

What's News

Business & Finance

Treasury chief Yellen said she is neither predicting nor recommending that the Fed raise rates as a result of Biden's spending plans, walking back comments earlier Tuesday when she said rates might need to rise to keep the economy from overheating. **A1**

◆ **Shareholders** at General Electric and AT&T rejected the companies' executive-compensation plans in nonbinding votes. **A1**

◆ **Consumers** and a fresh round of stimulus money pushed demand for imported goods to a record in March, widening the U.S. trade gap. **A2**

◆ **Pfizer** raised this year's sales forecast for its Covid-19 vaccine to about \$26 billion, a 73% increase from an earlier projection. **B1**

◆ **CVS** said demand for Covid-19 vaccinations has fallen by about 30% recently, as the company reported a 3.5% rise in revenue. **B1**

◆ **The Nasdaq** fell 1.9% as technology and other growth stocks stumbled. The S&P 500 lost 0.7%, while the Dow edged up 0.1%. **B1**

◆ **Apollo** swung to a first-quarter profit from a year earlier loss as the value of its investments soared. **B12**

◆ **Lyft** said demand for rides improved in the first quarter compared with much of last year. **B4**

◆ **Krispy Kreme** filed paperwork for an IPO, becoming one of the latest firms seeking to tap public markets. **B2**

World-Wide

◆ **The Biden administration** said it would begin reallocating some Covid-19 vaccine doses to states with higher demand for shots and direct pharmacies to offer walk-in vaccinations, as the president aims to get 70% of the adult population at least one dose by July 4. **A1**

◆ **A spring surge** in Covid-19 cases is beginning to recede in Europe as the continent's vaccine rollout gathers pace, boosting hopes of a broad reopening of the region's economy before the summer. **A8**

◆ **Israel's Netanyahu** missed a deadline to form a new government, a development that could spell the end of his 15-year rule if his opponents can patch together their own alternative coalition. **A9**

◆ **Chauvin's lawyer** filed a motion seeking a new trial, alleging prosecutorial and jury misconduct, and saying a change of venue should have been granted. **A3**

◆ **A group of major companies** and business organizations came out against a Texas voting bill, after debating how aggressively they should be involved in state legislation. **A6**

◆ **House Minority Leader McCarthy** said he has concerns about the ability of GOP Rep. Cheney, a Trump critic, to serve as one of the party's top leaders. **A6**

◆ **Manhattan federal prosecutors** have asked a judge to appoint an outside authority known as a special master to oversee a review of materials seized from Giuliani. **A6**

JOURNAL REPORT

Wealth Management: Seller's market tests new home buyers. **R1-B**

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Dozens Killed in Collapse of Subway Bridge in Mexico City



TRAGEDY ON THE TRACKS: At least 24 people died and dozens more were injured when an elevated section of the Mexico City subway collapsed, sending train cars plunging. The city's mayor said a support beam under the railway buckled. **A9**

Facebook's Secret Rulebook Confounds Penalized Users

By KIRSTEN GRIND

In Facebook Jail, many users are serving time for infractions they don't understand.

Colton Oakley was restricted after ranting about student debt. The recent graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz posted that anyone who was mad about loan cancellation was "sad and selfish." His sentence: three days without posting on Facebook.

Alex Gendler, a freelance writer in Brooklyn, N.Y., got a

similar ban after sharing a link to a story in Smithsonian magazine about tribal New Guinea. Nick Barksdale, a history teacher in Oklahoma, served 30 days recently after jokingly telling a friend "man, you're spewing crazy now!"

None of the three quite understand what they did wrong. "If you use the term 'crazy,' does that automatically get you banned?" asked Mr. Barksdale.

The plight of baffled users caught in Facebook's impenetrable system for adjudicating content has reinforced the com-

pany's reputation for heavy-handed and inept policing of its online platforms. The problem is increasingly acute as lawmakers and the public focus on the vast power social-media companies hold over the flow of information.

The company's newly formed Oversight Board—a group of 20 lawyers, professors and other independent experts who consider appeals to decisions made by Facebook—has been charged with interpreting Facebook's numerous detailed rules governing everything

from the depiction of graffiti to swearing at newsworthy figures.

The board's most closely watched decision is expected Wednesday—whether Facebook appropriately applied its rules when it booted former President Donald Trump indefinitely from the platform.

Lawmakers have repeatedly grilled Mark Zuckerberg about the issue, prompting the CEO to repeat his mantra that nobody would ever think such delicate work should be handled by a computer. **Please turn to page A10**

AT&T, GE Investors Oppose CEO Pay

Shareholders at General Electric Co. and AT&T Inc. rejected the companies' executive compensation plans in nonbinding votes, the latest blue-chip companies to be rebuked by investors over how they paid leaders during the pandemic.

By Thomas Gryta, Theo Francis and Drew Fitzgerald

Nearly 58% of GE shares were voted against the board's compensation practices, according to an initial tally announced at the GE annual meeting Tuesday. Less than half of shares cast at AT&T's meeting last week supported the telecom and media giant's compensation plans, the company said Friday. Neither company has disclosed full tallies.

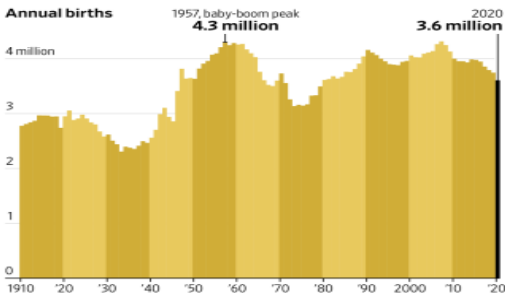
The two widely held stocks add to a growing list of big U.S. companies that have failed to garner shareholder support for their executive compensation plans this year. Such advisory votes are nonbinding and rarely fail to win overwhelming shareholder support. But some institutional investors have used them this year to voice their displeasure with Starbucks Corp. and Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc., among others.

Executives at both GE and AT&T received special stock awards in 2020 that made them among the highest-paid business leaders last year, a difficult period when the pandemic disrupted business, tested managers and cost millions of people their jobs. The median CEO received compensation of \$13.7 million in 2020, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis in April.

Global Investors said its stewardship committee decided to

Births in U.S. Hit 41-Year Low

The number of babies born in America last year was the lowest since 1979, decreasing 4% from the prior year. **A2**



Note: Data from 1909 to 2019 is final; 2020 is provisional. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Berkshire Hathaway's Stock Price Is Too Much for Computers

Warren Buffett won't split shares, which are fast approaching Nasdaq's limit

By ALEXANDER OSIPOVICH

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. is trading at more than \$421,000 per Class A share, and the market is optimistic. That's a problem.

The price has grown so high, it has nearly hit the maximum number that can be stored in one common way exchange computers handle digits.

