

A Human-Rights Alliance Against China?
REVIEW

The Return Of Family Reunions
OFF DUTY

What's News
World-Wide

A cease-fire between Israel and militant group Hamas held on Friday despite clashes between Israeli police and Palestinians at a Jerusalem mosque that was the flashpoint for 11 days of fighting. **A7**

◆ **Abubakar Shekau**, who turned Boko Haram from an obscure radical sect into a jihadist army, has died, according to officials, mediators, phone calls intercepted by a West African spy agency and intelligence memos. **A1**

◆ **A slimmed-down White House** proposal aimed at kick-starting bipartisan infrastructure negotiations fell flat with Senate Republicans, leaving fundamental questions no closer to resolution. **A4**

◆ **Covid-19 vaccination** sites shouldn't miss an opportunity to inoculate an individual, even if it means remaining doses in a vial will go to waste, the CDC said. **A6**

◆ **Germany and France** welcomed the Biden administration's new acceptance of a minimum corporate tax rate as low as 15%, possibly smoothing the way to a global deal as soon as July. **A4**

◆ **Federal agencies** are scrambling to address a surge in the use of consumer drones as the aircraft crowd the airspace above critical sites. **A5**

Business & Finance

◆ **Apple CEO Cook** faced tough questions from the judge who will decide whether the iPhone maker operates an improper monopoly, including about the competitiveness of its App Store payment system. **A1**

◆ **As older fossil-fuel** power plants across the U.S. shut down in favor of renewable energy, some are getting a new lease on life through bitcoin mining. **A1**

◆ **Existing-home sales** fell 2.7% in April from March, marking the third straight monthly drop amid high prices and tight inventory. **A1**

◆ **The S&P 500** ended 0.08% lower after another volatile session, while the Nasdaq fell 0.5%. The Dow rose 0.4%. **B11**

◆ **Google's DeepMind** told staff late last month that the parent company had ended long-running talks over the artificial-intelligence unit's desire for more autonomy. **B1**

◆ **Kansas City Southern** said it would combine with Canadian National in a roughly \$30 billion deal. **B3**

◆ **Tribune Publishing** said that its shareholders voted to approve a takeover offer from hedge fund Alden. **B3**

◆ **German publishing** conglomerate Axel Springer is in talks to purchase digital-news outlet Axios. **B3**

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Save the Secret Service
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Tim Cook, Apple's CEO, was questioned by Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers as he testified in Oakland, Calif., Friday at a trial that pits the iPhone maker against 'Fortnite' creator Epic Games in a case involving accusations of monopolistic practices.

# Judge Presses Apple CEO Cook Over App Store Payment Policy

BY TIM HIGGINS

Apple Inc. Chief Executive Tim Cook faced tough questions from the federal judge who will decide whether the iPhone maker operates an improper monopoly, including about the competitiveness of its App Store payment system.

Mr. Cook spent about four hours Friday on the witness stand—some of it behind closed doors—in an Oakland, Calif., court trying to rebut claims by “Fortnite” videogame creator Epic Games Inc. that Apple improperly prohibits competing app stores on the iPhone and forces in-app purchases for digital payments through its own system that takes as much as a 30% cut.

He argued that Apple's prohibition of rival app stores on the iPhone and its insistence on reviewing all apps sold ensures the security of users. He also pushed back against Epic lawyer's attempts to show the company was motivated by profit considerations.

As Mr. Cook's time on the public witness stand neared an end, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers interjected, noting that game developers seemed to be generating a disproportionate amount of money for Apple compared with the technology the iPhone maker was providing in turn. She said Apple's in-app payment system didn't face competition and zeroed in on why Apple prohibits developers from alerting users in their apps to cheaper options for in-app purchases outside of Apple's system—an issue that has arisen several times during the trial.

“I understand this notion that somehow Apple brings the customer to the gamers, the users, but after that first time, after that first interaction... the developers are keeping their customers, Apple is just profiting off that,” she said.

Mr. Cook disagreed, arguing that the many free apps available on the App Store attract customers, to the potential

chases outside of Apple's system—an issue that has arisen several times during the trial.

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Mr. Cook disagreed, arguing that the many free apps available on the App Store attract customers, to the potential

# Bitcoin Revives Older Power Stations

Cryptocurrencies' lofty prices have investors sinking money into electricity generation

BY BRIAN SPEEGLE AND CAITLIN OSTROFF

Across America, older fossil-fuel power plants are shutting down in favor of renewable energy. But some are getting a new lease on life—to mine bitcoin.

In upstate New York, an idled coal plant has been restarted, fueled by natural gas, to mine cryptocurrency. A once-struggling Montana coal plant is now scaling up to do the same.

The lofty price of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has investors pouring money into power generation—and risking a backlash. Elon Musk tweeted last week that Tesla Inc. would no longer accept bitcoin as payment for vehicles over concerns about fossil-fuel use in bitcoin mining. That rocked the market; bitcoin prices are down about 29% since last week, including a 12% drop on Friday after comments from the Chinese government spurred fears of a regulatory clampdown.

The drive for power has its roots in bitcoin's intractable mathematics: To operate securely, the cryptocurrency's network relies on computers solving puzzles; in return the

Please turn to page A6

◆ Cryptocurrency prices drop, extending week's selloff... **B11**

# Boko Haram Leader Dies

BY DREW HINSHAW AND JOE PARKINSON

Abubakar Shekau, the fundamentalist warlord who turned Boko Haram from an obscure radical sect into a jihadist army whose war with the Nigerian state has left tens of thousands dead across four nations, has died, according to officials, mediators, phone calls intercepted by a West African spy agency and internal intelligence memos seen by The Wall Street Journal.

His death, which Nigeria's military has erroneously reported at least three times before, was confirmed by five Nigerian officials who detailed how he detonated a suicide vest during a confrontation with rival insurgents to avoid being taken alive.

It removes one of the world's most brutal and effective terrorists, who plunged four nations, including Africa's most populous, into a religious war. He was best known for kidnapping nearly 300 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok on the night before their final exams, an abduction that sparked the world-wide social-media movement #BringBackOurGirls.

There was no official confirmation from Nigeria's government, Boko Haram or the media arm of Islamic State. The Journal was able to review transcripts of geolocated,

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EXCHANGE

# THE GREEN RUSH

Environmental finance goes mainstream as trillions of dollars pour in. **B1**

# Home Buying Slows Down As Prices Climb to Record

BY NICOLE FRIEDMAN

America's home-buying frenzy is cooling off as limited inventory and record high prices are excluding potential buyers.

Existing-home sales fell 2.7% in April from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.85 million, the National Association of Realtors said Friday. April marked the third straight monthly decline, the longest downward stretch since last spring, when Covid-19-related lockdowns eased and buyers started flocking to tour homes.

The forces driving home sales haven't gone away. Low mortgage rates and the rise of remote work, which sent buyers scrambling to find larger living spaces, are still spurring demand.

