

Spreading it around
Time for big business to share the wealth — RANA FOROOGHAR, PAGE 17

Destination UK
Hong Kongers flee amid crackdown on dissent — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Burnout alert
How to heal organisational rifts created by Covid — EMMA JACOBS, PAGE 12

Taking a stand Colombia reels from protests

Soldiers stand guard in the Plaza de la Gobernación in the eastern Colombian city of Cali.

Iván Duque, the country's conservative president, ordered the "maximum deployment" of military personnel to the city and the surrounding province on Friday after anti-government protests left four people dead.

Tens of thousands of Colombians have taken to the streets recently, initially to oppose tax reforms. But the demonstrations have evolved into a mass movement demanding a radical reform of the economy. Once home to one of the country's most powerful drugs cartels, Cali has emerged as the epicentre of the protests.

Capital of resistance page 4



Capital of resistance page 4

Cryptocurrency concerns push US watchdogs to take more active role

◆ Fears mount for investors ◆ Bid to set 'regulatory perimeter' ◆ Break with Trump era

GARY SILVERMAN — NEW YORK

US financial authorities are preparing to take a more active role in regulating the \$1.5tn cryptocurrency market, amid growing concern that a lack of proper oversight risks harming investors.

The new efforts reflect a break with the Trump administration, which at times encouraged the use of cryptocurrencies in the financial system, and come as China looks to rein in the booming sector. But they could take time to bear fruit as US regulators struggle to figure out who has the authority to oversee the volatile market.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Michael Hsu, who was installed this month as acting comptroller of the currency, said he hoped US officials

would work together to set a "regulatory perimeter" for cryptocurrencies.

"It really comes down to co-ordinating across the agencies," said Hsu, who heads the Treasury department bureau that oversees national banks. "Just in talking to some of my peers, there is interest in co-ordinating a lot more of these things."

Cryptocurrencies have been on a rollercoaster ride this year. In February, the price of bitcoin soared after Tesla founder Elon Musk said the company had ploughed \$1.5bn into the digital currency. It went on to reach a record high of over \$60,000 in April.

But the price plunged after Chinese regulators signalled a crackdown on the use of digital coins, while Musk reversed a move to allow bitcoin payments for

Tesla cars, citing environmental concerns. Other cryptocurrencies have experienced similar volatility. One sign of the new US approach came this month with the first meeting of an inter-agency crypto "sprint" team. It involves officials of the three leading federal bank regulators — Hsu's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Hsu said the team's goal was not to make policy but to "put some ideas in front of the agencies to consider" as they try to catch up with the growth in cryptocurrencies.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission have also discussed how to protect investors in the crypto market.



Digital currencies have been subject to market volatility this year, with prices plunging after China signalled a crackdown

Gary Gensler, the SEC chair, told a congressional committee last week that there are "gaps in our current system", pointing to a potential need for legislation to specify which regulator should oversee crypto exchanges. Gensler said his aim was to bring "similar protections" to crypto exchanges "as you might expect at the New York Stock Exchange".

By installing Hsu at the OCC, the Treasury has signalled a change in approach to crypto. Hsu previously worked at the Federal Reserve, the SEC and the IMF. His OCC predecessors under Donald Trump included Brian Brooks, a former chief legal officer of Coinbase, a crypto exchange, who is now chief executive of Binance.US, a rival crypto exchange.

Briefing

► **European investors shun Deliveroo**
Data show that just four out of the continent's 18,000 mutual funds have invested in the take-away delivery group since its disastrous listing. Almost all funds that backed it are North American. — PAGE 6

► **Texas set to pass voting restrictions**
Republicans were yesterday poised to approve a new law cracking down on mail-in, drive-through and Sunday voting. In the party's latest aggressive move to limit ballot access across the US. — PAGE 4

► **Lithuania plays down regional tensions**
Prime minister Ingrida Simonyte has told the FT that her country has never been safer despite sharply rising tensions with neighbouring Belarus and Russia. — PAGE 2



► **Carbon cost threatens airlines' recovery**
The doubling of prices for allowances in the EU's emissions trading system has presented a problem for the region's hard-pressed airlines, which must buy credits to cover their pollution. — PAGE 6

► **Vietnam finds new coronavirus variant**
Health minister Nguyen Thanh Long said a new variant had been detected that combines features of those identified in India and the UK and is easily transmissible. — PAGE 4; PATRICK VALLANCE, PAGE 17

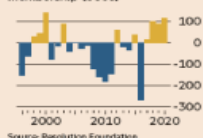
► **Draghi sets up reform cash watchdog**
The prime minister has established a "technical secretariat" to oversee how billions of euros in EU pandemic relief are spent in Italy's €248bn reform drive. He also unveiled a bid to cut red tape. — PAGE 2

► **Repeat complaints fuel US policing fears**
FT analysis has shown that 10 per cent of officers named most often generated about a third of all the complaints in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, in findings that echo those of 50 years ago. — PAGE 2

Datawatch

Collective bargain

Annual change in UK trade union membership (000s)



Source: Resolution Foundation

Trade union membership in the UK has risen for four years in a row. Since 2016, 328,000 workers have joined a union, with 118,000 signing up in the past year. The last time the data showed four years of growth was in the 1970s



Rich soothe Covid anxiety by buying a superyacht

A record 208 superyachts have been bought for £1bn this year, as pandemic fears spur the rich to buy their first boat or upsize as soaring asset prices boost their wealth. The sector has even experienced an online shopping boom, riding out a wave of boat-show cancellations. The surge follows a difficult decade as boatyards failed or consolidated. In the uncertain world after the pandemic, manufacturers are keen to retain customers.

Analysis — PAGE 6

Israeli opposition parties forge deal to squeeze out long-serving Netanyahu

MEHUL SRIVASTAVA — TEL AVIV

Israel's opposition parties have joined forces in an attempt to form a minority government that could unseat prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and head off the country's fifth election in two years.

The self-styled "change government" must now present its plans to president Reuven Rivlin. If he approves the proposal, the 120-seat Knesset must then vote on it — a process that will take at least a week to arrange. With 57 seats, the minority government will need the support of Islamist party Ra'am, which has four seats, to cross the 61-seat threshold and install a government.

At least one Netanyahu can convince at least one member of the rightwing parties in the planned coalition to defect, he could still scuttle the slim

majority his opponents are aiming for.

Should the opposition succeed, the government will initially be headed by one-time Netanyahu ally Naftali Bennett, who leads Yamina, the rightwing, pro-settlements party. It has just six seats in the Knesset.

He would share a rotating premiership with Yair Lapid, a former television presenter and leader of the centrist Yesh Atid, which has 17 seats. The rest of the coalition is made up of a constellation of parties stretching from the far-left Meretz to the rightwing New Hope.

"Four elections have already damaged the state — the political crisis in Israel is unprecedented in the world," Bennett said last night.

In the past 25 months Israel has held four elections that ended in stalemate. Netanyahu himself brought an end to a short-lived coalition in December 2020

as he launched the country's vaccination programme in the expectation it would help him secure victory in the subsequent election. But the March polls were still inconclusive.

If successful in forming a government, the new coalition will end the reign of Israel's longest serving prime minister, who has been at the helm of the Jewish state since 2009, following a three-year term in the 1990s.

