

What's News Business & Finance

The U.S. economy's rebound is driving the biggest surge in inflation in nearly 13 years, with consumer prices rising in May by 5% from a year earlier. A1, A4

◆ The IPO market is set for a hot summer, with some bankers estimating U.S.-listed offerings could raise upward of \$40 billion from June through August. A1

◆ Didi made its IPO papers public, setting up the Chinese ride-hailing firm to raise billions and begin trading publicly in the U.S. in July. B1

◆ An EU privacy regulator has proposed a fine of more than \$425 million against Amazon, part of a process that could yield the biggest yet penalty under the bloc's privacy law. B1

◆ The S&P 500 rose 0.5% to close at a record. The Nasdaq and Dow added 0.8% and 0.1%, respectively. B9

◆ Jobless claims declined to a pandemic low last week, a sign firms are hesitant to lay off employees as the U.S. economy quickly recovers. A2

◆ 401(k) provider ForUsAll will allow workers in plans it administers to invest up to 5% of their contributions in cryptocurrencies under a deal with Coinbase. B1

◆ The rebound in global oil demand is set to accelerate in the second half as the world continues to burn through a supply glut, OPEC said. B3

◆ The ECB upgraded its economic outlook for the eurozone but said it would keep its aggressive monetary stimulus in place. A16

World-Wide

◆ More people have died from Covid-19 already this year than in all of 2020, according to official counts, highlighting how the global pandemic is far from over even as vaccines beat back the virus in wealthy nations. A1

◆ The U.S. government has halted new shipments of J&J's Covid-19 vaccine, state and federal health officials say, a step aimed at helping clear a backlog of unused doses before they expire. A6

◆ The U.S. lifted sanctions on three former Iranian officials and several energy companies amid stalled nuclear talks, signaling Washington's willingness to further ease economic pressure on Iran if the country changes course. A1

◆ The DOJ during the Trump administration sought records from Apple relating to communications by House Intelligence Committee members as well as some of their aides and family members, a committee official said. A3

◆ Members of a bipartisan group of senators said they had reached an agreement on an infrastructure proposal that would be fully paid for without tax increases, pitching the plan to other lawmakers and the White House. A4

◆ Biden and U.K. leader Johnson pledged to counter the influence of autocratic states and addressed other matters as they met ahead of a G-7 summit. A8

◆ China enacted a new law aimed at countering foreign sanctions, a response to U.S. and European efforts to pressure Beijing. A8

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Inflation Jumps to 13-Year High

May price rise was 5% as the economic rebound from virus lockdowns accelerated

By GWYNETH GUILFORD

The U.S. economy's rebound from the pandemic is driving the biggest surge in inflation in nearly 13 years, with consumer prices rising in May by 5% from a year ago.

The Labor Department said last month's increase in the consumer-price index was the

largest since August 2008, when the reading rose 5.4%. The core-price index, which excludes the often-volatile categories of food and energy, jumped 3.8% in May from the year before—the largest increase for that reading since June 1992.

Consumers are seeing higher prices for many of their purchases, particularly big-ticket items such as vehicles. Prices for used cars and trucks leapt 7.3% from the previous month, driving one-third of the rise in the overall index. The indexes for furniture, airline fares and apparel

also rose sharply in May. A separate reading showed the U.S. labor market continued to heal from the pandemic, with initial claims for unemployment benefits falling to another pandemic low.

Stocks edged higher on the inflation and labor-market news. The S&P 500 set a closing record, while both the Nasdaq Composite and the Dow Jones Industrial Average are within 1% of new highs.

May's jump in prices extends a trend that accelerated this spring amid widespread Covid-19 vaccinations, relaxed

business restrictions, trillions of dollars in federal pandemic relief programs and ample household savings—all of which have stoked demand for people to spend and travel more.

Overall prices jumped at a 9.7% annualized rate over the three months ended in May. On a month-to-month basis, overall prices rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6% and core

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◆ Jobless claims drop, but hiring falls short..... A2
◆ Heard on the Street: Step into inflation's looking-glass..... B10

Consumer-price index



Eclipse Greets Early Risers in Northern Regions

PARTIAL PEEK: The sun rises next to the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor during the solar eclipse Thursday morning. A partial eclipse was visible in the U.S. Northeast, while areas farther north in the world were treated to a 'ring of fire' eclipse, in which the moon blocks the central portion of the sun to create a bright circular fringe of sunlight around the dark disk.



IPO Market Set for a Gangbuster Summer

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH

The IPO market is set to be scorching hot this summer.

Chinese ride-sharing company Didi Chuxing Technology Co. made its IPO documents public Thursday, a major step toward its highly anticipated initial public offering. Robinhood Markets Inc.'s public filing is also looming, people familiar with the matter said. Both companies are poised to begin

stock-market trading in July.

Fund managers, venture capitalists, bankers and lawyers said they are busier than they have been in decades at this time of year, which is usually quieter. Some claim business is even crazier than during the dot-com boom of the late 1990s.

From June through August, U.S.-listed IPOs could raise upward of \$40 billion, some bankers estimated. That would

eclipse the previous record of \$32 billion over those three months, set last year, according to Dealogic data going back to 1995. That doesn't include money raised by special-purpose acquisition companies, or SPACs, which were going gangbusters earlier this year but have slowed.

Some bankers said they are working with more than two dozen companies that have confidentially filed for IPOs

and are considering starting roadshows to pitch investors in coming weeks.

"As prolific as issuance was last summer, we believe this year will exceed that," said Jim Cooney, head of Americas equity-capital markets at Bank of America Corp. "It's on track to be the busiest yet."

Didi Chuxing, which beat out Uber Technologies Inc. to claim ride-hailing dominance in China, could fetch a valuation

upward of \$70 billion, a person familiar with the matter said. Robinhood, the app empowering the individual traders who fueled the meme-stocks revolution, could be valued at \$40 billion or more in its IPO, according to people familiar with the matter. Car-battery company Clarion is also likely to go public.

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◆ Didi's U.S. IPO will aim to raise billions..... B1

Covid-19 Death Toll This Year Tops 2020

More people have died from Covid-19 already this year than in all of 2020, according to official counts, highlighting how the global pandemic is far from over even as vaccines beat back the virus in wealthy nations.

By Jon Kamp, Jason Douglas and Juan Forero

It took less than six months for the globe to record more than 1.58 million Covid-19 deaths this year, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of data collected by Johns Hopkins University. The university's count for 2021 edged just ahead of the 2020 death toll on Thursday.

