

What's News

Business & Finance

The Biden administration ousted the head of Fannie and Freddie's regulator after the Supreme Court ruled the agency was structured unconstitutionally, dealing the latest blow to investors betting that the mortgage giants would be returned to private hands. **A1**

Ant is in talks with Chinese state-owned enterprises to create a credit-scoring company that will put the fintech's proprietary consumer data under regulators' purview. **A1**

A House committee approved far-reaching legislation to curb the market dominance of tech giants, including Alphabet's Google and Facebook. **A3**

Warren Buffett is stepping down as a trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as the charity looks to reshape its leadership structure. **B1**

BuzzFeed is close to a deal to go public through a merger with a special-purpose acquisition company. **B1**

John McAfee, the anti-virus software pioneer, was found dead in a jail cell in Spain, according to a statement from his attorney. **B1**

Southwest's Gary Kelly will step down as the airline's CEO in February, handing the reins to company veteran Bob Jordan. **B1**

The Nasdaq rose 0.1%, notching a second consecutive record, while the S&P 500 and Dow declined 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively. **B11**

OPEC and its allies are considering boosting the group's collective output by some 500,000 barrels a day when they meet next week. **B1**

World-Wide

The U.S. intelligence community concluded last week that Afghanistan's government could collapse as soon as six months after the American military withdrawal from the country is completed, officials with knowledge of the new assessment said. **A1**

Members of a bipartisan group negotiating a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal said they had crafted a framework for an agreement, and lawmakers plan to meet with Biden on Thursday to try to finalize a deal. **A4**

Chinese researchers directed the NIH to delete gene sequences of early Covid-19 cases from a database, raising concerns that scientists studying the pandemic's origin may lack access to key information. **A3**

The Supreme Court extended its protection of student speech to social media, ruling that a school district overstepped its authority by punishing a high-school cheerleader who used a vulgar word on Snapchat. **A6**

The high court struck down a California regulation granting union organizers access to farmworkers on agricultural fields, ruling the 1975 measure violated growers' private-property rights. **A6**

The Trump Justice Department obtained communications records of some Democratic lawmakers in 2018 because they had been in contact with one or more congressional staffers suspected of leaking classified information, not because the lawmakers were targets, people familiar with the matter said. **A4**

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Pro-Democracy Newspaper in Hong Kong Faces Final Edition



DEMISE: Staff members wave flashlights to supporters from the roof of Apple Daily's headquarters in Hong Kong on Wednesday. The newspaper, which drew the ire of China's leaders, is majority-owned by jailed Beijing critic Jimmy Lai. **A9**

Ant Holds Talks to Share Data With State-Owned Companies

By JING YANG AND XIE YU

HONG KONG—Ant Group Co. is in talks with Chinese state-owned enterprises to create a credit-scoring company that will put the fintech's proprietary consumer data under regulators' purview, according to people familiar with the matter.

The new entity, which could be established as soon as the third quarter, could result in Ant ceding some control over the voluminous data it has on

the financial habits of Chinese citizens. More than one billion people use Ant's Alipay app to spend, borrow or invest, and the information that Ant has collected and used has been the secret sauce behind the company's success.

The talks between Ant, which is controlled by billionaire Jack Ma, and Chinese state-owned companies are likely to result in the formation of a joint venture that would be licensed as a credit-scoring company. Ant and reg-

ulators have also been discussing whether the firm should be run and controlled by Ant or state-owned companies, people familiar with the matter said.

The regulators are pushing for prospective state-owned shareholders to play a greater role in the new entity to have a bigger say in how it operates, some of the people familiar with the negotiations said. Potential shareholders include a Shanghai-based financial conglomerate. There have also been talks about what sort of

data would be collected by the new firm and how the credit scores it produces would fit into China's broader plans to build a nationwide database, the people said.

The discussions are continuing, and final decisions haven't been made, the people said.

An Ant spokesman declined to comment on plans for the credit-scoring business. The People's Bank of China, which is overseeing a broader overhaul of Ant, didn't respond to

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Tech Firms Snap Up Renewable Energy

By SAM SCHECHNER

The race to secure electricity deals for power-hungry data centers has tech companies reshaping the renewable-energy market and grappling with a new challenge: how to ensure their investments actually reduce emissions.

Amazon.com Inc. made public on Wednesday commitments to buy 1.5 gigawatts of production capacity from 14 new solar and wind plants around the world as part of its push to purchase enough renewable energy to cover all of the company's activities by 2025.

Tech companies are wielding their balance sheets to finance solar, wind and other

renewable-energy projects on an unprecedented scale. In some countries, developers have said tech companies' willingness to spend upfront—signing commitments to buy energy at a certain price for long periods—has helped make companies more important than government subsidies as the main drivers of renewable investment.

Amazon, Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Facebook Inc. and Microsoft Corp. are four of the top six corporate buyers of publicly disclosed renewable-energy-purchase agreements, accounting for 30%, or 25.7 gigawatts, of the cumulative total from companies globally, according to the research firm

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INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Warren Buffett steps down as a trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. **B1**

PERSONAL JOURNAL

Urban areas that were empty during the lockdown go all out to welcome visitors. **A11**

U.S.'s Afghan Exit Is Seen Hastening Government's Fall

By GORDON LUBOLD AND YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

KABUL—The U.S. intelligence community concluded last week that the government of Afghanistan could collapse as soon as six months after the American military withdrawal from the country is completed, officials with knowledge of the new assessment said.

U.S. intelligence agencies revised their previously more optimistic estimates as the Taliban swept through northern Afghanistan last week, seizing dozens of districts and surrounding major cities. Afghan

security forces frequently surrendered without a fight, leaving their Humvees and other U.S.-supplied equipment to the insurgents.

The new assessment of the overall U.S. intelligence community, which hasn't been previously reported, has now aligned more closely with the analysis that had been generated by the U.S. military. The military has withdrawn more than half of its 3,500 troops and its equipment, with the rest due to be out by Sept. 11.

On Wednesday, Taliban fighters battled government

Please turn to page A9

Fans, Once Furious, Get Han Back

Action movie favorite died; plot twist revives him

By BOURREE LAM

On the shortlist of movie characters with the least screen time but the biggest fan bases, Han Lue from the "Fast & Furious" franchise ranks high.

The character, played by Sung Kang, appeared in just four of the eight movies in the franchise as a side character, stealing scenes as the "chameleon" of Dominic Toretto's crew of fast-driving criminals. He munched on snacks, delivered heartfelt lines and got the girl—Gal Gadot, in this case—before he was killed off in a fiery crash involving his signature 1997 Mazda RX-7.

Now, the \$6 billion franchise

Please turn to page A10

Comcast Aims to Dominate Streaming

CEO sticks with marriage of content and delivery, though AT&T has reversed course

By LILLIAN RIZZO

Comcast Corp. chief executive Brian Roberts built a colossus, branching out from cable and broadband into entertainment with the acquisition of NBCUniversal a decade ago. Now, he has to prove the company is equipped to compete amid a dramatic industry shift to streaming.