On Tuesday, Nasdaq Inc. temporarily suspended broadcasting prices for Class A shares of Berkshire over several popular data feeds. Such feeds provide real-time price updates for a number of online brokerages and finance websites.

Nasdaq's computers can

only count so high because of the compact digital format they use for communicating prices. The biggest number they can handle is \$429,496,729.5. Nasdaq is rushing to finish an upgrade later this month that would fix the problem.

It isn't just Nasdaq. Another exchange operator, IEX Group Inc., said in March that it would stop accepting investors' orders in Class A shares of Berkshire Hathaway "due to an internal price limitation within the trading system."

It's the stock-market version of the Y2K bug. And it's becoming an increasingly urgent issue as shares of Warren



Warren Buffett

Biden to Reallocate Unordered Vaccines To States in Need

By TARINI PARTI AND ANDREW RESTUCCIA

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration said it would begin reallocating some Covid-19 vaccine doses to states with higher demand for shots and direct pharmacies to offer walk-in vaccinations, as the president aims to get 70% of the adult population at least one dose by July 4.

President Biden said Tuesday he also wants 160 million U.S. adults to have the full course of the vaccine by that point, which he said would mean administering about 100

million shots over the next 60 days. The U.S. administered about 220 million shots in Mr. Biden's first 100 days, but the pace of vaccinations has fallen in recent weeks, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 56% of U.S. adults had received at least one dose as of Monday, according to the CDC.

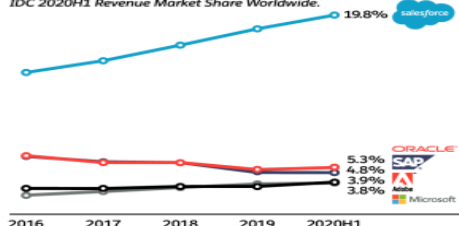
Meanwhile, Pfizer Inc. increased this year's sales forecast. **Please turn to page A7**

◆ **EU ramps up shots, easing virus threat**..... **A8**

◆ **Pfizer raises sales forecast for vaccine**..... **B1**

Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2020H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, October 2020.

salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following IDC-defined functional markets: Sales Force Productivity and Management, Marketing Campaign Management, Customer Service, Contact Center, Advertising, and Digital. Applications: © 2020 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., as are other names and marks.

We have a problem

Will regulators bring the Spac race down to earth? — BIG READ, PAGE 13

Behind the Gates

How billionaire couple's divorce will affect their foundation — PAGE 2



Climate conditions

Three things that must happen at COP26 summit — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 15

Metro disaster

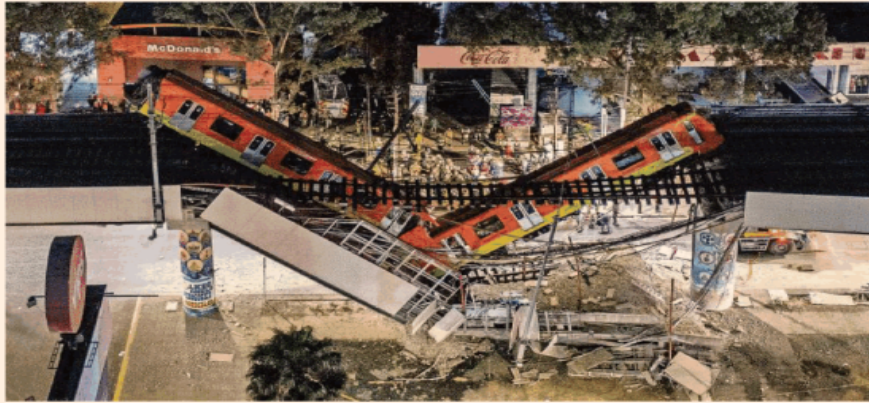
Mexico looks for answers

An aerial view of the elevated section of Mexico City's metro line that collapsed on to a busy road on Monday night, killing at least 25 people and injuring a further 79.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has promised a full investigation into the accident, which claimed the lives of several children. The recently built section of line in a south-eastern suburb of Mexico's capital has been plagued by problems since it opened. The city's metro is one of the world's busiest services.

The train, which snapped into a V-shape, was left suspended on the collapsed track above a pile of rubble on the road.

Report page 4



Victor Velazquez/Getty Images

Yellen fuels tech sell-off by raising prospect of interest rate increases

Warning on US 'overheating' • Backing for \$4tn stimulus • Nasdaq hit hard in early trade

ERIC PLATT — NEW YORK
JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON

US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen has warned that interest rates may need to rise to keep the US economy from overheating, comments that exacerbated a sell-off in technology stocks.

The former Federal Reserve chair made the remarks in the context of the Biden administration's plans for \$4tn of infrastructure and welfare spending, on top of several rounds of economic stimulus in response to the pandemic.

"It may be that interest rates will have to rise somewhat to make sure that our economy doesn't overheat, even though the additional spending is relatively small relative to the size of the economy," she said at an event hosted by The Atlantic magazine.

"So it could cause some very modest increases in interest rates to get that reallocation. But these are investments in our economy needs to be competitive and to be productive."

Investors and economists have argued about whether trillions of dollars of extra federal spending, combined with the vaccine rollout, will spur inflation. The debate comes as stimulus cheques that have been sent to consumers fuel a market rally that has lifted equities to record levels.

Jay Powell, the current Fed chair, has said that he believes inflation would only be "transitory" and the central bank has promised to stick firmly to an ultra-loose monetary policy until substantially more progress has been made in the economic recovery.

The possibility of interest rates rising has been a risk flagged by many investors since Joe Biden's presidential victory, even as markets have rallied.

Yellen's comments heaped more pressure on shares of high-growth companies, which had fallen sharply early yesterday. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite was down 2.8 per cent at noon in New York, while the benchmark S&P 500 was 1.4 per cent lower.

However, market interest rates were little changed after the remarks, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury at 1.59 per cent.

Yellen recently insisted that the US stimulus bill and plans for more massive government investment in the economy were unlikely to trigger an unhealthy jump in inflation. The US Treasury secretary also expressed confidence that if inflation were to rise more persistently than expected, the Federal Reserve had the "tools" to deal with it.



Janet Yellen: "These are investments in our economy needs to be competitive and productive"

Treasury secretaries generally do not opine on specific monetary policy actions, which are the purview of the Fed, whereas the Fed chair generally refrains from commenting on policy towards the dollar, seen as the prerogative of the Treasury secretary.

Yellen's comments at the Atlantic event were taped on Monday. She said that Biden's spending plans would address structural deficiencies that have afflicted the US economy for a long time. "We've gone for way too long letting long-term problems fester in our economy," she said.