These numbers underscore how unevenly the pandemic spread around the globe, often hitting poorer nations later, but before they had access to the vaccines that have benefited Europe and the U.S. That pattern has led to a worsening divide between developed and developing nations as President Biden and the leaders of the other Group of Seven advanced economies prepare to

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◆ Federal Covid-19 rules set for healthcare facilities..... A6
◆ U.S. donation boosts vaccine for developing nations..... A7



THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

SMALL CITIES, BIG IDEAS R1-8

Kansas Town Cries Foul Over Chickens in an Old Schoolhouse

Angelus's 28 residents no longer need it but don't like seeing it used as a barn

By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS

ANGELUS, Kan.—If Angelus were still a prosperous farm town and had more children than chickens, then maybe the two-story brick schoolhouse would still be a school and not a chicken coop.

But it isn't and it doesn't. So instead of students, the ground floor of the century-old building is occupied by

Hospital Hacks Trace Back To Ruthless Cyber Gang

Ransomware attacks disrupt 235 U.S. facilities; 'they do not care'

By KEVIN POULSEN AND MELANIE EVANS

A ransomware attack on a national hospital chain nearly brought Las Vegas hospitals to their knees. Another attack in Oregon abruptly shut down alerts tied to patient monitors tracking vital signs. In New York, one county's only trauma center briefly closed to ambulances, with the nearest alternative 90 miles away.

Multiple attacks were carried out in recent months against U.S. hospitals, suspending some surgeries, delaying medical care and costing hospitals millions of dollars.

The Wall Street Journal tracked the most disruptive attacks to one group: a notorious gang of Eastern European cybercriminals once called the "Business Club," with ties to

Russian government security services, according to threat analysts and former law-enforcement officials who closely follow Eastern European cybercrime operations.

Now known by many researchers as Ryuk, after its signature software, it is the most prolific ransomware gang in the world, accounting for one-third of the 203 million U.S. ransomware attacks in 2020, according to cybersecurity firm SonicWall. Ryuk ransomware collected at least \$100 million in paid ransom last year, according to the bitcoin analysis firm Chainalysis.

The group targets large organizations with deep resources, breaking into their networks and installing malicious software that locks every file on every computer with an

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U.S. Lifts Sanctions In Overture to Iran

The Biden administration lifted sanctions on three former Iranian officials and several energy companies amid

By Ian Talley in Washington and Laurence Norman in Brussels

stalled nuclear negotiations, signaling Washington's willingness to further ease economic pressure on Iran if the country changes course. The U.S. Treasury Department on Thursday repealed sanctions on former senior National Iranian Oil Co. officials and several companies involved in shipping and trading petrochemical products. The administration described the moves as routine administrative actions, saying the officials were removed from U.S. blacklists because they no longer held positions in the sanc-

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◆ China passes law to counter foreign sanctions..... A8



When Covid Tears Your World Apart

Mukesh Diwakar, center, has been out of work in New Delhi for almost two months. "Everyone here is alone," he says. Page A6.

Diversity Push Inside Military Spurs Backlash

By JENNIFER STEINHAEUER

WASHINGTON — At Fort Bragg, one of the nation's largest military installations, plans are afoot for its first commemoration of Juneteenth, highlighting the role of the Union Army in emancipation.

The Defense Department recently added a deputy inspector general for diversity and inclusion and supremacist, extremist and criminal gang activity. In February, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III ordered the military to examine extremist activity in its midst and to ask troops for their views. Earlier, Mr. Austin had revoked a ban on diversity training for the military, and on Wednesday, he spoke at a Pride Month celebration at the Pentagon.

Its active wars ending, its ranks both smaller and more diverse and its talent needs shifting, the Pentagon is embracing ideas like inclusion and adopting many of the efforts long used in the private sector to recruit and retain women and people of color.

Yet while many inside and outside the military have embraced the effort as overdue, some Republican lawmakers and influential conservatives are mounting an inchoate but increasingly loud protest and promoting the idea that the armed forces are becoming the latest pawn in America's culture wars.

They have taken aim at a variety of efforts, from the Pentagon's new diversity training to the military's efforts to recruit and retain women and people of color.

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U.S. Leader Pleases Europe. Policies Might Not.

By MARK LANDLER

FALMOUTH, England — Few images captured the rupture in trans-Atlantic relations better than that of President Donald J. Trump in 2018, arms folded across his chest as he resisted Chancellor Angela Merkel and other frustrated leaders in their doomed effort to salvage their summit meeting in Canada.

When the same leaders reconvene in Cornwall, England, on Friday, President Biden will reverse the body language, replacing impasse with embrace. But beneath the imagery, it is not clear how much more open the United States is to the United Kingdom.

The trans-Atlantic partnership has always been less reciprocal than its champions like to pretend — a marriage in which one partner, the United States, carried the nuclear umbrella. Now, with China replacing the Soviet Union as America's archrival, the two sides are less united than they were during the Cold War, a geopolitical shift that lays bare longstanding stresses between them.

So even though Mr. Biden and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain reaffirmed their countries' unity on Thursday, a lingering question looms over Friday's reunion of the Group of 7 industrialized nations. Will a show of solidarity be more than a diplomatic pantomime — reassuring to Europeans traumatized by Mr. Trump's "America First" policy but bound to disappoint them when they realize that the nation under Mr. Biden is still going its own way?

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Biden Embraces Unity, but He'll Still Put America First

States will be to give-and-take with Europe than it was under Mr. Trump.

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STEPS FORWARD Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his wife, Carrie, with President Biden and his wife, Jill, in Cornwall, England, on Thursday. The men signed a new Atlantic Charter. Page A9.

'She Died Working for Us': Spa Victim's Sons Struggle to Move On

By JULIANA KIM

DULUTH, Ga. — It was already 1 p.m. when Randy Park tumbled out of bed one miserable March day. It had been another long night of TV and video games to distract himself from the emptiness swirling through the townhouse where his mother had once cooked meals between her shifts at a spa. He padded down the hall-

way, past her vacant bedroom, and nudged his younger brother, Eric, awake.

It was past time to face another day on their own. In the immediate aftermath of the deadly shootings in the Atlanta area, the faces of Randy and Eric Park, now 22 and 21, seemed to be everywhere, their winsome images linked to a GoFundMe page established after their

mother, Hyun Jung Grant, was killed. They were overwhelmed by financial donations, care packages, reporters at their door, and so many calls that Eric's cellphone froze.

But in the months since, on the cusp of adulthood, the Park brothers have been largely left to navigate the world by themselves.

