniter. **A10**

Details of his plan: Biden would tax the wealthy, beef up IRS. **A19**

The future of coronavirus testing is in Greenville, N.C.

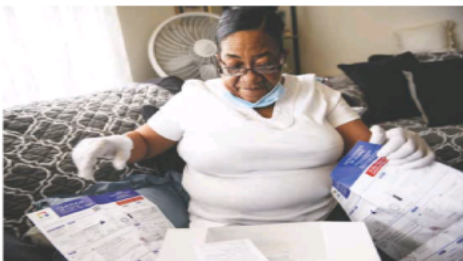
NIH-CDC initiative pushes routine use of at-home kits as a way to halt community transmission

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHIA

After a busy day of grocery shopping and other errands, Diane Bell slid into a kitchen chair and took out her at-home coronavirus test kits. She swabbed both her nostrils and mixed a few chemicals, and within a few minutes, a blue line materialized on an indicator strip.

"Negative!" she called out to her partner. It was her seventh test in three weeks, and so far, so good.

Bell's testing is part of one of the largest, most ambitious and high-stakes scientific experiments of the coronavirus pandemic — to persuade families and whole communities to incorpo-



Diane Bell, who works as a child-care provider, reads the instructions for an at-home coronavirus test kit in Greenville.

rate home kits into their everyday routines to identify and stop infections as the nation inches toward full reopening. Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it aims to distribute 2 million free at-home test kits to 80,000 families in Greenville, N.C., and the rest of Pitt County, and in Chattanooga, Tenn., to conduct regular testing from now until about June.

Researchers hope that by encouraging people to test themselves even if they feel perfectly fine, the country will be able to slow down — and eventually extinguish — the spread of the virus. The project is part of a larger

SEE TESTING ON A16

Justice Dept. agents search Giuliani's home and offices

Devices seized as part of probe into onetime Trump lawyer's ties to Ukraine

BY SHAYNA JACOBS, DEVLIN BARRETT AND JOSH DAWSEY

NEW YORK — Federal agents executed a search warrant Wednesday at the Manhattan home and law offices of Rudolph W. Giuliani, seizing his electronic devices as part of a long-running criminal investigation into whether the onetime New York mayor and attorney for former president Donald Trump acted as an unregis-

tered foreign agent.

For Giuliani, who once served as the U.S. attorney for Manhattan, the very office now investigating him, the search warrant is another sign of how far removed he has become from the decades when he was best known as a crusading crime-buster, decapitating the mafia and consoling the country in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

It also marks the latest sign that even after Trump's departure from the White House, investigations into possible wrongdoing before and during his time in office continue to churn, as local and federal authorities probe members of the former president's inner circle.

The investigation into Giuliani

SEE GIULIANI ON A7

IN THE NEWS



NASA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid 'giant leap,' he soared above Apollo
If's Michael Collins, who orbited alone in the command module as his two crew mates took the first lunar steps in 1969, died at 90. **B6**

THE NATION

A common air pollutant disproportionately affects Americans of color, a study found. **A3**
A Post-ABC poll found support for new laws to reduce gun violence has declined to 50 percent, while 43 percent say gun rights should be prioritized. **A3**
Ketanji Brown Jackson, often mentioned as a Supreme Court contender, emphasized her "duty of independence" at a Senate hearing on her nomination to replace Merrick Garland on the federal appeals court in D.C. **A4**

A New York man

charged with threatening to kill members of Congress after the Jan. 6 Capitol attack has been found guilty. **A6**
A federal grand jury indicted three White men on hate-crime and attempted kidnapping charges in the fatal shooting of Black jogger Ahmaud Arbery. **A20**

THE WORLD

Britain's political spending watchdog is investigating how a re-decoration of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's official apartment was funded. **A12**

Bulgarian prosecutors

said they are looking at whether four explosions over the past decade are linked to Russia. **A13**
India's coronavirus death toll moved past 200,000 as the country reported another record number of cases. **A14**

THE ECONOMY

A German start-up has built an all-electric delivery drone that can travel nearly 50 miles on one charge and make three drop-offs on a single flight. **A19**
The Biden administration is taking heat from Democrats and labor advocates over the delay in issuing a coronavirus-related workplace-safety

standard. **A22**

THE REGION

Fairfax County schools have invested in outdoor classrooms to facilitate safe on-site learning. **B1**
The speaker of Virginia's House of Delegates reflects on a year that saw marijuana legalized and the death penalty abolished. **B1**
Use of force by D.C. police is down, but 13 neck holds since 2018 have been ruled unjustified, a report says. **B1**
A Prince George's County police officer has been charged with assault and misconduct in an October incident involving a handcuffed teenager. **B5**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING

Keep bugs at bay
Simple and effective DIY pest-control tricks can prevent flies, mosquitoes and other unwanted guests from spoiling your outdoor gathering.

