

What's News

Business & Finance

Aamazon is nearing a deal to buy the Hollywood studio MGM for almost \$9 billion including debt, a pact that would turn a film operation founded in the silent era into a streaming asset for the e-commerce giant. **A1**

◆ **Ghosh is preparing for** a voluntary meeting with French investigators who plan to question him next week about payments he made as head of Renault. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose,** with the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow advancing 1.4%, 1% and 0.5%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **China's efforts to re-**strain cryptocurrency trading and mining are adding to the wild moves in bitcoin and other markets. **B1**

◆ **U.S. shale drillers** Cabot and Cimarex said they plan to merge in an all-stock deal that would combine firms operating in different regions. **B1**

◆ **Bank of America's** Merrill Lynch Wealth Management unit banned trainee brokers from making cold calls in their search for new clients. **B1**

◆ **Sales of new collateral-**ized loan obligations are hitting records, lifted by a recovering economy and demand from investors. **B1**

◆ **Lordstown Motors** said it faces higher-than-expected costs, is cutting its 2021 production forecast by at least 50% and needs to raise more capital. **B3**

◆ **Nielsen's finance chief** is allocating funds to a new TV-ratings platform after the sale of the company's market-analytics business earlier this year. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **EU leaders agreed** to impose a new round of sanctions against Belarus and ban its airlines from entering the bloc's airspace and airports, a day after Lukashenko, the country's president, forced a plane carrying a dissident journalist to land and then arrested him. **A1, A6**

◆ **Biden sent** Secretary of State Blinken to the Middle East in an effort to safeguard the cease-fire between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas following 11 days of intense fighting. **A6**

◆ **New York City** public schools won't offer remote learning this fall, requiring students to return to classrooms in September, Mayor de Blasio said. **A3**

◆ **Florida's governor** signed a bill aimed at making big tech platforms more accountable for their content decisions, a move with political overtones that appeared likely to draw legal challenges. **A4**

◆ **The FAA has determined** that Mexico's oversight of aviation falls short of top-tier international standards and plans to downgrade the country's safety rating. **A10**

◆ **Opposition to the Tokyo** Olympics opening in two months has deepened in Japan and spread to some prominent business leaders in that country. **A10**

◆ **Scientists are making** strides toward restoring limited vision to people affected by a previously irreversible form of blindness caused by retinitis pigmentosa. **A3**

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National Guard Winds Down Mission in Nation's Capital



MOVING OUT: Troops from the National Guard prepare to leave Washington, D.C., Monday as their task of providing security for the U.S. Capitol following the Jan. 6 attack concludes. The Guard will end its mission Wednesday, the Pentagon said. **A4**

EU Moves to Isolate Belarus After Plane Was Forced Down

European Union leaders agreed to impose a new round of sanctions against Belarus and ban its airlines from entering the bloc's airspace and airports, a day after Lukashenko, the country's president, forced a plane carrying a dissident journalist to land and then arrested him.

By Benjamin Katz,
Parmy Olson
and Ann M. Simmons

Lithuania has already stopped flights from leaving or arriving through Belarus airspace. U.K. Foreign Secretary

Dominic Raab said Britain was suspending the operating permit of Belarus's national airline and ban its airlines from entering the former Soviet country's airspace.

The EU called for the release of the journalist, 26-year-old Roman Protasevich, and his traveling companion, along with a full investigation of the incident.

On Sunday, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus ordered a jet fighter to force a Ryanair commercial aircraft to land as it was passing through Belarus airspace. Authorities

arrested Mr. Protasevich before allowing the plane to continue its journey.

The incident has raised questions over the legality of the plane's grounding. Mr. Raab condemned the incident as "a shocking assault on civil aviation and an assault on international law," which "represents a danger to civilian flights everywhere."

A video of Mr. Protasevich, which circulated on opposition social-media accounts on Monday, showed him in a dark sweatshirt, saying he was in a pretrial detention facility in

Minsk, had no health problems and was being treated in accordance with the law.

"Right now, I am continuing to cooperate with investigators and making confessions regarding my role in organizing mass unrest in Minsk," he said, seated with hands clasped.

Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya said he looked as though he had been forced to make the video.

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◆ **Capture of journalist shows** crackdown's reach... **A6**

Amazon Closes In On Deal For MGM

With price of almost \$9 billion, film studio would build streaming assets for tech giant

Amazon.com Inc. is nearing a deal to buy the Hollywood studio MGM Holdings for almost \$9 billion including debt, said people familiar with the matter, a pact that would turn a film operation founded in the silent era into a streaming asset for the e-commerce giant.

By Juliet Chung,
Joe Flint
and Erich Schwartzel

An agreement could be made public as early as this week, people close to the situation said, assuming the talks don't fall apart at the last minute.

The deal would mark Amazon's second-largest acquisition in history, behind its \$13.7 billion purchase of Whole Foods in 2017, and highlight the premium that content is commanding as streaming wars force consolidation and drive bigger players to bulk up with assets.

The privately traded MGM was valued around \$5.5 billion, including debt, last December. Its stock price has soared in recent days, from about \$105 a share in mid-May, before talks were reported. The share price reached \$150 Monday afternoon, after The Wall Street Journal reported news of the expected deal.

The fabled movie and TV studio had around \$2 billion of long-term debt at the end of March. It has long been considered in play, but hired investment banks LionTree LLC and Morgan Stanley late last

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◆ **TV networks stick to the** familiar with new shows... **B1**

INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Cold calling goes the way of the landfill for trainee brokers at BofA's Merrill. **B1**



SPORTS

Exuberant crowds of fans are back, and competitions begin to feel normal again. **A16**

The Wuhan Lab Leak Debate: Disused Mine at Center Stage

Not predominant hypothesis, yet scientists call for deeper probe

DANAOSHAN, China—On the outskirts of a village deep in the mountains of southwest China, a lone surveillance camera peers down toward a disused copper mine smothered in

By Jeremy Page,
Betsy McKay
and Drew Hinshaw

dense bamboo. As night approaches, bats swoop overhead.