Netanyahu would find himself uneaten just as his trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust picks up steam in Jerusalem's district court. He has dismissed the charges as a politically motivated witch-hunt, aimed at toppling his premiership.

"Bennett has committed the fraud of the century," Netanyahu said last night. "The only thing he cares about is being prime minister."

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				
	May 29	May 21	%Week	
S&P 500	4204.11	4155.96	1.16	
Nasdaq Composite	12340.74	12470.99	2.06	
Dow Jones Ind.	34529.45	34207.84	0.94	
FTSE100	7128.23	7173.80	0.64	
Euro Stoxx 50	4070.56	4025.79	1.11	
FTSE 100	7022.61	7018.05	0.06	
FTSE All-Share	4016.13	4002.91	0.34	
CAC 40	6484.11	6398.41	1.33	
Nikkei	15610.98	15427.51	0.52	
Hang Seng	29140.41	28992.25	3.74	
MSCI World	29124.41	28490.29	2.37	
MSCI EM	1264.31	-	-	
MSCI ACWI	208.92	-	-	

CURRENCIES				
	May 29	May 21	%Week	
\$ per £	1.218	1.219	-0.08	
€ per \$	0.795	0.796	-0.02	
¥ per \$	1.418	1.416	0.14	
¥ per €	0.859	0.861	-0.23	
¥ per \$	109.976	109.985	-0.01	
¥ per €	155.929	154.306	1.05	
£ per \$	1.096	1.095	0.09	
£ per €	0.821	0.821	0.00	

COMMODITIES				
	May 29	May 21	%Week	
Oil WTI \$	68.91	63.84	4.34	
Oil Brent \$	68.97	66.68	3.43	
Gold \$	1891.45	1879.30	0.70	

INTEREST RATES				
	price	yield	chg	
US Gov 10 yr	147.88	1.59	-0.02	
UK Gov 10 yr	-	0.80	-0.01	
Ger Gov 10 yr	-	-0.19	-0.01	
Japan Gov 10 yr	116.59	0.08	0.01	
US Gov 30 yr	108.11	2.27	-0.03	
Ger Gov 30 yr	106.01	-0.67	0.00	

FUTURES				
	price	prev	chg	
Fed Funds Eff	0.07	0.07	-	
US 3m Bill	0.02	0.02	0.00	
Euro Libor 3m	-0.54	-0.54	0.00	
UK 3m	0.09	0.09	0.00	

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Lisa Craig, who struggles with sickle cell disease, received an echocardiogram at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Caught Between Sickle Cell Agony and a Wary Medical System

By JOHN ELIGON

NASHVILLE — She struggled through the night as she had so many times before, restless from sickle cell pain that felt like knives stabbing her bones. When morning broke, she wept at the edge of her hotel-room bed, her stomach wrenched in a complicated knot of anger, trepidation and hope.

It was a gray January morning, and Lisa Craig was in Nashville, three hours from her home in Knoxville, Tenn., preparing to see a sickle cell specialist she hoped

could do something so many physicians had been unable to do: bring her painful disease under control.

Ms. Craig, 48, had clashed with doctors over her treatment for years. Those tensions had only increased as the medical consensus around pain treatment shifted and regulations for opioid use became more stringent. Her anguish had grown so persistent and draining that she sometimes thought she'd be better off dead.

She was willing to try just about anything to stop the deterioration of her body and mind — and her

THE ERRANT GENE
A Woman's Invisible Pain

hope on this day in January 2019 rested in a Nigerian-born physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center who had long treated the disease, which mostly afflicts people of African descent.

That morning, she slipped on a cream-colored cardigan and a necklace with a heart-shaped pendant. She played some Whitney Houston before sliding behind the wheel of her black S.U.V. Her husband, in the passenger's seat,

punched their destination into his phone's navigation system.

"Live as if everything is a miracle," reads a framed quote on Ms. Craig's beige living room wall, and that's exactly what she was hoping for.

People with sickle cell, a rare, inherited blood disorder caused by a mutation in a single gene, typically endure episodes of debilitating pain as well as chronic pain. Roughly 100,000 Americans and millions of people globally, mostly in Africa, have the disease.

Continued on Page A12

Mayor Hopefuls Vie to Win Over Key Latino Vote

By KATIE GLUECK

Eric Adams was not Representative Adriano Espaillat's original choice to become New York City's next mayor, but now that he had landed the coveted endorsement, Mr. Adams was in a forgiving mood.

It was more of a come-to-Eric moment than a come-to-Jesus moment, but he credited divine intervention with winning over Mr. Espaillat, the first Dominican-American to serve in Congress.

"Today, all of that praying, all of those candles that I've burned, all of those incense that I put in place, all of those Hail Marys that I called up," Mr. Adams, the Brooklyn borough president, thundered earlier this month. "Finally, Jesus Christ looked down on me and brought me Congressman Espaillat."

Less than one month before the Democratic primary that will almost certainly determine the city's next mayor, the battle for Latino voters and endorses is accelerating, and the fight for that diverse constituency is emerging as one of the most crucial and uncertain elements of the race to lead New York.

All the leading Democratic mayoral candidates sense opportunity. In the race's final weeks, they are pressing their cases through advertising, Spanish-language phone banks and Latino affinity groups, deployment of surrogates and rallies in heavily Hispanic neighborhoods across the city.

Andrew Yang, the former presidential pick, is also vying for the Latino vote.

Continued on Page A17



Shaun Donovan at the Futa Islamic Center in the Bronx, not far from where he began his campaign.

He Has the Résumé and the Money. But Votes?

By JEFFERY C. MAYS

Five years ago, a powerful New York-based political strategist was rooting around for someone whom voters could envision as the city's next mayor, someone with the right type of experience and gravitas to take on the weakened incumbent, Bill de Blasio.

The strategist, Bradley Tusk, believed he had found his candidate: Shaun Donovan, a veteran of the Obama administration and a former city commissioner under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Mr. Tusk believed that Mr. Donovan's credentials would be irresistible

A Campaign for Mayor
Pitches Leadership

to voters, saying then that New Yorkers "want the competency of Bloomberg, but they want something that's more progressive."

Mr. Donovan recently recalled that moment with some wistfulness. He remembered thinking how he had missed so much time with his two sons because of his work for President Barack Obama, first as housing secretary and then budget director. He de-

cided then that running for mayor would have to wait.

Mr. Tusk never found his candidate, and Mr. de Blasio went on to easily capture his second term.

Things have since changed dramatically. Mr. de Blasio is in his final year as mayor, and Mr. Donovan is one of 15 Democrats and Republicans seeking to replace him. Mr. Tusk's firm now manages the campaign of Andrew Yang, one of the race's front-runners.

But Mr. Donovan, 55, has not been able to live up to Mr. Tusk's initial ambition. He remains anchored among the second tier of mayoral contenders, despite the

Continued on Page A20

An Easier Path For Foreigners In Biden's Plan

Immigration Overhaul to Undo Trump Rules

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR and ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

WASHINGTON — If President Biden gets his way, it will soon be far easier to immigrate to the United States. There will be shorter, simpler forms and applicants will have to jump through fewer security hoops. Foreigners will have better opportunities to join their families and more chances to secure work visas.