STYLE

Office excavation
Those returning to the workplace are finding their personal Pompeii, a place frozen in time. **C1**

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OBITUARIES	B5
TELEVISION	C4
WORLD NEWS	A12

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River ganó para acomodarse en la Copa

No le cobraron un penal a Junior, pero después los millonarios fueron oportunos para quebrar a los colombianos: 2-1 en la Libertadores, con goles de Héctor Martínez y Julián Álvarez. **Deportes**



MICHAEL COLLINS, EL ASTRONAUTA QUE NO LLEGÓ A PISAR LA LUNA

—el mundo

A los 90 años, murió el hombre que el 20 de julio de 1969 se quedó en órbita, mientras sus compañeros pisaban suelo lunar; "estoy solo ahora", escribió sobre ese momento. **Página 15**

PAT METHENY. "MUCHOS VAN A LA UNIVERSIDAD; YO APRENDÍ EN LA CALLE"

—espectáculos

Uno de los grandes guitarristas de jazz, que acaba de editar *Road to the Sun*, su nuevo disco, habla sobre sus comienzos en Kansas y su método para tocar.

LA NACION

JUEVES 29 DE ABRIL DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno y la Ciudad reforzarán los controles en la circulación y los accesos

PADEMIA. También intentarán limitar las movilizaciones de protesta; el Presidente les reclamó ayer a Larreta, Kicillof y otros gobernadores más compromiso con las restricciones

El gobierno nacional y el porteño acordaron ayer el cierre de "accesos secundarios" a la ciudad de Buenos Aires, como algunas bajadas desde la avenida General Paz, y el incremento de los controles de la circulación.

Así se resolvió en una reunión entre la ministra de Seguridad nacional, Sabina Frederic, y el secre-

tario de Justicia y Seguridad porteño, Marcelo D'Alessandro, quienes también acordaron un mayor control en las estaciones terminales. En medio de una oleada de manifestaciones piqueteras, el Gobierno informó, además, que les exigirá a las organizaciones respetar el distanciamiento y presentar los permisos de circulación.

El presidente Alberto Fernández les pidió ayer a los gobernadores un mayor compromiso con las restricciones.

Entre los mandatarios provinciales que lo escuchaban se encontraban el jefe de gobierno porteño, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, y el gobernador bonaerense, Axel Kicillof. **Página 2**

AL LÍMITE

Ocupación de las terapias, escasez de oxígeno y personal insuficiente son algunas de las señales del estrés en el sistema sanitario. **Página 7**

EL ESCENARIO

Fernández vuelve a Larreta y vuelve a Pfizer

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

Alberto Fernández suele tomar decisiones espasmodicas, sin consultar con expertos ni colaboradores. Ese estilo le impide calibrar las consecuencias de sus actos. Por eso a menudo debe volver sobre sus pasos. En estas horas está revisando su posición en dos cuestiones relevantes: las relaciones con el gobierno porteño y la contratación de vacunas. **Continúa en la página 4**

Los 100 días de Biden: una apuesta a más Estado

EE.UU. El presidente impulsa una agenda con fuerte inversión pública y gasto social

Rafael Mathus Ruiz
CORRESPONSAL EN EE.UU.

WASHINGTON.— Al inaugurar su presidencia, Ronald Reagan dejó una frase que marcó una época: "En esta crisis, el gobierno no es la solución a nuestro problema; el gobierno es el problema". Años después, Bill Clinton siguió la línea Reagan. "La era del gobierno grande se ha terminado", dijo en el Congreso. Durante décadas, Washington se aferró a esa filosofía. Cuarenta años después de la frase de Reagan, Joe Biden quiere ir ahora por el camino opuesto. Biden usó los primeros 100 días de su presidencia para mostrar una ambición profundamente transformadora, que apuesta al retorno de lo que en Estados Unidos llaman *big government*, o "gobierno grande", antes poco menos que una palabra maldita, prohibida. **Continúa en la página 14**