This is the subterranean home of the closest known virus on Earth to the one that causes Covid-19. It is also now a touchpoint

for escalating calls for a more thorough probe into whether the pandemic could have stemmed from a Chinese laboratory.

In April 2012, six miners here fell sick with a mysterious illness after entering the mine to clear bat guano. Three of them died.

Chinese scientists from the Wuhan Institute of Virology were called in to investigate and, after taking samples from bats in the mine, identified several new coronaviruses.

Now, unanswered questions about the miners' illness, the viruses found at the site and the research done with them have elevated

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Ghosh Braces for Next Legal Battle

By Nick Kostov

BEIRUT—Fugitive ex-auto executive Carlos Ghosn said he is content with his life in Lebanon and ready for his next challenge—dealing with a team of French investigators who plan to question him next week about payments he made as the head of Renault SA.

Mr. Ghosn in late 2019 evaded trial in Japan over allegations of financial misdeeds as the head of Nissan Motor Co. by fleeing the country in a concert-gear box. In an interview, he said he has been preparing for the voluntary meeting with the French investigators through hours-long sessions with his lawyers.

"I've been looking forward to it," he said from an antique armchair in a boutique hotel here. "I would have liked them to come much earlier."

As the center of gravity of Mr. Ghosn's legal jeopardy moves from Japan to France, the 67-year-old denied wrongdoing in both venues. He also

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Nail Polish and Teeth Whitener Are All the Rage Now

'Everyone wants to look their best' as America starts to reopen

By Sarah Nasser
And Sharon Terlep

Americans are cleaning up nicely.

As vaccination rates climb and restrictions on human interaction ease, shopping carts are filling up with items designed to facilitate people's re-entry into civilization instead of toilet paper and baking flour.

Deodorant, teeth whitener

and condoms are in high demand. Sales of perfume, nail polish, swimsuits, sunscreen, tuxedos, luggage and alarm clocks are climbing fast, according to companies that make these products and large retailers.

When the mayor of Washington, D.C., announced that bars and clubs would fully reopen in June, Landen Lama, a

Don't sweat it

25-year-old political consultant thought, "I have a month to get ready." He ordered teeth-whitening gel online, has been using more facial treatment masks and tanning outside, he said. "It will be awkward meeting strangers again," he said. "Everyone wants to look their best."

The surge in grooming products and travel gear

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Buy now, pay later

Tech-savvy creditors need proper regulation — PATRICK JENKINS, PAGE 6

Arming Africa

Europe's risky move to insert its influence in conflict zones — PAGE 15



Divided America

Black workers still playing catch-up in jobs market — NOTEBOOK, PAGE 16

Belarus faces threat of western sanctions after 'aviation piracy'

● 'Outraged' US demands inquiry ● Russia warned of concerns ● Merkel calls for captive's release

MICHAEL PEEL
AND SAM FLEMING — BRUSSELS
JAMES SHOTTER — WARSAW
JAMIE CAMERON-CHILLESSE — LONDON

EU leaders were last night preparing to punish the Minsk regime for intercepting a Ryanair flight as the UK warned airlines to avoid Belarus airspace and banned the eastern European country's national carrier from its airports.

The White House joined condemnation of Sunday's interception of the Ryanair flight and detention of Roman Protasevich, a leading opposition activist. "We are outraged," said press secretary Jen Psaki, calling the flight diversion a brazen affront to international peace and security by the regime in Belarus.

"We demand an immediate, international, transparent and credible investigation of this incident," she said, adding that the US had directly conveyed its concerns to Russia as well as Belarus due to the two countries' close relationship.

Ryanair branded the rerouting of its flight from Athens to Vilnius an "act of aviation piracy" while several European airlines including Latvia's airBaltic and Scandinavian's SAS said that they would stop using Belarusian air space.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's president, also instructed his government to ban all direct flights from Ukraine to Belarus and to prohibit any flights from Ukraine over its neighbour's airspace.

The UK, EU and US are exploring a range of possible sanctions, officials said, as UK foreign secretary Dominic Raab described the forced landing and detention of Protasevich as "danger to civilian flights everywhere".

German chancellor Angela Merkel demanded the immediate release of Protasevich and his partner, Sofia Sapega. "We will demand this, and at the same time discuss what measures we can take against Belarus," she said before a European Council meeting.

One EU idea being explored is to target the business interests of oligarchs who are financiers of the Belarus regime, EU



Activist Jana Shostak protests outside the embassy of Belarus in Warsaw, Poland, yesterday — *Tomasz Gorka/PA-EFE/Reuters*

diplomats said. This would hurt Lukashenko and his allies while avoiding more sweeping economic sanctions that could harm ordinary Belarusians.

Other sanctions being considered by the EU's 27 leaders include banning Belarus, the national airline, from EU airports; declaring the country's airspace unsafe; and extending travel bans and asset freezes already imposed on dozens of officials in Minsk over rights abuses, according to EU diplomats.

Frank Vioricka, an aide to Belarus's exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, called for a no-fly zone over Belarus. He also urged more sanctions on its lucrative oil and potash sectors, crucial providers of revenue for Lukashenko's 27-year regime.

Relations between Brussels and

Minsk have deteriorated after last year's presidential polls and the crackdown that followed. In December, European leaders imposed sanctions on Lukashenko and other regime members.

Belarus is still part of the "Eastern Partnership" the EU has with six states close to Russia's border, enjoying privileges such as a visa-facilitation agreement launched last year. The EU had once hoped to draw Minsk from the Kremlin's orbit but that ambition

'We demand an immediate, international, transparent and credible investigation'

White House press secretary

appeared doomed after Sunday's events. Psaki said the US was co-ordinating with bilateral partners and multilateral groups including Nato. Belarus's foreign ministry branded the criticism of its action as "baseless", while Russia called the EU response "shocking".