This year started off strong, after 2020 experienced the fastest pace of home sales in 14 years, but that slackened as prices rose and houses on the market fell. The median existing-home price jumped to \$341,600 in April, the highest on record, NAR said. The annual price appreciation of more than 19% was the strongest in data going back to 1999.

“The rise in prices that

we've seen and the lack of supply, particularly at lower price points, is dragging down sales,” said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead economist at Oxford Economics. “I think that's going to be the story moving forward.”

The U.S. housing market was a bright spot in an otherwise sputtering economy for much of past year. Housing was one of the few sectors that responded positively to the changing lifestyle dynamics brought on by the pandemic.

Now, as the broader economy looks stronger, the housing market is being squeezed.

# Law and (Dinner) Order: Ballrooms Serve Justice, Desserts

States ditch cramped courthouses for fairgrounds, theaters, wedding venues

BY LAURA KUSISTO

RANDOLPH, Mass.—When it was finally time to hold 12-person jury trials again in this Boston suburb after a yearlong pandemic hiatus, court officials knew their nearly 200-year-old courthouse's cramped rooms wouldn't work.

Instead, they built a makeshift courthouse in Lombardo's Meetings & Occasions, known regionally for hosting weddings and high-school proms where teenagers pose in front of the sparkling three-story chandelier.

“When they announced it I gasped out loud,” said Massachusetts Bar Association President Denise Murphy, who went to prom there in 1976. “If anybody shows up in a tuxedo with a frilly shirt, I'll just lose it,” she said.

Vast swaths of American

Not that kind of bar

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# Inside the Blowup Over Pence Memoir

Some staff, authors at Simon & Schuster demanded it drop the potential blockbuster

BY JEFFREY A. TRACHTENBERG AND EMILY GLAZER

During an April workplace-culture session, one of many in the past year held by book publisher Simon & Schuster, topics included how to evaluate proposals from Black or LGBTQ+ authors and how best to promote them.

Not on the agenda, to the frustration of some gathered on the Zoom call, was the company's recent deal with

former Vice President Mike Pence for a memoir of his life in politics and the Trump administration.

Publishing the book, some staffers said at the session, would be a betrayal of the company's promises to oppose bigotry and make minority employees feel safe.

A petition soon followed, signed by more than 200 staff members, or 14% of the staff, plus about 3,500 outside supporters.



## Travel special

### Why we shouldn't stop flying abroad

LIFE & ARTS

### How To Spend It: holiday issue

SEPARATE MAGAZINE

### Europe's islands set for summer

PAGE 2

# Soriot lashes out at 'armchair generals' attacking AstraZeneca

◆ Chief says vaccine has future ◆ Boosters show promise in lab ◆ EU procurement at fault

ROULA KHALAF, HANNAH KUCHLER AND SARAH NEVILLE

The chief executive of AstraZeneca has insisted its Covid-19 vaccine has a future, as he revealed the UK had priority access to the jab and hit out at the "armchair generals" behind "traumatic" attacks on the company.

In his first interview following a string of setbacks, including the emergence of rare fatal side-effects, Pascal Soriot defended the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and offered new evidence that it could play an important role in the battle against the disease.

Soriot told the Financial Times that

the jab was only slightly less effective against the variant first found in India than against the strain identified in Kent. He added that a new booster had performed well against other variants in animal studies. AstraZeneca is in talks with governments including the UK on new contracts for booster doses, he said.

Commenting for the first time since the European Commission said it would take legal action over a shortfall in AstraZeneca deliveries, Soriot said: "You can look at the glass half-empty: we've delivered less than we expected to deliver in Europe. You can look at the glass half-full: we've delivered more than 400m doses [worldwide] and

we've saved tens of thousands of lives. "I'm a European so I love Europe, don't get me wrong," he said. "But at the end of the day Europe is part of the world, it's not the whole world. And there are many countries around the world who actually want this vaccine, so this vaccine has a future."

He suggested that the slower rollout of immunisation in Europe was not AstraZeneca's fault but resulted from less aggressive procurement. The US has "a high vaccination rate, but they don't have our vaccine."

"So if our vaccine is the problem in Europe, you tell me how the US has achieved such a high vaccination rate?"

#### Inside

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◆ FT View **Pages 6**  
◆ Camilla Cavendish **Page 7**

The EU has been frustrated that it has suffered a supply shortfall when the UK has not. Soriot revealed that the UK government had been guaranteed priority in vaccine supplies as part of the agreement it struck with Oxford university in return for investment, before AstraZeneca came on board as development partner to manufacture and distribute the vaccine.

"Of course, when you do something like this as a government, you don't do it for free," he said. "What you want in return, and it's fair enough, is priority."

The UK government, he said, had done "a great job with vaccinations".

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## Bitcoin vs the central banks

Watch out crypto holders

OPINION



## Not moving is paradise

Carlo Rovelli

HOUSE & HOME



## 'It doesn't have to be like this'

Activist Heather McGhee

LUNCH WITH THE FT



## Australian whites

Jancis Robinson

LIFE & ARTS



## Security law reframes Hong Kong's artistic life

The return to Hong Kong of Art Basel, one of the world's biggest art fairs, will pose a test for cultural freedom as the tough national security law introduced last year takes hold. Organisers say the territory's government has not asked them to do anything differently. But Ai Weiwei, China's best-known dissident artist, is clear that the "independent culture" of the city more generally is threatened as pro-Beijing figures start to ask whether artworks are lawful.

Analysis ► PAGE 4

# Pope's austerity drive draws protests from Vatican staff bitter over pay cuts

MILES JOHNSON — ROME

Vatican employees have complained to Pope Francis about labour inequality, low morale and pay cuts as the world's smallest city state is sucked into the global debate on the future of work sparked by the pandemic.

In an open letter to the head of the Catholic Church, the Vatican said that the Holy See's decision to cut salaries during the crisis had been unfair and perpetuated an "exclusive, anti-meritocratic and disincentivising" workplace.

This year Pope Francis issued a decree that the Vatican would cut the salaries of cardinals by 10 per cent and other staff pay by between 5 per cent and 8 per cent to cope with a ballooning budget deficit caused by a collapse in revenues.

"According to the most basic theories

of work psychology, these strategies not only do not pay off in the long run, in terms of motivation, personal satisfaction and production, they boomerang in terms of performance," the employees wrote in an unsigned letter published by multiple Italian media outlets.

The Vatican declined to comment on the letter. One official confirmed it had been circulated around several Holy See offices but said it was unclear how many employees were signatories. The Vatican, which has a permanent population of fewer than 1,000 people, had a total of 4,618 employees in 2019, according to its state news outlet.

The letter complained that the pandemic had increased job pressure while many could not work remotely, and said there was "great bitterness" that the Vatican had not yet established a human resources department.