Mr. Roberts is out to show Wall Street that Comcast's marriage of content and distribution puts it in a strong position to fight on two different fronts of the streaming wars. He has green-lighted new spending and partnerships meant to answer concerns from some investors and analysts that the company has been too timid

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Japan Inc shake-up

Toshiba's board vote set to reshape investor landscape — BIG READ, PAGE 15

Amazon effect

Tech group's higher wages raise the bar for the rest of America — PAGE 9



Shoes, bag, car

Why malls are the future for electric vehicle sales — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 17

Berlin and Paris propose reset for EU relations with Moscow

Summit with Putin mooted • Biden sets template • Move likely to alarm Baltic states

SAM FLEMING, VALENTINA POP, MEHREZ KHAN AND MICHAEL PEEL
BRUSSELS
HENRY POY MOSCOW

Germany and France have called for closer engagement with Russia to build on discussions with Moscow in the wake of US president Joe Biden's Geneva summit with Vladimir Putin.

Diplomats said Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, wanted the EU to consider inviting the Russian president to a summit with EU leaders, and that the initiative was supported by French president Emmanuel Macron.

Ambassadors representing Berlin and Paris wrongfooted other EU capitals at a meeting in Brussels yesterday by proposing the strategy for the relationship with the Kremlin, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.

However, Merkel has consulted European allies in the past few days, with Macron and Italian prime minister Mario Draghi both visiting Berlin for talks. US secretary of state Antony Blinken has also been in the city for talks with the government this week.

Initial discussions between EU and Kremlin officials regarding the various proposals have already happened, including on the feasibility of a summit involving Putin. The Kremlin did not respond to a request for comment.

Germany is of the view that the Biden-Putin summit is a template for reviving relations with Russia. Merkel meets Putin regularly, but advocates finding a format that allows the EU to speak with one voice on Russia.

"However much we argue, we must keep the channels of communication open, so as to be able to clearly express our positions and interests and then look to see if any solutions can be found," Merkel said before her meeting with Blinken yesterday.

EU summits with Putin have been suspended since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. The proposed outreach to Moscow is likely to alarm EU member

HMS Defender denial UK rebuts Russian claims over warning shots



The UK has denied claims by Russia that its forces fired warning shots at British destroyer HMS Defender off the coast of Crimea yesterday. The Russian defence ministry said a coastguard ship fired shots and an aircraft dropped four bombs in the Defender's path. Page 2

countries such as the Baltic states and Poland, which neighbour Russia, and seek a tougher line with the Kremlin.

EU leaders touched on the future of Russia relations at their May summit and tasked the European Commission to propose how to proceed. But the Franco-German draft text is far more conciliatory than last week's commission analysis which warned of a "negative spiral" in EU-Russian relations.

The proposed wording reiterated the EU's willingness for "a selective engagement" with Russia on areas of common interest. Topics would include climate, the Arctic, health, space, the fight against terrorism and foreign policy areas including Syria and Iran.

The text also stresses the need for the EU to respond to "malign activities"

"However much we argue, we must keep the channels of communication open"

Angela Merkel, German chancellor

from Russia, calling on Brussels to draw up options for possible sanctions.

The proposal came a day after Merkel spoke to Putin in a call to mark 80 years since the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. During the call, according to the Kremlin, "it was pointed out that overcoming mutual hostility and achieving reconciliation between the Russian and German people was of crucial significance for the postwar future of Europe, and that ensuring security on our common continent now is only possible through joint efforts".

One senior EU diplomat said the Franco-German initiative had caused a "stink" among fellow EU countries, who voiced their frustration at the last minute intervention on the eve of the summit. "This is not a way things should be handled," said the diplomat.

Additional reporting by Guy Chazan in Berlin and Victor Mallet in Paris

Briefing

US Delta variant surge fuels concern

The US has experienced a sharp uptick in the prevalence of the more contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus, just as preparations begin for the July 4 Independence Day celebrations. — PAGE 3

Biden pushes for fresh China talks

After five months of a hardline stance towards China, US president is pushing for high-level meetings between the two countries. In the next phase of his reset of policy towards Beijing. — PAGE 4

New Lego brick builds green credentials

Lego has made a breakthrough in its attempts to move away from oil-derived plastics, unveiling a prototype for its iconic brick made from recycled drinks bottles. — PAGE 6

JLR goes straight to the source for chips

Jaguar Land Rover chief executive Thierry Bolloré has told the Financial Times he is to overhaul the supply chain and address a microchip shortage by dealing directly with manufacturers. — PAGE 8

Rebounds heighten inflation fears

A boom in business activity across Europe and the US to near-record levels is creating supply shortages and driving up prices as economies show strong signs of recovery from the pandemic. — PAGE 3

Sánchez seeks to cool Catalonia heat

Prime minister Pedro Sánchez's decision to pardon nine Catalan separatists has been welcomed by some as a rare chance to make progress on Spain's biggest unresolved issue. — PAGE 2, OPINION, PAGE 17

HK pro-democracy newspaper shuts

Hong Kong's pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily has said it will close after China froze its assets and arrested journalists, dealing a blow to freedom of speech in the city. — PAGE 4, FT VIEW, PAGE 16

Datawatch

Fake news

% that find each platform most concerning for Covid misinformation



Source: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. Survey conducted Jan/Feb 2021

Misinformation about Covid-19 has spread via social media. In places such as Brazil and Indonesia, one in three worry that WhatsApp is used to spread rumours and conspiracies. In the UK and US, Facebook is more of a concern



Africa hit by third Covid wave as job drive falters

African nations are suffering from a third wave of coronavirus, with official figures showing that out of more than 5m confirmed cases across the continent, about 1m cases were reported in the past month. More than a dozen countries are reporting their worst levels of infections since the pandemic began and doctors are warning of dwindling hospital beds and oxygen. Meanwhile, vaccination rates lag behind the rest of the world.

Analysis — PAGE 3

Morgan Stanley rules no vaccination, no entry to NY office for staff or clients

IMANI MOISE — NEW YORK

Morgan Stanley employees and clients who have not received their Covid-19 vaccine will be barred from entering the bank's New York offices, according to an internal memo seen by the Financial Times.

"Starting July 12, all employees, contingent workforce, clients and visitors will be required to attest to being fully vaccinated to access Morgan Stanley buildings in New York City and Westchester," said the memo, signed by chief human resources officer Mandell Crawford.

After that date, those who have not been fully inoculated will lose building access, Crawford wrote, adding that the "overwhelming majority of staff" had already reported getting their jabs.

The policy was designed to speed up the process of getting offices back to

normal, the bank said. Morgan Stanley had already implemented "vaccine-only" workspaces across some divisions including wealth management to enable "enhanced collaboration and productivity," the memo said.

The bank has also loosened protocols for vaccinated staff by dropping the daily health check form requirement for those who want to go into the office or visit clients.

Morgan Stanley's vaccination policy is the strictest yet among large Wall Street banks, which have been at the forefront of the push to convince workers to return to the office. This month, Goldman Sachs made it compulsory for staff to disclose their vaccination status, but unvaccinated staff are permitted in buildings if they wear masks and socially distance. At JPMorgan Chase, vaccine disclosure is still voluntary.

Last week BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, also said it would only open offices to vaccinated employees.