Belarusian media said Lukashenko personally gave the order to divert the flight carrying 171 passengers from Greece to Lithuania on Sunday. Belarusian officials said a MiG-29 fighter jet had been scrambled to escort the airliner to Minsk following a bomb scare, which they later conceded was "false".

Merkel said that Belarus's explanations for the landing of the aircraft were "completely implausible".

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Gideon Rachman page 17

Briefing

► **Gupta aims to sell three UK steel plants**
Metals magnate Sanjeev Gupta has put three British steel sites up for sale as part of a wider restructuring and has held talks with Credit Suisse on a standstill deal over \$1.2bn in debt. — PAGE 4; BANK FAILS, PAGE 8

► **WHO wants first rights to jobs for Covax**
The World Health Organization has urged Covid-19 vaccine developers to give its international Covax scheme for distributing jobs globally the right of first refusal on any extra doses they manufacture. — PAGE 3

► **Cimarex and Cabot reveal \$17bn merger**
Shale oil producer Cimarex and Cabot have disclosed a "merger of equals" that will create a group with an enterprise value of \$17bn, the latest deal in a wave of US energy consolidation. — PAGE 8; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Price of iron ore dives on China warning**
The price of steelmaking ingredient iron ore fell after China signalled that it would focus on cooling prices, warning of "excessive speculation".
PAGE 10; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Riyadh plans \$55bn privatisation drive**
Saudi Arabia hopes to raise about \$55bn over the next four years in a privatisation plan involving 160 projects across 16 sectors, aimed at boosting revenue and narrow a yawning budget deficit. — PAGE 2

► **BBC reviews culture after Diana furore**
Britain's national broadcaster has launched a review into its editorial practices after a backlash sparked by a damning report into its landmark interview 25 years ago with Diana, Princess of Wales. — PAGE 4

► **US to impose sanctions over Tigray war**
Washington is to impose sanctions on Ethiopian and Eritrean officials who it says are "responsible for perpetrating" a brutal war in the Tigray region amid growing foreign pressure to end the conflict. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Racial awareness

% of respondents who say they have...

20 40 60

Learned history of racial inequality

Paid attention to issues of racial inequality

Tried to support minority owned business

White Asian Hispanic Black

Source: Pew Research Center (Sept 2020)

Black Americans have been more galvanised by George Floyd's murder than other groups have. Almost two-thirds say they have been paying a lot of attention to racial inequality issues, compared with four in 10 white adults.



Obstacles bar Biden's path to shake-up of US policing

Washington is likely to miss a deadline set by President Joe Biden to reach an agreement on federal police reform by today, the anniversary of George Floyd's murder. The impasse highlights the challenge that the White House faces: the Democrats' wafer-thin Senate majority means that the reform bill will need the support of at least 10 Republican lawmakers to become law.
Report ► PAGE 4
Has BLM changed the arts? ► PAGE 14
Notebook ► PAGE 16

G7 nears global tax deal that aims to curb profit shifting by multinationals

CHRIS GILES — LONDON
JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON

The Group of Seven advanced economies are close to agreeing a corporate tax deal for multinationals, paving the way for a new global levy for the largest companies this year.

A G7 pact, which could be sealed as early as this week, would be a big step towards reaching a formal deal between the wider G20, which is being negotiated by the OECD in Paris.

A new global deal would lead to the largest shake-up in international corporate taxation for a century, curtailing the ability of companies to shift profits to low-tax jurisdictions and ensuring that US digital goods pay more tax in the countries where they make sales.

The Biden administration has been pushing hard for the G7 to agree to a new

global tax regime, which will spur on the OECD to reach a final deal in the coming months. The US last week scaled back its plans for a global minimum corporate tax rate, lowering the level from 21 per cent to 15 per cent to increase its appeal internationally.

It also reassured other countries that it was serious in its offer to allow a slice of the global profits of the largest multinationals to be taxed based on the location of sales. The two "pillars" of the deal are inseparable.

In recent weeks, the US has grown confident that it has most of the G7 on board with its plans, which built on blueprints drawn up by the OECD last year. Germany and Italy, which is chairing the G20, have been vocal supporters of a global minimum tax.

Daniele Franco, Italy's finance minister, said the latest US proposal was

"another important step" and the prospects for a global deal on international tax reform were "now concrete".

France and the UK have put more weight on the location of tax payments. International officials described the UK as having been "difficult" in talks. But in London, ministers and officials insisted they wanted to make sure that both elements of the deal were prioritised.

UK officials said their position had not changed but those close to the talks said there had been some movement and an accord at the G7 level was likely.

The G7 does not have a formal role in the process but the US, Japan, Germany, the UK, France, Italy and Canada make a powerful bloc in other forums.

The group is holding a virtual meeting of ministers on Friday and an in-person London meeting on June 4 and 5 where the deal could be agreed, officials said.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	May 24	prev	%chg		May 24	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4198.95	4155.96	1.03	\$ per €	1.222	1.219	0.26	US Gov 10 yr	147.87	1.80	-0.02
Nasdaq Composite	13699.78	13470.99	1.48	£ per €	1.416	1.416	0.00	UK Gov 10 yr	0.81	-0.02	
Dow Jones Ind	34392.56	34207.84	0.54	¥ per €	0.083	0.081	2.47	Ger Gov 10 yr	-0.14	-0.01	
FTSEurofirst 300	1715.51	1713.00	0.10	₹ per €	108.745	108.985	-0.22	Japan Gov 10 yr	116.50	0.08	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4035.73	4025.78	0.25	₹ per \$	153.967	154.306	-2.17	US Gov 30 yr	106.25	2.30	-0.03
FTSE MIB	7051.59	7018.05	0.48	S\$ per €	1.095	1.095	0.00	Ger Gov 2 yr	106.03	-0.66	-0.01
FTSE All-Share	4021.24	4002.81	0.47	€ per \$	0.918	0.921	-0.33				
CAC 40	9408.49	9386.41	0.25								
Xetra Dax	15437.51	15370.26	0.44								
Nikkei	28364.81	28317.83	0.17								
Hang Seng	29412.26	29458.44	-0.16								
MSCI World	2943.13	2942.21	0.03	Oil WTI \$	65.57	63.58	3.13	Fed Funds Eff	0.07	0.07	-
MSCI EM	1330.04	1329.31	0.06	Oil Brent \$	66.23	66.44	-2.69	US 3m Bill	0.01	0.01	0.00
MSCI ACWI	701.57	701.33	0.03	Gold \$	1875.90	1878.30	-0.13	Euro Liber 3m	-0.55	-0.55	0.00
								UK 3m	0.08	0.08	0.00
								Prices are posted for editing			0.08 posted by Bloomberg