A 46-page draft blueprint obtained by The New York Times maps out the Biden administration's plans to significantly expand the legal immigration system, including methodically reversing the efforts to dismantle it by former President Donald J. Trump, who reduced the flow of foreign workers, families and refugees, erecting procedural barriers tougher to cross than his "big, beautiful wall."

Because of Mr. Trump's immigration policies, the average time it takes a legal employer-sponsored green card has doubled. The backlog for citizenship applications is up 80 percent since 2014, to more than 900,000 cases. Approval for the U-visa program, which grants legal status to immigrants willing to help the police, has gone from five months to roughly five years.

In almost every case over the last four years, immigrating to the United States has become harder, more expensive and takes longer. And while Mr. Biden made clear during his presidential campaign that he intended to undo much of his predecessor's immigration legacy, the blueprint offers new details about how far-reaching the effort will be — not only rolling back Mr. Trump's policies, but addressing backlogs and delays that plagued prior presidents.

The blueprint, dated May 3 and titled "D.H.S. Plan to Restore Trust in Our Legal Immigration System," lists scores of initiatives intended to reopen the country to more immigrants, making good on the president's promise to ensure America embraces its "character as a nation of opportunity and of welcome."

"There are significant changes that need to be made to really open up all avenues of legal immigration," said Felicia Escobar Carillo, the chief of staff at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, of the efforts to reverse Mr. Trump's policies.

Continued on Page A15

As Employers Race to Fill Jobs, America's Teenagers Cash In

By JEANNA SMIALEK and DAVID MCCABE

Roller-coaster operators and lemonade slingers at Kennywood amusement park, a Pittsburgh summer institution, won't have to buy their own uniforms this year. Those with a high school diploma will also earn \$13 as a starting wage — up from \$9 last year — and new hires are receiving free season passes for themselves and their families.

The big pop in pay and perks for Kennywood's seasonal work force, where nearly half of employees are under 18, echoes what is happening around the country as employers scramble to hire waiters, receptionists and other service workers to satisfy surging demand as the economy reopens.

For American teenagers looking for work, this may be the best summer in years.

As companies try to go from hardly staffed to fully staffed practically overnight, teens appear to be winning out more than any

UNEASY ALLIANCE MAY GIVE ISRAEL NEW LEADERSHIP

NETANYAHU FACES PERIL

A Right-Wing Nationalist Joins Forces With a Secular Centrist

By PATRICK KINGSLEY

JERUSALEM — The longest-serving prime minister in Israeli history, Benjamin Netanyahu, faced the most potent threat yet to his grip on power Sunday after an ultranationalist, power-broker, Naftali Bennett, said his party would work with opposition leaders to build an alternative government to force Mr. Netanyahu from office.

If the maneuvering leads to a formal coalition agreement, it would be an uneasy alliance between eight relatively small parties with a diffuse range of ideologies. The prime minister's post would rotate between two unlikely partners: Mr. Bennett, a former settler leader who rejects the concept of a sovereign Palestinian state and champions the religious right — and Yair Lapid, a former television host who is considered a voice of secular centrists.

"I will work with all my power to form a national unity government together with my friend Yair Lapid," Mr. Bennett said in a speech Sunday night.

He added, "If we succeed, we will be doing something huge for the state of Israel."

Mr. Bennett's announcement came shortly after an armed conflict with Palestinians in Gaza that many thought had improved Mr. Netanyahu's chances of hanging on to his post.

Because of the profound ideological differences within the emerging coalition, which would include both leftist and far-right members, its leaders have indicated their government would initially avoid pursuing initiatives that could exacerbate their political incompatibility, such as those related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and focus instead on infrastructure and economic policy.

If forced from office, Mr. Netanyahu is unlikely to leave politics. Either way, however, he has left a lasting legacy. He shifted the fulcrum of Israeli politics firmly to the right — Mr. Bennett's promise to build a prime coalition — and presided over the dismantling of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

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TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-6

Tourist Town Frozen in Place

The Northwest Angle, a slice of Minnesota accessible only from Canada, still feels the pandemic's pain.

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Cases Soar in Nepal

The Himalayan country may declare a health emergency to help contain a second wave from India.

PAGE A6

NATIONAL A11-17, 20

Fatal Conspiracy Addiction

The death of a QAnon follower on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 left a wake of pain, and her family full of questions.

PAGE A11

A Seminary's Reparations

Virginia Theological is sending payments to the descendants of those who had been forced to work there.

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BUSINESS B1-5

Ride-Hailing Surge

Prices soar as Uber and Lyft say they don't have enough drivers to match rebounding customer demand.

PAGE B1



INTERNATIONAL A7-10

In São Paulo, Art Writ Large

Huge murals in the Brazilian city are splashing flair, poetry and pointed commentary on its skyline.

PAGE A8

Gang Rule Spreads in Caracas

As the Venezuelan economy collapses, organized crime groups are taking over parts of the capital.

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SPORTSMONDAY D1-7

Her Hard-Earned Pulpit

Sedona Prince, who exposed gender inequities in college basketball during the N.C.A.A. tournament in March, was raised to speak out and shaped by a near-death experience.

PAGE D1

The Stars' Itineraries in Paris

Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, the Big Three of men's tennis, are back together at the French Open, approaching the tournament with different motivations.

PAGE D1

OPINION A18-19

Charles M. Blow

PAGE A18



ARTS C1-6

Microbes With Good Taste

Restorers at the Medici Chapel have unleashed grime-eating bacteria on Michelangelo's masterpieces.

PAGE C1





SEEING THE SHORE

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

People flock to Santa Monica's pier and beach Sunday. This year, the long Memorial Day weekend comes as the region continues to ease COVID-19 restrictions, and many people are eager to get out again.

Power play targets Netanyahu

Rivals seek to form a coalition government in a bid to push out Israeli prime minister.

BY LAURA KING

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, on Sunday was confronted by possibly the most serious challenge yet to his rule as rivals moved to join forces to try to dislodge him

from office.

The newly galvanized drive by Netanyahu's opponents to push him from power could still falter, but the power play orchestrated by Naftali Bennett, the head of a small ultranationalist party, marked a perilous new juncture for the 71-year-old prime minister.

In keeping with the Shakespearean tone that often characterizes Israeli political maneuverings, Bennett, who heads the hard-line Yamina party, was a onetime aide and ally of the

prime minister. Ideologically, he and Netanyahu remain similar in their outlook.

In a televised address Sunday, Bennett invited Yair Lapid to join forces in an attempt to form a governing coalition — a move that, if successful, would break the two-year political deadlock that has enabled Netanyahu to cling to power even while contesting corruption charges against him in court.

The two challengers

make for an oddball alliance: Lapid, 57, is a secular Jew and former television personality, while Bennett, 49, has been a standard-bearer for the Jewish settlement movement and has aligned himself with devoutly religious political groupings.

Netanyahu swiftly signaled that he would not go down without a fight. In his own televised statement, the blunt-speaking prime minister called the prospective coalition a "danger to the security of Israel" — a clear bid

[See Israel, A4]

Students' mental health stresses teachers

Educators say they're ill-prepared to help youth with trauma magnified by COVID.