The day in markets page 9

Briefing

► **Blinken rejects talk of China cold war**
Top US diplomat Antony Blinken has thrown out claims that Washington is entering a cold war with Beijing, telling the FT he resists "putting labels on most relationships, including this one". — PAGE 2

► **Pfizer eyes full-year job sales of \$26bn**
The US pharmaceutical group has sharply lifted sales forecasts for its Covid-19 vaccine after seeing a \$3.5bn contribution in the first quarter. The job is sold in more than 50 countries. — PAGE 5; LEX, PAGE 16

► **Flush US banks seek to cut cash deposits**
The wave of cash flooding balance sheets during the pandemic has prompted Wall Street lenders to urge corporate clients to move money out of deposits. The abundance drags on bank profits. — PAGE 6

► **Fauci issues vaccines patent warning**
Chief US presidential medical adviser Anthony Fauci has told the FT that forcing drug groups to ditch intellectual property rights risks backfiring if it leads to long legal disputes. — PAGE 3

► **Vivendi and Mediaset to settle legal feud**
The battle that pitched Vincent Bolloré against the family of Silvio Berlusconi is to end with the French group selling most of its 29 per cent of the Italian broadcaster over five years. — PAGE 5; LEX, PAGE 16

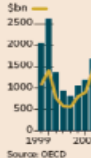
► **China banks accused over deforestation**
Research has cast doubt on Beijing's ambitions to be a leader in the climate change fight by showing that its banks are prominent financiers of commodities implicated in rainforest deforestation. — PAGE 4

► **Central bankers urge action for women**
Isabel Schnabel, executive board member of the ECB, and Margarita Delgado, deputy head of the Bank of Spain, have called for more decisive action to promote women's careers in economics. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Covid chokes investment

Global FDI flows



Global foreign direct investment flows decreased by 38 per cent in 2020 to \$844bn, their lowest level since 2005. Flows into developed countries fell by half, partly due to significant divestments from Switzerland and the Netherlands.



Yahoo's new owner bets on sport and retail finance

The latest owner of Yahoo is making a bet on betting. Private equity group Apollo has agreed Verizon's \$5bn asking price. In doing so it risks joining a string of media and tech leaders for whom the faded web pioneer became a graveyard of their reputations. But the deal is a steal against Microsoft's \$45bn offer 15 years ago. Apollo aims to turn Yahoo Sports into a gambling platform and develop Yahoo Finance, with its huge retail investor following.

Analysis — PAGE 7

Modi under fire over slow dispatch of medical relief aid as Covid cases soar

BENJAMIN PARKIN — BANGALORE
AMY KAZMIN AND
JYOTSNA SINGH — NEW DELHI

Emergency medical aid is pouring into pandemic-stricken India from around the world as the government seeks to fend off criticism over the slow pace of dispatching supplies to hospitals and states in desperate need.

Dedicated relief flights from countries including the UK, the US, EU member states, Taiwan and Uzbekistan have delivered hundreds of tonnes of supplies, with more expected in the coming days from Israel and elsewhere.

The inflow of oxygen generators, concentrators and cylinders, life-saving drugs and other medical equipment marks the first time India has accepted large-scale international humanitarian aid since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami,

reflecting the magnitude of the crisis. India has in the recent past refused to accept international relief, which it felt was not in keeping with its self-image as an emerging global power.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was fiercely criticised by opposition politicians over the slow pace of the aid's distribution, and the lack of clarity on where the relief is going. Many hard-hit states said they had not received any assistance, while some said supplies were still sitting in warehouses.

"We request and demand from the government... share it with every Indian: where has this aid come from, and where is it going?" said Pawan Khara, a spokesperson for the opposition Indian National Congress. "You owe it to the public."

In a statement yesterday, the central government said the authorities were

working "24 x 7 to fast-track and clear the goods on arrival".

It listed 38 institutions in India that it said had received equipment. "All possible efforts are done to unpack, repack and dispatch these [goods] with the least possible turn-around time."

Rudra Chaudhuri, director of the Carnegie India think-tank, said the relief effort had been hampered by the high number of Covid-19 cases among Indian officials. But he said the government should provide further clarity on which emergency supplies went where, something it did not specify. "It's a very important issue for donors, recipients and public confidence."

The official number of coronavirus cases in India soared past 20m this week, with more than 350,000 infections detected daily.

IPL cricket suspended page 3

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	May 4	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4132.48	4192.66	-1.44
Nasdaq Composite	13502.76	13695.12	-2.82
Dow Jones Ind	33853.65	34113.23	-0.76
FTSE Eurofirst 300	1688.58	1692.85	-1.42
Euro Stoxx 50	3820.78	4000.25	-1.98
FTSE 100	6823.17	6969.81	-2.07
FTSE All-Share	3956.75	3960.85	-0.08
CAC 40	6251.75	6207.90	-0.69
Nikkei	14856.48	15236.47	-2.48
Hong Kong	28812.63	29053.97	-0.83
Hong Kong	28857.14	29057.54	-0.70
MSCI World \$	2948.87	2938.76	0.34
MSCI EM \$	1338.89	1347.61	-0.65
MSCI ACWI \$	703.31	701.83	0.21

CURRENCIES

	May 4	prev	%chg
\$ per £	1.200	1.208	-0.718
€ per £	1.388	1.383	0.362
¥ per \$	108.200	108.925	-0.667
¥ per £	151.618	151.798	-0.118
CHF per \$	0.931	0.929	0.022
CHF per £	1.126	1.128	-0.182

INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	147.70	1.58	-0.03
UK Gov 10 yr	0.79	-0.05	
Ger Gov 10 yr	-0.24	-0.04	
Japan Gov 10 yr	116.40	0.09	0.00
US Gov 30 yr	107.02	2.27	-0.03
Ger Gov 2 yr	106.25	-0.70	-0.01
Fed Funds Eff	0.07	0.08	-0.01
US 3m Bills	0.04	0.01	0.03
Euro Libor 3m	-0.54	-0.54	0.00
UK 2m	0.08	0.09	-0.01

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Bloomberg

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No: 40,699

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



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CARLOS GAUNA captured this image of a shark nearing people just off the coast. "These types of encounters have always been happening," he said. "Which shows you really just how low the number of attacks are."

Now you see it: just how close sharks get to people

Drones show great whites are common in the surf zone. Chief Brody needn't fear.

By Joe Mozingo

Carlos Gauna surveys the wind-blown waves off a popular Santa Barbara County beach. It is a cold, gray afternoon and only a few people are in the water: a father teaching his son to surf, a lone man wading in the whitewash.

Gauna launches his video drone, hoping to spy what might be moving stealthily among them — great white sharks.

In decades past, this might have seemed a quixotic venture. Great whites were thought to be somewhat rare in these southern waters, wandering now and then from the wilder coast up north. Most surfers considered it supremely improbable that one of these apex predators was hunting for food at their break.

The advent of drone photography has devoured that notion.