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NO: 40,716 *

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



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A Nikkei Company

E.U. Squeezes Belarus Leader For 'Hijacking'

**Putin Backs Regime —
West to Ban Flights**

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI

MOSCOW The tray tables were being raised and the seat backs returned to their upright positions as passengers on Ryanair Flight 4978 prepared for the scheduled landing in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius. Then the plane made an abrupt U-turn.

For many passengers, it initially seemed like one of those unexpected delays in airline travel. But after the pilot announced the plane had been diverted to Minsk, the capital of Belarus, one passenger — Roman Protasevich, a prominent Belarusian opposition journalist who had been living in exile since 2019 — grew terrified, certain that he faced arrest.

"He panicked because we were about to land in Minsk," Marius Rutkauskas, who was sitting one row ahead of Mr. Protasevich, told the Lithuanian broadcaster LRT upon arrival in Vilnius.

Sunday's ordeal — described by many European officials as an extraordinary, state-sponsored hijacking by Belarus to seize Mr. Protasevich — quickly led to one of the most severe East-West flare-ups in recent years.

Meeting Monday evening in Brussels, European Union leaders called on all airlines based in the bloc to stop flying over Belarus and began the process of banning Belarusian airlines from flying over the bloc's airspace or landing in its airports — effectively severing the country's direct air connections to Western Europe.

The measures represented a harsh Western broadside against Aleksandr G. Lukashenko, Belarus's authoritarian president, who is already under E.U. sanctions for rights violations over his brutal repression of protests last year. There was no indication, however, that the intensified squeeze would alter Mr. Lukashenko's resolve — especially with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia steadfast in

Continued on Page A11



OMAR MARQUES/GETTY IMAGES

Wielding paper airplanes in Warsaw in protest of Belarus.

FALLOUT The E.U. and Britain have moved to impede Belarus's access to air travel. PAGE B1

Poets Risk Their Lives to Save Myanmar's Soul Against Junta

By HANNAH BEECH

After the first and second poets were killed, the third poet wrote a poem.

They shoot at heads
But they do not know
That revolution lives in the heart.

After the third poet was killed, the fourth poet wrote a poem.

Don't let your blood run cold
Pool your blood for this fight.

After the fourth poet was killed, his body consumed by fire on May 14, there was no verse. At least for a moment.

Poetry remains alive in Myanmar, where unconventional weap-

ons are being used to fight a military that has killed more than 800 people since it staged a coup on Feb. 1 and ousted an elected government. For some democracy activists, their politics cannot be separated from their poetry.

Sensing the power of carefully chosen words, the generals have imprisoned more than 30 poets since the putsch, according to the National Poets' Union. At least four have been killed, all from the township of Monywa, which is nestled in the hot plains of central Myanmar and has emerged as a center of fierce resistance to the coup.

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NATIONAL A12-18

Calls to End Border Expulsions

President Biden is under pressure to end Title 42, a rule justified as a public health measure during the pandemic, which turns migrants away. PAGE A16

Hands Off the Press

The White House appeared to affirm that the Justice Department would not seize data from reporters. PAGE A17

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A-7

Vaccine Shortage in Delhi
Officials in the Indian capital region have pledged to avert another wave, but drug supplies are tight. PAGE A4

New Worry Over State Revenues: They're Soaring

By JIM TANKERSLEY
AND ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — From California to Virginia, many states that faced devastating shortfalls in the depths of the pandemic recession now find themselves flush with tax revenues because of a rebounding economy and a soaring stock market. Lawmakers who worried about budget cuts are now proposing lucrative increases in school spending, tax cuts and direct payments to their residents.

That turnaround is partly the product of strong income tax receipts, particularly in states that heavily tax high earners and the wealthy, whose finances have fared well in the crisis. The unexpectedly rosy picture is raising pressure on President Biden to renege hundreds of billions of

G.O.P. Presses Biden to Redirect Aid Toward Infrastructure

dollars of federal aid approved this year, in order to help fund a potential bipartisan infrastructure deal.

Last week, Senator Mitt Romney, Republican of Utah, suggested that Mr. Biden and Republican negotiators look to "some of the funding that's been sent to states already under the last few bills" to help pay for that agreement. "They don't know how to use it," Mr. Romney said. "They could use that money to finance part of the infrastructure relating to roads and bridges and transit."

Some economists and budget experts support that push, arguing that the money could be better spent elsewhere and that states' spending plans could add to a risk of rapid inflation breaking out across the country. Other researchers and local budget officials say that the federal aid is rescuing harder-hit cities and states, like New York City and Hawaii, from a cascade of layoffs and spending cuts.

Biden administration officials say they continue to support distributing the full \$350 billion in state, local and tribal aid that was contained in the \$1.9 trillion economic assistance package that Mr. Biden signed in March. They say the aid will help ensure that the economic rebound does not repeat the years of state and local budget cutting that followed the

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DUSTIN CHAMBERS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

An Immovable Monument

A Georgia park's plan to put the Civil War into fuller context frustrates critics on all sides. PAGE A12.