James Gorman, Morgan Stanley's chief executive, has adopted a tough stance on the need for New York-based employees to return to the office, arguing that if they feel comfortable dining out in a restaurant then they should also feel safe at work.

The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in December said companies could bar employees from workplaces if they refused to get vaccinated, subject to religious and medical exemptions.

Morgan Stanley partnered with Capsule Pharmacy in April to host employee-only vaccine clinics at its Times Square headquarters, according to people briefed on the arrangement.

World Markets

| STOCK MARKETS | | | | CURRENCIES | | | | INTEREST RATES | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | Jun 23 | prev | %chg | | Jun 23 | prev | %chg | | price | yield | chg |
| S&P 500 | 4249.22 | 4248.44 | 0.07 | \$ per £ | 1.195 | 1.190 | 0.715 | US Gov 10 yr | 146.75 | 1.48 | 0.01 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 14262.75 | 14253.27 | 0.21 | \$ per € | 1.397 | 1.392 | 0.357 | UK Gov 10 yr | 0.79 | 0.00 | -0.01 |
| Dow Jones Ind | 33920.03 | 33945.58 | -0.08 | € per \$ | 0.855 | 0.855 | 0.000 | Ger Gov 10 yr | -0.18 | 0.01 | -0.01 |
| FTSE100 | 1748.45 | 1761.18 | -0.72 | ¥ per \$ | 110.800 | 110.700 | 0.090 | Japan Gov 10 yr | 116.85 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Euro Stoxx 50 | 4084.00 | 4123.13 | -0.95 | \$ per ¥ | 154.777 | 154.102 | 0.435 | US Gov 30 yr | 111.44 | 2.12 | 0.01 |
| FTSE 100 | 7074.06 | 7080.01 | -0.22 | SFr per € | 1.096 | 1.095 | 0.001 | Ger Gov 2 yr | 105.83 | -0.66 | -0.01 |
| FTSE All-Share | 4039.40 | 4048.07 | -0.18 | € per \$ | 0.837 | 0.840 | -0.003 | | | | |
| CAC 40 | 6951.07 | 6961.50 | -0.91 | | | | | | | | |
| Nikkei 225 | 15456.39 | 15508.33 | -1.75 | | | | | | | | |
| Hong Kong | 28874.89 | 28864.13 | 0.03 | | | | | | | | |
| Hang Seng | 28817.07 | 28809.76 | 0.03 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI World \$ | 3801.14 | 3802.11 | -0.04 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI EM \$ | 1346.84 | 1350.52 | -0.27 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI ACWI | 714.74 | 711.04 | 0.52 | | | | | | | | |

| COMMODITIES | | | | INTEREST RATES | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Jun 23 | prev | %chg | | price | yield | chg |
| Oil WTI \$ | 73.83 | 72.85 | 1.07 | Fed Funds Eff | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.01 |
| Oil Brent \$ | 75.86 | 74.81 | 1.14 | US 3m Bills | 0.04 | 0.05 | -0.01 |
| Gold \$ | 1775.05 | 1775.05 | 0.00 | Euro Libor 3m | -0.54 | -0.55 | 0.01 |
| | | | | UK 3m | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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Adams Welded Diverse Allies To Pull Ahead

Uniting Black, Latino
and Labor Voters

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Eric Adams's strong showing in New York City's Democratic primary for mayor reflected his ability to build an old-school political coalition that united Black and Latino voters with unions.

He was able to persuade working-class people, largely outside Manhattan, that he was the best candidate to make the city safe from crime and return it to economic health. But even as he held a 75,000-vote lead on Wednesday night over his closest rival, Maya Wiley, his victory was not assured.

Nearly 70 percent of voters did not choose Mr. Adams, the Brooklyn borough president, as their first choice, and the final outcome will depend on how many of those voters listed him lower on their ballots.

Under the city's new system of ranked-choice voting, where voters select as many as five candidates in order of preference, thousands of votes will be shifted among the candidates before a final winner is declared. Tens of thousands of absentee ballots must also be counted, and the entire process may take until July 12.

It remains mathematically possible for Mr. Adams's closest rivals — Ms. Wiley, a former counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio, or Kathryn Garcia, a former city sanitation commissioner — to still finish first after ranked-choice tabulations, but it seems unlikely, according to voting experts.

In ranked-choice elections in the United States over the last two decades, the candidate who is in first place in the first round of voting usually wins. Ms. Wiley or Ms. Garcia would have to be overwhelmingly ranked higher than Mr. Adams among voters who supported other losing candidates.

It is also unclear how many voters ranked five candidates; a phenomenon known as "ballot exhaustion," when every candidate ranked by a voter has been eliminated, could favor Mr. Adams.

"It's mathematically possible, but it's highly unlikely," Ken Sherrill, a professor emeritus of political science at Hunter College, said of Ms. Wiley or Ms. Garcia pulling off a win. "Seventy-five thousand is a very large number to overcome."

Continued on Page A16



Eric Adams after the polls closed Tuesday. Mr. Adams, who ran as a moderate, led in every borough except Manhattan in early results.

Why Choose? Democrats Seek To Fund and Reform the Police.

By ALEXANDER BURNS

Facing a surge in shootings and homicides and persistent Republican attacks on liberal criminal-justice policies, Democrats from the White House to Brooklyn Borough Hall are rallying with sudden confidence around a politically potent cause: funding the police.

In the nation's capital on Wednesday, President Biden put the weight of his office behind a crime-fighting agenda, unveiling a national strategy that includes cracking down on illegal gun sales and encouraging cities to use hundreds of billions of dollars in pandemic relief money for law-enforcement purposes. His speech represented the most muscular response so far from his administration to a rise in crime that has stricken the country's major cities.

In New York City, the country's

largest metropolis and a Democratic stronghold, it was Eric Adams, a former police officer who is Black, who rode an anti-crime message to a commanding lead in the initial round of the Democratic mayoral primary on Tuesday.

The back-to-back developments signaled a shift within the Democratic Party toward themes of public safety. Senior Democrats said they expected party leaders to lean hard into that issue in the coming months, trumpeting federal funding for police departments in the American Rescue Plan and attacking Republicans for having voted

Continued on Page A18

With Homicides Rising, Biden Frees Money for Public Safety

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

WASHINGTON — President Biden said on Wednesday that states could draw from \$350 billion in federal stimulus money to shore up police departments and vowed to crack down on gun dealers who fail to run background checks, as the White House seeks to combat the alarming rise in homicide rates in America's cities.

Mr. Biden's speech made clear that he intends to approach crime prevention by investing in, rather than defunding, the police — wading into a national debate about whether the government should give police departments more resources, or spend the money on mental health and other social services instead.

The president tried to appeal to both sides on Wednesday, saying from the White House that "this is not a time to turn our backs on law enforcement or our communities."

Under Mr. Biden's new plan, state and local governments will

be allowed to use their designated \$350 billion of coronavirus relief funds for programs such as hiring police officers to pre-pandemic levels, paying overtime for community policing work and supporting community-based anti-violence groups. City governments struggling with high crime will be able to go even further, hiring even more officers than they had before the pandemic.