BY LAURA NEWBERRY

Before the pandemic, Jessica Bibbs-Fox's eighth-graders would parade into her classroom bursting with energy. "Settle down," she'd playfully shout over the clamor of voices.

Now, Room 18 at Kelly Elementary is eerily quiet. Her 14 pupils are cordoned off by plexiglass shields. She pleads with them to participate during a math lesson — to say something, anything. The 20 students she teaches on Zoom are just as withdrawn. They turn in work sporadically, if at all. Every single student in her home-room class has an F.

Bibbs-Fox, a Compton Unified School District teacher of 17 years, understands why this is happening. Many of her students have lost family members to COVID-19; their parents have lost jobs. They've stood in food lines. She can imagine the anxiety-tinged conversations at home over the last year about rent payments, sickness, police brutality and protests.

And she, too, is agonizing over what to do. She received one hour of mental [See Teachers, A8]



Santa Monica History Museum

LAW ENFORCEMENT agents destroy a roulette wheel on the S.S. Rex, a gambling boat owned by Tony Cornero, after the Battle of Santa Monica Bay.

COLUMN ONE

The raid that sank the gambling boat kingpin

1939's Battle of Santa Monica Bay marked the end of an era of booze-soaked, waterlogged vice

BY DANIEL MILLER

The government boats knifed across the Pacific, cutting a line toward the ship floating a little more than three nautical miles off the California coast.

The S.S. Rex was the biggest and most opulent gambling boat anchored off Santa Monica in 1939. And the man at the helm was a brash bootlegger-turned-gambling kingpin who wore a white Stetson, lived in a Beverly Hills bungalow and held court at the Trocadero nightclub.

His name was Tony Cornero. Cornero and others like him saw a way around California laws prohibiting

gambling by operating floating casinos in waters they believed to be beyond the state's jurisdiction. But the authorities disagreed with their interpretation of geography.

On this August day, the Rex had 600 passengers, an assortment of Angelinos enticed by booze-soaked games of blackjack, poker, roulette and more. But 250 law enforcement agents were fast approaching Cornero's vessel at the direction of California Atty. Gen. Earl Warren, who had labeled the Rex and its peers the state's "single greatest nuisance."

Agents raided three other ships, and those operators quickly surrendered. But not Cornero. He had the Rex's gang- [See Cornero, A6]

In Mexican campaigns, stakes can be life or death

Dozens of office seekers have been killed in the run-up to June 6 election

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

MEXICO CITY — Her campaign rally was already heating up, with a live band belting out ranchera beats on the street, when Rosa Alma Barragán sent out a hastily made video on Facebook in hopes of drawing an even bigger crowd.

"Come and listen," she said from the city of Morelos, where she was running for mayor. "Come and share a moment. Together we can make things better.... I'll wait for you here."

It wasn't just her admirers who took note. An hour or so after her shout-out, gunmen in a convoy of sedans and motorcycles crashed the festivities, scattering the crowd with a spray of bullets that left four people wounded and Barragán dead on the ground.

The assassination Tuesday afternoon stunned Mexico. But it was remarkable only in its brazenness. Election season in Mexico is a whirlwind of impassioned debates and confetti-strewn rallies — and a steady stream of intimidation, threats and deadly attacks [See Mexico, A3]



ARMANDO SOLIS Associated Press

A PORTRAIT of mayoral candidate Rosa Alma Barragán at her wake in Morelos, Mexico, last week. She was killed Tuesday while campaigning.

Mexico leader seeks transformation
Vote viewed as referendum on president. **WORLD, A3**

'Jim Crow' is a road divider in rural Sierra town

Some say street name is racist and needs to go. Others push back at 'cancel culture.'

BY BRITTNY MEJIA

As the story goes, a Native Hawaiian man came as a Gold Rush pioneer to a mountainous swath of Sierra County to strike it rich. His name was given to a ravine, a stream and a street off scenic Highway 49, three miles east of Downieville, Calif. That's how Jim Crow Canyon, Jim Crow Creek and Jim Crow Road came to be.

Generations later, people who own property along the less-than-a-mile-long road, including a small mountain resort, say that Jim Crow has got to go.

In April, their pleas sparked a proposal before the Sierra County Board of Supervisors to consider re-

naming the road. That has led to counter-complaints from residents of this community about 100 miles northeast of Sacramento, who argue that the effort to expunge the name Jim Crow is an example of "woke cancel culture" run amok.

The debate is unfolding in one of the least ethnically and racially diverse counties in California: About 93% of the 3,000 people who make up Sierra County are white.

"All four property owners have had uncomfortable discussions about the name. Even if it's a UPS driver delivering something or some public agency that you call and they ask you what your address is and you go ... 'Jim Crow Road.' There's a little twinge when you're saying it," said Jim Steinbarth, who has owned property on the road for more than 20 years.

"Nobody wants to make a big issue of this, but especially in today's political is- [See Downieville, A12]

2 die in shooting near banquet hall

Police in South Florida said up to 25 people were injured by gunfire after the attack outside the venue. **NATION, A8**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 78/61. **B6**

Black residents have highest risk

In L.A. County, Latinos are no longer the pandemic's hardest-hit group. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

M2 V1 V2 V3 V4



Sunny, warm 74/56 • Tomorrow: Increasing clouds 60/61 B5

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021 • \$2

Democrats walk out to block Tex. voting bill

Measure would have cemented some of the strictest limits in the U.S.

BY AMY GARDNER

Texas Democrats staged a dramatic walkout in the state House late Sunday night to block passage of a restrictive voting bill that would have been one of the most stringent in the nation, forcing Republicans to abruptly adjourn their legislative session without taking a vote on the measure.

The surprise move came after impassioned late-night debate and procedural objections about the GOP-backed measure, which would have made it harder to vote by mail, empowered partisan poll watchers and made it easier to overturn election results. Republicans faced a midnight deadline to approve the measure.

Gov. Greg Abbott (R) tweeted that he would add the bill to a special session he plans to call later this year to address legislative redistricting. "Legislators will be expected to have worked out the details when they arrive at the Capitol for the special session," he wrote.

But it was an unmistakable defeat for the governor and fellow Republicans, who had crafted one of the most far-reaching voting bills in the country — pushing restrictions championed by former president Donald Trump.

SEE TEXAS ON A4

Fights revive over laying Confederate statues to rest

In Va., some cemeteries aren't interested; many activists aren't satisfied

BY MARC FISHER

In Isle of Wight, Va., a statue of a generic Confederate soldier — people called him "Johnny Reb" — stood high atop a stone pedestal outside the county courthouse for 115 years. On May 8, crews showed up, took the statue down, carved it into movable pieces and hauled it to the yard outside Volpe Boykin's house, 16 miles away.

Nobody really wanted the statue to end up in Boykin's yard. People who despise the memorial wanted it gone, period — melt it, warehouse it, just get rid of it. People who cherish it wanted to see it in a place that illuminated history — a museum, maybe.