The employees also said that the Holy See's austerity drive was upsetting as Vatican workers were unable to enjoy benefits that they would have in private companies, including "productivity bonuses, promotions based on achieved objectives, merit-based systems of selection and professional growth".

The decision to cut salaries by the Pope had an "honourable purpose" to safeguard jobs, the letter said, but added that staff were "bitter" at not having been consulted on the decision. They also requested a meeting with Pope Francis to discuss the situation.

Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, the Vatican's top economic official, said its spending this year would be "the lowest in the recent history of the Holy See" as the closure of its museums during lockdowns and a fall in donations had put a squeeze on its finances.

## World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	May 21	prev	%chg		May 21	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4166.21	4159.12	0.17	\$ per €	1.219	1.222	-0.24	US Gov 10 yr	147.68	1.62	-0.01
Nasdaq Composite	13494.30	13535.74	-0.31	\$ per £	1.416	1.416	0.00	US Gov 10 yr	0.83	-0.01	-0.01
Dow Jones Ind	34306.51	34694.15	-0.86	€ per \$	0.861	0.863	-0.23	UK Gov 10 yr	0.13	-0.02	-0.02
FTSE 100	1213.90	1203.73	0.84	¥ per \$	109.965	109.950	0.01	Japan Gov 10 yr	116.47	0.04	0.00
S&P 500	4166.21	4159.12	0.17	\$ per €	1.219	1.222	-0.24	US Gov 30 yr	196.18	2.33	-0.01
FTSE 100	1213.90	1203.73	0.84	£ per \$	0.861	0.863	-0.23	UK Gov 30 yr	196.02	-0.65	0.00
FTSE AEX-Share	4002.61	4003.09	-0.01								
CAC 40	6286.41	6243.50	0.69								
Xetra Dax	15437.51	15370.26	0.44								
Nikkei	28317.83	28099.25	0.78								
Hong Kong	29458.44	29450.29	0.03								
MSCI World \$	2942.21	2915.54	0.97								
MSCI EM \$	1320.31	1327.54	-0.53								
MSCI ACWI \$	701.33	694.70	0.95								

## FT Weekend

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Clockwise from top left: Badr Abu Alia, whose home was raided by Israeli soldiers; Majeda al-Rajaby, a West Bank teacher separated from her children; Nael al-Azza, who must pass a checkpoint to get to work; Sondos Mleitat, who operates a psychotherapy website.

## As Prices Rise, Biden and Fed See a Rebound

### G.O.P. Warns Inflation Will Hurt Businesses

By JIM TANKERSLEY  
and JEANNA SMIALEK

WASHINGTON — McDonald's, Chipotle and Amazon are all raising pay as companies try to fill jobs faster than they can find workers. Airplane tickets and hotel rooms are becoming more expensive as demand rebounds thanks to newly widespread vaccinations. Supply shortages are making it tougher to buy a house or a new car.

Republicans look at the economy and see a political liability for the Biden administration. Inflation is taking off, they warn, and worker shortages are threatening the viability of long-suffering small businesses.

President Biden and his advisers assess the same set of conditions that force agonizing choices, and the fragility and cruelty of life under military rule, now in its second half-century.

Underneath that quiet, pressurized hum, the economic and jobs proposals, which would inject another \$4 trillion into the economy, offset by tax increases on corporations and high earners.

Four months into Mr. Biden's term, Republicans say his economic agenda is already failing the country. The president's team says the state of the economy shows how he can deliver for workers.

"It is good policy and good for everyone to increase those wages a little," Ms. Dunn, a senior adviser to Mr. Biden, said in an interview. "You see some very large employers already starting to do that, and that's good for the country. And that is certainly in line with what President Biden believes, which is that working Americans, middle-class Americans who haven't been the beneficiaries of trickle-down economics for the last 40 years, deserve a

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## WORLD IS FACING FIRST LONG SLIDE IN ITS POPULATION

### FERTILITY RATES PLUNGE

#### Implications for Climate, Education, Land Use and Economies

This article is by **Damien Cave**, **Emma Bubola** and **Chae Sang-Hun**. All over the world, countries are confronting population stagnation and a fertility bust, a dizzying reversal unmatched in recorded history that will make first-born babies a rarer sight than funerals, and empty homes a common eyesore.

Maternity wards are already shutting down in Italy. Ghost cities are appearing in northeastern China. Universities in South Korea can't find enough students, and in Germany, hundreds of thousands of properties have been razed, with the land turned into parks.

Like an avalanche, the demographic forces — pushing toward more deaths than births — seem to be expanding and accelerating. Though some countries continue to see their populations grow, especially in Africa, fertility rates are falling nearly everywhere else. Demographers now predict that by the latter half of the century or possibly earlier, the global population will enter a sustained decline for the first time.

A planet with fewer people could ease pressure on resources, slow the destructive impact of climate change and reduce household burdens for women. But the census announcements this month from China and the United States, which showed the slowest rates of population growth in decades for both countries, also point to hard-to-fathom adjustments.

The strain of longer lives and low fertility, leading to fewer workers and more retirees, threatens to upend how societies are organized — around the notion that a surplus of young people will drive economies and help pay for the old. It may also require a reconceptualization of family and nation. Imagine entire regions where everyone is 70 or older. Imagine governments laying out huge bonuses for immigrants, mothers with lots of children. Imagine a gig economy filled with

Continued on Page 17

## The Misery of Life Under Occupation

### Daily Indignities Mount for Palestinians, Steadily Fueling a Conflict

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER  
and ADAM RASBON

JERUSALEM — Muhammad Sandouka built his home in the shadow of the Temple Mount before his second son, now 15, was born.

They demolished it together, after Israeli authorities decided that razing it would improve views of the Old City for tourists.

Mr. Sandouka, 42, a countertop installer, had been at work when an inspector confronted his wife with two options: Tear the house

down, or the government would not only level it but also bill the Sandoukas \$10,000 for its expenses.

Such is life for Palestinians living under Israel's occupation: always dreading the knock at the front door.

The looming removal of six Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem set off a round of protests that helped ignite the latest war between Israel and Gaza. But to the roughly three million Palestinians living in the West

Bank and East Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 war and has controlled through decades of failed peace talks, the story was exceptional only because it attracted an international spotlight.

For the most part, they endure the frights and indignities of the Israeli occupation in obscurity.

Even in supposedly quiet periods, when the world is not paying attention, Palestinians from all walks of life routinely experience exasperating impossibilities and

petty humiliations, bureaucratic controls that force agonizing choices, and the fragility and cruelty of life under military rule, now in its second half-century.

Underneath that quiet, pressurized hum, the economic and jobs proposals, which would inject another \$4 trillion into the economy, offset by tax increases on corporations and high earners.

Four months into Mr. Biden's term, Republicans say his economic agenda is already failing the country. The president's team says the state of the economy shows how he can deliver for workers.