The money is not new spending, but the administration is for the first time encouraging states to use the funds for expanding policing efforts and crime prevention efforts.

The funds can also be used for

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JUSTICES REIN IN SCHOOLS' POWER TO LIMIT SPEECH

8-1 RULING FOR STUDENT

Court Says Cheerleader's
Vulgar Off-Campus
Post Is Shielded

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that a Pennsylvania school district had violated the First Amendment by punishing a student for a vulgar social media message sent while she was not on school grounds.

The decision, on a vote of 8 to 1, did not establish a categorical ban on regulating student speech outside of school, citing the need of school systems to be able to deal with issues like bullying and threats.

Instead, it set out factors that courts should assess in weighing the right of administrators to punish speech in nonschool settings, with one important component being whether parents are better suited to handle the situation.

But it was the first time in more than 50 years that a high school student won a free-speech case in the Supreme Court, and the decision emphasized that courts should be skeptical of efforts to constrain off-campus speech.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer, writing for the majority, said part of what schools must teach students is the value of free speech. "America's public schools are the nurseries of democracy," he wrote. "Our representative democracy only works if we protect the 'marketplace of ideas.'"

"Schools have a strong interest in ensuring that future generations understand the workings in practice of the well-known aphorism, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it,'" he wrote.

Justice Clarence Thomas dissented. The ruling came at a time when social media has complicated issues of free speech for students, giving wide circulation to opinions, comments, gossip and other utterances that might otherwise attract little notice. In its ruling, the court appeared to acknowledge that it needed to set some boundaries on the power of school

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A Hong Kong Paper Loudly Backed Democracy. China Muted It.

By AUSTIN RAMZY
and TIFFANY MAY

HONG KONG — Apple Daily, a popular newspaper in Hong Kong, has long needed Beijing with its rambunctious support of pro-democracy protesters, aggressive investigations of officials and lampooning of China's Communist Party leadership. Now China has effectively silenced the paper — and along with it, one of its most defiant critics.

Apple Daily said on Wednesday that it was closing less than a week after the police froze its accounts, raided its offices and arrested top editors, as the government's escalating campaign against dissent takes aim at the city's once vaunted media freedoms.

The forced closure of Apple Daily struck a blow at the unique character of the city itself. The paper churned out stories on celebrity gossip and lurid scandals, as well as hard-hitting political news and analysis, always with a decidedly antigovernment slant and an irreverence antithetical to what the Communist Party would allow in the mainland. Even in the face of advertising boycotts, assaults



Employees of Apple Daily last week. The newspaper's shutdown followed the arrests of top editors.

on its journalists and firebomb attacks, the paper persevered and thrived, remaining one of the most widely read newspapers in the city, living proof of the freedoms Hong Kong enjoyed despite its return to Chinese rule in 1997.

When antigovernment protests

erupted in Hong Kong in 2019, posing the greatest political challenge to Beijing in decades, Apple Daily was an unabashed supporter of the movement, even printing placards for demonstrators. But when Beijing moved to quash resistance to its rule in the city with

a powerful and sweeping national security law that squeezed space for dissent, Apple Daily quickly became a key target.

"Apple Daily showed we have a vibrant society, with freedom of expression and freedom of the

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Pop Star Wants Her 'Life Back' In Plea to End Father's Control

By JOE COSCARELLI

Britney Spears told a Los Angeles judge on Wednesday that she has been drugged, compelled to work against her will and prevented from removing her birth control device over the past 13 years as she pleaded with the court to end her father's legal control of her life.

"I've been in denial. I've been in shock. I am traumatized," Ms. Spears, 39, said in an emotional 23-minute address by phone that was broadcast in the courtroom and, as she insisted, to the public. "I just want my life back."

It was the first time that the world had heard Ms. Spears address in detail her struggles with the conservatorship granted to her father, James P. Spears, in 2008, when concerns about her mental health and potential substance abuse led him to petition the court for legal authority over her adult daughter.

Ms. Spears called for the arrangement to end without her "having to be evaluated." "I shouldn't be in a conservatorship if I can work. The laws need to



Britney Spears insisted her court speech be made public.

change," she added. "I truly believe this conservatorship is abusive. I don't feel like I can live a full life."

The struggle between one of the world's biggest pop stars and her father has become a long-running drama that has spawned a "Free Britney" movement around the world among her fans and fellow celebrities.

Outside the courtroom, Ms. Spears's voice silenced a crowd of roughly 120 supporters who had

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Violence Spikes in Ethiopia

What witnesses said was a government airstrike hit a busy market in Tigray, killing dozens of people. PAGE A6

Cracking Zodiac Killer's Code

An amateur sleuth in France said he had decoded ciphers attributed to a serial killer in 1960s California. PAGE A4

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A Long-Shot Progressive Wins

India Walton edged out Byron Brown, the four-term mayor of Buffalo, N.Y., in the city's Democratic primary. PAGE A17

Border Patrol Shift Is Out

Chief Rodney S. Scott is an ardent supporter of the border wall and has resisted Biden initiatives like not using the phrase "illegal alien." PAGE A14

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No Longer an 'Outcast'

Dave Kopay sees a new world since 1975, when he came out as gay. What took so long? Sports of The Times. PAGE B9

BUSINESS B1-7

Infrastructure Deal Nears

The framework of a bipartisan agreement between White House negotiators and a group of senators is expected to have the president's support. PAGE B1

Curbing Big Tech's Clout

A congressional committee began considering a package of bills that would overhaul the nation's antitrust laws to limit technology giants' power. PAGE B5

Software Pioneer Dies in Prison

John McAfee, 75, founder of the anti-virus software maker that bears his name, was awaiting extradition from Spain on U.S. tax charges. PAGE B4



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Irresistibly Abandoned

Vacant houses are creepy, sad and sometimes dangerous, but the mysteries they contain are alluring. PAGE D1

Moths in Your Closet?

Exterminators offer advice on how to expel the winged wool predators from your home. PAGE D1

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A live theatrical event in the meatpacking district turns New York itself into the playhouse. PAGE C1

A Blow to Churches and Halls

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, whose majestic instruments resonated globally, was destroyed by a fire. PAGE C1

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Gail Collins

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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

BRITNEY SPEARS SPEAKS OUT AS FANS RALLY

Members of the #FreeBritney movement protest outside an L.A. courthouse where a hearing with pop star Britney Spears was held. She said she wants out of an "abusive" conservatorship. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS UPHELD

Justices rule on police following a suspect into his garage and on union access to farms.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court upheld an individual's right to private property against government intrusion in two very different California cases Wednesday, underscoring the libertarian leanings of the more conservative majority.

The decisions — one unanimous and the other ideologically split — also bolstered privacy rights.

In one case, the justices sided with a California motorist who complained when a police officer followed him without a warrant into his home garage, where he was questioned and ticketed for drunk driving.

In the second, the court voided a long-standing California labor rule that gave union organizers limited access to private farmland to talk to workers.