Apoyo sin divisiones a Bullrich tras revelar que padece ELA

—política

El senador nacional de Juntos por el Cambio reveló ayer que padece esclerosis lateral amiotrófica (ELA); la información motivó expresiones de solidaridad y apoyo de todo el arco político

Página 16



Bullrich, junto a su esposa, María Eugenia Sequeiros, ayer en su casa, después de dar la información

Avanza un proyecto que sube impuestos a empresas

CONGRESO. El oficialismo avanzó ayer con el dictamen que aumenta las alícuotas del impuesto a las ganancias para gravar las utilidades de las sociedades con mayor facturación. Con esta iniciativa, que la oposición cuestiona por acentuar la presión tributaria sobre el sector privado, el Gobierno busca compensar la caída en la recaudación por la baja del impuesto a las ganancias a los asalariados, votada el mes pasado. **Página 17**

Tras 22 días, se levantaron los cortes de rutas por Vaca Muerta

REGRESO. Las compañías retoman la producción de gas y petróleo; sigue el paro en Salud. **Página 21**

Decreto no puede prohibir derecho constitucional al trabajo, afirma abogado

Mipymes advierten que este es el último cierre que aceptarán

Para titular del gremio solución es dejarlos trabajar a tiempo completo cumpliendo con los protocolos. Cuestionó que el Gobierno considere intocables a transportistas.

PÁGINAS 15 y 50



Trinidad tuvo que habilitar nuevo vacunatorio

Sufrimiento. El calvario siguió ayer para los adultos mayores que esperaron horas para acceder a las vacunas.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Apurarán proyecto de ley

Arundhati Roy on India's crisis

The long read *Journal* →



'This is a crime against humanity'



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The Guardian

PM's fury as watchdog launches inquiry into 'cash for curtains'

Electoral Commission suspects 'offence' over funding of renovations

Aubrey Allegretti
Jessica Elgot
Rajeev Syal

The Electoral Commission has launched an inquiry with the potential to imperil Boris Johnson's premiership as the "cash for curtains" row increasingly engulfs the prime minister.

With sweeping powers to call witnesses and refer matters to the police, the watchdog said yesterday its investigation was necessary because it already believed there were "reasonable grounds" to suspect payments for expensive renovations to Johnson's Downing Street flat could constitute several offences.

Though Johnson has insisted he has done nothing wrong, he was goaded into a fury at prime minister's questions, as the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, interrogated him by asking pointed questions that Johnson mostly sidestepped or ignored.

He stuck to claiming he had paid the costs "personally" - but did not deny receiving a donation or loan of £58,000 from a Tory peer and party donor, Lord Brownlow, to foot the bills, despite no record of such a transaction being published. Starmer branded



▲ Boris Johnson shows his anger at Keir Starmer's questioning in the Commons yesterday over the refurbishment of his No 11 flat PHOTOGRAPHS: UNIFIX; PIXEL8000

Foster quits as leader of DUP after party revolt

Rory Carroll
Ireland correspondent

Arlene Foster has announced she is stepping down as leader of the Democratic Unionist party and Northern Ireland's first minister after a sudden internal party revolt.

She issued a statement yesterday

saying she would step aside as DUP leader on 28 May and as first minister at the end of June, creating fresh tumult in a region hit by protests over the post-Brexit Irish Sea border.

The announcement came a day after most of the DUP's 27 Stormont assembly members and reportedly four of its eight Westminster MPs signed letters

Glaciers melting twice as fast as 20 years ago

Jonathan Watts
Niko Kommenda

The melting of the world's glaciers has nearly doubled in speed over the past 20 years and is contributing more to sea-level rise than either the Greenland or Antarctic ice sheets, according to the most

comprehensive global study of ice rivers ever undertaken.

Scientists say human-driven global heating is behind the accelerating loss of high-altitude and high-latitude glaciers, which will affect coastal regions and create boom-and-bust flows of meltwater for the hundreds of millions who live downstream of these "natural water towers".

Between 2000 and 2019, glaciers lost 267 gigatonnes (Gt) of ice per year, equivalent to 21% of the rise in sea levels, a paper published in *Nature* reveals. The authors said the mass lost was equivalent to submerging the surface of England under two metres of water every year.

This was 47% higher than the contribution of the melting ice sheet in Greenland



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15 →