

What's News

Business & Finance

Stocks dropped in turbulent trading alongside other assets as investors' risk appetite diminished and the Fed signaled an eventual shift away from its easy-money pandemic policies. The Dow fell as much as 587 points before paring its losses to less than 200 points, while other markets steadied as well. **A1**

◆ **Bitcoin, the volatile** digital currency that briefly became a trillion-dollar market, plunged as its monthlong slide morphed into a frenzied selloff. **A1**

◆ **Shares of special-purpose** acquisition companies and firms they have taken public are tumbling, punishing individual investors who piled into the once-hot sector. **B1**

◆ **Microsoft said** it plans to largely retire its Internet Explorer browser, adding to the digital scrap heap a product once at the center of one of the tech industry's biggest battles. **B1**

◆ **Target, Lowe's and the** owner of T.J. Maxx reported robust sales and a jump in store visits during the spring, as Covid-related restrictions eased. **B1**

◆ **Some of Discovery's** biggest shareholders are getting a premium price for their stakes under the deal that combines the firm with AT&T's media business. **B1**

◆ **Ford plans** to undercut several rival producers of electric pickup trucks on price when its battery-powered F-150 goes on sale next year. **B1**

◆ **ByteDance, the owner** of TikTok, said CEO Zhang would step down from his role to focus on long-term strategy. **B11**

World-Wide

◆ **A cease-fire** in the fighting between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas could come as early as Friday, according to people involved in the discussions, as pressure mounts from Washington and other capitals to bring an end to airstrikes and rocket fire that have claimed a rising toll of civilian casualties. **A1**

◆ **Colonial Pipeline's CEO** said authorizing a ransom payment to hackers was an option he felt he had to exercise, given the stakes involved in a shutdown of such critical energy infrastructure. **A1**

◆ **The House passed** a bill authorizing a commission to investigate the assault on the U.S. Capitol, but the proposal could stall in the Senate after GOP leaders in Congress and Trump urged Republicans to reject it. **A4**

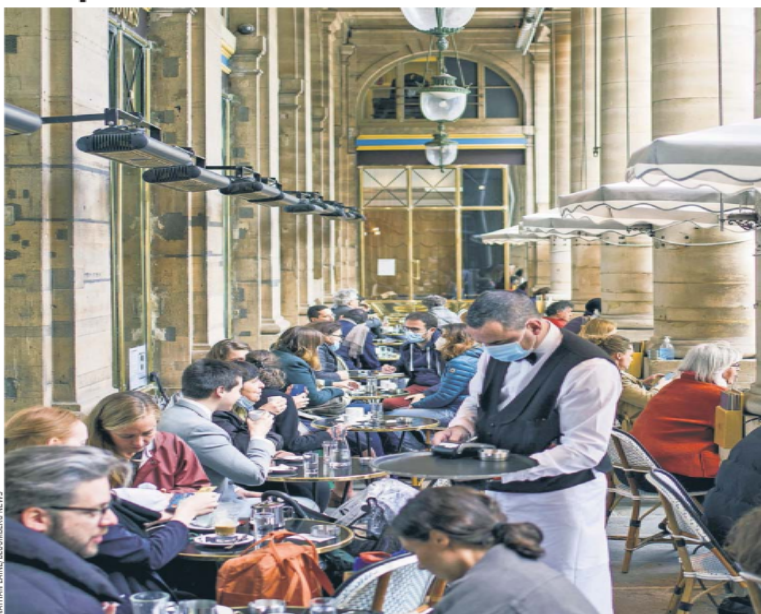
◆ **Texas' governor signed** a bill that would ban most abortions after six to eight weeks, joining other Republican-led states in a push to outlaw the procedure. **A3**

◆ **The U.S. cited** the parent company and CEO of a Russian natural-gas pipeline for sanctions but waived the penalties, clearing a hurdle for the completion of the project. **A8**

◆ **Federal investigators** are examining whether New York state officials gave priority access to Covid-19 testing to some of Gov. Cuomo's close associates and his brother. **A3**

◆ **House Republicans** released a \$400 billion transportation infrastructure bill, proposing to curb some regulations and emphasize investment in rural areas. **A4**

Europe Saves a Seat for Vaccinated Tourists



TRAVEL TIP: The EU moved closer to opening its borders to vaccinated tourists. The measure is expected to be adopted this week, clearing the way for visitors this summer. **A7, A11**

Cease-Fire Seen as Close In Israel-Hamas Conflict

A cease-fire in the fighting between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas could come as early as Friday,

By Vivian Salama, Felicia Schwartz and Jared Malsin

according to people involved in the discussions, as pressure mounts from Washington and other foreign capitals to bring an end to airstrikes and rocket

fire that have claimed a rising number of civilian casualties. Egyptian officials have made headway in negotiations with Hamas' leadership, and the Israeli military has privately conceded that it is nearing the completion of its objectives, U.S. and foreign officials said. The Biden administration anticipates that a cease-fire could come this week, barring any unforeseen clashes that might topple the

fragile discussions, according to a U.S. official.

The U.S., along with Egypt, Qatar and several European nations, has been working to pressure both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leaders to end their military campaigns amid dire conditions in Gaza.

There is a mechanism in place for a cease-fire and the only issue is timing, the U.S.

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Markets Drop, Fed Hints at Policy Review

Global shares, other assets decline amid volatile trading as risk takers lose heart

By PAUL KIERNAN AND JOE WALLACE

U.S. stocks, commodities, overseas shares and bitcoin dropped in turbulent trading Wednesday as investors' risk appetite diminished and the Federal Reserve signaled an eventual shift away from its easy-money pandemic policies.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined as much as 587 points in morning trading before paring its losses to less than 200 points, while other markets steadied as well.

Investors continued to fret about the quickening pace of inflation. Fed officials also ac-

knowledgeed that evidence of mounting inflation and a robust economic recovery could lead to an earlier review of near-zero interest rates and its bond-buying program.

Although Fed officials have indicated the economy is still in recovery mode and requires stimulus from the central bank, several said this week that the central bank is closely watching economic developments and will be ready to adjust policy when necessary.

Minutes from the central bank's policy meeting in late April, released Wednesday, reported that some Fed officials want to begin discussing a plan for reducing the Fed's massive bond-buying program at a future meeting. The Fed's

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◆ Selloff for SPACs bruises investors..... **B1**

Bitcoin, Dogecoin Prices Fall Sharply

Bitcoin, the volatile digital currency that briefly became a trillion-dollar market, plunged Wednesday as its monthlong slide morphed into a frenzied selloff.

By Paul Vigna, Alexander Osipovich and Anna Hirtenstein

Cryptocurrencies have surged over the past year on a wave of speculative excitement, spurred by famous backers as varied as Elon Musk, Paul Tudor Jones and Snoop Dogg.

That gave the small but growing crowd of bulls a feeling of inevitability that cryptocurrencies would mature into a significant asset class in their own right. Bitcoin, they wa-

gered, might even fulfill its initial vision and become a legitimate alternative currency.

But the same momentum that drove prices higher is now sending them relentlessly lower.

Bitcoin, which traded around \$7,000 at the beginning of 2020, peaked at \$64,829 in mid-April. Since then, it has fallen 41% to \$38,390 as of 5 p.m. ET Wednesday and earlier in the day dropped as low as \$30,202.

"Many people have been tempted to invest purely because it has gone up in value and they have a fear of missing

Please turn to page A2

◆ Heard on the Street: Volatility undercuts bitcoin's case... **B12**

INSIDE



SPORTS

Before this year's PGA Championship, Kiawah replaced the 'Rory Tree' with a look-alike. **A14**



U.S. NEWS

A new type of Covid-19 test comes with four legs and a wagging tail. **A6**

Pipeline Chief Decided Quickly to Pay Ransom

By COLLIN EATON AND DUSTIN VOLZ

The operator of the Colonial Pipeline learned it was in trouble at daybreak on May 7, when an employee found a ransom note from hackers on a control-room computer. By that night, the company's chief executive came to a difficult conclusion: He had to pay.