The justices, both con- [See High court, A8]

Free speech rights on social media

A student is shielded from discipline for profane post, the Supreme Court rules. **NATION, A8**

COLUMN ONE

Marooned between the U.S. and Canada

Point Roberts, Wash., thrived as an appendage of B.C. — until COVID cut it off from the world

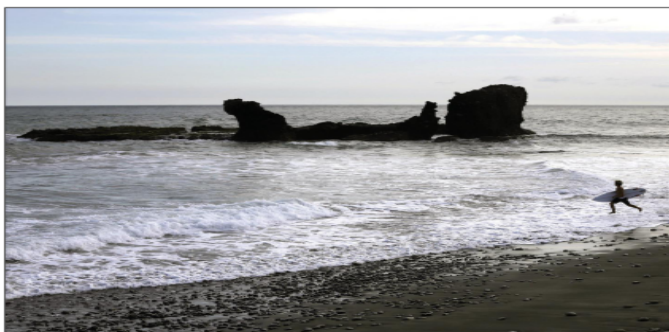
BY RICHARD READ REPORTING FROM POINT ROBERTS, WASH.

In 1846, after decades of haggling, American and British diplomats finally agreed on a border between the U.S. Northwest and what would later become Canada.

Following the 49th parallel west from the Rocky Mountains almost to Vancouver Island, the boundary sliced straight across a

peninsula that jutted south from Canada, leaving 4.8 square miles on the American side.

Point Roberts, Wash., long prospered as an appendage of Canada. Its economy thrived on sales of gasoline, groceries and alcohol at prices considered a bargain by Canadians, whose frequent visits helped make the border station one of the busiest crossing points between the [See Point Roberts, A14]



SALVADOR MELENDEZ Associated Press

A SURFER heads out at El Tunco beach in El Salvador. Several miles west is Bitcoin Beach, where the currency can be used for routine transactions.

The Californian bearing bitcoin gifts

He tells Salvadorans the currency will ease economic worries. Skeptics aren't buying it.

By Kate Linthicum REPORTING FROM EL ZONTE, EL SALVADOR

Mike Peterson was a California surfer whose search for the perfect wave led him to this sleepy beach town in El Salvador. As he tells it, he was doing charity work for young people when an anonymous American donor offered a gift of more than \$100,000.

There was just one condition: It would be paid in bitcoin — and distributed directly to residents of El Zonte with the aim of kickstarting a local bitcoin economy.

The donor, whom Peterson said communicated with him through an interme-

diary, had gotten rich while trading the cryptocurrency and believed it "was going to change the world."

Two years later, El Zonte is known as Bitcoin Beach — one of the only places on the planet where people can use a cryptocurrency for routine transactions such as buying groceries or paying the electric bill — and bitcoin fever has swept the nation.

Citing the town as inspiration, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele pushed a law through congress this month that is making his country [See Bitcoin, A4]



RICHARD READ Los Angeles Times

NOTARY PUBLIC Julia Carlson stayed in Point Roberts, Wash., to stamp U.S. documents for Khue Le and wife Shelby, Americans living on the Canadian side.

Biden targets gun dealers in anti-crime plan

Focus will be on those who violate laws as president navigates contentious politics of public safety.

BY COLLEEN LONG AND JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced new efforts Wednesday to stem a rising national tide of violent crime, declaring the federal government is "taking on the bad actors doing bad things to our communities." But questions persist about how effective the efforts can be in what could be a turbulent summer.

Crime rates have risen after plummeting during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, creating economic hardship and anxiety. Biden's plan focuses on providing money to cities that need more police, offering community support and most of all cracking down on gun violence and those supplying illegal firearms.

"These merchants of death are breaking the law for profit," Biden said. "If you willfully sell a gun to someone who's prohibited, my message to you is this: We'll find you and we'll seek your license to sell guns. We'll make sure you can't sell death and mayhem on our streets."

But there are also tricky politics at play, and Biden's plan shows how few options the Democratic president has on the issue.

The steps he outlined are aimed at going hard after gun dealers who break federal law and establishing strike forces in several cities to help stop weapons trafficking. He also said he would seek more money for the agency that tracks the nation's guns.

But the rest of his new strategy boils down mostly to suggestions for beleaguered localities. He's encouraging cities to invest some of their COVID-19 relief funds into policing and pushing alternative crime reduction steps such as increased community support and summer jobs for teenagers.

The president has been clear that he is opposed to the "defund the police" movement, which has been effectively used against other Democrats to cast them as anti-law enforcement.

"This is not a time to turn our backs on law enforcement," said Biden, who noted that "crime historically rises during the summer, and as we emerge from this pandemic the traditional summer spike may be even more pronounced than it usually would be."

[See Crime, A7]



SURAN WALSH Associated Press

PRESIDENT Biden reiterated that he is opposed to the "defund the police" movement.

Variant's spread hints at future of pandemic

Experts expect most Californians will be protected, but risks rise for unvaccinated.

BY LUKE MONEY AND RONG-GONG LIN II

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is beginning to spread in California, offering a preview of how the battle of the pandemic is going to change as officials move to protect a shrinking minority of state residents who remain at risk because they have not been vaccinated.

The Delta variant may be twice as transmissible as the conventional strain. But California and the rest of the nation are far more protected against COVID-19 than ever before. California has one of the highest vaccination rates in the nation, and the U.S. has one of the highest per capita rates of inoculation in the world.

And vaccines available in the U.S. are believed to be effective against the Delta variant, as they have been for all known variants. But that still leaves tens of millions of unvaccinated people potentially vulnerable.

"If you're vaccinated, it's nothing," UC San Francisco epidemiologist Dr. George Rutherford said of the Delta [See Variant, A7]

Trump's money expert targeted

The ex-president's fate may depend on how tight-lipped accountant Allen Weisselberg remains. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Harris to visit southern border

Vice president's trip comes amid the GOP's criticism of the administration's handling of the surge of migrants. **NATION, A6**

Huge budget raises stakes

L.A. Unified's record \$20-billion operating plan aims to produce lasting academic progress. Can officials pull it off? **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Low clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 76/61. **B6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



A senator and a symbol of civility



President Biden and first lady Jill Biden were among numerous dignitaries who attended the funeral of former senator and secretary of the Navy John W. Warner at Washington National Cathedral. The president eulogized the Virginia Republican who served five terms in the Senate as "a man of conscience, character and honor," and many praised his commitment to working across the aisle. **Story, B1**

Delta variant a rising threat to unvaccinated

U.S. AREAS WITH LOW UPTAKE SEE SPIKES

Hospitals strained as uneven recovery takes shape

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA, KARLA ADAM, BEN GUARINO AND LENNY BERNSTEIN

The rapid spread of the delta variant of the coronavirus is poised to divide the United States again, with highly vaccinated areas continuing toward post-pandemic freedom and poorly vaccinated regions threatened by greater case loads and hospitalizations, health officials warned this week.

The highly transmissible variant is taxing hospitals in a rural, lightly vaccinated part of Missouri, and case loads and hospitalizations are on the rise in states such as Arkansas, Nevada and Utah, where less than 50 percent of the eligible population has received at least one dose of vaccine, according to data compiled by The Washington Post.

One influential model, pro-

duced by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, predicts a modest overall surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths this fall. Scott Gottlieb, a former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said Sunday that a fall surge could occur even if 75 percent of the eligible population is vaccinated.