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## How the Police Are Exonerated By a Grand Jury

By NICOLE HONG  
and SARAH MASLIN NIR

Her voice heavy with emotion, Letitia James, New York's attorney general, stepped onto a church dais in Rochester in February to announce that a grand jury had declined to indict the police officers who were involved in the death of a Black man in their custody.

"I'm disappointed — extremely disappointed," Ms. James said. Her office had presented the jurors with what she called an extensive investigation into the death of the man, Daniel Prude, whom the police pinned face down on the pavement until he lost consciousness.

"We sought a different outcome than the one the grand jury handed us today," Ms. James said. But transcripts of the grand jury proceedings, released publicly by a judge last month at Ms. James's request, tell a more complicated story.

Grand jury proceedings almost always remain secret, and the transcripts of the inquiry into Mr. Prude's death provide a rare view into the inner workings of the criminal justice system at a pivotal moment in the continuing national debate over police accountability.

In a grand jury proceeding, prosecutors typically present a one-sided case in hopes of securing a criminal indictment. But

Continued on Page 20



Shade Lewis's biggest challenge as a Black man raising cattle in Missouri was finding financing.

## Windfall for Black Farmers Roils Rural America

By JACK HEALY

LaGRANGE, Mo. — Shade Lewis had just come in from feeding his cows one sunny spring afternoon when he opened a letter that could change his life: The government was offering to pay off his \$200,000 farm loan, part of a new debt relief program created by Democrats to help farmers who have endured generations of racial discrimination.

It was a windfall for a 29-year-old who has spent the past decade

scratching out a living as the only Black farmer in his corner of northeastern Missouri, where signposts quoting Genesis line the soybean fields and traffic signals warn drivers to go slow because it is planting season.

But the \$4 billion fund has angered conservative white farmers who say they are being unfairly excluded because of their race. And it has plunged Mr. Lewis and other farmers of color into a new culture war over race, money and power in American farming.

"You can feel the tension," Mr. Lewis said. "We've caught a lot of heat from the conservative Caucasian farmers."

The debt relief is redress set aside for what the government calls "socially disadvantaged farmers" — Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and other nonwhite workers who have endured a long history of discrimination, from violence and land theft in the Jim Crow South to banks and federal farm offices that refused them

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## Saving Kangaroos Endangers A Way of Life in the Outback

By DAMIEN CAVE

SURAT, Australia — Ian White drove slowly over the red dirt track, past wheat stubble and into the long grass, where he glimpsed a tuft of white fur moving near the woods to his left.

It was a warm autumn night in the Australian outback. He turned on the spotlight sitting atop his truck, finding a kangaroo 150 yards away.

"See, that's a doe," he said. "I don't especially want to shoot a doe."

A doe usually has a joey in her pouch. He and others who hunt kangaroos bear this in mind, Mr. White said, despite claims to the contrary by American activists who are trying to shut down their livelihood, calling it inhumane.

These critics, he said, just don't understand how life actually works here in the middle of Australia. Kangaroos have been hunted on the continent for thousands of years, "and there are still more of them than people," Mr. White said.

He insisted that Australia's commercial kangaroo industry isn't like a John Wayne Western



A commercial hunter taking aim at a kangaroo from his car.

with guns blazing. It's a regulated business that works with the government. Hunters must pass a sharpshooting course to ensure a humane kill, and kangaroo numbers are closely monitored by state and federal officials, who set quotas to ensure sustainable populations.

Most important, said Mr. White, 58, a third-generation full-time shooter who goes by "Whitey," kangaroos produce healthy meat, strong leather and the jobs that keep small towns whole.

"I don't like killing things," he said. "I only do it if I want to eat

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#### SPORTS 29-31

##### Mickelson Clings to P.G.A. Lead

The 50-year-old, who is a shot ahead of Brooks Koepka, would become the oldest pro golf major winner if he hangs on in Sunday's final round. PAGE 30

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##### A Scarcity of Pot

Cannabis companies are rushing to meet what is expected to be a "retail wave" of demand for medical marijuana in New York and New Jersey. PAGE 18

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##### How George Floyd Changed Us



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As rising temperatures thaw a once-frozen area, Russia is moving soldiers and equipment to the Far North. PAGE 9

##### In 1958, at the Brink

Daniel Ellsberg has revealed a 1966 study showing how close the U.S. came to a nuclear strike on China. PAGE 12

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At 94, the magician David Berglas says his renowned effect can't be taught. Is he telling the truth? PAGE 1

#### AT HOME

##### Anticipating Needs

Smart preparation can make a post-quarantine visit with aging parents less tense and more joyful. PAGE 8



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##### Museums Reimagined

Looking to post-pandemic life, the art world sees its purpose in a new light.

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##### What Can Art Bear?

Looking to artists, one year after George Floyd's murder. PAGES 5-9

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##### Out of Work, Paying a Price

The pandemic created a child care crisis, and mothers became the default solution. Losing a paycheck also cost women a part of their identities. PAGE 1

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##### The Food Rescuers

An army of volunteers is trying to make the best of a wasteful grocery system to get eight tons of scavenged food a day to those who are in need. PAGE 1



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**URBAN ALCHEMY** practitioners carefully clean around a woman waking up on a skid row sidewalk.

## Finding needles, rats and gratitude cleaning skid row

STEVE LOPEZ

The job is filthy. The location is grim. The hours could be better. No doubt, a lot of people would have trouble coming up with a less desirable occupation than cleaning the oozing, trash-strewn streets of skid row before dawn every weekday morning, a job that requires tiptoeing around syringes and rats. But for the broom brigade that gathers long before the sun rises, it's work they're happy to have, because job prospects were somewhat limited. Many are ex-cons. Many are, or were, homeless. "I'd say it's about half and half," said Ricardo Barron, director of Urban Alchemy's skid row L.A. Clean Team.



'I look at it as, we're all the same. Nobody is better than anybody else, and we could all end up like this.'

— BRIAN WILLIAMS, 47, an Urban Alchemy practitioner, working the skid row block between 5th and 6th streets

"I'm very grateful to be working," said Ronald Malo, 77. He wasn't even on duty the day I visited but showed up anyway, at 4:30 a.m., to say hello to the pals he's made in just two months on the job. Malo, who did 25 years for a third-strike offense, chatted with Marcus Pelham, 69, who got this job on a recommendation from his parole officer. "It gives me a chance to pay back," said Pelham. "I've been taking all my life." Pelham was one of the originals. He started on Aug. 1, 2019. This is not a social program, said Lena Miller, who started Urban Alchemy in San Francisco in 2018 to clean the streets and public restrooms and provide portable showers. The goal was "to bring a sense of peace and respect to America's most chaotic urban areas," where addiction, mental illness and homelessness are all common. L.A. city officials liked the sound of [See Lopez, A9]

## Gas tax rising again, but road fixes remain

A new state increase hits July 1, and critics say repairs have been in the slow lane.