Sorrow takes many shapes after a mass shooting. Those left be-

hind in the Atlanta area include Mario Gonzalez, whose new wife, Delaina Ashley Yaun, was a customer at Young's Asian Massage. They include the grandchildren of Suncha Kim, who immigrated from South Korea in 1980. And they include Randy and Eric Park, whose anguish is compounded by the knowledge that their single mother was killed do-

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Prices Climb, Stoking Debate In Washington

Fastest Inflation Since '08, but Will It Last?

By JEANNA SMIALEK

Consumer prices rose in May at the fastest rate since 2008, a bigger jump than economists had expected and one that is sure to keep inflation at the center of political and economic debate in Washington.

The Consumer Price Index surged 5 percent in May from a year ago, the Labor Department said on Thursday. Economists had expected an increase of 4.7 percent. Prices rose 0.6 percent from April to May, and an index that excludes volatile food and energy costs rose 3.8 percent from a year earlier, the brisk pace since 1992.

Prices are rising for many goods and services, as varied as airfares and used cars, the result of bottlenecks and strong consumer demand as a pandemic-stricken economy comes roaring back. Government officials and many economists have said much of the jump is likely to fade with time as the economy gets past a reopening bounce and supply catches up. The annual number in particular is getting a boost from what's called a base effect: The year-ago figure was depressed by shutdowns, so the current readings look large by comparison.

But the big monthly figure for May, on the heels of a sharp rise in April, showed that prices have been moving up quickly for more than just technical reasons. The critical question is whether those stronger-than-expected price pressures are a transient trend tied to reopening or something more persistent.

"We are at peak heat, this is the moment," said Julia Coronado, founder of the research firm MacroPolicy Perspectives. "We know we'll get a fade — the question is, how big is the fade?"

Ms. Coronado, like many economists, expects inflation to settle down and remain in line with the Federal Reserve's 2 percent average goal over time. The Fed uses a different index, the Personal Consumption Expenditures measure, to define its target. That gauge is closely linked to C.P.I., though it tends to run slightly below it.

The stakes are high on both Wall Street and Main Street. Inflation is the focus of a debate between a bipartisan group of senators struck a tentative spending deal. Page A12

Continued on Page A16

New York Mayoral Rivals Attack Adams and Clash Over Policing

By KATIE GLUECK

The top Democratic candidates in the New York City mayor's race clashed sharply over political visions and personal ethics in a debate that began with sustained attacks against one candidate, Eric Adams, over questions of his residency and transparency.

Two days before early voting begins and less than two weeks before the June 22 Democratic primary that will almost certainly decide the city's next mayor, five leading contenders gathered on Thursday for an in-person, penultimate debate that centered on issues of public safety, managing the mayor's relationship with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and qualifications to lead the nation's largest city.

The one-hour debate arrived at an unsettled moment in an extraordinarily consequential race, as several contenders battled controversies, while sparse public polling shows a tight and unpredictable contest that will be settled by ranked-choice voting.

It began on a highly contentious note, as four of the five candidates onstage were asked whether they believed that Mr. Adams, who is considered the leading candidate, indeed lived in New York City, following a Politico New York report that Mr. Adams used conflicting addresses in official records, and that he was spending nights at Brooklyn Borough Hall in the homestretch of the campaign.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

U.S. Lifts Sanctions on Iranians

A State Department spokesman said there was "absolutely no connection" to an upcoming round of talks in Vienna over the 2015 nuclear deal. Page A10

NATIONAL A12-21

Vote Is Test for Trump Legacy

The race for governor in Virginia will test whether a Republican can sidestep the former president without fully rejecting him and prevail. Page A17

BUSINESS B1-7

UnitedHealthcare Backs Off

Days after announcing a policy shift aimed at cutting back on reimbursements for emergency room care, the insurer retreated — for now. Page B1

SPORTSFRIDAY B8-10

The Up-for-Grabs Major

As the top women withdrew, retired or lost, the French Open became another opportunity for the long shots. And two of them will meet in the final. Page B9

OPINION A22-23

Paul Krugman

PAGE A22



RETURNING TO BROADWAY OCTOBER 5

JEFF DANIELS • ATTICUS FINCH

HARPER LEE'S **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**
A new play by AARON SORKIN Directed by BARTLETT SHER

Celia Keenan-Bolger • SCOUT

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Virus cases fall steadily in state

Infections are at their lowest in 14 months, fueling hope for a return to normality.

BY LUKE MONEY
AND RONG-GONG LIN II

California will fully reopen its economy Tuesday under remarkably favorable conditions, with the COVID-19 risk rapidly receding and new cases being reported at the lowest levels in 14 months.

The state has for months recorded one of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the country, a distinction that's endured despite the end of many restrictions and the rise of new variants.

The numbers and rapid rollout of vaccinations have given public health officials even more confidence that life can return to some semblance of normal without the surges that thwarted California's two previous attempts at reopening.

California has one of the highest rates of vaccinations in the nation, with 56% of residents of all ages — and 78% of adults — having received at least one dose of vaccine. Thirteen states now have at least 70% of their adults at least partially vaccinated, achieving a goal set by President Biden weeks before a July Fourth target.

That rollout of vaccines, especially in California's [See Cases, A7]

Vaccine trial for kids 5-11 begins

COVID-19 shots could be cleared for the age group by fall if the study goes well. **CALIFORNIA, B2**



PATRICK SEMANSKY Associated Press

PRELUDE TO G-7 SUMMIT

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and wife Carrie in England. The two leaders reaffirmed the special ties between the U.S. and Britain. **WORLD, A3**

Californians have recall fever

Newsom not alone in facing threat to be booted from office

BY JULIA WICK

After nearly 20 years on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, Linda Parks thought her last political campaign was behind her. But Parks, a Republican-turned-political-independent who will be termed out of office at the end of next year, has once again found herself suiting up for political battle.

In late February, opponents officially launched a campaign to recall the five-term supervisor from office amid a maelstrom of mudslinging.

Seething rage over coronavirus closures — and Ventura County's decision



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

L.A. COUNTY Sheriff Alex Villanueva signs a petition to recall Dist. Atty. George Gascón.

Governor might face voters sooner

Budget analysis pegging recall cost at \$215 million could trigger earlier election. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

to pursue litigation against a number of businesses that repeatedly violated closure orders — are driving the recall effort.

"I've never seen a worse time for being a local elected official," Parks said, describing a level of vitriol unlike anything she has previously encountered. "I feel sorry for the school boards. I feel sorry for my fellow supervisors. I feel sorry for my city council members."

For months, attention has focused on the high-profile campaign to remove Gov. Gavin Newsom from office. But he is far from the only California politician fending off a people's revolt. Local recall attempts have [See Recalls, A7]



WALLY SKALIS Los Angeles Times

BOB LEVY, shown in Long Beach with one of his surfboards, traveled by van in the '70s from California to El Salvador, which has become a surfing hot spot.