But experts think that most damage will occur in localized pockets where large numbers of people have declined to be vaccinated or have not gained access to the shots.

"I think a rise in cases is certainly going to happen," said William Hanage, an associate professor of epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The question "is how

SEE VARIANT ON A10

"Likely association": Vaccines tied to rare heart issue in teens. **A9**

Biden lays out plan to reduce crime rate

Strategy includes crackdown on illegal gun sales, money for police

BY ANNIE LINSKEY

Responding to a spike in homicides across the country, President Biden on Wednesday laid out an anti-crime strategy from the White House that cracks down on gun stores that don't follow federal rules, steps up programs for recently released convicts and provides more support for police departments

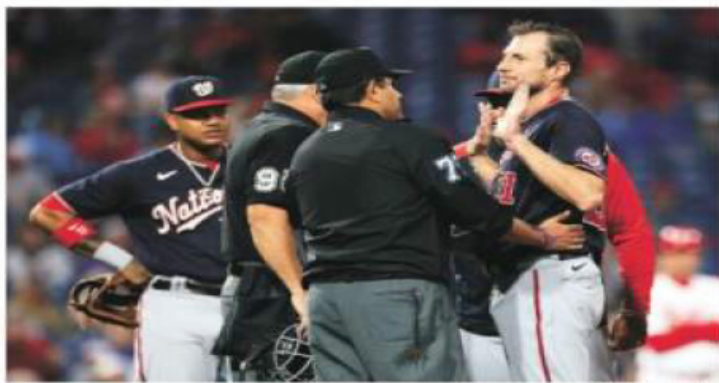
across the country.

The speech is an attempt by the White House to show it is being proactive on an issue that historically has been politically difficult for Democrats and to refocus attention on its efforts to beef up gun regulations.

It comes as local officials and experts fear the problem will only worsen over the coming months.

"Crime historically rises during the summer, and as we emerge from this pandemic, with the country opening back up again, the traditional summer spike may be more pronounced than it usually would be," Biden said.

SEE CRIME ON A2



Nationals ace Max Scherzer was checked three times for foreign substances during Tuesday's game in Philadelphia. Major League Baseball is trying to crack down on the use of sticky stuff.

PERSPECTIVE

MLB in a sticky spot with new rules

BY BARRY SVRLUGA

However this was supposed to work, this isn't it: baseball as burlesque, with pitchers standing in the middle of diamonds, unbuckling their belts and taking down their pants. Sticky stuff? The sport is now in a sticky spot.

This wasn't just about Max Scherzer on Tuesday night at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, though that's a perfect place to start. That's where Phillies Manager Joe Girardi watched the three-time Cy Young Award winner get checked by umpires for foreign substances twice — as is now required by rule — and decided that wasn't enough.

That's where the umpiring crew essentially had to talk Scherzer out of pulling down his pants in public, so frustrated was the Washing-

ton Nationals' ace not just with Girardi's strategy, but with Major League Baseball's decision to go from zero to a billion mph in policing an area that, for years, it barely policed at all.

"These are Manfred rules," Scherzer said. "Go ask him what he wants to do with this."

Manfred is, of course, Commissioner Rob, and it is his office that has investigated the use — as it turned out, rampant use — of a variety of foreign substances pitchers have relied on to better grip the baseball. Data collected by Major League Baseball over the first two months of the season showed that pitchers deployed more substances with more frequency than MLB expected, and

SEE SVRLUGA ON A20

A real curveball: Nationals find themselves at the center of baseball's oddest controversy. **D1**

Vote access disparities grow with new laws

BY ELISE VIERECK

More than half of U.S. states have lowered some barriers to voting since the 2020 election, making permanent practices that helped produce record voter turnout during the coronavirus pandemic — a striking counterpoint to the passage this year of restrictions in key Republican-controlled states.

New laws in states from Vermont to California expand access to the voting process on a number of fronts, such as offering more options for early and mail voting, protecting mail ballots from being improperly rejected and making registering to vote easier.

Some states restored voting rights to people with past felony convictions or expanded options for voters with disabilities, two long-standing priorities among voting advocates. And in Virginia, a new law requires localities to receive preapproval or feedback on voting changes as a shield against racial discrimination, a first for states after the Supreme Court struck down a key part of the federal Voting Rights Act in 2013.

The push to make voting easier around the country comes even as Republicans have embraced voting restrictions in GOP-controlled states such as Georgia,

SEE VOTING ON A9

Michigan: Tension persists over the integrity of the 2020 vote. **A6**

Court backs cheerleader in free-speech dispute

BY ROBERT BARNES

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled for a Pennsylvania cheerleader whose profane off-campus rant cost her a spot on the squad, saying the First Amendment rights of public school students are not to be easily cast aside.

The court ruled 8 to 1 that the school district's punishment was too severe, although it declined to adopt a broader rule saying schools never have a role in disciplining students for off-campus speech.

"It might be tempting to dismiss

BLN's words as unworthy of the robust First Amendment protections discussed herein," Justice Stephen G. Breyer wrote in his 11-page majority opinion, using the initials of the minor in question.

"But sometimes it is necessary to protect the superfluous in order to preserve the necessary," he wrote.

The short opinion, with Justice Clarence Thomas as the lone dissenter, was the court's latest attempt to clarify the free-speech

SEE COURT ON A4

Calif. case: High court strikes down union access to farms. **A4**

IN THE NEWS



Walkway collapse Five people were hurt when a truck knocked down a pedestrian bridge over D.C. Route 295 in Northeast Washington. **B3**

Border watch Vice President Harris will travel to El Paso on Friday, five days before a similar trip by former president Donald Trump. **A12**

THE NATION New York City must wait weeks to learn the victor of Tuesday's Democratic mayoral primary, its first ranked-choice election. **A3**

The retrieval of genetic data about the coronavirus deleted from storage in an NIH archive has incited a new skirmish on the virus's origins. **A9**

FEMA's leader testified before Congress, pledging changes after aid approval rates for disaster survivors hit an all-time low. **A11**

A bipartisan group of senators reached a tentative deal with White

House officials on hundreds of billions of dollars in new infrastructure spending. **A12**

THE WORLD Activists say hundreds of anti-protesters in Colombia, and they fear a past tactic has returned. **A17**

An airstrike hit a market in Ethiopia's Tigray region, sparking fears that the conflict there could escalate. **A19**

THE ECONOMY Berkshire Hathaway Chair Warren Buffett said he has donated half of his company shares to

charitable causes. **A22**

British lawmakers demanded a meeting with Amazon's country manager after a news report on a Scottish warehouse revealed that thousands of unsorted or returned items were being destroyed. **A24**

THE REGION An Indiana woman who became the first defendant sentenced in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot was given three years of probation. **B1**

The repercussions are still being felt from a contentious London County School Board meeting on transgender rights and racial equity. **B1**

Jury selection began in the trial of the man accused of killing five people in the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis in 2018. **B1**

After admission changes, Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax County will welcome its most diverse class in recent history, officials said. **B1**

Tom Perez, a former Democratic National Committee chair, is running for governor in Maryland. **B6**

OBITUARIES John McAfee, an eccentric software entrepreneur, was found dead in his prison cell at 75. **B7**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Fix it — quick

A group of experts offer their advice on solutions for eight common and annoying home issues.