By PATRICK MCGREEVEY

SACRAMENTO — Four years after the Legislature boosted the gas tax in order to fix California's crumbling roads and bridges, the state has spent billions and made some progress in repairs, but officials now say the funding is sufficient only to complete less than half of the work needed.

The gas tax has been a political hot potato since it was passed in 2017, resulting in the recall of a Democratic state senator who voted for the legislation and an unsuccessful attempt by Republicans in 2018 to ask voters to repeal the higher charges.

Now, with the gas tax set to increase again July 1, the campaign to fix roads and bridges is again stirring contention, drawing criticism from some lawmakers who say repairs have been too slow and the effort has lagged behind other states in maintaining and improving transportation systems.

The program to fix roads has been hampered by California's high cost of repairs compared with other states and by the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in less driving and therefore hundreds of millions fewer gas-tax dollars than expected. In addition, with people driving more electric and fuel-efficient cars, state officials are studying ways to make up for the loss of gas tax revenue, possibly with fees tied to miles driven.

But despite the challenges, Democratic leaders who supported increasing the gas tax say it has been worthwhile and progress is being made.

"The reality is that infrastructure repair was underfunded for decades and that [See Tax, A12]

**\$16 billion**

Amount state has allocated in gas taxes and vehicle fees generated by Senate Bill 1, the legislation signed into law in April 2017.

**\$122.9 billion**

Amount Caltrans estimates it needs over 10 years to address shortcomings in the state's transportation system, due in part to increasing costs and the age of existing infrastructure.

## ARMED MIDEAST DRONES A THREAT TO U.S.

The weapons deny Americans 'complete air superiority,' one general says.

By DAVID S. CLOUD

WASHINGTON — The masked fighters in camouflage uniforms trudge across the dunes of Gaza, lugging two gray drones with wooden propellers and warheads. Loaded on metal launchers, the winged aircraft shoot into the sky, headed off to strike Israel.

The propaganda video, made public this month by Hamas in the midst of the worst fighting with Israel in years, was meant to cast the militant group as a formidable fighting force, capable of overcoming its foe's advanced military with its own homemade technology.

But the video also served to highlight the proliferation of military drones crisscrossing the region's skies in unprecedented numbers. They target oil facilities, militant hideouts, Israeli and Palestinian territory and even U.S. bases in the region.

Some are shot down, but they are cheap to build and so many are in the air that some reach their targets, sometimes with devastating results.

Many unmanned aircraft or their components can be linked back to Iran, U.S. officials say, a worrying threat from Washington's longtime adversary that is forcing Pentagon planners to reconsider long-standing strategies for defending allies and its forces in the region.

"These small- and medium-sized [drones] present a new and complex threat to our forces and those of our partners and allies," Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, told Congress last month. "For the first time since the [See Drones, A4]

## Assessing the damage in Gaza

As Egyptian mediators try to firm up truce, Palestinians tally up their losses. **WORLD, A4**

## Wolf's location a mystery

Theories abound as experts lose track of OR-93, an Oregon-born predator who journeyed to California

By LOUIS SAHAGÚN

California's most adventurous wolf has not been heard from since biologists lost track of the "pings" emitted by OR-93's radio collar on April 5 in San Luis Obispo County, about three hours' drive north of Los Angeles.

Deepening the mystery, officials have not picked up a

"mortality signal" from the young male's collar, indicating that OR-93 had not moved for at least eight hours.

Where could he have gone?

In search of an answer, state biologists in Oregon and California on Friday said they are collaborating on a plan to fly over his epic path in a plane equipped to detect the faintest signals

emitted by its GPS and radio transmitter.

"OR-93 hasn't pinged since April 5, and that's been awful tough on us. We're just trying to keep hope alive," said Jordan Traverso, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"It's not beyond the realm of possibility that OR-93 found some other [See Wolf, A8]



**SUSAN BERMAN** with her longtime best friend, Robert Durst, who is on trial for her 2000 killing.

## Did loyalty lead to the murder of a 'Mafia princess'?

By MARISA GERBER

Their fateful friendship began more than half a century ago with a chance glimpse at a campus pool party. It was the late 1960s at UCLA, and Robert Durst — the eccentric heir of a New York real estate fortune — spotted a student with jet-black hair. Very pretty, he thought, as he walked up to introduce himself to Susan Berman, the spirited daughter of a Las Vegas mob boss.

Bobby and Susie, as they called each other, became fast friends — soon best friends.

When Durst's wife, Kathleen McCormack Durst, mysteriously vanished in 1982, Berman, a crime writer, served as his spokeswoman, shielding him from the media. And when Berman got married two years later, Durst walked her down the aisle.

"We stayed friends until she died in 2000," Durst said, after recounting their first meet- [See Berman, A10]

## New virus cases plummet in U.S.

Deaths also fall. But to distinguish COVID-19, experts say, more people must get vaccinated. **NATION, A6**

## Comic predicted Ohtani's heroics

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's the Angels' two-way phenom whose Ruthian feats were foretold. **SPORTS, D1**

## Mars rover goes for a first spin

China's solar-powered device roamed the surface of the planet, searching for evidence of life. **WORLD, A3**



**LUIS SINCIO** Los Angeles Times

## Postseason past dogs Clippers

L.A.'s hope for a promising start to the playoffs vanishes in a 113-103 loss to Dallas in Game 1. **SPORTS, D1**

**Weather**  
Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 74/59. **B10**





ifty's in the lead  
At the PGA  
Championship, Phil  
Mickelson is ahead  
by one shot **SPORTS**



The money of  
**tomorrow?** Unwinding  
the truth and fiction  
about the future  
of bitcoin **OUTLOOK**



Tesla brings tech  
appeal, but drivers  
are locked in its  
universe **BUSINESS**

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# The Washington Post

Pics may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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## Twin crises hit Gaza: Injuries and covid

Airstrikes fill hospital beds and may cause new virus surge from shelters

BY STEVE HENDRIX  
AND HAZEM BALOUSA

GAZA CITY — Gazans and international aid agencies raced to head off overlapping medical crises Saturday as hospitals already overrun with injuries from the 11-day bombardment by Israel struggled to treat a surge in coronavirus cases from packed shelters.

Tens of thousands of people crowded into underground chambers, community centers and other places across Gaza seeking to avoid the Israeli airstrikes, creating opportunities for the virus to spread.

At the same time, the attacks left more than 1,900 people injured across Gaza before a ceasefire took effect Friday, according to health officials here. At least 248 people in Gaza and 12 in Israel were killed in the waves of Israeli strikes and the rocket attacks from Gaza.

"It has become a double burden during these 12 days," said Abdel-Latif al-Hajj, a physician and director of international cooperation for Gaza's Health Ministry. "We are facing many more covid-19 cases and mass casualties at the same time."