Joseph Blount, CEO of Colonial Pipeline Co., told The Wall Street Journal that he authorized the ransom payment of \$4.4 million because executives were unsure how badly the cyberattack had breached its systems, and consequently, how long it would take to bring the pipeline back.

Mr. Blount acknowledged publicly for the first time that the company had paid the ransom, saying it was an option he felt he had to exercise, given the stakes involved in a shutdown of such critical energy infrastructure. The Colonial

Pipeline provides about 45% of the fuel for the East Coast, according to the company.

"I know that's a highly controversial decision," Mr. Blount said in his first public remarks since the crippling hack. "I didn't make it lightly. I will admit that I wasn't comfortable seeing money go out the door to people like this."

"But it was the right thing to do for the country," he said. In return for the payment, made in the form of bitcoin, about 75 in all, according to a person familiar with the matter, the company received a decryption tool to unlock the systems hackers penetrated.

While it proved to be of some use, it was ultimately not enough to immediately restore the pipeline's systems, the person said.

The pipeline, which transports gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other refined products from the Gulf Coast to Linden, N.J.,

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China's Electric-Car Frenzy Puts Embattled Tycoon Back on Track

Evergrande's Xu Jiayin scores \$87 billion valuation for auto startup

By TREFOR MOSS

SHANGHAI—Guests at a private August dinner hosted by billionaire entrepreneur Jack Ma were intrigued by a fellow diner who introduced himself as a humble car salesman.

It was Xu Jiayin, better known as the chairman of China Evergrande Group, the country's biggest real-estate developer and one of China's most indebted companies. At the time of the dinner Evergrande was just

weeks away from a potentially devastating showdown with its creditors.

If he was feeling desperate, Mr. Xu didn't show it, according to one of the people present at the meal at one of Mr. Ma's houses in Hangzhou, where Mr. Ma's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. is based. He was pitching his most audacious venture to date: a new electric-vehicle company that aims, according to its own public statements, to surpass Tesla Inc. and others in becoming the world's

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Some Bubbles Can't Stop Bursting

Plan to open travel dashes hopes once, then twice

By FELIX SOLOMON AND NATASHA KHAN

When Singapore-based travel blogger Aaron Wong booked a trip to Hong Kong for this month, part of him was prepared to be disappointed. He'd been burned before.

The flight was part of a highly anticipated travel bubble between the two cities due to launch on May 26. While the rest of the world is working out how to relax travel restrictions—the European Union moved this week to allow vaccinated tourists—the two Asian financial centers have tried for months to open

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The final frontier

Satellite industry struggles to consolidate — INSIDE BUSINESS, PAGE 6

Battleship diplomacy

Brexit Britain's new aircraft carrier sets sail for China — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Tip of the iceberg

Arctic rivalry heats up among world's great powers — TONY BARBER, PAGE 17

Bitcoin tumbles 30% after China cracks down on cryptocurrency

Move sparks volatility — \$8.6bn of positions liquidated — Beijing prepares own digital coin

THOMAS HALE AND
TABBY KINDER — HONG KONG
PHILIP STAFFORD — LONDON

Cryptocurrency markets swung in chaotic trading and related stocks were hit after Chinese regulators signalled a crackdown on the use of digital currencies, which have soared this year.

Bitcoin's price tumbled as much as 30 per cent, with frequent rapid lurches lower, before clawing back its losses to less than 8 per cent.

Other digital coins were also hit by heavy selling, with etherium, one of the best-performing cryptocurrencies in the past month, losing a quarter of its value. More than \$8.6bn of positions have been liquidated in 24 hours, according to figures from bybt.com, a cryptocurrency data provider.

The turbulence came after the People's Bank of China warned financial institutions against accepting cryptocurrencies as payment or offering related services and products, amplifying investor fears that regulators might tighten oversight of the free-wheeling asset class. Virtual currency "is not a real currency" and "should not and cannot be used as currency in the market", the PBOC said late on Tuesday.

Elon Musk, Tesla's chief executive and a cryptocurrency enthusiast, last week reversed course on accepting bitcoin as payment for Tesla's cars on environmental grounds. However, writing on Twitter yesterday he indicated that Tesla would not sell its bitcoin and would hold it for the long term.

Market conditions were highly volatile, with bitcoin's price swinging in often wide ranges. Binance and Coinbase, two of the best-known cryptocurrency exchanges, both experienced technical woes as users tried to sell their holdings.

Other cryptocurrencies also tumbled, including the "joke" dogecoin, which fell 40 per cent.

US securities reliant on cryptocurrency trading and prices also slumped



Elon Musk reversed course on accepting bitcoin in payment but says Tesla will not be selling its holdings

in early trading, before recovering. Coinbase shares dropped as much as 12 per cent to a record low and Micro Strategy, the software company turned bitcoin investor, fell 15 per cent.

Marathon Digital Holdings, the cryptocurrency miner, dropped 13 per cent. Galaxy Digital Holdings, the investment company of entrepreneur Michael Novogratz, fell 12 per cent.

The PBOC development reflected China's campaign to limit institutional activity in cryptocurrencies as it prepares to launch its own digital coin. Other markets such as the US have remained comparatively open to institutional involvement.

"Part of it is they have their own digital renminbi, part is the lack of control in terms of cash outflows and part of it is

trying to make sure people don't get scammed," said Paul Haswell, a partner at law firm Pinsent Masons in Hong Kong, of China's crackdown.

China's plans for a digital renminbi, which would provide its central bank with a record of all currency transactions in real time, could create a cashless payment mechanism to compete with vast online fintech platforms from Ant Group and Tencent.

In the US, regulators have made it eas-

'Part of it is they have their digital renminbi and part of it is trying to make sure people don't get scammed'

ier for retail investors to buy cryptocurrencies and permitted the listing of crypto exchanges on public markets.

Large financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, are exploring offering investments in digital currencies to wealth management clients. In its latest financial stability review, the European Central Bank said that bitcoin's price volatility made it risky. Yet financial stability risks to eurozone institutions were limited as they had little exposure, it added.

The ECB noted that the surge in bitcoin prices had eclipsed previous financial bubbles such as "tulip mania" and the South Sea Bubble in the 17th and 18th centuries. Additional reporting by Wang Xueqiao in Shanghai

Briefing

► **Botin and Orcel have their day in court**
Amid one of the highest-profile disputes in European banking in recent years Santander's head faced off against Andrea Orcel, saying that her former friend had never been contracted to be her CEO. — PAGE 6

► **US waives sanctions over gas pipeline**
Germany has confirmed that the US sanctions on the company heading the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline are to be waived, removing a key Washington-Berlin bone of contention. — PAGE 2

► **AstraZeneca booster found to work well**
A study has found that the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab works well as a booster shot, after a third dose was shown to strengthen participants' antibodies to the coronavirus's spike protein. — PAGE 6

► **Trump empire faces criminal probe**
The threats to Donald Trump's businesses have grown after the New York attorney-general said that investigations were leading to possible criminal, and not just civil, misconduct. — PAGE 3

► **KKR to acquire UK infrastructure group**
KKR has agreed a £2.2bn takeover deal for John Laing, the infrastructure investor, in the latest of a series of buyouts targeting London-listed groups amid the fallout from Brexit and Covid-19. — PAGE 9, LEX, PAGE 10

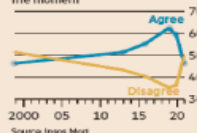
► **Jingye keen to buy Gupta's UK steel sites**
The Chinese owner of British Steel is interested in acquiring Sanjeev Gupta's UK steel factories, setting up a potential geopolitical dilemma for the government of Boris Johnson. — PAGE 8

► **Pipe reveals securitisation plans**
The US start-up that lets groups sell future revenue streams at a discount, and which Greenspring-led investors valued at \$2bn, plans to launch securitised products by the end of the year. — PAGE 10

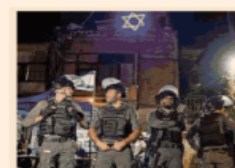
Datawatch

Hedonism hiatus

% of UK respondents who believe it is important to enjoy life in the moment



Hedonism has hit its lowest level in Britain for 22 years. Between 1999 and 2019, an ever larger proportion of Britons agreed with the idea that 'the important thing is to enjoy life today, tomorrow will take care of itself'.