After many weeks of argument and frayed feelings, a solution emerged that many people on

SEE CEMETERIES ON A6

Using its own credibility, Md. barbershop aims to be a model for persuading the hesitant



RICKY CARIOT/THE WASHINGTON POST

Vaccine mistrust gets a trim

BY LENA H. SUN

Reginald Alston never expected to get a coronavirus vaccine and never expected anyone would change his mind about it.

But his best friend, a hair salon owner, kept telling him he was being shortsighted and maybe even a little bit selfish. What about his niece and her newborn who live with him? How would he feel if they became sick?

Also, his job as a contractor and painter meant he was often going into other people's homes. Didn't he want to be protected?

By the time that friend, Katrina Randolph, told him about the nearby barbershop hosting a vaccination clinic, and offered to drive him there, Alston, 57, was far along on the journey to changing his mind.

"She really influenced me to get it," he acknowledged, standing on the

sidewalk outside the Hyattsville, Md., barbershop earlier this month after getting immunized. "I listen to Katrina. I know she wants me to be around."

Alston got his jab of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, along with a free fried fish sandwich and a \$30 coupon toward a haircut and a shave, at The Shop Spa, a barbershop that serves a predominantly Black and

SEE VACCINE ON A10

Luz Castillo, 20, of Hyattsville, Md., right, registers for the coronavirus vaccine at The Shop Spa in Hyattsville, which offers a free fried fish sandwich and a \$30 haircut coupon.

Foes set to oust Israeli premier

MOTLEY BLOC UNITES AGAINST NETANYAHU

Longtime leader calls it 'fraud of the century'

BY SHIRA RUBIN

JERUSALEM — A diverse coalition of Israeli opposition parties said Sunday that they have the votes to form a unity government to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader and its dominant political figure for more than a decade.

Under their agreement, reached after weeks of negotiations spearheaded by centrist opposition leader Yair Lapid, former Netanyahu defense minister and ally Naftali Bennett will lead a power-sharing government. Bennett, 49, would serve as Israel's next prime minister, according to terms of the deal reported by Israeli media, to be succeeded in that role by Lapid, 57, at a later date.

"We could go to fifth elections, sixth elections, until our home falls upon us, or we could stop the madness and take responsibility," Bennett said in a televised statement Sunday evening. "Today, I would like to announce that I intend to join my friend Yair Lapid in forming a unity government."

Netanyahu called the plan "the fraud of the century."

"There is not a single person in Israel who would have voted for Naftali Bennett if they had known

SEE ISRAEL ON A15

Middle East: Supporters of harder U.S. line debate path forward. A15

The mystery at a massacre's center

A falsely accused Black teen disappeared amid 1921 killings in Tulsa

BY DEENEEN L. BROWN

He liked to call himself "Diamond Dick."

Dick Rowland, a tall teenager with velvet skin, wore a diamond ring as he shined shoes in downtown Tulsa. Rowland, 19, had recently dropped out of Booker T. Washington High School, where he was a star football player, because he was making so much money polishing the shoes of oilmen in a city that billed itself as the "oil capital of the world."

On May 30, 1921, Rowland took a break from his shoe stand inside a pool hall and walked to the Drexel Building to use the only public restroom for Black people in segregated Tulsa.

Rowland passed Renberg's, a department store that occupied the first two floors of the Drexel Building, and stepped into an



REUTERS

Smoke rises from buildings during the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, one of the worst episodes of racial violence in the nation's history.

open wire-caged elevator operated by a 17-year-old White girl named Sarah Page.

What happened next remains

murky, according to historians and reports about one of the worst episodes of racial violence

SEE ROWLAND ON A7

IN THE NEWS

Roar of the crowd As 135,000 spectators watched, Helio Castroneves won the 105th Indianapolis 500, becoming the fourth driver to win the race four times. D2

Gloomy outlook Ahead of Memorial Day, officials worry about the prospects of violent crime in cities across the U.S. this summer. A3

THE NATION Democrats are striking a more urgent tone on negotiations over President Biden's infrastructure plan, as a compromise with Republicans remains elusive. A2

A group of 117 unvaccinated staffers at a House

hospital filed a suit seeking to avoid the hospital's coronavirus vaccine mandate, saying it is unlawful for bosses to require the shots. A3

THE WORLD Prime Minister Boris Johnson married his first

ancee in a ceremony at Westminster Cathedral, the first time a British leader has married in office in 199 years. A13

The discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a former residential school in British Columbia led to outpourings of grief and questions. A13

THE REGION D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) is expecting school buildings to re-open full time in the fall with all students attending in person. B1

Prince George's County saw a spike in violent crime during the pandemic, especially among children. B1

STYLE **Going yard** Outdoor rugs, TVs, day beds and \$5,500 lamps: Welcome to the Great Fauxdoors. C1

From extreme to expensive Matt Furie is trying to reclaim his famous cartoon Pepe the Frog — through NFTs. C1

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Simeone, en contra del "cartelito" de DT defensivo

Tras ganar la Liga de España con Atlético de Madrid, el Cholo cuestiona la estigmatización: "La crítica despiadada va siempre sobre un solo modelo de juego". Deportes, página 4



LLEGA LA HORA DE DEFINICIONES EN LA COPA DE LA LIGA

—deportes

Se juegan hoy las semifinales en San Juan: desde las 15, el clásico Boca-Racing, y a partir de las 19, Independiente frente a Colón.

EL MUSEO MITRE Y SU GRAN TESORO, EN VÍAS DE RESTAURACIÓN

—cultura

Un proyecto recupera la casona que alberga su valiosa biblioteca, el archivo documental y piezas personales del expresidente, a 200 años de su nacimiento. Página 20

LA NACION

LUNES 31 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno espera una baja de casos, pero suspenden la Copa América en el país

COVID. La Conmebol anunció anoche la cancelación y busca otra sede para realizar el torneo

La Conmebol anunció anoche que decidió suspender la disputa de la Copa América en la Argentina "en atención a las circunstancias presentes" y añadió que buscará otro país para que oficie de sede. El Gobierno, a través del ministro del Interior, Eduardo de Pedro, había dicho minutos antes que "en estas condiciones es muy difícil jugarla".

Aunque la administración de Alberto Fernández espera que, a partir de hoy, se registre una disminución en la curva de contagios de coronavirus, la situación epidemiológica en la que se encuentra el país fue determinante para suspender el evento deportivo que estaba previsto a partir del 13 de junio. En los últimos días había crecido la

polémica sobre la organización de un torneo de estas características mientras se mantienen escuelas cerradas y restricciones para la circulación.