COLUMN ONE

Sorry, dudes, your secret surfing spot is so busted

The Olympic trials were held in El Salvador, with seeds planted decades ago by young Californians looking for good waves

By Kevin Baxter

REPORTING FROM LA LIBERTAD, EL SALVADOR

Bob Levy grew up in El Salvador but discovered surfing in California, and he vividly remembers the day he returned to his homeland and hit the beach with a stiff, 10-foot surfboard under his arm.

"They didn't even know it was a board," Levy recalled. "They thought it was an airplane wing." Decades later that wing, along with a prayer of sorts from the government, has turned a 13-mile stretch of Salvadoran shoreline into one of the world's newest surfing meccas. It's a spot where the waves are so ripe and the water so warm, tourism officials are hoping it can repair the country's battered image while the International Surfing Assn. chose it as the location of the final qualifying rounds for the debut of surfing as an Olympic sport this summer.

The eight-day competition, known as the World Surfing Games and featuring 256 athletes from 51 countries, concluded Sunday. [See Surfing, A12]

Israel's kingmaker turned king-to-be remains an enigma

By Laura King

TEL AVIV — Naftali Bennett, the man on the brink of becoming Israel's next prime minister, has long been adept at keeping a foot in disparate worlds. That shape-shifting quality proved crucial in propelling the 49-year-old politician to the threshold of power in a country as deeply divided as it has been in nearly three-quarters of a century of statehood.

As the head of a small hard-line nationalist party, Bennett — son of American immigrants, onetime elite military commando, start-up entrepreneur who made a high-tech fortune — is in

many ways an unlikely figure to emerge from the no-holds-barred scrum of Israeli parliamentary politics with his hands on the biggest prize of all.

But a combination of happenstance, perseverance and more than a touch of raw political opportunism has put Bennett in position to push aside his former friend and mentor, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, when the Knesset, or parliament, holds a vote of confidence in a new ruling coalition Sunday.

Ousting Israel's longest-serving leader is no simple task, let alone governing in the aftermath of a bruising, era-ending change of power. [See Israel, A4]

6 charged in Capitol riot

A former La Habra police chief is among the Californians indicted on multiple counts. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

U.S. rehabilitates its image abroad

America's international standing has improved under President Biden after setbacks in the Trump era. **NATION, A5**

Weather

Sunny and warmer. L.A. Basin: 79/63. **B6**



DANA VERKOUTEREN Associated Press

DRUG LORD'S WIFE GUILTY

In U.S. court, Emma Coronel Aispuro admits helping husband Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán run his Mexican criminal empire. **WORLD, A3**

BUSINESS INSIDE: Consumer prices jump 5% year over year as demand roars back. **A8**

Russia set to arm Iran with an eye in space

Satellite system would let Tehran track potential military targets in region

BY JOBY WARRICK

Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will give Tehran an unprecedented ability to track potential military targets across the Middle East and beyond, according to current and former U.S. and Middle Eastern officials briefed on details of the agreement.

The plan would deliver to the Iranians a Russian-made Kanopus-V satellite equipped with a high-resolution camera that would greatly enhance Iran's spying capabilities, allowing continuous monitoring of facilities ranging from Persian Gulf oil refineries and Israeli military bases to Iraqi barracks that house U.S. troops, the officials said. The launch could happen within months, they said.

While the Kanopus-V is marketed for civilian use, Iranian military officials have been heavily involved in the acquisition, and leaders of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have made multiple trips to Russia since 2018 to help negotiate the terms of the agreement, the officials said. As recently as this spring, Russian experts traveled to Iran to help train ground crews that would operate the satellite from a newly built facility near the northern city of Karaj, the officials said.

Details of the agreement were described by a current and a former U.S. official as well as a senior Middle Eastern government official briefed on the sale. The three officials spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing sensitivities surrounding ongoing intelligence collection efforts. The Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow did not respond to an email request for comment.

SEE SATELLITE ON A12



TOBY MELVILLE/POOL/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

President Biden and first lady Jill Biden walk with Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his wife, Carrie Johnson, at Carbis Bay in Cornwall. The two leaders sat down for talks ahead of the Group of Seven summit, which begins Friday and will also include leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. **Story, A11**

Agencies urged to embrace telework

MORE FLEXIBILITY POST-PANDEMIC

Approach is a culture shift for federal employees

BY LISA REIN AND ERIC YODER

The Biden administration on Thursday told federal agencies that more employees can return to their offices as the threat of the coronavirus pandemic ebbs, but it also laid out a permanent work-from-home expansion that will drastically alter the federal government's workplace culture.

Federal agencies no longer have to limit the number of staffers allowed in their offices to 25 percent occupancy, the administration said in the first major announcement on pandemic staffing it has issued since January.

But the 20-page memo to federal agencies also maintains what started as an experiment in March 2020 to contend with the public health crisis — for the immediate future and potentially the long term.

As they make plans for a post-pandemic workplace, agencies across the government will be allowed to offer employees flexible schedules and remote work, depending on their needs, according to the guidance from the acting heads of the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Personnel Management and the General Services Administration.

"Evaluation of an employee's performance should be based on factors such as accountability for results or quality of the work, and should not be affected by whether an employee is working in the

SEE WORKERS ON A2

Metro: Fare cuts among changes approved to lure back riders. **B1**

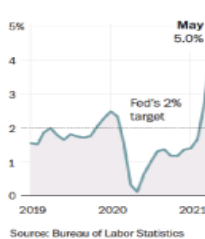
Surging prices spur attacks on Biden, the Fed

BY RACHEL SIEGEL AND TONY ROMM

Prices rose by 5 percent in May compared with a year ago, the largest increase since the Great Recession, continuing a steady climb in inflation even as policymakers insist on staying the course.

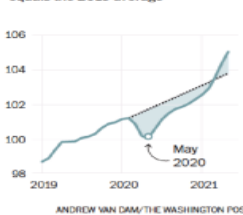
Price spikes often coincide with downturns, and officials from the White House and Federal Reserve have predicted that prices will rise over the coming months, especially compared with a year ago, when the economy was reeling from coronavirus pandemic shutdowns. However, the move adds new fuel to criticism from Republicans, and at least one prominent liberal economist, that too much government

Consumer-price inflation accelerated in April and May, relative to a year earlier. Change from a year earlier in consumer prices



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

But prices plunged a year ago, making comparisons difficult. They are not far above where they'd be if they had grown at a steady 2 percent during the pandemic



ANDREW VAN DAM/THE WASHINGTON POST

spending could wreak havoc and lead to an overheated economy.