Jerusalem settlers keep emotions running high

As Joe Biden urged a de-escalation of Israel's attacks on Gaza, the evictions of Arab families from their Jerusalem homes to make way for Jewish settlers have added fuel to the current conflict.

The dispute is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict writ small, a symbol of the vast tracts of Arab land taken by Israel over decades of occupation. Israel wants Jerusalem as its undivided capital and the bigger the city's Jewish population, the less likely it is to be uprooted.

Reports & analysis — PAGE 4

Firm founded by Beijing financial tsar's son invests heavily in China tech stocks

TOM MITCHELL — SINGAPORE
TABBY KINDER — HONG KONG
DEMETRI SEVASTOPOULOU — WASHINGTON

An investment firm founded by the son of China's most powerful financial official has invested heavily in technology companies, including units of leading Chinese internet groups Tencent and JD.com.

Liu Tianran, son of vice-premier Liu He, was listed as chair of Tianyi Ziteng Asset Management, also known as Skyus Capital, when the firm was established in Zhejiang province in late 2016, according to corporate records seen by the Financial Times. Ten people, five of whom have worked with Liu Tianran, confirmed that he is Liu He's son.

According to corporate filings, Liu Tianran relinquished the role of chair at Skyus in April 2017, six months before

his father was promoted to the Chinese Communist party's 25-member politburo. He also transferred his shares in Skyus to another executive a year later, shortly after his father was appointed vice-premier with responsibility for the financial sector.

Liu He had previously been a low-profile figure who nonetheless wielded enormous influence as President Xi Jinping's most trusted adviser on financial and economic matters. His elevation confirmed his place among the Chinese political elite.

Under Chinese government rules, children of senior officials are prohibited from managing companies in industries regulated by a parent, but they can be employed by such firms in lower-level positions or advisory roles.

Several people close to Skyus's operations told the FT that Liu Tianran, who

also uses the English name Andy, continued to work on deals for the firm after stepping back as chair and transferring his shares. They added that he played a central role in lucrative transactions involving Tencent and JD.com units.

Since its inception five years ago, Skyus has grown rapidly, establishing itself as an aggressive dealmaker and amassing more than Rmb1.0bn (\$1.6bn) in assets under management, according to corporate records.

It has more than 30 employees working out of offices in Beijing and Shanghai, and public records captured a portion of the firm's activity, showing that it has made at least a dozen investments in internet, healthcare and logistics start-ups in recent years.

The investment arms of Tencent, Continued on page 4

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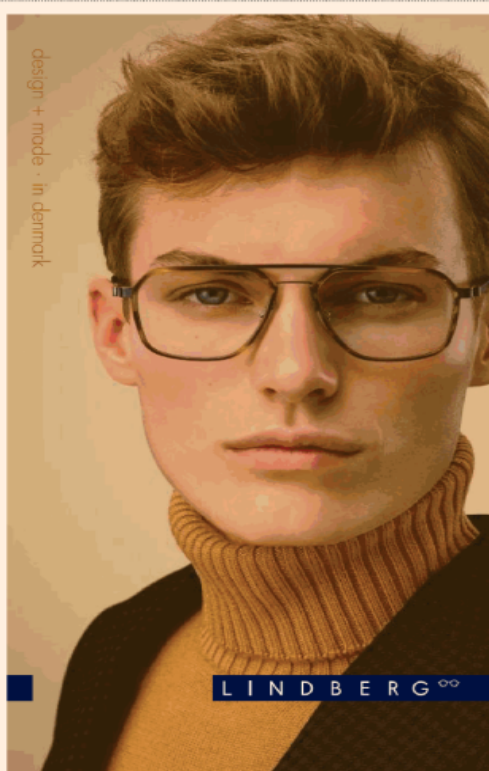
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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	May 19	prev	%chg		May 19	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4080.22	4127.63	-0.91	\$ per £	1.222	1.222	0.00	US Gov 10 yr	146.80	1.64	-0.01
Nasdaq Composite	13202.29	13203.64	-0.10	\$ per €	1.415	1.421	-0.42	UK Gov 10 yr	107.44	0.95	-0.02
Dow Jones Ind	33710.05	34090.66	-1.13	€ per \$	0.864	0.860	0.47	Ger Gov 10 yr	116.82	0.07	0.00
FTSE Eurofirst 300	1681.21	1708.58	-1.51	¥ per \$	132.850	133.054	-0.15	Japan Gov 10 yr	107.44	2.36	-0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3609.51	4095.34	-1.14	SFr per \$	1.100	1.096	0.36	US Gov 30 yr	108.06	-0.66	0.00
FTSE 100	6660.20	7034.24	-5.18	\$ per ¥	0.0119	0.0119	0.00	Ger Gov 2 yr			
FTSE All-Share	3666.17	4007.57	-1.03								
CAC 40	6262.55	6353.67	-1.43								
Hang Seng	15113.56	15396.50	-1.77								
Nikkei	26044.45	26498.04	-1.70								
Shanghai	28503.81	29194.09	-1.42								
MSCI World \$	2509.68	2534.18	-0.97								
MSCI EM \$	1333.18	1311.45	1.66								
MSCI ACWI \$	680.77	698.47	0.94								



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Late Edition

Today, partly sunny, high 78. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, low 58. Tomorrow, intervals of clouds and sunshine, high 76. Wind light from the south. Weather map is on Page A20.



A Hard-Fought Hats-Off

"Being here today is a victory in and of itself," President Biden told new graduates of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Wednesday.

House Backs A Riot Inquiry; G.O.P. Resists

By NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON — A sharply divided House voted on Wednesday to create an independent commission to investigate the Jan. 6 Capitol assault, overcoming opposition from Republicans determined to stop a high-profile accounting of the deadly pro-Trump riot.

But even as the legislation passed the House, top Republicans locked arms in an effort to doom it in the Senate and shield former President Donald J. Trump and their party from new scrutiny of their roles in the events of that day.

The 252-to-175 vote in the House, with four-fifths of Republicans opposed, pointed to the difficult path for the proposal in the Senate. Thirty-five Republicans bucked their leadership to back the bill.

The vote came hours after Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, declared his opposition to the plan. Mr. McConnell had said just a day earlier that he was open to voting for it, and he had previously been vocal both in condemning Mr. Trump's role in instigating the assault and denouncing the effort by some Republicans on Jan. 6 to block certification of the 2020 election results.

His reversal reflected broader efforts by the party to put the assault on the Capitol behind them politically — or to recast the rioting as a largely peaceful protest — under pressure from Mr. Trump and because of concerns about the issue dogging them into the 2022 midterm elections.

Proponents hailed the move to establish the commission as an ethical and practical necessity to

Continued on Page A15

Rules Eased, New York Tiptoes Toward Normalcy

By MICHAEL WILSON

From the Bronx to Staten Island, Chinatown to Fifth Avenue, in Michelin-starred restaurants and humble corner diners, hardware stores and funeral homes, New York moved gingerly toward reopening on Wednesday, with scenes of a remembered normalcy played out alongside those of caution.

It was a moment that so many people had hoped for, whether aloud over countless Zoom calls or in the frustrated silence of a line of shoppers outside a store. It was less a grand gala than a soft opening, a finish line at the end of a long race that no one wanted to be the first to cross.

Balancing Delight and Uncertainty as the City Opens Up

New York shut down 423 days ago, on a Sunday night in March 2020 when it accounted for half the nation's coronavirus cases, and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ordered all nonessential workers to stay home and indoors. The city has partially reopened in recent months, but Wednesday was the first day businesses were allowed to operate with fewer restrictions and at near capacity.



Inseparable in Life and in Death

The grave of Joe and Ralfred Gregory, 24-year-old twins who had Covid-19 in India. Page A7.