Gauna spots a great white within a minute and a half of launch. The animal waves languidly in the surf line, about 100 yards from the father and son. "Wow, he's in the waves," he says. "That is so pretty."

Soon he has locked his screen on four more juvenile sharks, all near shore.

Gauna is not surprised. Unlike Police Chief Martin [See Sharks, A12]

Move to yellow tier fuels hope for a rebound

Easing of restrictions gives businesses a sense of optimism that good times are ahead.

By Luke Money, Faith E. Pinho, David Zahniser and Rong-Gong Lin II

Los Angeles County is seeing new signs of a resurgent economy, with plummeting coronavirus cases allowing for a faster-than-expected reopening of bars and expanded capacity for restaurants and other businesses.

In progressing Tuesday to the least restrictive yellow tier of California's color-coded reopening system, the nation's most populous county can now unshackle its economy to the widest extent possible, sparking hope for significant recovery in sectors long battered by the pandemic.

A swath of businesses and venues — including restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, amusement parks, stadiums and museums — will be able to operate at higher capacity starting later this week. Indoor bars will be able to reopen without being required to serve food.

The relaxed restrictions, details of which will be released Wednesday and go into effect Thursday, are accompanied by a newfound sense of optimism in a region that was a national epicenter of the pandemic just a few months ago, with hospitals pushed to the brink and staggering numbers of people dying every day.

After peaking at 241 deaths a day over a seven-day period in January, L.A. County is now recording about 19 COVID-related deaths a day — the lowest such figure since the autumn.

California now has the lowest coronavirus case rate of any state and, if the growing crowds in business districts, malls and restaurants are any indication, residents long locked down are feeling safer about going out.

Doane Liu, executive director of the L.A. Department of Convention and Tourism Development, said that at the worst point in the

pandemic, occupancy at the city's hotels fell below 20%. That figure has already topped 50% and is on track to approach 70% by mid-2022, he said.

The L.A. Tourism and Convention Board, a non-profit group that markets the city, has begun running ads with the message "Start Your Comeback" in 20 national media markets.

Tourism is a huge piece of the county's economy, and it was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some boosters hope to see the sector significantly recover during the summer. [See Reopen, A7]



SANDRA ORTIZ, left, her son Bryan Chavez and Yeritza Chavez hug at the San Ysidro entry point in San Diego. Ortiz and her son were separated in 2017.

Split apart at the border, family is together again

Mother and son, separated 3 years ago under Trump's migrant policy, reunite in San Diego

By Kate Morrissey, Cindy Carcamo and Molly O'Toole

SAN DIEGO — More than three years ago, Bryan Chavez hugged his mother inside a U.S. immigration office, terrified that he would never see her again. "You are not going to see her anymore," the female U.S. immigration officer told Chavez, according to his account. Then the officer turned to his mother, Sandra Ortiz. "And you will go to prison."

Mother and son were separated. Chavez went to an immigration facility in California. His mother, who didn't pass an initial asylum screening, was deported to Mexico.

They were among the earliest family

separations during the Trump administration, well before splitting families became publicized U.S. policy. More than a thousand families remain separated, but the long ordeal for Chavez and his mom is finally over.

On Tuesday afternoon outside the San Ysidro Port of Entry, the main border crossing point into San Diego from Tijuana, the pair were among the first four families separated by the Trump administration to be reunited under President Biden. Chavez brought a bunch of red, silver and pink Mother's Day balloons to make up for the years he couldn't shower her with gifts.

When he saw her, his hands flew to his face, overcome by emotion. They held each other, crying as people brushed by. [See Reunite, A7]

LAUSD won't add to the school year

District drops the idea amid opposition from the teachers union and no clear consensus among parents. **CALIFORNIA, B2**

A train wreck that many saw coming

Mexico crash kills 24 and incenses those who say warnings were long ignored.

By Patrick J. McDonnell, Kate Linticum and Cecilia Sanchez

MEXICO CITY — It was dubbed the "Golden Line," the shiny and pricey showpiece of a Mexico City Metro system long plagued by overcrowding, crime and sketchy service.

But the \$2-billion new addition, inaugurated with much fanfare in 2012 and formally known as Line 12, soon became infamous for what critics considered shoddy design, safety shutdowns and allegations of corruption in its construction.

On Monday night, Line 12 was the site of the deadliest Metro incident in almost 50 years: An overpass collapsed. [See Wreck, A4]



RESCUERS wheel away one of the 79 people injured after a raised subway track carrying a train collapsed over a bustling avenue Monday night in Mexico City.

Decades of data say it's hotter

Normal temperature in the U.S. is a degree higher than 20 years ago. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Republican feud brews in House

Kevin McCarthy signals he would back ousting Liz Cheney as a leader. **NATION, A6**

Arson suspect known by staff

A 57-year-old man has been charged in San Gabriel Mission fire. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather Patchy fog, then sun. L.A. Basin: 80/61. **B6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper





There had been no signs of problems, officials said, before a concrete slab carrying a subway track collapsed Monday night in Mexico's capital city. The mayor — a potential contender to succeed the Mexican president — said she would support an independent inquiry.

Fingers pointed in Mexico City tragedy

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN,
GABRIELA MARTINEZ
AND DAVID AIGREN

The deadly collapse of a subway overpass in Mexico's capital plunged the country into grief and political recriminations on Tuesday, putting top officials on the defensive as they faced questions about shoddy work and poor maintenance for one of the world's busiest subway systems.

24 killed when overpass collapses; metro system plagued with issues

Two train cars plummeted toward a highway below. It was the latest in a series of disasters for a system that is the backbone of the capital's transportation network, and especially important to millions of poor and working-class residents.

The tragedy immediately took on political overtones, because the officials most associated with the subway's Line 12 — Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum and Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard — are considered top contenders to succeed President Andrés Manuel López Obrador when his term ends in 2024. Ebrard oversaw the building of the so-called Golden Line a decade ago, when he served as mayor.

Opposition politicians called for an investigation and the punishment of any officials of the ruling Morena party found responsible for the disaster. "The politicians of Morena kill people through their corruption and bad decisions. We saw it with the terrible management of the pandemic, and now we see it with the tragedy on the metro," said Marko Cortés, head of the National Action Party.

Biden sets new vaccine goal, eyeing skeptics

WHITE HOUSE GRAPPLES WITH MESSAGING
Announces 70% target for July, focus on rural areas

BY TYLER PAGER
AND YASMINE ABUTALEB

President Biden declared a new goal Tuesday that 70 percent of adults will have at least one coronavirus vaccine shot by the Fourth of July as the White House grappled with how to send Americans a complex message: A normal life is within reach if you get vaccinated — but the crisis is far from over, so don't fully relax your guard.