La Argentina regresa, a partir de hoy, a un esquema más flexible de restricciones, después de los nueve días de confinamiento estricto que vencieron ayer. El Gobierno, según

adelantó la ministra de Salud, Carla Vizzotti, espera que se empien a ver los resultados de la cuarentena esta semana y que, sobre la base de una caída de casos, se pueda evitar otro confinamiento. Estiman que la tasa de contagios diarios debería ubicarse entre 25.000 y 28.000 infecciones diarias, por debajo del promedio actual de 30.000. Págs. 2 y 5

Analizan levantar el cepo a la carne con límites

EXPORTACIÓN. El veto se mantendría sobre algunos cortes vendidos a China

Fernando Bertello
LA NACION

Luego de rechazar una oferta de los frigoríficos exportadores para colocar más volumen de carne a precios accesibles en el mercado interno a cambio de liberar las exportaciones, el Gobierno analiza establecer la prohibición de las ventas externas de ciertos cortes que se envían a China, pero liberar, al mismo tiempo, el resto de los productos. Continúa en la página 16

Vence el plazo con el Club de París y aguardan una prórroga

Página 12

La oposición de Israel se alía para echar a Netanyahu

GIRO. TEL AVIV (AP).— Los líderes del movimiento ultraderechista Yamina, Naftali Bennett, y del partido de centro Yesh Atid, Yair Lapid, anunciaron ayer un acuerdo para formar gobierno con una coalición de partidos. De concretarse, el pacto pone fin a dos años de incertidumbre política y cierra los 12 años en el poder de Benjamin Netanyahu. Página 8



STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN/AFP

Recitales para decir adiós a la pandemia

PARÍS (AP).— Arrinconada en el último año por tres fuertes olas de coronavirus, Europa tuvo la semana pasada la mayor baja de infecciones y muertes del mundo. Como parte de la normalidad a la que se encamina rápidamente, ahora testea cómo evitar contagios en recitales, como este de París. Página 7

Viajan a EE.UU. desde toda la región para vacunarse

Cada vez son más los latinoamericanos que apelan a esa opción. Página 6

Clases. Más del 60% de las provincias seguirán con la enseñanza remota

Valeria Musse
LA NACION

Finalizado el período estipulado para el confinamiento estricto decretado por el gobierno nacional, se inicia hoy una nueva etapa en

el ámbito educativo, que vuelve a quedar en manos de cada provincia. Así, más del 60% de las jurisdicciones mantendrán al menos por esta semana la enseñanza remota en todo o casi todo su territorio.

Cuatro provincias sostendrán

un sistema mixto, con diferencias entre municipios o entre niveles educativos. Jujuy, Tierra del Fuego, Mendoza y Misiones abrirán el 100% de las escuelas y los grados, siempre con burbujas.

Continúa en la página 3

Inquietud de los intendentes por un fallo de la Corte

RECURSOS. El tribunal definirá si pueden cobrar tasas. Página 11

Em tensão com Bolsonaro, STF acena a políticos

O Supremo Tribunal Federal tem sinalizado ao Congresso Nacional em busca de respaldo à sua atuação diante de brigas recorrentes com Jair Bolsonaro. Ministros da corte avaliam que o Legislativo pode ser o fiel da balança com tensão em alta. **Poder A6**

Inquérito que apura denúncia de Moro está parado

O inquérito que apura as acusações do ex-ministro Sérgio Moro contra o presidente Jair Bolsonaro está travado há 250 dias. A demora do STF em decidir o impasse sobre o pedido do chefe do Executivo para depor por escrito pode afetar apuração. **Poder A7**

Decisão do TCU prejudica plano para os portos

Concessões de terminais e privatizações de portos correm risco de não acontecerem, caso seja mantida a decisão do Tribunal de Contas da União que prorroga contrato vencido por empresa que armazena contêineres no Porto de Santos. **Mercado A13**

Esporte B6

Alexsandro Melo, o Bolt, sonha com medalha no salto na Olimpíada de Tóquio

Esporte B6

Castroneves, piloto brasileiro, vence 500 Milhas diante de plateia de 135 mil

Ilustrada B8

Transmitida ao vivo, CPI da Covid atrai público de BBB na era da política pop

Comida B9

Morre Mari Hirata, 61, chef brasileira que fez sucesso aqui, na Europa e no Japão

EDITORIAIS A2

Novidade nas ruas
Sobre manifestações contra Bolsonaro no sábado.

Ambições e riscos
Acerca de primeiro projeto de Orçamento de Biden.

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Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*	2ª dose	1ª dose
Brasil	13,7	28,1
MS	17,2	38,9
RS	16,5	34,5
ES	13,7	32,2

Cobertura da primeira dose*



Total de doses aplicadas	22,1 mi	45,2 mi
1º SP	5,7 mi	11,4 mi
2º MG	2,3 mi	4,8 mi
3º RJ	1,6 mi	3,4 mi

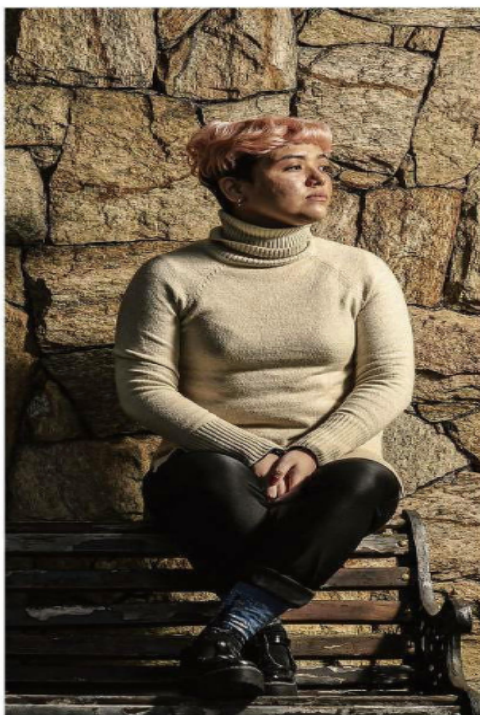
Números da pandemia

Casos	Óbitos
Total	16,5 mi
30.mai**	61,3 mil
Variação***	-3,1%
Em 24 h	41,7 mil
	950

Dados das 20h de 30.mai *Acima de 18 anos **Média móvel de 7 dias ***Em relação a 14 dias

Demora de laudos e filas retardam vacinação no país

Apesar do aumento de doses repassadas aos estados, a vacinação continua lenta porque há demora de até duas semanas para obter laudo que comprove a comorbidade, filas lotam os postos, e pessoas recusam imunizar por causa do fabricante. **Saúde B1**



Karime Xavier/Folhapress

PRECONCEITO CONTRA ASIÁTICOS

Descendente de japoneses, a estudante Fernanda Yumi Tagashir, 20, relata aumento de racismo no Brasil na pandemia contra os amarelos, cerca de 1,1% da população. **Saúde B3**

Após atos, governo mira Lula, que joga por desgaste

Protestos abrem corrida eleitoral com petista, diz líder governista na Câmara; oposição evita associação

As manifestações pelo país no sábado (29) que pediram mais vacinas e o impeachment de Jair Bolsonaro causaram reação em coro de seus aliados, que miraram o discurso antipetista. O líder governista na Câmara, deputado Ricardo Barros (PP-PR), afirmou à Folha que os atos abrem a disputa de 2022 entre o atual mandatário e o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), acrescentando que grupos de esquerda perderam o argumento contra aglomerações pró-governo.

O PT, por sua vez, evita associar os protestos a Lula, e conta com um cenário de rejeição ao atual presidente e de economia desfavorável, o que levaria ao desgaste natural do governo.

A sigla, assim como o PDT, avaliou que as manifestações mobilizaram mais pessoas do que o esperado, o que reforça a necessidade de atuação na CPI da Covid.