Banks Fight Biden's \$4 Billion Plan to Ease Black Farmers' Debt

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration's efforts to provide \$4 billion in debt relief to minority farmers is encountering stiff resistance from banks, which are complaining that the government initiative to pay off the loans of borrowers who have faced decades of financial discrimination will cut into their profits and hurt

investors.

The debt relief was approved as part of the \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that Congress passed in March and was intended to make amends for the discrimination that Black and other nonwhite farmers have faced from lenders and the United States Department of Agriculture over the years. But no money has yet gone out the door.

Complaining That Early Payoffs Hurt Profits

Instead, the program has become mired in controversy and lawsuits. In April, white farmers who claim that they are victims of reverse discrimination sued the

U.S.D.A. over the initiative.

Now, three of the biggest banking groups — the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America and National Rural Lenders Association — are waging their own fight and complaining about the cost of being repaid early.

Their argument stems from the

Continued on Page A17

Younger Jews In U.S. Facing 'Identity Crisis'

For Some, a Challenge to Entrenched Beliefs

By ELIZABETH DIAS
and RUTH GRAHAM

Dan Kleinman does not know quite how to feel.

As a child in Brooklyn he was taught to revere Israel as the protector of Jews everywhere, the "Jewish Superman" who would come out of the sky to save us when things got bad, he said.

It was a refuge in his mind when white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., chanted "Jews will not replace us" or kids in college grabbed his shirt, mimicking a "South Park" episode to steal his "Jew gold."

But his feelings have grown muddier as he has gotten older, especially now as he watches violence unfold in Israel and Gaza. His moral compass tells him to help the Palestinians, but he can't shake an ingrained paranoia every time he hears someone make anti-Israel statements.

"It is an identity crisis," Mr. Kleinman, 33, said. "Very small in comparison to what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank, but it is still something very strange and weird."

As the violence escalates in the Middle East, turmoil of a different kind is growing across the Atlantic. Many young, left-leaning American Jews are confronting the region's longstanding strife in a very different context, with very different pressures, from their parents' and grandparents' generations.

The Israel of their lifetime has been powerful, no longer appearing to them to be under constant existential threat. The violence comes after a year when mass protests across the United States have changed how many Americans see issues of racial and social justice. The pro-Palestinian position has become more common, with prominent progressive members of Congress offering impassioned speeches in defense of the Palestinians on the House floor. At the same time, reports of anti-Semitism are rising across the country.

Divides between some American Jews and Israel's right-wing government have been growing for more than a decade, but under the Trump administration those fractures that many hoped would heal became a crevasse. Politics in Israel have also remained fraught, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's long-tenured government forged allegiances with Washington. For young people who came of age during the Trump years, political polarization over the issue only deepened.

Many Jews in America remain

Continued on Page A10

U.S. AND EUROPE PRESS FOR A HALT IN MIDEAST STRIFE

POLITICAL CALCULATIONS

Urgency in West to Stop Israel-Gaza Conflict From Spreading

This article is by Steven Erlanger.

BRUSSELS — A diplomatic flurry from the White House and Europe added pressure on Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza on Wednesday to halt their 10-day-old conflict before it turned into a war entangling more of the Middle East.

President Biden spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel — their second phone call in three days — telling the Israeli leader he "expected a significant de-escalation today on the path to a cease-fire," administration officials said. Although they portrayed the call as consistent with what Mr. Biden had been saying, his decision to set a deadline was an escalation.

And in Europe, France and Germany, both strong allies of Israel that had initially held back from pressuring Mr. Netanyahu in the early days of the conflict, intensified their push for a cease-fire.

French diplomats sought to ad-



POOL PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN SCHNEIDER
Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel spoke again to President Biden.

vance their proposed United Nations Security Council resolution that would call on the antagonists to stop fighting and to allow unfettered humanitarian access to Gaza. It remained unclear on Wednesday if the United States, which has blocked all Security Council attempts to even issue a statement condemning the violence, would go along with the French resolution.

The German foreign minister, Heiko Maas, said he talked to fly to Israel on Thursday for talks with Israelis and Palestinians.

Taken together, the developments represented a more determined Western effort to halt the

Continued on Page A11

'Army of 16-Year-Olds' Presses Democrats a Tweet at a Time

By ELLEN BARRY

BOSTON — Dana Depelteau, a hotel manager, had just gone public with a long-shot candidacy for mayor in Boston when he noticed that someone in city politics was going after him online.

The effect of this attack, he said, was lightning-fast and pervasive. The morning after he announced his candidacy on Twitter, he showed up at his local barbershop and, while staring at himself in the mirror, overheard a customer describing his views as white supremacist.

"I'm thinking, 'Man, politics is dirty,'" recalled Mr. Depelteau. He rushed home to fire back at his critic, a sharp-edged progressive who had dug up some of Mr. Depelteau's old social media posts and was recirculating them on

line. But that, he discovered, was a big mistake.

"I didn't know how old she was," he explained. "I just knew she was a prominent person."

That is how he became aware of Calla Walsh, a leader in the group of activists known here as the Markyverse. Ms. Walsh, a 16-year-old high school junior, has many of the attributes of Generation Z: She likes to refer to people (like the president) as "bustle." She occasionally gets called away from political events to babysit her little brother. She is slightly in the doghouse, parent-wise, for getting a C+ in precalculus.

She is also representative of an influential new force in Democratic politics, activists who cut their

Continued on Page A16



TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-7

Protecting Holiday Spots First
Eager to restart tourism, Italy let residents of Capri and other tourist draws jump the line for vaccines. PAGE A6

100 Million Doses Held Up

Executives from the vaccine maker Emergent revealed the scope of their review to a House panel. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A13-21

Texas Bans Nearly All Abortion

A new law forbids the procedure after six weeks, when many women still aren't aware they're pregnant. PAGE A14

Inquiry Into Trump Executive

The New York attorney general is criminally investigating the Trump Organization's chief financial officer. PAGE A18

INTERNATIONAL A8-12

When Police Inflation Unrest

In Colombia, the U.S. and elsewhere, security forces' harsh responses to protests have led to nationwide reckonings over police violence. PAGE A12



BUSINESS B1-6

Model T of Electric Vehicles?

An electric version of the Ford F-150, the best-selling vehicle in the U.S., could speed a changeover. PAGE B1

Back to the Office at Saks

The retailer's chief executive says employees must be vaccinated and will have more flexibility. PAGE B4

SPORTS THURSDAY B7-10

Kneeling vs. Standing Tall

For 11 months, soccer players in England have taken a knee as part of a protest against racial injustice. But some say the gesture is not leading to meaningful changes. PAGE B10

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Putting the World in Focus

Four photographers talk about the challenges they face as part of a new generation of image makers reinventing the look of the fashion media. PAGE D1

OPINION A22-23

Nicholas Kristof

PAGE A22



ARTS C1-6

In a Genre of Their Own

The Japanese quartet Chai undercuts traditional ideas about cuteness, gender and rock bands. Its latest album, "Wink," is arriving soon. PAGE C6



ISRAEL REBUFFS PRESSURE TO HALT FIGHTING

Even as Netanyahu stands firm, there are signs he may yield on a truce with Hamas.

BY DINA KRAFT, LAURA KING AND HANA SALAH

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday publicly shrugged off the strongest U.S. call yet to wind down fighting with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, but there were growing indications he would accede to international pressure for a ceasefire.

A 10th day of intense exchanges of fire saw Israeli forces again carry out airstrikes against dozens of militant targets in the small coastal enclave, while Palestinian militants fired new volleys of rockets into Israeli towns and cities.

Early Thursday in Gaza City, orange flashes lighted up the sky, as the thunder of heavy bombardment drowned out the morning call to prayer.

The fighting has killed at least 227 Palestinians, 64 of them children, and 12 people on the Israeli side, including a small child, a teenager and a soldier.

The White House announced that President Biden had told Netanyahu in a phone call Wednesday — their second in three days — that he expected to see “significant de-escalation today” as part of a move toward a truce.

Netanyahu said soon afterward he was “determined to continue the operation until its aim is met,” though he coupled that with an expression of appreciation for “the support of the American president.”