Biden has been accused of sending mixed messages recently by continuing to wear a mask outside despite official guidance that he does not need to, since he is fully vaccinated. The White

House is reaching out to scientists and public health experts to understand how the science is evolving as more people get vaccinated and which restrictions they can and cannot relax, according to people familiar with or engaged in the conversations.

"The challenge for the president, and the federal government in general, is you're having to set standards for the entire country and rule-model for the entire country, and what might be appropriate in one place is not

APK VACCINE ON A4
Distribution: States' unsorted doses to be available to others. A4

Yellen's remarks spark confusion, brief panic

BY JEFF STEIN

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen insisted Tuesday that she is not concerned about the risks of economic overheating hours after her earlier comments about inflation caused a brief panic on Wall Street and invited fresh scrutiny about the White House's position.

The confusion sparked by the treasury chief showed the delicate situation the Biden administration confronts as it seeks to demonstrate its attention to inflationary pressures without fueling criticism that its spending packages could hurt the economy.

First, in an interview with the

Talk of inflation, higher interest rates spotlights Biden's spending plans

Atlantic that was released Tuesday morning, Yellen defended the administration's new spending proposals and said the central bank could handle inflationary pressures with modest interest rate increases.

The Fed sets interest rate policy, but Yellen has a unique vantage point, having led the central bank

SEE YELLEN ON A17

Huge reunification drive starts with big hugs at the border

As Biden tries to undo hundreds of Trump-era separations, one mom joins her son after years apart

BY KEVIN SIEFF

SAN DIEGO — Three years, seven months and four days after U.S. immigration agents separated her from her child, Sandra Ortiz was walking through the San Ysidro border crossing Tuesday when she spotted Bryan Chávez.

"My son!" she cried. "I missed you so much!"

They held each other quietly in the center of the pedestrian plaza, the frenzy of the border a blur around them.

Ortiz and Chávez were among the thousands of families separated by the Trump administration in 2017 and 2018 under a policy intended to deter migration.

Now they were among the first reunited under the Biden administration — the start of a massive relocation of parents deported by one U.S. president and returned by another. In total, more than 1,000 families are expected to be reunited.

SEE REUNIFICATION ON A22



Bryan Chávez, 18, hugs his mother, Sandra Ortiz, center, and sister, Veritzel Chávez, on Tuesday in California after Ortiz was deported to Mexico and he was sent to live with U.S. relatives.



Kenneth Frazier



Kenneth Chenault

Battle over voting rights stirs two Black CEOs to activism

BY TODD C. FRANKEL

In the early '70s, in the shadow of the civil rights era, Kenneth Chenault often stayed up late talking with other Black students at Bowdoin College in Maine about how to fight for racial equality. Most argued you needed to push from the outside. They wanted to become activists and educators. Chenault was different. He thought it was best to work from inside the corridors of power, recalled former classmate Geoffrey Canada.

"We didn't think you could knock those doors down," Canada said.

Chenault did. He went on to run American Express for 17 years, one of just 19 Black chief executives ever at a Fortune 500 company.

Chenault recently used that same formula of fighting for change when he and another Black chief executive, Kenneth Frazier of the pharmaceutical giant Merck, helped push much of corporate America to publicly oppose the restrictive voting rights bills being considered in dozens of states.

Chenault and Frazier — friends who first met at Harvard Law School decades ago — are

SEE VOTING ON A18

IN THE NEWS



New police chief The D.C. Council elevated Robert J. Contee III, a District native who has been acting chief since January. B1

Facebook ruling The decision on whether to let Donald Trump back on is the culmination of a long, fraught relationship. A14

THE NATION

A new bill pressures the government to reveal FBI files about a domestic-spying program tied to the killing of Black Panther activist Fred Hampton. A5

Democrats are gearing up for a major effort to oust Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) in a race that will test whether Trump's vision for the GOP has endured. A7

The Supreme Court

seemed skeptical that a law intended to allow new sentences for those convicted under onerous crack cocaine statutes applies to those with low-level possession convictions. A6

Richard Cordray, who led the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will oversee the government's student loan portfolio. A22

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu failed to meet a deadline to form a new governing coalition. A11

THE ECONOMY

Pandora, the world's biggest jeweler, will drop mined diamonds in favor of lab-grown ones. A16

THE REGION

A former leader of a neo-Nazi group was sentenced to 11 months in prison for harassing journalists. B1

A Democratic Party fixture, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring may see his biggest election challenge from within his own party. B1

The D.C. Council

will send no additional subsidies for United Medical Center, probably triggering a board to manage its finances. B1

The person shot by the FBI outside CIA headquarters Monday has died, the FBI announced. B4

An ex-priest and child molester from Australia was indicted in Virginia on charges of sexually assaulting a teenage boy in 1979. B6

OBITUARIES

Bobby Unser, a three-time Indianapolis 500 winner and member of one of the most storied families in American racing, died at 87. B7

INSIDE



FOOD
Maternal lessons that still feed us
Memories of cooking with Mom yield dishes both tasty and comforting. E1

STYLE

Meet the royals next door
Meghan and Harry have quickly eased into the California celebrity lifestyle. C1

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La columna de Facundo Campazzo

"Soy molesto, lo sé: soy una mosca en la oreja del rival", escribe el base de Denver, sobre su trabajo en defensa; "tomo como un cumplido que me consideren fuerte en ese rubro".

Deportes, página 8



CRISTÓBAL LÓPEZ PODRÁ LEVANTAR LA QUIEBRA DE OIL

—política

La AFIP dio su consentimiento al plan de pagos presentado por el empresario para ingresar en la moratoria; la deuda alcanza a \$11.800 millones. Página 20

1946-2021 RODOLFO GARCÍA. PIONERO DEL ROCK Y MUCHO MÁS

—espectáculos

Fue el baterista de Almendra y Aqueelarre, y cruzó todos los estilos; para Spinetta era "un padre musical"; por sus valores, fue uno de los músicos más queridos en el ambiente.

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 5 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

La Corte avaló a Larreta por las clases y desató la ira del Gobierno

PANDEMIA. El máximo tribunal sostuvo por unanimidad que el decreto que suspendió la presencialidad en el AMBA violó la autonomía porteña; Fernández cuestionó la resolución y la vicepresidenta dijo que era "un golpe institucional"

La Corte Suprema de Justicia determinó ayer que el presidente Alberto Fernández violó la autonomía de la ciudad de Buenos Aires con el decreto que había dispuesto el cese de las clases presenciales.

El fallo fue unánime. Llevó las firmas de Carlos Rosenkrantz, Horacio Rosatti y Ricardo Lorenzetti. La jueza Elena Highton de Nolasco no votó porque dijo que el caso no era de competencia originaria del tribunal.

Los jueces criticaron la falta de fundamentación del decreto de Fernández, advirtieron que la emergencia tiene límites y que el gobierno nacional solo puede "regular el ejercicio del derecho a la educación de modo concurrente con las provincias".