A Texas Retreat's Tranquillity Is Rattled by a SpaceX 'Ball of Fire'

By EDGAR SANDOVAL
AND RICHARD WEBNER

BOCA CHICA, Texas — The text arrived late at night: For your own safety, leave home by morning, it read. Nancy and James Crawford, no longer surprised but still unsettled, raced away in their

S.U.V. after sunrise, occasionally twisting their necks to catch a glimpse of the space rocket towering behind them.

Moments later, the Crawfords, who are in their 70s, watched from a 12th-floor balcony on South Padre Island, a few miles up the coast, as the rocket shattered on impact during an attempted land-

ing, spreading fiery debris along the sand dunes and tidal flats. The building shook, Mr. Crawford recalled, and in the distance, there was "a ball of fire."

"It was exciting," echoed his wife, "but too dangerous if we had stayed home."

Home for the Crawfords is a remote coastal community a stone's

throw from Mexico, a village so small that water has to be trucked in. With a single road in that ends at the shoreline, it has long attracted people eager to escape congested cities, and retirees eager to escape the harsh winters of the North and Midwest.

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INTERNATIONAL A8-11

New Zealand's Returnees

The allure of safety and splendor in a pandemic has given New Zealand a rare chance to regain its talent. PAGE A8

Locked Out of Power in Samoa

The country's incumbent prime minister has rejected his successor, despite her party's election win. PAGE A11



SPORTSTUESDAY B7-9

Time to Pack Up the Fans

The Blue Jays, who can't play in Canada, are taking their cutouts with them as the team moves to Buffalo. PAGE B7

High Risk, Not Much Reward

Simone Biles pulled off a gymnastics move that no one else dares to use. It gained no extra points. PAGE B8

BUSINESS B1-6

Tech Trial Wraps Up

A federal judge will decide the antitrust suit filed by Epic — and perhaps the future of the \$100 billion market for iPhone apps. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

A 'Hamilton' Star's Comic Shot

At 50, Renée Elise Goldsberry follows up her stage success by playing a delusional diva reuniting a girl group in the streaming series "GirlsSeva." PAGE C1

OPINION A20-21

Paul Krugman

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SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

Global Traffickers' Thorny Prey

The popularity of rare Chilean cactuses among collectors is fueling a lucrative black market that further imperils species facing extinction. PAGE D1



Pressure on UC to let in locals

Lawmakers push plan to cut nonresident enrollment in half. The university resists.

BY TERESA WATANABE

As the University of California faces huge demand for seats — and public outcry over massive rejections by top campuses in a record application year — state lawmakers are considering a plan to slash the share of out-of-state and international students to make room for more local residents.

The state Senate has unveiled a proposal to reduce the proportion of nonresident incoming freshmen to 10% from the current systemwide average of 19% over the next decade beginning in 2022 and compensate UC for the lost income from higher out-of-state tuition.

This would ultimately allow nearly 4,600 more California students to secure freshmen seats each year, with the biggest gains expected at UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego. The share of nonresidents at those campuses surpasses the systemwide average, amounting to a quarter of incoming freshmen. UC, however, is pushing back, saying the plan would limit its financial flexibility to raise needed revenue and weaken the benefits of a geographically broad student body.

"It's not about ending out-of-state students — they really add to the mix and the educational experience," said Sen. John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), whose Senate budget subcommittee on education discussed the plan this month. "We just have to make sure there's enough spaces for in-state students."

The question of who should get a coveted seat in the nation's premier public research university system has raged for years, as legislators are perennially pummeled by constituent complaints about UC access. The issue has ignited political fireworks, a scathing state audit, UC admission reforms and extensive policy work into how to accommodate the growing number of qualified California applicants amid limited funding and space.

Although the UC system is constitutionally autonomous and controls its own enrollment decisions, state lawmakers have used their power over purse strings to compel UC to adopt their direction. [See Admissions, A6]

New charges for ex-UCLA doctor

James Heaps, a former gynecologist, now faces 21 counts of sexual abuse after grand jury indictment is unsealed. CALIFORNIA, B1

Belarus faces EU sanctions

European Union pans in nation for "hijacking" passenger jet in order to arrest opposition journalist. WORLD, A3

U.K. Black Lives activist is shot

Sasha Johnson is in critical condition after drive-by. Police say she may not have been the target. WORLD, A3

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 84/63. B6



A SCULPTURE of a raised fist marks what is now known as George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. Many in the city say they have seen their lives change profoundly since Floyd's murder by police on May 25, 2020. Photographs by KENT NISHIMURA, Los Angeles Times

The year that changed a city

On the anniversary of George Floyd's death, residents of Minneapolis reflect on policing, protests and community



TOMME BEEVAS, shown at his restaurant, Pimento Jamaican Kitchen & Rum Bar, distributed about \$1 million in donations in the days after Floyd's death.

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

MINNEAPOLIS — George Floyd's death transformed lives around the world, but nowhere as profoundly as in this city.

Relatives of Black men who died at the hands of Twin Cities police took to the streets, confronting officers in riot gear and demanding accountability. Businesses struggled to stay afloat as others were boarded up or burned. More than a dozen police officers resigned almost immediately, hundreds more suffered post-traumatic stress.

A year later, Minneapolis has rebounded. Tensions eased after a jury last month convicted former Officer Derek Chauvin of murder. [See Minneapolis, A6]

POLICE REFORM: Agreement on how to change qualified immunity is elusive in Congress. PERSPECTIVES, A2

After ridership bust, Metro work is booming

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND LILA SEIDMAN

It was a moment some longtime Angelenos never thought they'd see.

A group of politicians stood at a site on Wilshire Boulevard just west of the 405 Freeway to break ground on the final leg of a subway that will eventually take riders from downtown L.A. into the Westside.