[See Mideast, A4]



SPAIN'S MIGRANT CRISIS

A member of Spain's Civil Guard rescues a baby who was separated from migrant parents in the sea off Ceuta in Africa. Thousands of migrants have crossed into Ceuta from Morocco. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Not cool with menthol ban

Change aims to correct years of tobacco firms' targeting of Black consumers, but some find their Newports soothing



DEBRA LEWIS on banning menthol cigarettes: “Are you really going to take away something that kind of calms the people down?”

BY MARISSA EVANS

When you ask Debra Lewis about her efforts to quit smoking menthol cigarettes, she will tell you plainly: Quitting crack cocaine was easier.

In 1980s South Los Angeles, Lewis and her friends were doing cocaine, and she soon joined the rest of the group in smoking Newports or Kools. Lewis got help for her cocaine addiction by her late 30s and hasn't touched the drug since. But now at 62, the El Segundo resident has smoked menthol cigarettes for 40 years despite attempts to quit.

Amid multiple family deaths and stress years later, she was smoking one or two packs of cigarettes a day. Her parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members also smoked. Her little sister started smoking at 9 years old.

Even amid Lewis' efforts to quit, she disagrees with the federal Food and Drug Administration's recently announced plan to ban menthol cigarettes. [See Menthol, A6]

RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE



STEPHANIE DEANGELIS For The Times

As pandemic eases, luring people back to office isn't easy

BY RONALD D. WHITE

Over 14 months of pandemic lockdown, Rebecca Jacobson sometimes has attended two video gatherings at once — a magic trick pulled off through skillful use of the mute button and, sometimes, a hand casually draped across her mouth to mask that she was multi-Zooming.

Cross-country client meetings formerly conducted face to face now happen in different time zones in quick succession, said Jacobson, director of digital marketing strategy for Irvine advertising agency Rhythm.

Because she is able to work remotely from her Lake Forest home, Jacobson said she is happier and more productive, able to skip traffic jams, flights, jet lag and bad airport food, not to mention multiple wardrobe changes. Those are just a few of the reasons why the 41-year-old ad executive doesn't want to return to her office five days a week.

“There are some days when I have meetings back to back to back,” Jacobson said, “and if I'm going to be making a lot of calls at a desk, I'd” [See Back to office, A9]

Lab rats? Sign us up, poor young South Koreans say

BY VICTORIA KIM

SEOUL — The cellphone bill was coming due. The pricey medication for her chronic skin condition was running low. She'd already tapped the parental credit line, promising to pay them back in monthly installments.

In her bank account, less than 50,000 won — not quite \$45.

A few months into the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the typical part-time gigs

23-year-old Lee Ho-jung usually relied on had vanished. Restaurants, bars and supermarkets were laying off workers. Dozens, if not hundreds of applicants were flocking to minimum-wage jobs with limited hours.

So Lee turned to what has increasingly become a last recourse for young South Koreans in need of quick cash: enrolling in clinical trials.

“When I'm pressed for money, I find myself looking up trials,” said Lee, who last

year was paid \$400 to participate in a study for a topical dermatitis medication. She had also signed up for a second trial offering more than \$1,500 involving a hospital stay, which was canceled because of the pandemic. “It's good money for the time.”

Paying test subjects for the trouble and risk of swallowing, being injected with or bedaubed with drugs or other medical substances is accepted practice worldwide. In South Korea, though, clinical trials have [See South Korea, A4]

Commission on Jan. 6 wins OK

The House, including 35 Republicans, approves the investigative panel, but its fate is uncertain in Senate. **NATION, A5**

Sheriff to reveal deputy names

Changing course, Villanueva says those who shot civilians will be identified 30 days after incident. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Low clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 73/57. **B6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

LeBron James drives to the basket in the first half against Golden State.

Lakers earn playoff spot with thrilling win

LeBron James hits a dramatic three-point shot in 103-100 victory. **SPORTS, B10**

BUSINESS INSIDE: Airlines are restoring fees and filling middle seats as demand rises. **A8**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Warm, partly sunny 88/59 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 85/63 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 • B2

Biden's demand of Israel opens rift

Call for immediate path to truce shakes world of politics, diplomacy

BY ANNE GEARAN AND SEAN SULLIVAN

WINDSOR, CONN. — President Biden's unusually blunt demand Wednesday that Israel de-escalate its military attack on Gaza is creating a rare rift between the two countries and dismaying some of Israel's supporters in the United States, while heartening Democrats, who have increasingly pushed for a tougher U.S. stance toward Israel.

Biden for days had hesitated to publicly confront Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his demand for "a significant de-escalation today on the path to a ceasefire" shook up the worlds of politics and diplomacy. It was the clearest evidence yet of a rapidly changing political dynamic, at least among Democrats, that is far less accepting of actions Israel says it is taking in self-defense.

The White House has told Netanyahu in recent days that the ground is shifting in the United States, even among some lawmakers who have long been supportive of Israel, two people familiar with aspects of the message said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. That shift was the backdrop for Wednesday's call, the fourth between the two leaders since hostilities began.

Netanyahu, however, vowed Wednesday to continue with the 10-day military offensive "until its aim is met," meaning until more Hamas targets are destroyed. That public defiance underlined his disconnect with Biden, which is all the more notable because Netanyahu, whose own domestic

SEE BIDEN ON A12

Unswayed: Israel vows to fight until its goal is achieved. **A10**

Arms sale: House Democrats seek administration response. **A11**



LOAY ATTOUB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



KOBELWOLF FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Parenting under fire: Distract and engage

Israelis and Palestinians alike keeping kids busy with games, art, dancing

BY HAZEM BALOUSHA AND STEVE HENDRIX

GAZA CITY — Ayman Mghames couldn't stop the nightly Israeli bombing that was making his 7-year-old daughter, Jouiry, cry. But just maybe he could turn the volume down.

Just after midnight on the fourth evening of the bombardment, the Palestinian musician and rapper left the kitchen where

TOP: Maha al-Daya hugs daughter Yafa, 5, after hearing Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City.

ABOVE: Stella Weinstein with her husband and three children in the shelter in their apartment in Ashdod, Israel.

his family of four was sheltering and retrieved a pair of noise-canceling headphones. He fit them over the little ears, dialed up a YouTube video of "The Smurfs" and hit play.

"She started laughing," Mghames recalled. "She said, 'Dad, can you hear me?' Now she sleeps in them."

Mghames, 36, who had been in another bedroom when an Israeli

SEE KIDS ON A10

GOP leaders try to scuttle probe of Capitol siege

HOUSE PASSES BILL, BUT SENATE HOPES DIM

McConnell opposes commission after Trump blasts it

BY MIKE DEBONIS, COLBY ITRKOWITZ AND JACQUELINE ALEMAN

Republican leaders are trying to sink legislation establishing an independent commission on the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol that would probably scrutinize former president Donald Trump's role in the riot and his conversations with Republican lawmakers that day.

The bill passed the House on a 252-to-175 vote Wednesday with 35 Republicans supporting the measure, but its chances of clearing the Senate dimmed after Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) came out against the bill earlier in the day. He said he opposes the legislation because it is a "slanted and unbalanced proposal" a day after

he said his members were open to voting for the plan but needed a chance to read the "fine print."

In between those comments, Trump released a statement Tuesday evening slamming the bill and decrying it as a "democrat trap" while urging McConnell and other GOP leaders to start "listening."

"It's not at all clear what new facts or additional investigation yet another commission could actually lay on top of existing efforts by law enforcement and Congress," McConnell said on the floor Wednesday.

Several questions remain about the attack, however, including to what degree it was coordinated as well as details about what Trump was doing while it was taking place.

SEE COMMISSION ON A7



Toll of Trump's attacks shows in calls for audits

BY AMY GARDNER AND ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN

At a public meeting last week in Cheboygan County, Mich., a lawyer from Detroit told county commissioners that the voting machines they used in 2020 could "flip" votes and throw an election. She offered to send in a "forensic team," at no charge to the county, to inspect ballots and scanners.

In Windham, N.H., supporters of former president Donald Trump showed up to a town meeting this month chanting "Stop the Steal!" and demanding that offi-

cials choose their preferred auditor to scrutinize a 400-vote discrepancy in a state representative race.