La reacción del oficialismo fue virulenta. La vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner equiparó el fallo con un "golpe institucional" y Alberto Fernández desafió: "Dicen las sentencias que quieran, vamos a seguir haciendo lo que debemos". El Gobierno enviará en los próximos días un proyecto al Congreso para regular las medidas de la emergencia. Página 2

Seis claves para entender un fallo que impacta en el futuro de las restricciones

Paz Rodríguez Niell
Página 3



Tras el fallo de la Corte, Fernández habló ayer en un acto en Ezeiza junto a Kicillof

TOMÁS CUESTA

AXEL KICILLOF
GOBERNADOR BONAERENSE

"Es difícil que los que le hicieron daño a la educación hoy se paren como sus defensores"

ALBERTO FERNÁNDEZ
PRESIDENTE DE LA NACIÓN

"Dicen las sentencias que quieran; nosotros vamos a hacer lo que debemos"

CRISTINA KIRCHNER
VICEPRESIDENTA DE LA NACIÓN

"Los golpes contra las instituciones democráticas [...] ya no son como antaño"

EL ANÁLISIS

El peor momento del profesor

Joaquín Morales Solá
—LA NACION—

Es el momento más difícil (y de mayor fragilidad) de Alberto Fernández. La Corte Suprema de Justicia enmendó ayer al Presidente y al profesor de Derecho en tres fallos coincidentes por haberse extralimitado en sus funciones como jefe del Ejecutivo. Muy pocas veces esta Corte fue tan unánime en reprocharle a un presidente la legalidad de sus decisiones. El profesor fue cuestionado en sus conocimientos básicos, en los saberes con los que, según él, se gana la vida. El Presidente siempre se ufana de su condición de docente de la Facultad de Derecho. Continúa en la página 6

El PP arrasa en Madrid e Iglesias deja la política

ELECCIONES. El triunfo de Ayuso sorprende a España

MADRID (PARA LA NACION).— La "batalla" en las elecciones regionales de Madrid dejó ayer una clara ganadora y provocó un "sismo" en la política española. La candidata del conservador Partido Popular, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, arrasó al obtener

65 diputados en una Asamblea de 136, más del doble de los que tenía hasta ahora. Los grandes derrotados fueron el PSOE, con el peor resultado en su historia, y Podemos, cuyo líder, Pablo Iglesias, anunció su retiro de la política. Página 13

Giro en la Casa Rosada: Basualdo sigue en Energía

ECONOMÍA. Guzmán le había pedido la renuncia

Santiago Dapelo
LA NACION

Federico Basualdo no renunciará. Martín Guzmán, tampoco. Y no habrá nuevos aumentos de tarifas, dijeron anoche dos altas fuentes de

la Casa Rosada. El Gobierno busca superar la crisis tras el fallido intento del ministro de Economía de desplazar al subsecretario de Energía Eléctrica. Esto dejó una clara ganadora, la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner. Continúa en la página 15

Duque moviliza tropas para aplacar las protestas

COLOMBIA. Advertencias internacionales por el uso extremo de la fuerza.
Página 12

Recusa de presidente a se imunizar mina plano

Um plano de comunicação foi elaborado pelo governo federal na tentativa de unir os brasileiros contra a Covid e incentivar a vacinação. A estratégia contava com Jair Bolsonaro tomando a primeira dose, com ampla cobertura da imprensa, segundo reportagem da Repórter Brasil. A estratégia, no entanto, não saiu do papel por causa da recusa do presidente em se imunizar. **Saúde B1**

“Recomendamos, expressamente, que a Presidência da República reveja o posicionamento

A adoção de medidas em sentido contrário poderá gerar colapso do sistema de saúde e gravíssimas consequências

Luiz Henrique Mandetta
em carta para Bolsonaro, em 28 de março de 2020

Mandetta afirma à CPI que Bolsonaro ignorou alertas

Depoimento de mais de sete horas trouxe fatos vistos como graves pelo relator

No primeiro dia de depoimentos à CPI da Covid, o ex-ministro da Saúde Luiz Henrique Mandetta afirmou que o presidente Jair Bolsonaro (sem partido) contrariou orientações da pasta para o combate à pandemia. Relator da comissão, Renan Calheiros (MDB-AL) viu as declarações como graves.

O ex-auxiliar disse também que o discurso negacionista do mandatário poderia contribuir para a disseminação da doença. Narrou, ainda a tentativa do Planalto de alterar por decreto a bula da cloroquina a fim de incluir o tratamento da Covid-19 entre as indicações do medicamento.

O senador governista Ciro Nogueira (PP-PI) questionou o sobre orientação de evitar hospitais aos primeiros sinais da doença. Mandetta qualificou acusações de que teria dito para sintomáticos ficarem em casa como “guerra de narrativa”. A apoiadores Bolsonaro fez troça do tema. **Poder A4**

Pazuello alega contato com infectados, e comissão adia depoimento A9

Análise Natália Cancian
Em fala, ex-ministro tenta escapar de nós da gestão A8

Análise Igor Gielow
Pânico do presidente ganha corpo com tinta dramática A7

São Paulo recebe 136 mil doses da vacina da Pfizer

A capital paulista recebeu 135,720 doses do imunizante da Pfizer, que serão usadas a partir de amanhã. Com atraso na campanha, o governo federal faz operação para tentar acessar excedente de vacina de outros países. **Saúde B1 e B2**

Subnotificação esconde ao menos 30% de óbitos
A subnotificação esconde ao menos 30% das mortes que não aparecem nas estatísticas oficiais, mostra estudo. Segundo o trabalho, o país já estaria com mais de 330 mil óbitos. **B2**

Defesa afirma que não há vagas de UTI, mas planilhas divergem B3

EUA prometem ao Brasil US\$ 20 mil em remédios para intubação A16



O ex-ministro da Saúde Luiz Henrique Mandetta, entre os senadores Renan Calheiros (MDB-AL) e Randolfe Rodrigues (Rede-AP), após depor à CPI da Covid. **Pedro Ladeira/Folhapress**



O humorista Paulo Gustavo em 2019. **Victor Pollak/TV Globo**

Ator Paulo Gustavo morre aos 42 anos, vítima da Covid

O ator e humorista Paulo Gustavo morreu ontem, aos 42 anos, em decorrência de complicações causadas pela Covid-19. Ele estava internado na Unidade de Terapia Intensiva de um hospital no Rio de Janeiro desde o dia 13 de março.