STYLE 28 years of Conan

Upon venerable host Conan O'Brien's exit from the late-night stage, those close to him share their memories. **C2**

| | |
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| BUSINESS NEWS | A22 |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE | A23 |
| OPINION/POLITICS | A25 |
| LETTERS | B3 |
| OPINION/ARTS | B7 |
| TELEVISION | B4 |
| WORLD NEWS | A17 |



La leyenda de Cristiano no tiene límites

Dos goles del portugués ante Francia llevaron a su país a los octavos de final de la Euro, pero, además, CR7 alcanzó el récord mundial de goles (109) a nivel selección. **Deportes**



SECRETOS DE UNA DE LASSAGAS MÁS LARGAS DE HOLLYWOOD

—espectáculos

A 20 años de la película que inició la serie, hoy llega a los cines la novena entrega de *Rápidos y furiosos*, protagonizada por Vin Diesel; habrá más secuelas.

MASTERCHEF CELEBRITY: CÓMO SERÁ LA GRAN FINAL

—espectáculos

Con la presencia de varios concursantes, esta noche se definirá el ganador entre Georgina Barbarossa y Gastón Dalmáu, en un ciclo que se ganó la atención del público.

LA NACION

JUEVES 24 DE JUNIO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Evalúan combinar vacunas por la demora de Rusia para entregar la segunda dosis

COVID. Lo admitió Vizzotti; el Kremlin anunció que su prioridad es satisfacer la demanda interna

La ministra de Salud, Carla Vizzotti, aseguró ayer que a futuro "es una posibilidad" combinar vacunas contra el Covid-19 de diferentes laboratorios, ante las demoras en las entregas para la aplicación de la segunda dosis de la vacuna Sputnik V.

Hasta el momento, al país arribaron 9.415.745 dosis de Sputnik V;

7.875.585 corresponden al componente uno y 1.540.160 al componente dos. Desde el Gobierno aseguraron a LA NACION que en las próximas horas partirá un vuelo a Rusia para buscar vacunas para la segunda aplicación de la Sputnik V. Pero no hay certezas frente a la posibilidad de cumplir con el calendario de vacunación.

El vocero del Kremlin, Dmitry Peskov, dijo ayer que la "prioridad absoluta" del gobierno de Vladimir Putin es la demanda interna. "No es posible satisfacer absolutamente toda la demanda en el extranjero de inmediato", afirmó el funcionario ruso, pero prometió que "todas las obligaciones se cumplirán". **Página 2**

Impulsan la apertura del turismo para el invierno

Jaime Rosenberg

Página 4

Ayer se notificaron 706 muertes por Covid-19

Página 4

Juntos por el Cambio postergó la definición de candidatos

INTERNA. Se reunió la cúpula de la coalición, con la ausencia de Bullrich

Las autoridades de Juntos por el Cambio enviaron ayer un mensaje de unidad frente a las próximas elecciones, pero postergaron las definiciones de las candidaturas en la provincia y en la ciudad de Buenos Aires, donde radican las diferencias de las fuerzas que integran la coalición. A la cumbre de ayer en Palermo asistieron los principales referentes de Pro, la UCR y la Coalición Cívica, con la sugestiva ausencia de la titular de Pro, Patricia Bullrich, desde cuyo entorno habían expresado malestar. **Página 12**

Nueva York renace, pero sin el mismo esplendor

NUEVA YORK (De nuestro corresponsal).— Después de haber sido epicentro de la pandemia durante semanas en 2020, Nueva York regresa a la normalidad mientras mira de reojo el cierre de comercios, el aumento del delito y de la desigualdad. **Página 8**



Times Square quiere recuperar su brillo con el avance del verano y el fin de las restricciones

GETTY IMAGES

EL ESCENARIO

Los intereses ocultos detrás de la Hidrovía

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

Alberto Fernández debe soportar que sus propios aliados le impongan una nueva humillación. Cristina Kirchner hizo aprobar en el Senado la creación de una comisión bicameral que intervenga en la licitación de la Hidrovía. Dos comisiones de Diputados anteayer dictaminaron a favor, y se espera que en la próxima sesión de la Cámara el engendro quede consumado. **Continúa en la página 13**

Embargo de \$10.000 millones a un clan narco

LAVADO. La Justicia congeló los bienes de sociedades comerciales y fideicomisos. **Página 22**

Con el nuevo cepo a la carne, el país perdería US\$1200 millones al año

INFORME. Es porque solo se podrá exportar el 58% del volumen vendido en 2020

La decisión del Gobierno de limitar las exportaciones de carne vacuna provocará una merma de ingresos de US\$1200 millones al año. Esa estimación fue realizada por la Fun-

dación Argentina para el Desarrollo Agropecuario (FADA), que calculó el impacto que tendría colocar en el exterior solo el 58% de lo que la Argentina exportó en 2020. Por otra

parte, la Mesa de Enlace les pidió una audiencia a ocho gobernadores de provincias ganaderas para que le reclamen al gobierno nacional el fin del cepo. **Página 17**

Convalidan un nuevo techo del 45% para las subas salariales

PARITARIAS. El gremio bancario pactó ese aumento y fue avalado por el Presidente. **Página 14**

Cai Salles, que conduziu agenda antiambiental no Meio Ambiente

Ministro, sob investigação, é exonerado no dia em que Bolsonaro é citado em CPI por negociação suspeita de vacina



Ricardo Salles assiste ao lançamento do Plano Safra em Brasília. Ueslei Marcelino-23.jun.21/Reuters

Ricardo Salles, o ministro que transformou o Brasil de exemplo em pária ambiental para ativistas, pesquisadores e investidores dentro e fora do país, pediu demissão nesta quarta (23). Ele é o 17º a deixar o ministério de Jair Bolsonaro em 30 meses.

Alvo do Supremo Tribunal Federal em inquérito sobre suposto favorecimento a madeireiros, o agora ex-ministro deixa como legado o avanço recorde no desmatamento da Amazônia, um salto de queimadas na floresta e no Pantanal, órgãos e normas ambientais esvaziados e a redução de aportes externos na preservação florestal.

A exoneração, publicada no meio da tarde no Diário Oficial, ocorreu no dia em que a CPI que apura responsabilidades pela má gestão da pandemia de Covid ouviu Bolsonaro ser citado em relato sobre práticas suspeitas na negociação de vacinas.

"Entendo que o Brasil, ao longo deste ano e no ano que vem, na inserção internacional e também na agenda nacional, precisa ter uma união muito forte de interesses e de anseios e de esforços", disse o demissionário.

"Para que isso se faça da maneira mais serena possível, apresentei [...] meu pedido de exoneração."

Salles é investigado pela Polícia Federal em um esquema de corrupção, advocacia administrativa e facilitação de contrabando. Ele nega ter cometido crime.