And at a board of supervisors meeting May 4 in San Luis Obispo County, on California's Central Coast, scores of residents questioned whether election machines had properly counted their votes, with many demanding a "forensic audit."

The ramifications of Trump's ceaseless attacks on the 2020 election are increasingly visible throughout the country. **SEE ELECTIONS ON A6**

Automation sees a boost as employers struggle to hire

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The United States today is producing roughly the same amount of goods and services as before the coronavirus pandemic — but with 8.2 million fewer workers, equal to the combined payrolls of every employer in Virginia, Arizona and Iowa.

Greater productivity is the rare silver lining to emerge from the crucible of covid-19. The health crisis forced executives to innovate, often by accelerating the introduction of industrial robots, advanced software and artificial intelligence that reduced their dependence on workers who might get sick.

SEE AUTOMATION ON A20

Activist's pre-prison indulgence: A last Netflix binge

BY SHIBANI MAHTANI AND THEODORA YU

HONG KONG — Browsing Netflix during rare moments of downtime in recent weeks, Figgo Chan opted for old favorites over new releases.

"I don't want to miss the ending while in jail," he said in an interview. "So I dare not watch anything with lots of episodes."

Facing more than a dozen charges for facilitating massive protests in Hong Kong in 2019, Chan has been preparing for life behind bars. Worried his scrawny frame would be a disadvantage in jail, the 25-year-old began hitting the gym. Knowing the drinks menu would be limited, he spent his last evenings of freedom sampling red



Figgo Chan, 25, a leader of the Civil Human Rights Front, faces more than a dozen charges for facilitating protests in 2019.

wine with friends. He drew up a list of books to read in his cell.

"I am very ready," he said. This week, Chan pleaded guilty to charges of organizing a protest on Oct. 1, 2019, and inciting others to turn up to the rally on China's national day. A judge ordered that he be held in custody before his sentencing later this month.

Hong Kong's jails are filling up with the likes of Chan. Some 2,500 people have turned up to the courts in connection with the protests, which amounted to the biggest rebuke of Beijing's rule on Chinese soil in decades. The defendants range from prominent activists to unknowns. **SEE ACTIVIST ON A9**

IN THE NEWS



A plea for justice Viola Fletcher, a survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre a century ago, spoke at a House panel, calling for reparations. **A4**

THE NATION The decision in Pasquotank County, N.C., not to charge deputies in a Black man's death increased pressure on the Justice Department to intervene. **A3**

The Biden administration decided against sanctioning the company behind a Russian gas pipeline, saying it wants a "stable" relationship with Moscow. **A4**

Congress appears to be ready to blow past a deadline imposed by President Biden to pass a police restructuring bill by the anniversary of George Floyd's death. **A5**

THE WORLD Covid-19 deaths in Mexico are plummeting, possibly due to rapid U.S. vaccinations slowing down the southward spread of the virus. **A8**

The European Union has agreed to reopen borders in the 27-nation bloc to travelers who have received an approved vaccine. **A13**

THE ECONOMY Johnson & Johnson identified contamination risks at a Baltimore plant months before 15 million doses of its vaccine were ruined, documents show. **A17**

THE REGION A woman and her 5-year-old son who were shot in front of their Shaw home in a dispute over a scooter remained in critical condition, D.C. police said. **B1**

After health guidance made playground equipment off limits, an Alexandria principal made recess fun with "old school" games. **B1**

Senior Democrats are uneasy having a Trump-appointed IRS chief overseeing Biden's economic agenda. **A24**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Clematis climbs to new heights New varieties have smaller flowers, yield later and longer, and have healthier blooms.

STYLE Axios goes local The D.C.-based politics-and-policy site will launch eight local-news products around the country, with plans for many more. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS	A17
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ANÁLISIS

El show de Marcelo Tinelli: ¿un programa inmune a todo?

Pablo Sirvén

—LA NACION—

espectáculos



LA JUEZA SERVINI PIDIÓ LA CAPTURA DE PEPÍN RODRÍGUEZ SIMÓN

—política

La magistrada federal declaró en rebeldía al exasesor de Macri en temas judiciales, que pidió asilo político en Uruguay; el abogado se considera un "perseguido político". Página 17

PREMIO AL FEMINISMO: GLORIA STEINEM GANÓ EL PRINCESA DE ASTURIAS

—cultura

La escritora y periodista estadounidense se impuso en la categoría Comunicación y Humanidades; la destacaron como "referente del movimiento por los derechos de la mujer". Página 24

LA NACION

JUEVES 20 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

La Ciudad analiza fuertes limitaciones a la circulación durante los fines de semana

COVID. Mantendría la presencialidad en las aulas, excepto para la secundaria, que sería virtual

La administración de Horacio Rodríguez Larreta avanza con la idea de implementar una fuerte limitación a la circulación durante los fines de semana para contener la suba de casos de coronavirus registrada los últimos días, según confirmaron fuentes porteñas a LA NACION. La presencialidad escolar seguiría garantizada para los niveles inicial y primario, aunque po-

dría ser virtual, en su totalidad, en la secundaria, que hasta ahora tiene un sistema "bimodal".

Además, el gobierno porteño tiene en estudio una serie de medidas restrictivas adicionales para intentar achatar la curva de casos a partir de pasado mañana, cuando caduque el decreto de necesidad y urgencia (DNU) firmado por Alberto Fernán-

dez el 30 de abril pasado. Una de las opciones que están sobre la mesa es aplicar un "cierre total" de comercios durante los fines de semana, con el objetivo de reducir la circulación y limitar los encuentros sociales. Y también acotar la actividad de los locales entre las 11 y las 19 de lunes a viernes. Incluso, se analiza la suspensión de los deportes de conjunto. Página 2

VIAJES A LA UE

La Unión Europea autorizó ayer el regreso a los países del bloque de los turistas que estén totalmente vacunados. Página 10

EL ESCENARIO

Flexibilidad kirchnerista para medir el lawfare

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

En su libro *Dios, el mamboreta y la mosca*, Thomas Moro Simpson reconstruye la peripécia de la ley de residencia, impulsada en 1902 por el Poder Ejecutivo y defendida por el entonces senador Miguel Cané, para expulsar del país a cualquier extranjero sospechoso de anarquismo. Alfredo Palacios fracasó en su intento de derrogarla cuando llegó al Senado, en 1904. Volvió a tratarse el 17 de julio de 1946. La Cámara de Diputados, restaurada después de la dictadura militar de 1943, decidió suprimirla. La iniciativa partió del peronista John William Cooke, quien la calificó como una "obra nefasta de la oligarquía". Continúa en la página 16

El oficialismo admite que no tiene los votos para la reforma de la Procuración
Página 14

Arrancó hoy el paro de nueve días del campo

CARNE. No habrá comercialización de hacienda; el Gobierno quiere limitar las ventas en el Mercado de Liniers para que no se recalienten los precios. Página 20

Maradona: el médico Luque será indagado por homicidio

INVESTIGACIÓN. Los fiscales citaron también a la psiquiatra Cosachov

Página 28



MAURO ALFIERI

Otro golpe de River en la historia

deportes—Épica para quedar en los libros: sin 20 futbolistas por el contagio masivo de Covid en el plantel, sin suplentes en el banco y con Enzo Pérez como improvisado arquero, River derrotó 2 a 1 a Independiente Santa Fe, en el Monumental, y quedó puntero en el grupo D de la Libertadores. Angileri y Julián Álvarez, los goles.