The idea of mass transit under what is perhaps Los Angeles' most iconic boulevard has been a dream for decades, but faced obstacles including neighborhood opposition over crime and worries about explosive methane gas pockets.

But the slow march of the Purple Line west also underscores a larger mass transit boom that accelerated during the pandemic, even as ridership on buses and

trains plummeted. Metro used the 70% ridership drop and reduced traffic caused by COVID-19 closures to push forward several projects, including the Wilshire subway.

"We took advantage of the opportunity," L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said Monday, noting that the quiet streets also enabled the city to install bus lanes, address airport construction and close streets for up to 24

hours when needed. "We were able to do things that would have taken six, seven months longer in a shorter period of time."

The big question now is whether riders will return as the economy reopens — and how fast that would happen.

Transit officials are working on several mass transit projects at once — the Purple Line as well as the Crenshaw Line to LAX, the Crenshaw Line to LAX, the Crenshaw Line to LAX. [See Metro, A7]

Broad coalition with a singular message

Activists say the U.S. discourse on Israel is changing as more rally behind Palestinians.

BY SARAH PARVINI

The activists spoke from behind their computer screens, converging from multiple corners of the world to convey a singular message on the need for continued solidarity among Black organizers and their Palestinian counterparts.

"I know that Palestinian people have felt alone for so long, and I know that because Black people have felt alone for so long," said Janaya "Future" Khan, a prominent Black Lives Matter activist. "We have to be together in this."

The Zoom panel, co-hosted by the Dream De-



RAMI SALHIEH, 35, joins a rally outside the Federal Building in Westwood in support of Palestinian families facing forced displacement in East Jerusalem. [See Message, A7]

Tumult as PPP loans are set to end

Paycheck Protection Program is beset by confusion and delays. Time and money are running out.

BY DON LEE

WASHINGTON — The federal government's massive Paycheck Protection Program, which has been a lifeline for small businesses hit by the pandemic, has become so mired in confusion and delays as money runs out that hundreds of thousands of applicants may get no help, especially in underserved minority communities.

During the first months after President Biden took office, his administration far exceeded its predecessor in channelling funds to vulnerable companies. But in recent weeks, as the program's May 31 expiration date draws near, the agency responsible for it has been overwhelmed, and lenders can't even be sure how much money is still available for loans.

As of Friday, only about \$3 billion was left of the \$800 billion provided for the program, according to congressional staff. And if conservatives in Congress continue to balk at more spending, companies that have struggled through the worst of the pandemic may hit the wall just as the health crisis is seen to ebb.

Under the program, the Small Business Administration oversees lending by private banks, to firms that meet the program's criteria, with government guarantees for forgivable loans.

The relief has been especially valuable for minority-owned businesses because they typically have fewer financial resources and operate closer to the margins than firms that are larger and better capitalized.

The current crisis arose when many banks were caught off guard by what was seen as the administration's poorly communicated change in the rules on who could make loans. Hundreds of lenders found themselves [See PPP, A9]

L.A. County hits a new milestone

Over half of residents 16 and older are fully vaccinated. CALIFORNIA, B1

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Partly sunny 79/71 • Tomorrow: Thunderstorm 90/71 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 • \$2

E.U. moves to punish Belarus in jet incident

Bloc stiffens sanctions, bars its airlines from flying over country

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AND ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN

RIGA, LATVIA — European leaders on Monday agreed to significantly toughen sanctions on Belarus and bar European Union airlines from flying through the country's airspace, dealing a potentially crushing blow to the economy, a day after Belarusian authorities forced down a civilian jet and pulled off a dissident journalist.

The measures, backed by all 27 E.U. leaders, were an unusually fast and powerful response to the brazen move by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who on Sunday sent a MiG-29 fighter jet to snatch a Ryanair plane out of the sky as it was flying from Athens to Vilnius, Lithuania, and arrest one of its passengers, Roman Protasevich, who had run an opposition media outlet. Protasevich could face 12 years or more in prison.

E.U. leaders meeting for a pre-scheduled summit in Brussels asked the bloc's foreign policy team to draw up a list of targeted economic sanctions to impose "without delay" and said the country's national airline would be barred from flying over or landing in E.U. territory. Officials involved in forcing down the plane will also face personal sanctions.

The Belarusian power play set a fearsome precedent for journalists and political dissidents, who

SEE BELARUS ON A15

Dissident journalist: Protasevich has a history of opposition. A14

Lukashenko: How the strongman has kept power in Belarus. A15



BRIDGET BENNETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In Las Vegas, the biggest of bets

A city that depends on convention business doubles down on vaccinations to get it back

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY

LAS VEGAS — Fred Campbell plans to head here early next month with an ambitious goal: to build a flawless 26-foot wall, with 800 bricks, in an hour. That will be enough, he figures, to make him the world champion of bricklaying for a record fourth time and secure his reputation as a masonry superstar.

"It's going to happen," said Campbell, a mason from Greenville, Tenn. "It's set in stone."

But a more critical test looms. World of

Concrete — the convention that is staging the bricklaying competition — is the first large, in-person trade show scheduled in the United States since the coronavirus pandemic began. The stakes are high, even for a city accustomed to high stakes.

"Everyone has their eyes on this," said Tommy Blitsch, director of trade shows and conventions for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and principal officer of Local 631 in Las Vegas.

If the show hosts tens of thousands of attendees without a major problem, such as a virus outbreak, it will be a milestone,

signaling the revival of the convention business across the country, Blitsch said. But if there is a big snag or people stay away, it could be a setback for cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami, and especially Las Vegas, where tourism is rebounding but big-spending business travelers are scarce.

"Las Vegas is like a Ferrari, and the trade shows and conventions are the engine," Blitsch said. "You can have a really nice shiny Ferrari, but it won't go very far with a four-cylinder engine."