Com a carreira iniciada no teatro, o artista virou o maior fenômeno de público do cinema brasileiro. A trilogia “Minha Mãe É uma Peça”, estrelada pelo seu personagem Dona Hermínia, vendeu cerca de 22 milhões de ingressos. **Ilustrada B10**

Viaduto cai no México, derruba metrô e causa 24 mortes

Mundo A14

Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*	2ª dose	1ª dose
Brasil	10,4	20,4
MS	10,5	26,2
RS	10,9	25,7
ES	8,4	22,5

Cobertura da primeira dose*



Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	14,9 mi	411,9 mil
4.mai**	59,2 mil	2.361
Varição***	-7,8%	-16,6%
Em 24 h	69,4 mil	3.025

Dados das 20h de 4.mai *Acima de 18 anos **Média móvel de 7 dias ***Em relação a 14 dias

EDITORIAIS A2

Cartada de Mandetta
Acerca de depoimento de ex-ministro à CPI da Covid.

Aposta equivocada
Sobre projeto para quebra de patentes de vacinas.

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PÁGINAS VISTAS 248.038.517
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ISSN 1414-5723
9 771414 572049 33635

Esporte B8

Manchester City vai à sua primeira final da Champions após bater PSG por 2 a 0

Corrida B14

Diogo Mainardi pede demissão da TV Cultura depois de xingamento

Ruy Castro

Baratas em pânico

Trataram os brasileiros como se fôssemos baratas, mas, agora, num surto de covardia que só não causa mais repugnância porque esperado, quem busca buracos para se esconder, como baratas em pânico, são eles. **Opinião A2**

Rareia presença em missão de paz, prioridade militar

Em fevereiro de 2021, havia 76 brasileiros servindo em missões de paz das Organizações das Nações Unidas, menor quantidade deste século. O número corresponde a 3% do pico da participação brasileira, há dez anos. **Poder A10**

Após intubação, Bruno Covas recebe alta da UTI

Bruno Covas (PSDB) recebeu alta para sair da UTI depois de passar por procedimentos para estancar um sangramento no estômago. “Mais uma batalha vencida”, escreveu o prefeito de São Paulo em rede social. **Cotidiano B7**

Homem mata pelo menos 5 em escola infantil em SC

Um homem matou ao menos cinco pessoas e feriu outras duas após invadir escola infantil no município de Saudades (SC), na manhã de ontem. O agressor, que foi detido, teria usado um facão, de acordo com a polícia. **Cotidiano B5**

PORTO SEGURO

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Lira decide acabar com comissão da reforma tributária

No dia em que Aguinaldo Ribeiro (PP-PB) mostrou relatório com fusão ampla de impostos cobrados por União, estados e municípios, Arthur Lira (PP-AL) anunciou extinção da comissão mista da reforma tributária. **Mercado A17**

Deputados aprovam projeto que revoga LSN A12

Em metrópoles, ricos ganham 39 vezes salário dos mais pobres A18

WhatsApp lança serviço de transferência em parceria com bancos A23

Salud promete tolerancia 0 para quienes quieran inmunización de privilegio

En manos de Congreso sanción para oportunistas de vacunas

Ejecutivo presentó proyecto de ley para penar con 5 años de cárcel y 10 años de suspensión en la función pública. Hay críticas porque la consideran muy restrictiva.

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 6

También emitió facturas irregulares
Retamozo generó pérdidas por G. 6.500 millones a Puertos

PÁGINA 7

INC y Petropar se suman a la lista
Crecen las críticas de privados, pero sigue pago de bonificaciones

PÁGINA 12

Fomentará competencia desleal
Gremios formales cuestionan baja de aranceles en frontera

PÁGINA 15

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Duro golpe. Cerro Porteño no pudo rescatar punto alguno en su partido en el Brasil ante el Atlético Mineiro, donde perdió 0-4; ahora La Guaira es su siguiente rival.

PÁGINA 56

ETIOS
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LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flateur » Beaumarchais



CHINE
UN PAYS FRAGILISÉ
PAR LE DÉCLIN
DÉMOGRAPHIQUE PAGES 6 ET 7

ENQUÊTE
SONIA MABROUK, RACHEL KHAN...
CES PERSONNALITÉS QUI REFUSENT
D'ÊTRE « RACISÉES » PAGE 14

**JUSTICE**

Les éoliennes,
mauvaise affaire
des propriétaires

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COVID-19

Pfizer teste un
comprimé à avaler
dès les premiers
symptômes

PAGE 11

FOOTBALL

Le Paris SG
battu et éliminé par
Manchester City

PAGE 12

ENTREPRISE

Le divorce surprise
de Bill et Melinda
Gates

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DÉFENSE

Nouveau succès
commercial
pour le Rafale

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MUSIQUE

Crosby, Stills,
Nash et Young
rééditent leur
album événement
« Déjà vu »

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CHAMPS LIBRES

- Quelle
physionomie
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en Provence-
Alpes-Côte
d'Azur ?
- Un grand
entretien avec
Patrice
Gueniffey
- La chronique
de Bertille
Bayart

PAGES 15 À 17

**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

Réponses à la question
de mardi :

Le Parti LR doit-il
présenter sa propre liste
en Paca après l'accord
Muselier-LREM ?

OUI 62% NON 38%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 156 198

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que le port du masque
à l'extérieur ne soit plus
obligatoire cet été ?

NOËL CELIS/AFP - HANNAH
ASSOLINE/OPALE -

Macron cherche le ton juste pour commémorer Napoléon

Le discours que le chef de l'État doit prononcer pour le bicentenaire de la mort de l'Empereur est très attendu. Il ne veut tomber « ni dans l'hagiographie ni dans la repentance ».

Si « commémorer » n'est pas « célébrer », comme l'assure l'Élysée, cela n'empêche pas Emmanuel Macron de rendre nombre d'hommages depuis le début de son quin-

quennat. Ce mercredi, c'est à l'Institut de France, puis aux Invalides, que le président de la République va renouveler l'exercice. Malgré de très fortes pressions, ve-

nues notamment de la gauche associative et politique, le chef de l'État a décidé de participer à la journée consacrée au bicentenaire de la mort de Napoléon 1^{er}. Il pro-

noncera un discours d'une trentaine de minutes dans lequel il abordera la question très sensible du rétablissement de l'esclavage... et « en même temps » les nombreux

legs de l'Empereur, comme le code civil, le code pénal, le Conseil d'État, la Cour de cassation, la figure du préfet, celle du maire, le baccalauréat...