Hajj stood in the debris-filled courtyard in front of what used to be a primary health-care facility and home to Gaza's only lab using the PCR test for the coronavirus. Its windows were gone, and the floors were covered with concrete rubble from an office building across the street that had been targeted by Israeli war-

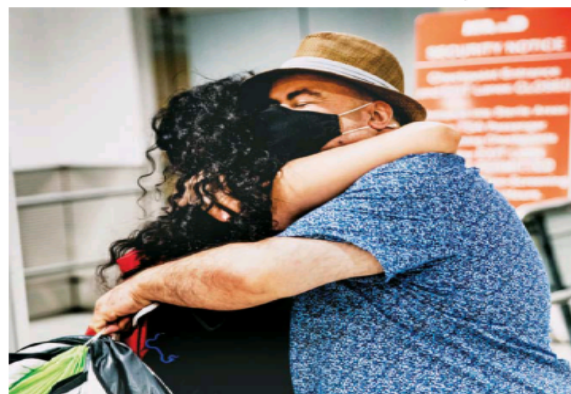
SEE GAZA ON A20



SALMAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST



CASSIE THOMPSON



SCOTT MCINTYRE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Biden goals imperiled as agenda stalls in Congress

BY SEUNG MIN KIM  
AND MIKE DEBONIS

In his first formal address to Congress last month, President Biden implored lawmakers to act expeditiously on an ambitious to-do list.

On expanding access to voting, Biden pushed for legislation to be sent for his signature "right away." On immigration, he urged Republicans and Democrats to at least "argue over it" and "debate it," but mostly, "let's act."

Biden told Congress that he wants to sign legislation overhauling controversial policing practices by May 25, the first anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. And while he pledged to do everything in his power to counteract the rash of gun violence, Biden added: "It's time for Congress to act as well."

Yet the burst of legislating that characterized the first few months of the Biden administration — from the signing of \$1.9 trillion in coronavirus relief into law to swift passage of several Democratic priorities in the House — has slowed dramatically. The White House's hopes for meaningful policy achievements hinge on a handful of critical ongoing negotiations, centered mainly in the Senate.

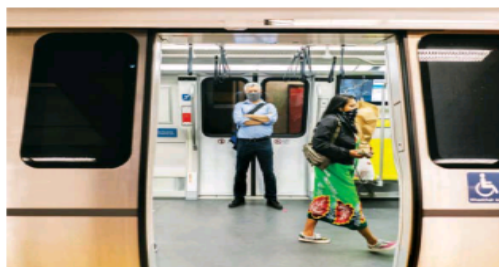
SEE BIDEN ON A9

## Together. Again.

After more than a year of separation and isolation, Americans are reuniting. We are hugging, laughing, dancing and crying. We are mourning — the lost time, the lost people. And many of us are still feeling anxious. But we are doing it together — over champagne and sonatas, in church sanctuaries and school corridors, at family dinners and surprise parties.

Inside There are countless stories of pandemic reunions. We share nine of them. **A12-A14**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Baydoun family gathers for dinner in Michigan during Ramadan last month. Ingrid Gonzalez greets her brother Carlos Estuardo in Miami after 12 years apart. Kal Thompson, left, and Benny Borja meet in late March after their parents, who live in California, were vaccinated.



MELINDA MARRA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Subway riders board a train in San Francisco, where a proposal has been floated to expand free fares to all residents for three months.

## Momentum builds for free transit

Pandemic shines light on burdens facing low-income service workers

BY JUSTIN GEORGE

When coronavirus caseloads jumped at the start of the pandemic, public transportation ridership slid to historical lows. Infections are subsiding, but transit agencies are still waiting for passengers to come aboard.

With some agencies predicting lower ridership levels until 2024, a proposal is bubbling up aimed at serving the low-income passengers relying most heavily on public transportation during the pan-

demic: Make transit free.

Kansas City, Mo., started it. Los Angeles and Washington are exploring it, and a proposal in Congress could fund the concept across the country. Momentum has spread during a pandemic that shone a light on the working class and the buses and trains they rode to shifts at supermarkets, convenience stores, takeout restaurants and hospitals.

Transit systems for decades have been saddled with an obligation to partly support themselves through

chasing ridership to increase revenue and reduce the burden on taxpayers. But the pandemic put buses and trains through a different prism. They were essential, transit advocates say, like many of the people riding them.

Rail ridership plunged about 90 percent in some cities at the start of the pandemic and is nowhere near pre-pandemic levels, while bus systems' reliance on lower-income workers has led to a quicker rebound.

SEE FARE ON A16

## Cases fall and hope rises

SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE HITS 11-MONTH LOW

Progress in most of U.S., though hot spots remain

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN  
AND JOEL ACHENBACH

For the first time in 11 months, the daily average of new coronavirus infections in the United States has fallen below 30,000 amid continuing signs that most communities across the nation are emerging from the worst of the pandemic.

The seven-day average dipped to 27,815 on Friday, the lowest since June 22 and less than a tenth of the infection rate during the winter surge, according to state health department data compiled by The Washington Post.

The pandemic map remains speckled with hot spots, including parts of the Deep South, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest. At the local level, progress against the contagion has not been uniform, as some communities struggle with inequities in vaccine distribution and in the health impacts of the virus.

But the vast bulk of the American landscape has turned pale green, the color-code for "low or moderate" viral burden, in a Covid-19 Community Profile Report released last week by the Biden administration. The report showed 694 counties still have "high" levels of transmission, less than half as many as in mid-April.

SEE VIRUS ON A8

New coronavirus cases in the U.S., by day

As of 8 p.m., Saturday

Total 33,086,607

Yesterday 22,665  
Average 26,351



Cremation costs soar in India: Bodies turn up in sacred river. **A18**



LA NACION  
REVISTACLAUDIA  
SÁNCHEZ

A punto de cumplir 80 años, la supermodelo y cara del glamour de los 60 y 70 dice que Juana Viale es quien más se le parece.

EL GOBIERNO PARALELO  
QUE SE OCULTA EN LOS  
PLIEGUES DEL PODER

—el berlinés

Desde Kicillof y Máximo Kirchner hasta Basualdo, una sólida trama de funcionarios consolida la autoridad de Cristina Kirchner en el Frente de Todos.

LAS PELÍCULAS  
QUE MARCARON  
AL CINE NACIONAL

—espectáculos

Desde los inicios del sonoro con *Tango!* hasta hoy, los títulos y los artistas más sobresalientes en la pantalla grande de producción local.