SEE LAS VEGAS ON A6

Bicyclists pass Fremont Street in Las Vegas. Tourists are back, but business travelers are scarce. Casinos trying to lure them back say 80 to 90 percent of their employees have received at least one vaccine shot.

Commerce Dept. unit secretly collected data

Ex-official says search of emails, online posts overstepped legal limits

BY SHAWN BOBURG

An obscure security unit tasked with protecting the Commerce Department's officials and facilities has evolved into something more akin to a counterintelligence operation that collected information on hundreds of people inside and outside the department, a Washington Post examination found.

The Investigations and Threat Management Service (ITMS) covertly searched employees' offices at night, ran broad keyword searches of their emails trying to surface signs of foreign influence and scoured Americans' social

media for critical comments about the census, according to documents and interviews with five former investigators.

In one instance, the unit opened a case on a 68-year-old retiree in Florida who tweeted that the census, which is run by the Commerce Department, would be manipulated "to benefit the Trump Party!" records show.

In another example, the unit searched Commerce servers for particular Chinese words, documents show. The search resulted in the monitoring of many Asian American employees over benign correspondence, according to two former investigators.

The office "has been allowed to operate far outside the bounds of federal law enforcement norms and has created an environment of paranoia and retaliation at the Department," John Costello, a former deputy assistant secretary of

SEE COMMERCE ON A10



JABIN BOTSFOLEY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Appreciation for National Guard members

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) thanks National Guard members on the Speaker's Balcony at the Capitol. The last of the Guard troops who provided security after the Jan. 6 insurrection finished their mission Sunday as lawmakers feuded over security costs and needs. Story, A2

Federal telework expected to last

BIDEN SET TO MAKE POLICY PERMANENT

Move marks vast cultural shift across government

BY LISA REIN

As the Biden administration contemplates how to return the massive federal workforce to the office, government officials are moving to make a pandemic experiment permanent by allowing more employees than ever to work from home — a sweeping cultural change that would have been unthinkable a year ago.

The shift across the government, whose details are still being finalized, comes after the risk-averse federal bureaucracy had fallen behind private companies when it came to embracing telework — a posture driven by a perception that employees would slack off unless they were tethered to their office cubicles. That position hardened during the Trump administration, which dialed back work-from-home programs that had slowly expanded during the Obama era.

But the coronavirus crisis — and a new president eager to rebuild the trust of federal workers who left behind private companies when it came to embracing telework as "the swamp" — has convinced

SEE TELEWORK ON A9

Funding for storm readiness is doubled

BY JULIET EILPERIN, BRADY DENNIS AND MATT VISER

President Biden announced Monday that he was doubling the amount of money the U.S. government will spend helping communities get set for extreme weather events, proclaiming the need for full readiness as he visited government workers and told them to prepare for another season of natural disasters.

In announcing \$1 billion in spending, Biden also emphasized his administration's attempts to steer the country toward confronting the looming effects of climate change, which scientists say will make severe weather events more frequent and less predictable. He announced a new NASA-led effort to collect more sophisticated climate data.

"We can never be too prepared," Biden said during an afternoon visit to Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters. "We're going to spare no

SEE FEMA ON A5

IN THE NEWS



AHMAD GHARIB/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Jerusalem tensions Violent confrontations persist at al-Aqsa Mosque and in the Sheikh Jarrah area despite last week's cease-fire. A13

'The final straw' As a shortage of restaurant workers slows the industry's recovery, many who left say they won't return. A17

THE NATION

The pandemic accelerated college enrollment declines, and schools are making changes to attract more students. A3

Gordon Sondland, ambassador to the E.U. in the Trump administration, is suing former secretary of state Mike Pompeo and the government for legal fees during the 2019 House impeachment probe. A4

The GOP is objecting to the Democratic nominee for the nation's top civil rights post, following a playbook that has existed since the Clinton presidency. A8

THE WORLD

The first woman elected as Samoa's prime minister was locked out of her swearing-in ceremony in what she called a "bloodless coup." A12

Patients with urgent medical needs were still waiting for Israel's permission to leave Gaza for surgeries, transplants or cancer treatments interrupted by the recent fighting. A14

Malian military members arrested the acting president and prime minister, raising the specter of a second coup in nine months. A24

THE ECONOMY

A group of insurgent investors backed by the three largest U.S. pension funds is trying to force ExxonMobil to take climate change more seriously. A18

The Postal Service's delivery vans are headed for a much-needed retirement, but when they first hit the streets, they were revolutionary. A19

The viral video "Charlie Bit My Finger" will leave YouTube after fetching over \$760,000 in a non-fungible token auction. A20

THE REGION

D.C.'s mayor plans to invest \$400 million in affordable-housing production, a record amount amid renewed pleas from advocates. B1

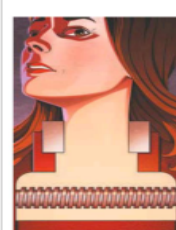
Some Virginia Democrats will be on the same ballot twice for separate seats because of a census data delay. B1

Douglas F. Gansler, a Democratic former Maryland attorney general, is set to make another run for governor. B1

When high-schoolers in a Virginia town struggled to find a venue for prom, a car dealership opened its doors. B4

A former Fairfax County teacher accused of taking lewd photos of students and possessing child pornography pleaded guilty. B4

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE

Doctors dismissed her viselike pain A dentist's anxiety after her ex-husband's suicide left some physicians skeptical of a physical problem. E1

STYLE

Tarnished awards The Golden Globes' facade is crumbling now, but their legitimacy has long been in question. C1

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OBITUARIES	B6
TELEVISION	C4
WORLD NEWS	A12

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Exército decide abrir processo disciplinar contra Pazuello

No primeiro dia útil após a ida do ex-ministro da Saúde e general da ativa Eduardo Pazuello a um palácio político ao lado de Jair Bolsonaro, o Exército abriu procedimento disciplinar contra ele. O vice Hamilton Mourão falou em desconforto com a atitude de Pazuello. **Poder A4**