→ L'EMPEREUR DES FRANÇAIS RESTE UNE FIGURE CONTROVERSÉE DANS LA CLASSE POLITIQUE → UN DÉBAT HISTORIOGRAPHIQUE QUI A ÉVOLUÉ → UNE HISTOIRE À TRANSMETTRE, PAS À « DÉCONSTRUIRE » PAGES 2, 3, 16 ET L'EDITORIAL



STÉPHANE DE SAKUTIN/AP

Sous la pression des Républicains, Muselier lâche du lest

Le président de la région s'est expliqué devant Christian Jacob et le comité stratégique de LR. Il les a assurés de sa loyauté, avant de publier un communiqué encore flou sur la constitution de sa liste pour le scrutin des 20 et 27 juin. PAGES 4, 5 ET 15

ÉDITORIAL par Étienne de Montety edemontety@lefigaro.fr

L'Empereur et nous

« Commémorer n'est pas célébrer... Ce distinguo byzantin, brandi par l'Élysée pour signifier qu'Emmanuel Macron recherchait la plus juste - la plus neutre ? - façon d'aborder le cas Napoléon Bonaparte, a de quoi surprendre. Le général victorieux, le Premier Consul, l'Empereur, fait partie de l'histoire de France, et de quelle manière ! Que l'on songe simplement à ce que fut la vie de ce petit officier corse devenu le maître de l'Europe par son génie militaire, son énergie et son audace, alliant sa famille aux plus prestigieuses monarchies européennes. « César et Alexandre avaient un successeur », écrit Stendhal dès les premiers mots de *La Chartreuse de Parme*. Code civil, Conseil d'État, Légion d'honneur, lycée, gendarmerie..., la dette de la France à son égard est immense.

A-t-il commis des crimes ? Hélas, l'esclavage en est un, comme la mort du duc d'Enghien, inutile et brutale, qui lui fut longtemps reprochée par les historiens. Des erreurs, des fautes ? Sûrement. Est-ce pour cela qu'il faudrait le rejeter dans les ténèbres, à l'aune des seuls canons contempo-

raines de l'« antiracisme » et du « féminisme » ? « Qu'on aille chercher dans l'histoire et que l'on compare », lance-t-il dans le *Mémorial de Sainte-Hélène*.

Avec Jeanne d'Arc, de Gaulle, Napoléon fait partie de nos figures universellement connues. Si à Paris de belles âmes s'émeuvent, le monde entier reste fasciné par ce destin. Il faut donc le commémorer, oui, le célébrer, évidemment.

La France lui doit une part de son imaginaire

Cela n'empêche pas le travail critique des historiens. Parmi tant de mérites, retenons-en un : avoir hissé un pays au-dessus de lui-même, et ce durablement. La France des XIX^e et XX^e lui doit une belle part de son organisation et aussi de son imaginaire historique et littéraire - d'Hugo (« Ce siècle avait deux ans... ») à Aragon (*La Semaine sainte*). Il lui a légué une certaine idée d'elle-même, qu'on pourrait résumer d'un mot magnifique, un mot qui a mauvaise presse aujourd'hui, mais sur lequel elle a vécu pendant près de deux siècles : la grandeur. ■

Emploi : les secteurs qui vont recruter dans les prochains mois

Malgré la crise sanitaire, les entreprises ont prévu d'embaucher 2,71 millions de personnes en 2021, soit davantage qu'en 2019, l'année précédant l'apparition du Covid. Selon l'étude annuelle de Pôle emploi sur les besoins de main-d'œuvre, il existe une forte demande pour des postes dans l'agriculture, ainsi que dans les services à la personne, dans la santé ou dans la restauration.

PAGE 20

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Labour alarm as party data points to collapse in support

Exclusive Just 40% of past backers set to vote for Hartlepool candidate

Josh Halliday
North of England correspondent

Fewer than half of recent Labour voters in Hartlepool say they will back the party in tomorrow's byelection, according to internal data based on the canvassing of more than 10,000

people - leading activists to fear a historic Conservative victory.

Labour insiders told the Guardian that polling from its ground campaign in the town showed that only about 40% of the party's previous supporters had pledged to vote for its candidate, Paul Williams.

Such an outcome would deliver a significant blow to Keir Starmer's leadership and a decisive Conservative win in a north-east England seat that has elected a Labour MP at every parliamentary election since 1964.

Labour sources said they were in

"huge trouble" in Hartlepool and also in danger of losing control of Sunderland and Durham councils for the first time in half a century.

Voters across England, Scotland and Wales go to the polls on "Super Thursday" in the biggest set of local and devolved elections since 1973.

Hartlepool is the backdrop for the first byelection since Boris Johnson's landslide victory in December 2019. It is seen as a key test of Labour's appeal to its heartlands just over a year after Starmer became leader with a pledge to rebuild the "red wall".

Yesterday Starmer sought to manage expectations before what he said would be a "very important set of elections" - but promised he would take "full responsibility" for his party's performance.

He told the BBC that "I hope we don't lose" Hartlepool, which strongly backed Brexit and has been gradually slipping away from Labour for years. He added he had a mountain to climb to restore the party's standing with voters following its performance at the 2019 general election under

Court told police officer murdered ex-footballer

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

A police officer murdered the former footballer Dalian Atkinson, first shooting him with a Taser stun gun for 33 seconds, then kicking him in the head as though striking a football, causing his head to snap back violently, a jury heard yesterday.

PC Benjamin Monk denies murder and manslaughter following the incident on 15 August 2016 in Telford, Shropshire, which began at the home of Atkinson's father.

Monk is alleged to have also fired a Taser at Atkinson for nearly seven times longer than the standard five-second deployment.

Then, while Atkinson was on the ground and apparently unresponsive, the officer kicked him in the head twice with such force that the imprint of Monk's laces was left on Atkinson's forehead, Birmingham crown court heard.

One witness, the jury heard, said that police "just started kicking the shit out of him". The jury were told blood from Atkinson was found on Monk's boots and after he was heard to tell a paramedic: "He may be a bit bloody as I've had to kick him."

Another officer, PC Mary Ellen Bettley-Smith, is charged with assault causing actual bodily harm, which she denies. She is alleged to have struck Atkinson with a baton while he was on the ground. The jury heard that the two police officers were in a relationship.

Opening the prosecution case, Alexandra Healy QC told the jury that concerned neighbours had called police at around 1.30am, with Atkinson said to have been shouting and his behaviour described as bizarre.

Monk had used a Taser on Atkinson twice without any obvious effect. The former footballer had smashed a pane of glass and was heard to shout that he was the messiah and could not be hurt. The jury heard Monk fired the stun gun a third time, which felled Atkinson in the street outside his father's home.

Healy said that a neighbour, Victor Swinbourne, saw what happened: "He saw the

France may cut power to Jersey in row over fish

Daniel Boffey
Brussels

The French government could cut off the electricity supply to Jersey in an escalating row over post-Brexit fishing rights, a French minister has suggested.

Responding to questions in the national assembly, Annick Girardin, the minister for maritime affairs, said that she was "revolted" by the UK government's behaviour over its waters and France was ready to retaliate.

The British crown dependency of Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, relies on "the transmission of electricity by underwater cable", Girardin said as she was questioned by assembly members, raising the supply as a point of leverage.

"I would regret it if we were to get there," the minister said, but "we will do so if we have to."

The comments mark a major escalation in a row over claims by French fishers that they are being denied access to UK waters.

David Frost, the former



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