## LA NACION

DOMINGO 23 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Los contagios se dispararon  
40% y pusieron al borde del  
colapso al sistema sanitario**COVID.** La explosión de casos, el aumento del número de muertes y las variantes más agresivas del virus fueron determinantes para el acuerdo político que dispuso 9 días de confinamientoMauricio Giambartolomei  
LA NACION

Las nuevas restricciones llegaron en el peor momento de la pandemia de Covid-19. Las señales se activaron a fines de marzo y se agudizaron en una semana dramática con récord de contagios y fallecidos en todo

el país. Con picos que rozaron los 40.000 nuevos enfermos y más de 700 muertes diarias, el promedio de la última semana registró un 40% más de infectados y un 16% más de fallecidos respecto de la anterior, datos que resultaron claves para cerrar el país hasta el próximo domingo. Las nuevas variantes del virus, más

contagiosas, y la lentitud en la vacunación también actuaron en favor del nuevo confinamiento. El consenso de los gobernadores y de la Ciudad fue una muestra de la enorme preocupación en todo el país, con ciudades que empiezan a trasladar pacientes a otros distritos por no tener camas disponibles. Continúa en la página 12

## EL ESCENARIO

Un encierro sin final  
a la vistaMartín Rodríguez Yebra  
Página 10

## EL ANÁLISIS

El dato que  
puede ayudar  
a la ArgentinaInés Capdevila  
—LA NACION—

“Próximamente”, “pronto”, “en las próximas semanas”, así describió el presidente Alberto Fernández el momento en que llegarán las dosis que necesita la Argentina para acelerar la vacunación y contener el capítulo más doloroso de la pandemia. Muchas promesas y ninguna definición ni fecha concreta. Pero, claro, Fernández no puede dar muchas precisiones. Continúa en la página 18

Simeone marca  
una era en España

—deportes

El DT rompió el duopolio de Real Madrid y Barcelona al ganar la Liga con Atlético de Madrid; tras el 2-1 con Valladolid, fue el centro de los festejos y las muestras de afecto.

Agita la interna oficial  
el revés con la inflación**GOBIERNO.** Guzmán quedó otra vez apuntado

El ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, no tuvo un regreso placido de su viaje a Europa con el presidente Alberto Fernández. Las dificultades del Gobierno para frenar la suba de la inflación se transformaron en el nuevo objetivo de los cuestionamientos internos, que le

critican su distancia con el tema y la falta de resultados.

Esta discusión aporta al desgaste que arrastra el funcionario por el tema tarifario. Ayer, Fernández dio por “cerrado por ahora” el tema con el aumento del 9% ya anunciado. Página 24

## EL ESCENARIO

La irónica maldición de Cristina

Jorge Fernández Díaz

—LA NACION—

Sir Robert Chiltem, alto funcionario del gobierno inglés y barón elegante y presuntamente probo, se desliza por un fastuoso salón de forma octogonal saludando a sus invitados y oyen-

do los sonos de los instrumentos de cuerda que animan la velada y habilitan el baile. En ese laberinto de canapés y afectación pronto se encontrará con la señorita Cheveley. Continúa en la página 38

Chile. De la  
estabilidad a  
la trampa de  
la extrema  
polarización

La constituyente dejó un escenario de gran fragmentación de cara a las presidenciales. Página 20



## Sem mulheres, CPI da Covid soma casos de machismo

Entre os 18 titulares e suplentes da CPI da Covid, composta por indicações dos partidos, não há nenhuma mulher. Após pedido, as senadoras tiveram o direito a discursar e a fazer perguntas, ainda que não possam votar ou solicitar documentos.

Nas sessões, elas têm convivido com situações em que são interrompidas por seus colegas. Poder A2

# País mais pobre e informal torna recuperação incerta

Bolsonaro traz instabilidade a cenário de precarização de empregos e alto endividamento público

A recuperação prevista para a economia em 2021 e 2022 não deve beneficiar a ponta da baixa renda, que tende a manter a informalidade da última década e travar um crescimento capaz de retirar da miséria os milhões nela jogados pela pandemia.

Com o alastramento da Covid, o setor de serviços parou, e o mercado sem CLT agonizou. A desigualdade entre ricos e pobres se ampliou em um país que já empurra à informalidade, durante sua pior década em 120 anos, os menos qualificados.

Os considerados miseráveis saltaram de 11% da população em 2019 para 16% neste ano, um contingente extra de 11 milhões de pessoas sob o risco de não conseguir sair da pobreza extrema ante a falta de empregos, agravada pela lenta vacinação.

Com a impossibilidade de melhora de renda e a consequente paralisação do consumo, o ciclo tende a se alongar. As taxas de investimento e poupança são as menores desde os anos 1980, o que limita a possibilidade de tê-las como motor de crescimento.

A alta dívida pública reduz a margem para programas de transferência de renda.

A esse quadro o governo Bolsonaro soma a instabilidade socioeconômica, alertam especialistas, que veem risco de a pobreza se tornar estrutural. Mercado A20

## NOVO CADERNO CULTURAL ÚNICO

Ilustrada Ilustríssima passa a ser publicada aos domingos, trazendo conteúdo de ambas as editoriais C1

# ilustrada

# ilustríssima



Retrato do ator Mario Frias, atual secretário especial da Cultura, criado pelo artista Rodolpho Parigi. Gabriel Cabral/Folhapress

## Desigualdade na vacinação global ameaça alongar crise

Com 15% da população mundial, os países ricos concentram quase metade das vacinas disponíveis contra a Covid-19. Enquanto um terço de seus habitantes recebeu ao menos uma dose, nas nações pobres a proporção é de 0,2%.

Cientistas alertam que a desigualdade pode prolongar a pandemia e prejudicar a todos. Mundo A18

## Governo federal recebe avisos sobre possível nova onda

O governo tem recebido avisos de estados e municípios sobre nova onda da Covid. Segundo gestores, Marcelo Queiroga (Saúde) se diz preocupado. Após redução na entrega de exames, a pasta anunciou 600 mil testes para o MA, onde há pacientes com a variante indiana. Saúde B1 e B2

## MÔNICA BERGAMO C2

Ana Cañas relembra períodos dramáticos e fala de álbum com músicas de Belchior

## Ilustrada Ilustríssima C4

### Malhação ideológica

Entenda como o secretário Mario Frias deixou de ser um ídolo teen da televisão, se radicalizou e se tornou o mandachuva da anticultura do governo de Jair Bolsonaro.

**Ilustrada Ilustríssima C6**  
Obsessão por própria imagem na tela é sequela do Zoom

**Ilustrada Ilustríssima C8**  
Show mítico da contracultura, 'Gal Fa-Tal' faz 50 anos

## Prefeitura de SP promete parque Augusta em julho

Após sucessivos atrasos, a área verde de 23 mil m² na região central de São Paulo deverá ser entregue em dois meses, encerrando uma disputa de 50 anos pelo uso do terreno. B4



Canteiro de obras do parque Augusta. Danilo Verpa/Folhapress

## Reforma política quer afrouxar lei para ficha-suja

A um ano e meio das eleições, deputados debatem reforma política com medidas já derrotadas na Câmara e no Judiciário. Entre elas há a flexibilização da Lei das Inelegibilidades — tornada mais rigorosa pela Lei da Ficha Limpa — e um freio ao poder do TSE de editar resoluções. Poder A4

**Pedro Mairal**  
Ponta e Luiz, dois animais estereis na manhã de sol

Corrida B10

**Agêneros buscam Justiça para omitir sexo de documento**  
Cotidiano B5

## EDITORIAIS A2

**Além do auxílio**  
Acerra de necessidade de enfrentar alta da pobreza.

**Bullying em pauta**  
Sobre impacto da prática na formação de alunos.



**Bebê yanomami morre com quadro de desnutrição em RR** B5

## TIGGO 5X TURBO

### O SUV MAIS VALORIZADO DO MERCADO.

QUATRO RODAS

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2021

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VEJA NAS PÁGINAS 5, 6 E 7.