Murió una mujer de rabia, primer caso en 39 años

CORONEL SUÁREZ. Tenía 33 años y era policía; la mordió un gato callejero

Página 25

Insólito incidente con un crédito a tasa cero que el Gobierno le asignó a Boudou

VIVIENDA. Su nombre figura en la lista oficial de beneficiarios; lo adjudican a un hackeo

La presentación, por parte del presidente Alberto Fernández, de las primeras adjudicaciones de créditos oficiales a tasa cero para la construcción de viviendas derivó en un episodio que rozó el escán-

dalo: entre los beneficiarios figura el exvicepresidente condenado por corrupción Amado Boudou. Después de que LA NACION informara sobre su inclusión en el listado oficial de adjudicatarios, el Gobierno

dijo que a raíz de esa publicación pudo detectar que una persona se inscribió "falsamente con el nombre y DNI del vicepresidente" en ese programa y hará una denuncia penal. Página 19

UTIs não se esvaziam, mas SP afrouxa restrições

O número de novos casos confirmados de Covid voltou a subir, e o de internações em UTIs parou de cair em São Paulo — a ocupação está em torno de 80%. O governo anunciou que, a partir de 1º de junho, será ampliado o funcionamento das atividades econômicas até as 22h, e a ocupação permitida dos estabelecimentos passará para 60% — hoje é de 30%. **Saúde B5**

Cai índice dos que veem pandemia fora do controle

Caiu o número de brasileiros que acreditam que a pandemia esteja fora de controle, aponta o Datafolha. A taxa foi de 62% em janeiro para 79% em março e, agora, está em 53%. A pesquisa também mostra uma diminuição entre aqueles que têm muito medo da Covid-19. **Saúde B3**

Um em 4 usou remédio para prevenir ou tratar precocemente Covid B3

Sete estados registram 90% de leitos ocupados. Em meio a flexibilizações, 17 estados voltaram a registrar crescimento na lotação dos leitos de UTI para Covid. Sete têm situação crítica, com taxa de ocupação acima de 90%. **B4**

Câmara aprova texto que visa a vender Eletrobras

Em vitória do ministro Paulo Guedes, a Câmara aprovou ontem texto-base da medida provisória que abre caminho para a privatização da Eletrobras. A Casa irá analisar sugestões de mudanças na proposta antes de ir para o Senado. A MP caduca em 22 de junho. **Mercado A21**

Sérgio Rodrigues Brasil sofre de transtorno dismórfico linguístico

Cotidiano B8

EDITORIAIS A2

Cerco a Salles
Sobre operação da PF que tem o ministro como alvo.
Missão impossível
Acerca de depoimento de Pazuello à CPI da Covid.

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Salles é alvo de investigação da PF sobre madeira ilegal

Ministro, que teve endereços revistados, nega ações de favorecimento; chefe do Ibama é afastado

Endereços do ministro Ricardo Salles e do Ministério do Meio Ambiente foram alvo de busca e apreensão pela Polícia Federal nesta quarta-feira (19). Na mesma ação, foram afastados o presidente do Ibama, Eduardo Bim, e outros nove servidores.

A operação, com 35 mandados de busca em três unidades da Federação expedidos pelo ministro Alexandre de Moraes, do STF, apura suspeitas de corrupção, advocacia administrativa, prevaricação e facilitação de contrabando por agentes públicos.

Salles, que foi à superintendência da PF na capital federal cobrar explicações acompanhado de assessor armado, chamou as medidas de desnecessárias e disse que todos os envolvidos estiveram sempre à disposição para esclarecimentos.

Ele nega ação concatenada de agentes do Ibama e do ministério para favorecimento ou liberações indevidas. Moraes autorizou a quebra dos sigilos bancário e fiscal do ministro. Pedido da PF cita R\$ 14,1 milhões em transações atípicas. **Ambiente B1**

Inquérito surgiu a partir de despacho do Ibama em 2020 para facilitar exportação madeireira B1
Apuração preocupa investidores por desmatar e potencial corrupção, diz fundo norueguês B2



Balsa leva toras de madeira à base da PF em Manaus

Bruno Kelly/Reuters

Eduardo Pazuello mente em CPI e evita comprometer Bolsonaro

O general Eduardo Pazuello, ex-ministro da Saúde, mentiu ao menos quatro vezes durante seu depoimento no Senado nesta quarta (19) na tentativa de blindar o presidente Jair Bolsonaro, alvo principal da CPI. O testemunho continuará hoje.

Ao contrário de seu ex-colega Ernesto Araújo, que na véspera relatou a atuação presidencial para a compra de cloroquina no exterior, o general negou ter recebido ordens para promover o uso do medicamento, ineficaz contra o coronavírus.

Alegou ainda que Bolsonaro não o fez rasgar acordo de compra de vacinas do Butantan, algo que foi dito pelo presidente. **Poder A4**

Distorções incluem oxigênio, Supremo e ordem; veja checagem A9

Planalto celebra, e comissão fala em contradições

O Palácio do Planalto avaliou que Eduardo Pazuello teve desempenho satisfatório na CPI da Covid — o principal motivo foi o fato de o general ter blindado Jair Bolsonaro. O comando da comissão considerou o depoimento “dissimulado” e quer esclarecer contradições. **Poder A12**

UE chega a acordo para abrir turismo a países ‘seguros’

Os membros da União Europeia chegaram a acordo para reabrir o bloco a países em que a pandemia está controlada. Viagens não essenciais seriam permitidas a oriundos de locais com taxa de até 75 casos por 100 mil habitantes nos últimos 14 dias — a do Brasil é de 395. **Mundo A18**



General Pazuello responde a perguntas durante sessão da CPI da Covid no Senado Sergio Lima/AFP

ANÁLISE

Nelson de Sá
CPI corre o risco de virar “Tribunal do Feicebuqui”
Poder A6

ANÁLISE

Fábio Zanini
General demonstra fidelidade militar ao presidente
Poder A9

Inquéritos de

deportação contra diplomatas de Maduro são abertos pela PF A19

Metroviários
decidem encerrar greve na capital, e operação volta ao normal hoje B8

SP prevê vacinação de pessoas de 55 a 59 anos em julho

Saúde B7

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Ciência B2

Fotografias de Marte

China divulga as primeiras imagens de seu rover no planeta vermelho

Ilustrada B11

O outono do levante

Desenho que resgata a Primavera Árabe viraliza e se torna clássico instantâneo

Esporte B9

Decisão do Paulista

Palmeiras e São Paulo confrontam riqueza tática na final do campeonato



Laboratorios Lasca oficializó su proyecto para fraccionar la Sputnik V en el país

Se veía venir: Se agotan dosis y se pone freno a la vacunación

La ampliación del rango de edad impulsó la inmunización. Desde hoy no se vacuna en San Pedro Norte, San Pedro Sur, Guairá, Caazapá, Paraguarí, Ñeembucú y Presidente Hayes.

PÁGINAS 2 y 17



Alumnos del CTN piden la vuelta de prácticas semipresenciales

Sentata. Estudiantes del Colegio Técnico Nacional reclaman el retorno a las prácticas en laboratorios y talleres.

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USD 17 millones en juego
Entes de control
auditarán in situ
obras realizadas
por gobernaciones

PÁGINA 9

Cuestionan decisión
Piden que Conatel
escuche al pueblo
antes de proceder al
apagón analógico

PÁGINA 20

Tras reunión con transportistas
De momento, no
sube el precio del
pasaje en el
transporte público

PÁGINA 14

12 personas detenidas
Policía interviene
fiesta clandestina y
cae presunta gavilla
de asaltantes

PÁGINA 50

ETIOS
MÁS POR DESCUBRIR



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LE FIGARO

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



ENQUÊTE

« MEIN KAMPF » : DEPUIS UN SIÈCLE, L'ÉDITION FRANÇAISE FACE À UN LIVRE MALÉFIQUE PAGE 14

FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

QUAND LES ÉCRIVAINS TROUVENT LEURS HÉROS AU CINÉMA NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



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Macron se met au diapason du pays PAGE 6

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Le PiS veut réécrire l'histoire officielle PAGE 7

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Campagne présidentielle de 2012 : ouverture du « procès Bygmalion » PAGE 9

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Le bitcoin s'effondre, les marchés accusent le coup PAGE 23

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Un entretien avec Marianne Faithfull PAGE 30

CHAMPS LIBRES

• Les chroniques d'Éric Zemmour et de Luc Ferry
• Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
• Restrictions des libertés, et maintenant ? Les tribunes d'Olivier Babeau et de Nicolas Bouzou
• L'analyse d'Alexandre Devecchio

PAGES 15 À 17

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi : Approuvez-vous la présence de Gérard Darmanin aux côtés des policiers lors de leur manifestation ?