It could take months before it's clear whether the current rise in inflation is temporary. But the steady climb is already weighing on numerous policy debates. Republicans pushed back hard on President Biden's proposal to spend \$4 trillion on infrastructure and other proposals, complaining that it amounted to an infusion of too much money at a time when prices on certain products were rising much faster than wages. GOP opposition has led the White House to rethink its spending strategy in recent weeks.

SEE INFLATION ON A24

FAQ: What is driving inflation, and how worried should you be? **A24**

Gore pressed Biden to stick with climate plans

Some Democrats fear initiatives would weaken in an infrastructure deal

BY JEFF TEIN, JULIE EILPERIN AND TYLER PAGER

A number of Democrats are growing increasingly nervous that the White House could agree to a bipartisan infrastructure deal that scales back key climate-change initiatives, prompting a lobbying push that has included former vice president Al Gore making his case directly to President Biden.

The private warning last month from the climate hawk and Democratic grandee comes as Biden fac-

es growing unease among liberals — including many administration officials — about his pursuit of Republican support for his next major spending package.

Gore called Biden to insist on the inclusion of climate policies after the encouragement of John Podesta, former chair of the liberal Center for American Progress think tank, said people briefed on the call, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss it. Gore also spoke with Biden aide Steve Ricchetti this week about climate and infrastructure, according to a separate person, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity to reveal the private conversation. A White House official said the call between Gore and Ricchetti ended on a positive note.

SEE CLIMATE ON A16

Entrenched police practices are outlasting monitors and public scrutiny alike

The endless cycle of outrage and reform

BY ROBERT KLEMM AND JOHN SULLIVAN

In 1988, as Joe Collum drove the New Jersey Turnpike to his new job at a local TV news station, he noticed a recurring scene on the side of the highway: White state troopers rifling through the belongings of Black and Latino motorists.

Collum, an investigative reporter, scoured arrest records in dozens of municipalities. Along the turnpike, he found, Black and Latino drivers accounted for the vast majority — 80 percent — of all state police arrests on the turnpike. "Without Just Cause," his investigative report on WWOR-TV Secaucus, introduced the world to the term "racial profiling."

"There was this big initiative to

UNACCOUNTABLE

An ongoing series examining policing in America



DANIEL HULSHIZER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tamara Dahan and Joseph Smith protest outside a hotel in Woodbridge, N.J., where a rally in support of the New Jersey State Police was being held in January 2001.

stop drugs coming in and out of New York City, and they were transparent about that," Collum said, "but the troopers individually and collectively, to some degree, decided that the best way to catch people with drugs was to target dark-skinned people."

Collum's reporting exposed how troopers' biases and assumptions about people of color had infected policing along New Jersey's main artery. State police denied they were targeting minorities. But a group of attorneys, motivated by Collum's reports, sued troopers, and a state court affirmed for the first time the existence of racial profiling by law enforcement.

The Justice Department ordered an end to the practice.

SEE REFORM ON A18

IN THE NEWS



MORRY GASH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweetstorm Jewish Democratic colleagues of Rep. Ilhan Omar denounce a post about Israel, ask for a response — and get one. **A8**

Virginia Beach shooting The man who killed 12 in 2019 had obsessed over "perceived workplace grievances," the FBI concluded. **B1**

THE NATION

Rates of anxiety and depression among college students have soared since the onset of the pandemic, with no signs of coming down, researchers say. **A3**
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The Supreme Court reined in a law requiring a 15-year minimum sentence for repeat violent offenders caught possessing a gun. **A4**
Scientists are only just starting to demystify the

coronavirus's effects on the brain. **A6**
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THE WORLD
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The wife of infamous drug lord "El Chapo" pleaded guilty to aiding his drug-trafficking empire and his 2015 prison break. **A13**

The reappearance of a slimmer-looking Kim Jong Un on state media has North Korea experts speculating on his health and possible geopolitical ramifications. **A14**

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The Labor Department released a workplace safety standard for virus risks that applies only to health-care facilities. **A15**

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Six California men, including four self-

described members of the Three Percenters, were charged with conspiracy in the Capitol breach. **B1**
Officials honored those lost to covid-19 in the jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and D.C. unveiled a new vaccination push. **B1**
Two alleged members of a white-supremacist group who are accused of plotting a "race war" pleaded guilty to firearms and immigration charges. **B3**

OBITUARIES
Richard L. Rubenstein, 97, a Jewish theologian, questioned traditional notions of God. **B6**

INSIDE



WEEKEND
A sunnier outlook With restrictions lifted across the region, a guide to navigating summer activities.

STYLE
In hindsight At first dismissed as a conspiracy theory, the "lab leak" hypothesis about the coronavirus's origin is getting a second look from journalists. **C1**

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—deportes

Jorge Valdano**“Del país de Di Stéfano, Maradona y Messi uno siempre espera más”**

ENTREVISTA — por Cristian Grosso

**“CANCELADO” EN EE.UU., PLÁCIDO DOMINGO FUE OVACIONADO EN ESPAÑA**

—espectáculos

Tras las denuncias de abuso sexual y pasar dos años sin subir al escenario, el artista volvió a cantar y fue distinguido como embajador cultural en su país.

LA MADRE DE ÁNGELES RAWSON SE AFERRA A LOS RECUERDOS

—seguridad

Desde un dolor inextinguible, Jimena Aduriz mantiene viva la imagen de su hija, asesinada en Palermo por Jorge Mangeri el 10 de junio de 2013. Página 22

LA NACION

VIERNES 11 DE JUNIO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Tras la polémica con Brasil y México, Perú protestó por un mensaje de Fernández

CONFLICTO. La cancillería peruana se quejó por el saludo precipitado del mandatario a Castillo

Luego de la polémica desatada por su desafortunada frase sobre el origen de los brasileños y los mexicanos, el presidente Alberto Fernández sumó ayer otro capítulo a la saga de traspiés diplomáticos al felicitar en forma precipitada al candidato presidencial peruano Pedro Castillo, que aún no fue oficializado como ganador.

La cancillería peruana entregó una “nota de protesta” al embajador argentino en Lima, Enrique Vaca Narvaja, en la que advirtió que los resultados finales de las elecciones generales 2021 “aún no han sido anunciados por las autoridades”.

En una nueva escalada con Brasil, el presidente Jair Bolsonaro comparó a Fernández con el venezolano Ni-

colás Maduro. La Cancillería, a cargo de Felipe Solá, intentó ayer distender el conflicto a través de los embajadores de los países implicados.