Enquanto a oposição cogita convocar novas manifestações, o presidente divulgou foto com uma camiseta que diz: 'Imorrível, imbroxável, incomível'. **Poder A4**

Dois perdem a visão depois de ação da PM no Recife

Poder A6

Celso de Barros

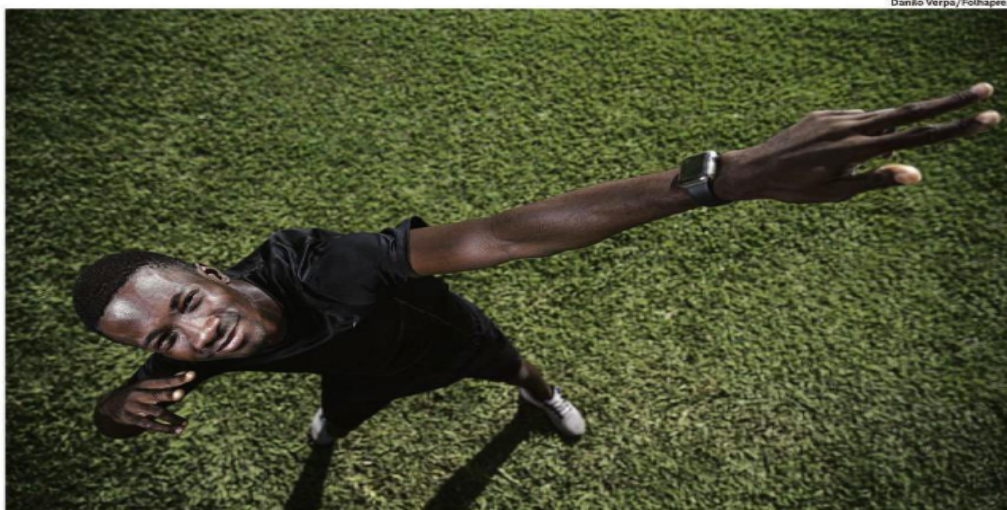
Quem matou os 90 mil brasileiros sem vacina?

Dois fatos apurados pela CPI mostram que o número de brasileiros que morreram na pandemia por culpa de Jair Bolsonaro se aproxima de 100 mil, a soma de todos os assassinatos em 2019 e 2020. **Poder A8**

C. Rochamonte

Não dá para fazer de conta que Lula é um democrata

FHC capitulou. Tanto o populismo de esquerda, representado por Lula, quanto o populismo de direita, de Bolsonaro, são faces da mesma moeda: a do atraso, que o país deve deixar para trás. **Opinião A2**



Danilo Verpa/Folhapress

O atleta Alexsandro Melo, apelidado de Bolt por ser rápido e parecido com o corredor, imita o gesto do campeão jamaicano

Estudo de ONG aponta imprevisto em segurança

O governo Bolsonaro apresenta política errática de segurança pública, afetada por imprevisto, prioridades equivocadas e trocas de ministros, afirma relatório do Instituto Sou da Paz, que monitorou 300 ações federais em 2020.

O levantamento aponta para o enfraquecimento da política nacional de controle de armas e munições e destaca, entre ações positivas, apreensão recorde de drogas. **Cotidiano B4**

ANÁLISE

Roberto Dumas

IGP-M é rastilho inflacionário

O IGP-M foi adotado como índice de reajuste de aluguel há 30 anos para limitar a influência do governo e tem discrepância com o IPCA. Já está na hora de o mercado tirar esse 'jabuti' da árvore. **Folhainvest A16**

Direita e esquerda se unem para tirar prêmio de Israel

Nova coalizão, que conta também com o centro, precisa ainda de apoio no Parlamento para derrubar Binyamin Netanyahu, que está no cargo há 12 anos. **Mundo A10**

Brasileiro faz poupança forçada durante pandemia

Mais da metade dos brasileiros que conseguiram poupar em 2020 o fizeram porque ficou mais difícil viajar, ir a bares e restaurantes. A redução de gastos com lazer e turismo foi o principal fator para poupança, segundo pesquisa Datafolha. **Folhainvest A14**

ENTREVISTA DA 2ª Muniz Sodré

O Brasil vive um 'desastre incivil'

Para o pesquisador em comunicação mais citado na produção científica do país, o espaço da sociedade civil está ocupado pela "sociedade incivil", que dispensa negociação, cooperação, solidariedade, discernimento e amizade.

É um mundo esvaziado do que sustentava a sociedade civil e onde a convicção supera a verdade, diz Muniz Sodré, e Jair Bolsonaro é um expoente. **A12**

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Saiba mais na página A7



Hay una nueva promesa de la llegada de 134.400 vacunas para esta semana

Fracaso: Se pagó mucho para recibir pocas dosis de Covax

El Gobierno adquirió del mecanismo 4.279.800 biológicos y abonó USD 9.981.296. Pero le entregaron tan solo 170.400 en casi medio año. Lento proceso genera fuertes críticas.

PÁGINA 2 a la 5

Hubo aglomeración y pelea
Descontrol en calle
habilitada para los
gastronómicos en
Ciudad del Este

PÁGINA 22

Camioneros debaten hoy sobre paro
Desacuerdo por la
tarifa acentuaría
reguladas de buses

PÁGINA 16

Denuncia de diputado Carlos Rejala
Salta despilfarro en
Senepa de más de
G. 1.700 millones

PÁGINA 9

En ruinas emblemáticos edificios de Asunción

PÁGINA 19



Olivadas. Construcciones de gran valor histórico y arquitectónico se encuentran abandonadas, como la Recova sobre Colón.

Informe revela que 67 entidades pagaron a los estatales beneficios adicionales sin importarles la crisis sanitaria y económica

Funcionarios percibieron USD 52 millones en extras en pandemia

PÁGINA 12

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LE FIGARO

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

STÉPHANE BERN
« MADAME POMPI, LES ÉOLIENNES SONT UNE NÉGATION DE L'ÉCOLOGIE ! » >> PAGE 22

ENQUÊTE
L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GEORGETOWN EN PROIE À LA DICTATURE DE LA CULTURE DE L'ANNULATION PAGE 20


LE FIGARO SANTÉ

Le sang, un baromètre essentiel pour la médecine

NOTRE CAHIER SPÉCIAL

TURQUIE

Les révélations d'un chef mafieux sur le pouvoir turc

PAGE 8

JUSTICE Attaque de Nantes : après la prison, le suivi des radicalisés dans une impasse

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TRANSPORT

Le tourisme et les compagnies aériennes amorcent une reprise en Europe

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ENTRETIEN

Patrick Pouyanné, patron de TotalEnergies

PAGE 29

CHAMPS LIBRES • Gazoduc Nord Stream 2 : quel avenir, et pour quels risques ?

 • La chronique de Nicolas Baverez
• L'analyse d'Adrien Jaulmes

PAGES 21 ET 23

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON
Réponses à la question de samedi : Faut-il modifier la Constitution pour maintenir l'enseignement en langue régionale ?

OUI 33% NON 67%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 69760

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Faut-il lever l'obligation du port du masque en extérieur ?

ILLUSTRATION : FABIEN CLAIREFOND - KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

Covid : pourra-t-on bientôt vivre sans masque ?

Alors que la pandémie semble marquer le pas en France, le gouvernement se montre très prudent sur l'agenda et les conditions d'un retour à une vie normale.