Ato com Bolsonaro no Rio teve ao menos três potenciais infrações AS

Saúde distribuiu 'kit Covid' para tratar índios

O Ministério da Saúde distribuiu a indígenas ao menos 265 mil comprimidos de cloroquina, azitromicina e ivermectina, todos sem eficácia comprovada contra Covid. A pasta diz que os medicamentos se destinaram a tratamentos previstos na bula. **Saúde B1**

Presidente prepara visita a comunidade indígena, que declara repúdio AS

Garimpo ilegal se expande por terra yanomami

O garimpo ilegal na Terra Indígena (TI) Yanomami, em Roraima e no Amazonas, cresce a um ritmo inédito neste ano, revela levantamento de imagens de satélite e fotografias aéreas. A atividade já ocupa área similar a 2.400 campos de futebol. **Ambiente B7**

Saul Klein equipou sítio para satisfazer fetiches

Chácarra em Boituva (SP) tinha ginecologista para jovens que acusam empresário de estupro. **Cotidiano B4**

Um ano pós-Floyd, EUA registram alta de crimes

Passado um ano da morte de George Floyd, cidadão negro sufocado por um policial branco, os EUA veem um agravamento da crise na segurança. Os assassinatos cresceram pelo menos 25%, de acordo com estimativas do FBI. **Mundo A13**

EDITORIAIS A2

General no palanque

Sobre necessidade de punição a Eduardo Pazuello.

Tem jeito

Acerca de confiança no país segundo o Datafolha.

ATMOSFERA
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9 771414 372032



Grãos de soja espalhados na colheita em lavoura no PR

semináriosfolha

Desperdício de comida

Perdas que ocorrem no percurso do campo até o consumidor equivalem a R\$ 4,5 bilhões e são um desafio para o avanço da sustentabilidade e do uso eficiente de recursos. **p.1**

Ciência B5

Esqueleto de baleia é desenterrado e some em praia do litoral paulista

Esporte B8

A dois meses da Olimpíada, seleções de vôlei do Brasil voltam às quadras

Ilustrada B9

Mostra sobre Banksy em Londres vira sucesso comercial, a contragosto do artista

Comida B13

SP se rende à dupla caipira de bolinho e pastel à base de farinha de milho

Sem sinal de trégua no país, Covid mata mais de 450 mil

Diante de perspectiva de piora, prefeitos e governadores reveem medidas

O Brasil ultrapassou nesta segunda (24) a marca dos 450 mil mortos na pandemia de Covid, menos de um mês depois de superar 400 mil óbitos e em um momento em que especialistas alertam para o recrudescimento da doença sem que o país tenha atingido um patamar menor de mortalidade.

Segundo o consórcio de veículos de imprensa, que a Folha integra, desde março de 2020 foram registradas 450.026 mortes pelo coronavírus em território nacional, o segundo saldo no mundo em termos absolutos, atrás dos EUA. Em relação ao tamanho da população, o Brasil é o 11.º do ranking mortal.

Embora o ritmo seja menor do que o de março e abril, intervalo em que morreram quase 150 mil, a perspectiva de piora e os gargalos na campanha de vacinação, que só nesta terça (25) deve completar a cobertura de 10% da população com duas doses, impõem a prefeitos e governadores um dilema.

Alguns já reveem o afrouxamento do distanciamento social. Na Bahia, Rui Costa (PT) prometeu novas medidas restritivas, e o mesmo ocorreu em duas cidades grandes no interior de São Paulo, Araraquara e Ribeirão Preto. A média móvel diária de mortes em sete dias está em 1.881. **Saúde B3**



Zé Guimarães/Folhapress

GORDOFOBIA SE TORNA BARREIRA PARA IMUNIZAÇÃO

A instrumentadora cirúrgica Mariana Costa, 26, relata ter tido dificuldade para conseguir atestado médico, mesmo com o IMC acima de 40, única exigência para se vacinar **Saúde B2**

Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*

Dados das 20h de 24.mai

*Acima de 18 anos

**Média móvel de 7 dias

***Em relação a 34 dias

2ª dose

Brasil 13,0

MS 16,2

RS 15,0

ES 12,6

1ª dose

Brasil 26,4

MS 34,5

RS 32,7

ES 29,8

Cobertura da primeira dose*

100%

50%

25%

0%

Números da pandemia

Casos 16,1 mi

Óbitos 450,0 mil

24.mai** 65,7 mil

Variação*** 8,9%

Em 24 h 37,6 mil

841

Governo só fez proposta à Pfizer em dezembro

Emails enviados pela Pfizer à CPI da Covid mostram que o governo só fez contraproposta ao laboratório em dezembro de 2020, após três ofertas de vacina. A comissão do ex-ministro Eduardo Pazuello afirmou que tentou o "tempo todo" alterar cláusulas do acordo. **Poder A6**

Renan Calheiros

Na CPI, negar o negacionismo é como confessar

Opinião A3

Equipe econômica pressiona por novo programa social

Na tentativa de afastar movimentos pela prorrogação do auxílio emergencial neste ano, a equipe econômica tem feito pressões internas no governo para acelerar a reformulação do Bolsa Família. A ideia é enviar proposta ao Congresso até junho. **Mercado A17**

Incertezas reduzem

otimismo empresarial
Percentual de empresários com perspectivas positivas para os próximos seis meses recua de 70% para 57%, aponta FGV Ibre. **A18**



Beto Rodrigues

VENTO DERRUBA ESTÁTUA DA LIBERDADE DE LOJA DA HAVAN NO RS

Uma réplica da Estátua da Liberdade, símbolo da rede varejista Havan, caiu na loja de Capão da Canoa, no litoral gaúcho; segundo a empresa, uma forte ventania derrubou a peça de R\$ 1,2 milhão, que foi atravessada por um poste **Mercado A22**

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