En tanto, ayer Fernández le pidió al Inadi que analice si sus dichos sobre los mexicanos (“descienden de los indios”) y los brasileños (“vienen de la selva”) son discriminatorios. Página 14

Palabras ligeras y atribuciones falsasHugo Beccacece
Página 15**El pretexto del Presidente**Santiago Kovadloff
Página 15

Piden que vuelva a la cárcel Keiko Fujimori

Fue denunciada por un fiscal anticorrupción en medio de su batalla por la presidencia

LIMA.— Con todas las actas procesadas, el socialista Pedro Castillo finalizó al frente del escrutinio de las elecciones peruanas, en un desenlace aún demorado debido a los 500.000 votos que su rival, Keiko Fujimori, exigió revisar. Mientras avanzaba en su estrategia, un fiscal pidió que la candidata de la derecha vuelva a la cárcel en la causa que se le sigue por corrupción tras violar los términos de su libertad condicional. Página 12

Nieve, inquietud y reclamos de centros de esquí

coronavirus— Mientras en Bariloche cayeron las primeras nevadas que disfrutaron los lugareños, los centros turísticos de invierno del país llevaron su preocupación al Gobierno por la indefinición sobre la próxima temporada y los perjuicios económicos. Página 9



MARCELO MARTÍNEZ

El nivel de contagios será clave para definir las restricciones en el AMBA

COVID. Una baja pronunciada podría distender las medidas en el área metropolitana

El Gobierno prorrogará el decreto de necesidad y urgencia (DNU) que fija un semáforo epidemiológico en el país, y esperará los datos de hoy para definir si el área metropolitana seguirá con un alto nivel de res-

tricciones o pasará a un esquema más flexible. Hasta ayer, el nivel de contagios impedía una distensión, ya que el AMBA se mantenía en “alarma epidemiológica”. Ayer, asimismo, el comité de expertos

transmitió al Gobierno una alerta por las vacaciones de invierno, con el argumento de que la movilidad que eso genera podría acarrear “una tercera ola” de la pandemia. Página 2

La Ciudad busca comprar 300.000 dosis de CanSino

Es de una sola aplicación; el contrato sería por un millón de vacunas

Página 6

Suben los montos de las categorías del monotributo

IMPUESTOS. Las nuevas escalas regirán desde julio; se eliminan las deudas

Tras el enojo y el desconcierto de los contribuyentes, el Gobierno decidió—a través de un proyecto de ley enviado al Congreso—no aumentar los aportes mensuales del monotributo con efecto retroactivo a enero. Al contrario, establecerá que los valores de las cuotas sean los mismos que rigieron durante los primeros seis meses del año, lo que anulará las deudas que había informado la AFIP. Al mismo tiempo, desde julio estarán vigentes los aumentos del 35,3% en las escalas. Además, se darán facilidades para no pasar al régimen general del IVA. Página 18

DESDE ADENTRO

El mundo sale al rescate de Alberto

Florencia Donovan
—PARA LA NACION—

Página 19

STF autoriza Copa América no Brasil, mas faz ressalvas

Por unanimidade, o Supremo Tribunal Federal autorizou ontem a realização da Copa América no Brasil. Os 11 ministros rejeitaram as ações apresentadas por entidades e partidos de oposição contra a decisão do governo de trazer a competição para o país.

Eles destacaram, porém, a necessidade de se cumprir medidas sanitárias contra a Covid. **Esporte B7**

PVC

Eurocopa exporá abismo entre nós

Improvisar a Copa América em apenas 13 dias, tempo que não se organiza nem uma festa de aniversário, evidenciará o abismo em relação à Europa. A Eurocopa deve nos mostrar o futebol alegre e otimista na luta para vencer a pandemia. **Esporte B7**

Presidente quer liberar vacinado de usar máscara

Jair Bolsonaro disse que o ministro Marcelo Queiroga prepara parecer para desobrigar a máscara para quem já foi vacinado ou teve Covid. "Queremos que [o não uso da máscara] seja o mais rápido possível, mas para isso precisamos vacinar a população", afirmou Queiroga. **Saúde B2**

CPI quebra sigilo de Pazuello, Ernesto e 'gabinete paralelo'

A CPI da Covid aprovou a quebra de sigilo telefônico e telemático dos ex-ministros Eduardo Pazuello (Saúde) e Ernesto Araújo (Relações Exteriores) e de integrantes do "gabinete paralelo". A medida abrangerá o período de abril de 2020 até agora. **Poder A5**

Rosa Weber livra governador do AM de depor no Senado

Poder A4

EDITORIAIS A2

Rubicon institucional Sobre PEC que veda militar da ativa no governo.

Quiproquô identitário Acerca de fala desastrosa de presidente argentino.

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Karime Xavier/Folhapress



Chefs Walkyria Fagundes e Ygor Lopes comandam o AEI

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Restaurantes chefiados por casais são sugestão para o Dia dos Namorados

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Invertebrados microscópicos são reavivados após 24 mil anos congelados

Esporte B7

Na Euro, França busca confirmar favoritismo e repetir geração 2000

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Autor de hits, DJ Ivis vira rei da pisadinha ao eletrizar forró e já ameaça sertanejos

América do Sul falha em domar Covid e se opõe a recuo global

Com imunização lenta e variante, região tem cinco vezes a taxa de casos europeia e não consegue baixar de patamar

Enquanto o número global de novos casos de Covid recua há seis semanas, segundo a Organização Mundial da Saúde, a América do Sul tem dificuldade em conter a pandemia e vê crescimento de infectados, além de manter o alto registro de óbitos pela doença. Na região, a média diária de diagnósticos é de 328 por milhão de habitantes, ante 60 na Europa.

Um alicerce desse elevado patamar é o Brasil, onde o índice de novas contaminações estagnou em 292 por milhão de pessoas, e as mortes palram em 2.000 ao dia (2.344 ontem). Uruguai, Paraguai, Argentina e Colômbia vivem situação pior. Para especialistas, pesa a disseminação da variante de Manaus em meio à pobreza e à baixa assistência.

Outro fator decisivo para a persistência do quadro tem sido a baixa imunização, dada a demora de governos locais, como o de Jair Bolsonaro, em adquirir vacinas.