Il y a ceux qui le gardent même dans leur voiture et ceux qui le mettent toujours sur le menton... Porté avec plus ou moins d'assiduité, le masque fait désormais partie du quotidien

des Français. Mais jusqu'à quand ? Aux États-Unis, c'est un Joe Biden triomphant qui a annoncé, mi-mai, la fin de son obligation pour les personnes entièrement vaccinées contre

le Covid-19. En France, Emmanuel Macron a repoussé une éventuelle décision à la fin du mois de juin. Allié indispensable de la lutte contre le virus, le masque n'en fait pas moins

l'objet de critiques de plus en plus vives. À l'école, il constitue un obstacle supplémentaire aux élèves en difficulté ; son impact sur l'environnement est catastrophique. Mais c'est

surtout sur notre mode de vie qu'il suscite le plus d'inquiétudes. Le philosophe Martin Steffens y voit l'expression d'une crise « morale, politique et spirituelle ».

➔ À L'ÉCOLE, UN OBSTACLE POUR LES ÉLÈVES EN DIFFICULTÉ ➔ POURRA-T-ON BIENTÔT TOMBER LE MASQUE ? ➔ LES FABRICANTS FRANÇAIS INQUIÈTES ➔ UN FLÉAU POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ➔ LA PRUDENCE D'EMMANUEL MACRON ➔ MARTIN STEFFENS : « UNE CRISE MORALE, POLITIQUE ET SPIRITUELLE » PAGES 2 À 7 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Deux siècles après sa disparition, Napoléon s'expose en majesté

Pour le bicentenaire de la mort de l'Empereur, plusieurs expositions éclairent les mille et une facettes du destin fabuleux d'une figure controversée mais majeure de l'histoire de France.

PAGES 34 ET 35

CHRISTOPHE PETIT TESSON/EEF/ÉPA



Régionales : les enjeux d'une campagne cruciale avant 2022

Le coup d'envoi officiel de la course en vue des élections régionales et départementales des 20 et 27 juin est donné ce lundi. Un double scrutin sous contrainte sanitaire qui pourrait être marqué par une abstention massive. Ses enjeux sont pourtant multiples, aussi bien sur le plan local que national. Organisé à moins d'un an de la présidentielle, il fera office de répétition générale pour les partis.

PAGES 10 ET 11

ÉDITORIAL par Bertrand de Saint-Vincent bdesaintvincent@lefigaro.fr

De l'air !

Pour beaucoup, c'était de la science-fiction. Une catastrophe climatique, des gens masqués pour se préserver de la pollution. Le film, sorti en 1973, s'appelait *Soleil vert*. L'action se situe en 2022. Nous y sommes. La réalité a rejoint la fiction. Depuis plus d'un an, sous l'effet d'un virus mystérieusement né en Chine, la planète a cessé de respirer. Activités économiques paralysées, déplacements contrôlés, port du masque obligatoire... Seule une vaccination massive, nous dit-on, permettra de quitter cet état de résidence surveillée. L'heure de la sortie approche. Les taux de contamination baissent, l'impatience grandit : quand pourra-t-on, enfin, jeter le masque ? Le débat est lancé. En France, depuis mars 2020, il n'a cessé d'agiter l'opinion. Les experts les plus compétents se sont succédé à la tribune pour affirmer, avec la même conviction, tout et le contraire de tout ; parfois les mêmes. On se souvient de la porte-parole du gouvernement, Sibeth Ndiaye, avouant avec dédain ignorer la manière de l'utiliser ; ou du ministre de la Santé prônant son obligation dans les lieux publics après l'avoir

jugé inutile à l'extérieur. Retourner son masque fut un sport national. Il y eut des polémiques, des amendes, des rebelles. L'émotion tint souvent lieu de raisonnement ; la propagande, d'information. Dans l'ivresse sanitaire, un responsable crut bon de réclamer le port du masque chez soi. On vit des conducteurs l'arborer seuls au volant de leur voiture ; une brigade de policiers intervenir pour saisir une poignée de pique-niqueurs indolents sur la plage. Ou cela s'arrêterait-il ? Et, surtout, quand ? Aux yeux de ses supporters les plus acharnés, le port du masque doit s'inscrire dans nos modes de vie. Ce morceau de tissu a fait ses preuves. Ils parlent de son retour pour lutter contre l'épidémie de grippe. Cette logique de muselière fait frémir. Priver l'homme de visage et de liberté pour lui assurer une longévité aussi vaine que le masque à l'extérieur, c'est le réduire à n'être plus que l'esclave de sa peur de mourir.

L'émotion tint lieu de raisonnement ; la propagande, d'information.

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Combustible insulation put on 70 schools since Grenfell

Safety fears over use of foam that is banned for tall residential buildings

Exclusive
Robert Booth

Dozens of schools have been built using combustible insulation since the material was banned on high-rise apartment blocks after the Grenfell Tower disaster, raising fears

for children's safety. More than 70 schools are likely to have used plastic foam insulation, which burns, since it was banned on residential buildings over 18 metres (59ft) tall in December 2018, according to industry research.

The study by the insulation manufacturer Rockwool also found about 25 recently built hospitals, care homes and sheltered housing complexes that are likely to have been constructed with combustible insulation. The figures are thought to be an underestimate.

They were reported days after

the Department for Education (DfE) announced new fire safety proposals for school buildings that would continue to allow combustible cladding on structures of less than 18 metres in height.

The government closed a separate consultation on whether to extend its ban on combustible materials to shorter buildings a year ago, but has not yet announced its findings.

Geoff Barton, the general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said the figures were a "major cause for concern". "Action

rather than discussion is needed now to remove and replace high-risk combustible materials and ensure the safety of young people and education staff," he said.

Among the schools using combustible insulation is the Joseph Leckie academy in Walsall, in the West Midlands, which has used the same Kingspan insulation that was used on Grenfell Tower. The academy did not respond to a request for comment.

Others schools have the kind of high-pressure laminate panels that were used on

'Third wave' casts doubt on lifting of lockdown

Aubrey Allegretti
Nicola Davis
Ian Sample

Scientists have warned ministers a third wave of Covid may have already begun in Britain, casting doubt on plans to lift all lockdown restrictions in England in three weeks.

Experts cautioned that any rise in coronavirus hospital admissions could leave the health service struggling to cope as it battles to clear the huge backlog of non-Covid cases.

Downing Street insisted it was too soon for speculation about whether the plan to lift all lockdown rules on 21 June could go ahead, prompting calls from the hospitality industry for advance notice for struggling businesses of any "lingering" measures.

The vaccines minister, Nadhim Zahawi, refused to deny some restrictions such as mask wearing and working from home might stay in place to reduce the spread of the virus. Senior scientific advisers say where possible working from home makes sense beyond June because it slashes the number of people with whom workers come into contact.

Ministers are grappling with whether a rise



A mixed reception for the No 10 newlyweds

No 10 released a picture of Boris and Carrie Johnson after their secret wedding. Some Catholic priests protested at the twice-divorced PM being allowed to marry in Westminster Cathedral. [Page 4 ➔](#)

Netanyahu on the brink Opposition deal to oust Israeli PM after 12 years

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