El juicio está en la mira de los organismos internacionales antilavado

## Errores de Fiscalía ponen en riesgo posible condena a OGD

Ninguno de los testigos declaró previamente ante los fiscales para tener conocimiento de sus versiones y cuatro de ellos fallecieron antes de que se presentara la acusación.

PÁGINA 55

Sin ruta de todo tiempo y sin energía  
**Falta de apoyo desde el Estado frena el desarrollo productivo en zona de Agua Dulce**

PÁGINAS 16 y 17

Mons. Pistilli insta a inmunizarse  
**Relajación de parte de los vacunados es una amenaza en la lucha contra el Covid-19**

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

**DOMINGO**

El guardia del Ineram, gruñón pero aliado en la pelea por la vida

PÁGINA 6

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### Libertad debe esperar para gritar campeón



Decepción. El equipo resignó tres puntos ante Sol de América, que le agitó la fiesta en su propia cancha. Hoy puede ser campeón si Nacional no le gana a River Plate.

PÁGINA 58 a la 60

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MÁS BAJO DEL MERCADO





## SÉCURITÉ

Ces lois qui  
provoquent l'ire  
de la police **PAGE 5**

RÉGIONALES

## LR veut se focaliser sur la campagne

FOOTBALL

**Le choix de Youssoupha pour chanter les Bleus suscite la polémique** PAGE 9

## RUGBY

Toulouse-La  
Rochelle, l'Europe  
sera française **PAGE 12**

VITICULTURE

## Château Cheval Blanc se lance dans l'agroécologie

**CHAMPS**  
LIBRES



- Alain Finkielkraut : « Les médias vertueux avalisent sans bronche la propagande du Hamas »

- Catholique mais pro-avortement, Biden peut-il recevoir l'eucharistie?
- La chronique de Mathieu Bock-Côté

PAGES 15 À 17

# Après la crise, faut-il craindre le retour de l'inflation ?

Le fort rebond des prix aux États-Unis et la reprise économique vigoureuse font craindre une contagion en Europe qui menacerait la stabilité financière et coûterait cher aux épargnants.

Après des années de stabilité, les prix repartent à la hausse depuis quelque temps, en particulier aux États-Unis. Ils sont stimulés par la vigueur de la reprise économique outre-Atlantique, sous l'effet du déconfinement et du plan de relance

massif de Joe Biden. De bien moindre ampleur pour l'instant, cette surchauffe gagne l'Europe où les entreprises font face à un net renchérissement du coût des matières premières. Ce mouvement divise les experts : certains y voient un simple phénomène

transitoire inhérent à toutes les sorties de crise; d'autres parient sur un retour durable de l'inflation. De leur côté, les marchés boursiers, craignant un changement de politique monétaire des banques centrales et une hausse des taux d'intérêt, commen-

cent à devenir nerveux. À l'exception des automobilistes, qui paient plus cher leur carburant, les particuliers ne sont encore que peu touchés. Un retour de l'inflation - qui dévalue le prix de l'argent - serait une mauvaise nouvelle pour les épargnants.

## → LE CONSOMMATEUR BALLOTTÉ ENTRE HAUSSES ET BAISSSES

## → LES MARGES DES INDUSTRIELS SOUS PRESSION

## → UN POISON POUR L'ÉPARGNE

→ A LA BOURSE,  
L'INQUIÉTUDE DOMINE  
PAGES 20 ET 21

## Sondage : le déconfinement fait souffler un vent d'optimisme sur la France



## Proche-Orient : les tensions persistent malgré le cessez-le-feu

Les armes se sont tuées à Gaza et en Israël après l'entrée en vigueur d'un cessez-le-feu dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi. Mais de nouveaux affrontements se sont déroulés hier sur l'esplanade des Mosquées à Jérusalem, où des centaines de Palestiniens ont célébré la « victoire » du mouvement islamiste Hamas. Critiqué sur son aile droite, Benjamin Netanyahu a lui aussi salué « un succès exceptionnel » d'Israël. Tout en se félicitant de l'arrêt des combats, la communauté internationale appelle à une « solution durable » qui fait toujours défaut. **PAGES 2, 3, 16 ET L'EDITORIAL**

**ÉDITORIAL** par Philippe Gélie [pgelie@lefigaro.fr](mailto:pgelie@lefigaro.fr)

## Trêve amère

**A**près onze jours de guerre entre Israël et le Hamas, chacun devrait applaudir au silence des armes. Mais rarement cessez-le-feu a paru si fragile et a été accueilli avec autant de pessimisme. L'explosion des violences a eu lieu dans le vide politique du face-à-face israélo-palestinien, que la trêve ne suffira pas à combler. Malgré les proclamations victorieuses des deux camps, l'arrêt des combats ne les rapproche pas d'une reprise du dialogue. Sur cette terre éternellement disputée, où chaque conflit sème les graines du prochain, les chances d'une paix négociée restent plus éloignées que jamais. À l'heure du bilan, les comptes sont maigres pour Israël. Sa supériorité militaire lui a certes permis d'infliger des coups très durs au mouvement islamiste qui contrôle Gaza, y gagnant quelques mois ou années de répit. Mais, après que l'attention du monde s'était provisoirement détournée, la question palestinienne est revenue au centre des enjeux. Elle se décline désormais simultanément sur quatre fronts : Gaza, la Cisjordanie, Jérusalem et les villes mixtes israélo-arabes. Leur coordination annonce une nouvelle ère de mobil-

sation contre ce que les Palestiniens qualifient d'«apartheid» - 90 % des inculpations dans les affrontements intercommunautaires en Israël ont visé la minorité arabe.

En s'imposant comme le principal « défenseur » des Palestiniens, le Hamas rehausse son prestige politique dans les Territoires et discrédite un peu plus l'Autorité palestinienne, sur laquelle s'appuie l'état-major israélien.

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propension à attiser les braises, lançant un autre défi intérieur à l'État hébreu. Les dirigeants d'Israël peuvent choisir le statu quo adossé à la force de Tshahal, en pariant sur la tolérance de la population pour un entre-deux-guerres permanent. Ou ils peuvent chercher à sortir de l'impasse en réinjectant de la politique dans le tête-à-tête avec leurs voisins. Le temps presse: ils n'auront bientôt d'autre interlocuteur que le Hamas. ■