Europa e América do Norte veem os casos despenca-rem, e mesmo a Índia parece ter contido a explosão de infecções, embora a aferição, assim como em países da África, seja falha. **Saúde B1**



Mark Blinch/Getty Images/AFP

ECLIPSE SOLAR É VISTO EM PARTES DO HEMISFÉRIO NORTE

Parcialmente encoberto pela Lua, Sol nasce em Toronto, no Canadá; fenômeno pôde ser observado ontem em cidades da América do Norte, Europa e Ásia

ANÁLISE

Denise Mota

Fernández e o mito da argentinidade

A declaração do presidente de que os argentinos vieram de barco da Europa repete narrativa tão amplamente difundida quanto preconceituosa, que invisibiliza a contribuição de indígenas e negros na história nacional. **Mundo A12**

STF diz que Estado deve indenizar jornalista ferido

Por 10 a 1, ministros do Supremo decidiram que o repórter-fotográfico Alex Silveira, atingido no olho esquerdo por bala de borracha disparada por PM em protesto de servidores na av. Paulista, em 2000, deve ser indenizado. A lesão deixou Silveira com 15% da visão no olho. **Poder A9**

No dia da morte de Kathlen, pessoas viram polícia atirar

Cinco pessoas ouvidas pela Comissão de Direitos Humanos da OAB-RJ contaram que viram um grupo de policiais passar atirando num beco do Complexo do Lins, no Rio, momentos antes de a designer Kathlen Romeu, 24, que estava grávida, ser baleada e morta na terça (8). **Cotidiano B4**

Bolsonaro acena a policiais com financiamento especial

Em novo aceno para policiais, o presidente Jair Bolsonaro planeja lançar programa de financiamento imobiliário subsidiado voltado para agentes de segurança. A ideia é que a Caixa Econômica Federal ofereça linha de crédito para que policiais militares e bombeiros possam ter casa própria.

O principal alvo, a princípio, são os agentes de baixa patente, que, dizem interlocutores, conseguirão financiar imóveis sem o pagamento de entrada.

Ainda não há valor total para o programa, e está nas mãos do Ministério da Justiça a engenharia financeira do programa. **Mercado A15**

Para 89% dos pais, filhos usam mais celular, TV e games

Cotidiano B5

Pandemia faz cair estoques de sangue e dificulta doações

Saúde B3

semináriosfolha Privatização da Eletrobras

MP da estatal, que caduca dia 22, desagrade a setores da indústria e da energia **Mercado A18 e A19**

Petrobras mantém preço há 40 dias, e combustível sobe

O país chega a 40 dias sem fazer reajustes nas refinarias, mas nos postos os preços sobem sob efeitos de repasses de ICMS e do aumento dos biocombustíveis. A Petrobras tem evitado repasses de altas externas após a ingerência federal, indica levantamento do Inep. **Mercado A16**

Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*

	2ª dose	1ª dose
Brasil	14,6	32,8
MS	18,4	46,6
RS	17,9	39,6
ES	14,8	32,7

Cobertura da primeira dose*



Total de doses aplicadas

	23,5 mi	52,8 mi
1º SP	5,9 mi	13 mi
2º MG	2,5 mi	5,3 mi
3º BA	1,6 mi	3,9 mi

Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	17,2 mi	482,1 mil
10.jun**	59,2 mil	1.764
Variação***	-6,4%	-0,1%
Em 24 h	89,8 mil	2.344

Brasil Estável

Estágios

■ Acelerado
■ Estável
■ Desacelerado
■ Reduzido

Dados das 20h de 10.jun *Acima de 18 anos **Média móvel de 7 dias ***Em relação a 14 dias





MOPC destituye a director y abre una auditoría técnica de la obra

Cede puente fiscalizado 15 días atrás y mueren 3 personas

Dos camiones y una camioneta cayeron al precipicio, tras colapsar la vía sobre el arroyo Lorito, en Tacuatí. Pobladores critican desidia de Obras Públicas.

PÁGINAS 24 y 25

No soportó. La estructura de hormigón cedió. Días antes estuvieron por el lugar técnicos del MOPC que nada hicieron para fortalecerla, denunciaron vecinos.



Senado pide priorizar a discapacitados
Las escasas vacunas que están disponibles son aplicadas a cuentagotas

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Cuestiona también el pésimo servicio
Hacienda dice que es inviable garantizar una ganancia a transportistas

PÁGINA 12

Continúa la ola de delitos y violencia
Bandas de microtráfico se toman a tiros para tener control territorial

PÁGINA 50

Hay aglomeración, reparto de dinero, bebidas y cosificación de la mujer

Exigen intervención fiscal ante el descontrol en las campañas

PÁGINA 6

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LE FIGARO

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



FINANCE

AMSTERDAM A PROFITÉ DU BREXIT POUR DEVENIR LA PREMIÈRE BOURSE EUROPÉENNE PAGES 24 ET 25

TOCQUEVILLE

COMMENT L'AUTEUR DE « DE LA DÉMOCRATIE EN AMÉRIQUE » EST SORTI DE L'OUBLI APRÈS-GUERRE PAGE 17



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- L'analyse d'Alexis Feertchak

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FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de jeudi :

Faut-il supprimer le bac ?

OUI 29% NON 71%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 88 468

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Pensez-vous que l'équipe de France de football va gagner l'Euro ?

PHOTO JOISSE/LEEMAGE - EN VAN WEE/ANP VIA AFP

Joe Biden veut enrôler l'Europe contre la Chine

Lors du G7 qui s'ouvre ce vendredi au Royaume-Uni, puis au sommet de l'Otan à Bruxelles, le président américain entend fédérer les démocraties face à la montée des nouvelles menaces.

À l'occasion de son premier voyage à l'étranger, quatre mois et demi après sa prise de fonction, Joe Biden va rencontrer en Europe la majorité de ses partenaires oc-

cidentaux : les membres du G7, ceux de l'Otan et les dirigeants de l'UE. Les objectifs du président vont au-delà du réconfort de ces alliés : il souhaite former un front

commun des démocraties sur lequel appuyer sa diplomatie. Ses priorités, en particulier la montée en puissance de la Chine, relèvent pour lui presque autant de la

politique intérieure que de la politique étrangère. Face aux nouvelles menaces - compétition technologique, cyberattaques, sécurité sanitaire mondiale, climat -, Biden

voit la nécessité de travailler étroitement avec les Européens. Surtout, « il ne veut pas être seul dans son face-à-face stratégique avec Pékin », souligne un analyste.