OUI 47% NON 53%
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 85 097

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Approuvez-vous la sélection de Karim Benzema dans l'équipe de France ?

A. HEINL/DPA/PICTURE-ALLIANCE

Israël pousse son avantage avant un cessez-le-feu

Les États-Unis ont refusé mercredi leur soutien à une résolution présentée par la France à l'ONU en vue d'obtenir l'arrêt des combats, laissant une marge de manœuvre à Benjamin Netanyahu.

Depuis huit jours, l'Administration américaine bloque toute décision des Nations unies qui pourrait être contraire à ses intérêts et à ceux d'Israël, dont les forces

de défense veulent avoir suffisamment réduit les capacités militaires du Hamas avant d'accepter une pause. Mais, alors que les démarches bilatérales se multi-

plient et que des groupes ad hoc se forment en coulisses pour soutenir la diplomatie menacée d'enlisement à l'ONU, le président Joe Biden a finalement appelé Is-

raël mercredi à une rapide « désescalade ». Une démarche peut-être annonciatrice d'une trêve, tant il est vrai qu'il ne peut y avoir, au Proche-Orient, de solution di-

plomatique sans l'engagement de Washington. Au milieu de la ruée diplomatique, l'Union européenne, divisée, reste aux abonnés absents.

→ L'ÉGYPTÉ S'ENGAGE À GAZA POUR SE RAPPELER AU BON SOUVENIR DE WASHINGTON → ISRAËL ESTIME QUE SES BUTS DE GUERRE SONT PRESQUE ATTEINTS
→ TOUJOURS DEBOUT, LE HAMAS A MARQUÉ DES POINTS SUR PLUSIEURS TABLEAUX PAGES 2 ET 3



Ils étaient 35 000, selon les organisateurs, réunis devant le Palais Bourbon pour dire leur colère face à la violence au quotidien, mais aussi leur amertume et leur sentiment d'être trahis par une justice dont ils dénoncent le laxisme. PAGES 4, 5 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

Mise en demeure

A-t-on jamais vu un ministre soutenir une manifestation organisée contre la politique de son gouvernement ? La présence, mercredi, de Gérard Darmanin aux côtés des policiers en colère était incongrue à plus d'un titre. Non seulement elle ne pouvait pas dédouaner le pouvoir exécutif de ses propres responsabilités dans le malaise des forces de l'ordre, mais elle valait, en plus, approbation des terribles accusations lancées par les représentants des flics contre l'action judiciaire. Participer à cet événement revenait donc à se mettre dans la gueule du loup. De deux choses l'une, à présent. Soit le locataire de la Place Beauvau ne fait rien des critiques émises, et son coup de com se retournera contre lui et ses chefs ; auquel cas, il devrait, en toute logique, en tirer les conséquences. Soit il obtient de ces derniers et du garde des Sceaux un durcissement de la réponse pénale, et il pourra alors encaisser les dividendes de sa fermeté. C'est l'acteur Gérard Lanvin, invité surprise du rassemblement, qui a donné le ton : la lutte contre l'insécurité n'est pas « une

affaire de police, mais de gouvernants ». Le problème de la police, c'est la justice, « elle doit rendre des comptes », scandaient, quant à eux, les protestataires, qui la jugent trop laxiste. À un an de la présidentielle, et alors que le sujet figure en tête des priorités des Français, l'avertissement sonne comme une sévère mise en demeure.

Éric Dupond-Moretti s'époumone pour colmater les brèches et tente d'accélérer les procédures. Mais, en politique, il y a ce qui est dit et ce qui est entendu. Lui, qui s'est présenté à son arrivée comme le « ministre des prisonniers », peine désormais à convaincre. Le chef de l'État aussi, qui a trop tergiversé avant de regarder la réalité en face.

L'insécurité est l'affaire des gouvernants

« Nous sommes payés pour servir, pas pour mourir », clament les policiers. Face à la délinquance, le pouvoir exécutif, lui, est là pour agir, et non pour compatir. L'épisode d'hier l'aura-t-il dissuadé de jouer avec le feu ? Il y va de l'autorité de l'État. ■

Les coulisses du retour de Benzema en équipe de France

Le secret avait été bien gardé autour de la sélection surprise de l'attaquant du Real Madrid pour le prochain Euro (11 juin-11 juillet). Inquiet après les prestations hivernales de ses attaquants, Didier Deschamps a donc décidé de rappeler le banni en équipe de France et de mettre fin à cinq ans et demi de placard. Une rencontre discrète entre les deux hommes a permis de débloquent la situation et d'aboutir au changement de cap du sélectionneur. PAGE 10



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To oldly go William Shatner at 90

→ G2



End for Rhodes? Commission agrees statue should come down

→ Page 2



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'Freedom' plan may be diluted after sharp rise in Covid variant

Ministers say next week is vital as cases rise and new hotspots emerge

Jessica Elgot
Heather Stewart
Peter Walker

Ministers are considering diluting plans for "freedom day" in England on 21 June and delaying the end of all social distancing rules as new figures

showed another sharp increase in the Covid variant first detected in India.

The health secretary, Matt Hancock, said no announcement would be made until 14 June on whether all restrictions would be lifted a week later, as planned.

"We've always known that one of the things that has the potential to knock us off track would be a new variant," he said. "That's why we made the presence of a new variant ... one of our four tests when we set out the roadmap, which is the test we must pass for going down each step."

Meanwhile, he said, the government was "throwing everything" at speeding up testing and vaccinations in Bolton, Blackburn and six newly affected areas.

The number of confirmed cases of the variant B.1.617.2 uncovered in the UK had now risen to 2,967, the health secretary said. That was up by 28% in just two days, from 2,323 on Monday.

The true number may be higher, as genomic sequencing to confirm the presence of the variant takes several days. Public Health England said the most recent sample included in the

'The challenge ahead of us is to make sure we outrun the virus'

Jonathan Van-Tam
Deputy chief medical officer

2,967 total was taken a week ago, on 12 May.

No 10 has still not lost hope of allowing all restrictions to lift on 21 June. Sources said there was now

more optimism in government than there was a few days ago about the prospect of forging ahead as planned. Next week is expected to be crucial.

Officials had explored whether using Covid certification in venues such as pubs and restaurants could help remove the need for social distancing, but ministers have now rejected that prospect. It may, however, be used for venues which have not yet been allowed to open - such as nightclubs and arenas.

The delay in lifting rules on social distancing, 4 →

EU calls on Johnson to respect its citizens

Daniel Boffey
Brussels

EU leaders will tell Boris Johnson to respect the rights of their citizens in the aftermath of scandals over their treatment in the UK, including their detention in removal centres, according to a leaked draft statement seen by the Guardian.

The message to the British prime minister will follow a first discussion of EU-UK relations between the 27 heads of state and government since the ratification of the trade and cooperation agreement struck last Christmas Eve.

"The European council calls on the UK to respect the principle of non-discrimination among member states and the rights of EU citizens," the leaders are due to say, adding that the deals agreed with Downing Street must be implemented in full.

There is growing concern within EU capitals over the UK government's approach to their nationals, including those whose rights are guaranteed by the 6 →



**'De-escalate', orders Biden
US president talks tough to Netanyahu**
World Page 24 →

Murder inquiry in standoff with Patel

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

The independent inquiry into the murder of the private detective Daniel Morgan was in crisis last night after the panel refused Priti Patel's demands to hand over its report before publication, and senior police sources rejected the government's justification of a potential risk to national security.

The home secretary provoked fury on Tuesday by demanding the findings be handed over for review in advance of publication, angering the Morgan family and members of the panel conducting the inquiry.

Patel cited the need to consider national security and human rights obligations before making the report public. But one senior source with close knowledge of the five Metropolitan police inquiries into the case and the documents involved said: "There are no national security issues involved. There are national embarrassment issues."

The row has delayed 12 →

PHOTOGRAPH: MAURICIO HANSEN/GETTY IMAGES