→ « L'EMPATHIE STRATÉGIQUE » AU CŒUR DE LA DIPLOMATIE DU PRÉSIDENT AMÉRICAIN → NUAGES NORD-IRLANDAIS SUR SON PREMIER SOMMET AVEC BORIS JOHNSON → EMMANUEL MACRON SALUE « UNE COMMUNAUTÉ DE VALEURS AVEC L'AMÉRIQUE » → LES EUROPÉENS ENTRE PRUDENCE ET ATTENTISME PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL



« À l'Euro, on veut rester dans les étoiles »

Didier Deschamps répond à Emmanuel Macron, Bernard Tapie, Hélène Darroze, au chanteur Vianney, à Thomas Pesquet... NOTRE CAHIER SPÉCIAL

Macron décide de réduire la présence française au Sahel

Le président de la République a annoncé jeudi une « transformation profonde » du dispositif militaire français au Sahel, où sont déployés 5100 soldats. Après le récent coup d'État au Mali, l'opération Barkhane, amorcée en 2014, va prendre fin pour être remplacée par une mission internationale à laquelle participera la France. La présence française devrait ainsi être réduite de moitié à l'horizon 2023. PAGE 9

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Amitié conditionnelle

La semaine européenne de Joe Biden s'amorce sous les meilleurs auspices. Il a choisi l'Europe pour son premier voyage à l'étranger, signe de la priorité qu'il donne au rétablissement des alliances traditionnelles, quelque peu malmenées par son prédécesseur. Ses hôtes se réjouissent ostensiblement du « retour » de l'Amérique dans le jeu multilatéral et voient avec soulagement se rouvrir le « parapluie » militaire américain, faute d'avoir progressé sur leur propre autonomie stratégique. En terrain conquis, Biden compte s'afficher comme le champion d'intérêts et de valeurs partagés, chef d'un « camp occidental » ressoudé avant d'affronter « en position de force » Vladimir Poutine mercredi prochain. Mais attention aux malentendus. Malgré les scènes de retrouvailles entre amis, le 46^e chef de la Maison-Blanche, qui pratique depuis un demi-siècle les codes et les couloirs de la diplomatie, ne va pas se contenter d'échanger des tapes dans le dos. Il vise un objectif central : enrôler les alliés des États-Unis dans la compétition géopolitique qui se met en place avec la Chine. Les Européens auraient tort de sous-estimer l'obsession chinoise de Joe

Biden et du Congrès américain, qui vient de voter une enveloppe de 250 milliards de dollars pour battre Pékin dans la course technologique. Washington veut projeter l'Otan jusqu'en mer de Chine et mobiliser le G7 derrière un plan d'aide aux pays en développement offrant « une alternative » aux routes de la soie chinoises.

On se souvient de George W. Bush plaçant « toutes les nations » devant un choix binaire après le 11 septembre 2001. Joe Biden pourrait être tenté de s'engager dans la même voie du « avec ou contre nous », face à des Européens que n'enchantent guère la perspective d'une nouvelle guerre froide les prenant en étau. Pour sortir de l'étreinte étouffante de l'ami américain sans fissurer la nécessaire unité du bloc occidental, les alliés doivent poser leurs conditions au président : consultation, proportionnalité, engagement - les termes d'un véritable partenariat. À eux de prendre la place du médiateur pour échapper à celle de l'otage. ■

Ne pas sous-estimer l'obsession chinoise de Biden

CONÇUE PAR INDIA. WHISKEY. CHARLIE.



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Bitter standoff over Brexit sours start of G7 summit

Cutting NHS delays may cost £40bn, No 10 is told

Exclusive

Denis Campbell
Pamela Duncan



'Nothing is negotiable' over Northern Ireland protocol, warns Macron

Heather Stewart
Kim Willsher
Peter Walker

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, last night increased pressure on Boris Johnson over the Northern Ireland protocol by insisting "nothing is negotiable", as the G7 summit of world leaders risked being overshadowed by a bitter Brexit standoff.

As he prepared to travel to Britain, he told Boris Johnson that France was not open to renegotiating any aspect of the protocol - and appeared to raise questions about whether the UK could be trusted.

Asked about British demands for reworking aspects of the protocol, Macron told journalists at an Élysée press conference: "I think this is not serious. To want to have another look at something in July that was finalised in December after years of discussions and work."

"We have a protocol. If after six months you say we cannot respect what was negotiated, then that says nothing can be respected. I believe in the weight of a treaty, I believe in taking a serious approach. Nothing is negotiable. Everything is applicable."

His tough words came as Johnson was forced to play down divisions with the US president, Joe Biden, calling him "a breath of fresh air," after it emerged US diplomats had remonstrated with the UK Brexit negotiator, David Frost, about the risk of inflaming tensions in Northern Ireland.

Talks on resolving the impasse

▲ 'A breath of fresh air': Joe and Jill Biden in Carbis Bay with Boris and Carrie Johnson before the summit

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

over the implementation of the protocol collapsed this week, and Lord Frost has accused the EU side of "legal purism" in the way it has interpreted the agreement. He is expected to join the summit today.



▲ Macron: 'I believe in the weight of a treaty, in a serious approach'

Downing Street and the White House reaffirmed their commitment to the Good Friday agreement after the talks, and stressed the need for the standoff to be resolved jointly, between the UK and the EU.

But Johnson's official spokesman made clear afterwards that did not mean Britain was stepping back from the threat of taking unilateral action - such as invoking article 16 of the agreement, to suspend the protocol. "We continue to keep all options on the table, because time is short."

Mujtaba Rahman, EU analyst at the consultancy Eurasia Group, said he now puts a 30% probability on the risk of an EU-UK trade war, in which he said the EU could retaliate by limiting UK fish exports and even interrupting Britain's electricity supply to Jersey and Great Britain. He said an intervention by the G7 appeared necessary to

Boris Johnson may have to spend up to £40bn to cut NHS waiting times and end long delays being faced by patients, according to unpublished Downing Street estimates.

Calculations for No 10 drawn up by the Cabinet Office make clear that the prime minister may have to commit anywhere between £2bn and £10bn a year for up to four years, on top of core NHS funding, to tackle what is fast becoming a major headache for the government. The figures, disclosed by Whitehall sources, underline the huge scale of the challenge in getting NHS waiting times back to manageable levels before the next election.

The latest NHS England performance figures, out yesterday, showed that the total number of people waiting for hospital treatment, especially surgery, has topped 5m for the first time. It stood at 5,122,017 in April, the highest since records began in 2007.

However, Downing Street thinks it does not need to start throwing money at the problem soon, because the public are not yet "distressed" about long delays, a source with knowledge of No 10's thinking said.

The projections were put together by the Cabinet Office as part of its work looking at the scale of post-Covid support needed in health, education and justice. Some Tories are tipping Michael Gove, the Cabinet Office minister, to succeed Matt Hancock as health secretary.

The Treasury is reluctant to hand over large sums to tackle waiting lists, sources say. NHS England plans to give Downing Street a detailed analysis soon of how long it will take to start providing care again within its existing targets, to help inform No 10's thinking

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