O novo ministro é Joaquim Pereira Leite, secretário da Amazônia e Serviços Ambientais da pasta e egresso da Sociedade Rural Brasileira, em uma decisão que indica continuidade. **Ambiente B1**

Análise Ana C. Amaral
Novo titular tem apoio de ala mais moderna do agro **B2**

Thiago Amparo
Sai o alçoz, fica a política incendiária **Opinião A2**

Guedes quer reduzir tributo com alta na arrecadação

Em uma indicação de que o governo poderá apresentar reforma tributária com efeito negativo para as contas públicas, Paulo Guedes (Economia) disse que pretende pegar parte da alta de arrecadação pela retomada da economia e transferir para um corte imediato de impostos. Especialistas veem potencial nocivo. **Mercado A17 e A18**

Ilustrada B12
Hollywood reinventa muçulmanos na era pós-Trump ante estereótipos

Esporte B11
Brasil vence a Colômbia de virada, e Tite registra maior sequência vitoriosa

Ilustrada B16
Belas Artes reabre em SP, e dono afirma que ninguém pegará Covid no cinema

Mercado imobiliário p.1
Lojas entram nos condomínios em busca de clientes

Bolsonaro é citado, e compra da Covaxin vira principal alvo da CPI

As suspeitas sobre a compra da vacina indiana Covaxin atingiram o Planalto, com relato de que Jair Bolsonaro foi alertado de indícios de irregularidades há mais de três meses. Os fatos resultaram em nova linha de apuração da CPI da Covid.

O governo reagiu escalando um dos investigados pela comissão para explicar o caso, mas sem conseguir rebater o eixo da suspeita.

O presidente ainda pediu para que a Polícia Federal investigue os autores das acusações que o envolvem.

São eles o servidor do Ministério da Saúde Luís Ricardo Miranda e seu irmão, o deputado Luís Miranda (DEM-DF). **Poder A4 e A6**

Deputado que mencionou suspeitas é ex-youtuber e pró-presidente A7

Basílio Jafet Pelo fim do 'não no meu quintal'

Os mais pobres continuam endereçados às periferias. Sem a revisão do Plano Diretor de São Paulo, a proibição de melhor aproveitamento dos miolos de bairros continuará a favorecer a especulação. **Opinião A3**
Presidente do Secovi-SP

Caso PC e Suzana faz 25 anos sem respostas
Mortes de PC Farias e da namorada, Suzana Marcolino, tiveram guerra de perícias, inquérito anulado e nenhum condenado. **A12**



Operário da gráfica da Apple Daily com exemplares da última edição, publicada nesta quinta (quarta no Brasil). Anthony Wallace/AFP

TCE paulista cobra transparência no custo da Coronavac

O Tribunal de Contas do Estado de São Paulo votou ontem pela aprovação com ressalvas das contas de João Dória (PSDB) referentes a 2020. Foi cobrada transparência nos gastos do Instituto Butantan com a Coronavac. **Poder A11**

Governo Dória prorroga fase de transição de novo

O governo João Dória (PSDB) prorrogou novamente a fase de transição do Plano SP até 15 de julho.

Ontem, o secretário de Saúde da capital afirmou serem necessárias 470 mil doses para vacinar pessoas de 43 a 48 anos. **Saúde B3**

EDITORIAIS A2

Salles fora
Acerca de troca no Ministério do Meio Ambiente.

Grave suspeita
Sobre fatos nebulosos na compra da vacina Covaxin.

ATMOSFERA



Alvo de repressão da China, jornal deixa de circular

O Apple Daily, jornal pró-democracia de Hong Kong e alvo de repressão da China, publicou nesta quinta (quarta no Brasil) sua última edição impressa. O diário atribui o fechamento à falta de segurança de seus funcionários. **Mundo A14**

Bancos vão ter central antifurto de celular, diz Procon

Bancos e empresas de telefonia se comprometeram com o Procon São Paulo a criar centrais de emergência para bloqueio imediato de contas após o extravio de celulares, nas primeiras ações contra as quadrilhas "limpa-conta". **Cotidiano B7**

Escolas de alunos pobres têm menos retorno às aulas

A parcela de alunos pobres que tiveram oportunidade de voltar às aulas presenciais (16%), ainda que parcialmente, é menor que a metade da registrada entre os de maior renda (38%), aponta pesquisa Datafolha. **Cotidiano B9**

Supremo confirma Moro parcial em processo de Lula

OSTF confirmou, por 7 a 4, a decisão de declarar parcial o ex-juiz Sergio Moro no caso do triplex de Guarujá, que levou o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva à prisão. Vencidos, Luiz Fux e Marco Aurélio Mello defenderam Moro. **Poder A10**

Ministro volta a negar que haja risco de racionamento

O ministro Bento Albuquerque (Minas e Energia) voltou a negar ontem o risco de que seja adotado o racionamento de energia no país, apesar da grave crise hídrica deste ano. Paulo Guedes (Economia) falou na aplicação de novas bandeiras tarifárias, que elevam o custo da conta de energia elétrica, com o objetivo de evitar um racionamento. **Mercado A18**

Vacinação no Brasil

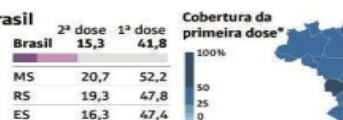
% da população vacinada*

Dados das 20h de 23.jun

*Acima de 18 anos

**Média móvel de 7 dias

***Em relação a 14 dias



Números da pandemia

Casos 18,2 mil

Óbitos 507,2 mil

Total 23.jun** 77,3 mil 1.915

Variação*** 32,7% 10,9%

Em 24 h 114,1 mil 2.343

Estágios

Estável

Estável

Desacelerado

Reduzido

Brasil

Estável



LLAMÁ GRATIS
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Salomón niega intervención de Abdo para su reelección en el Senado

Abdismo pone paños fríos a ruptura, pero el enojo del cartismo no amaina

En Añetete dicen que buscarán mediación y HC no baja de tono y habla de que hubo un golpe contra la ANR porque se aliaron con la izquierda.

PÁGINAS 6 y 7

Hoy y mañana aplican 2ª dosis
Salud en alerta ante
el posible ingreso de
la variante delta del
Covid-19 en el país

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Paraguay vs. Chile

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Vergonzoso. Kits de alimentos que Educación entrega gratuitamente en vez del almuerzo escolar son comercializados en redes sociales. Precios varían según productos.

PÁGINA 19

Ex juez cobró USD 140 mil para emitir un hábeas corpus a favor de Pavão

PÁGINA 50

Tribunal destraba caso tapabocas de oro y puede seguir el proceso

PÁGINA 48

ETIOS

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LE FIGARO

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



FOOTBALL
À L'EURO, LA FRANCE TERMINE EN
TÊTE DE SON GROUPE ET AFFRONTA
LA SUISSE EN HUITIÈMES **PAGE 12**

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE
400 ANS APRÈS, LE CHARME INTACT
DE JEAN DE LA FONTAINE
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT

**ÉLECTIONS**

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en région Paca
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HONGKONG

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Selon les experts
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est à venir »
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ÉCONOMIE

Le feu vert de
Bruxelles débloque
les milliards
de l'Europe pour
financer la relance
de la France
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- La Bretagne a le Tour de France dans le sang depuis 116 ans
- Les chroniques d'Éric Zemmour et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- Les tribunes de Maxime Tandonnet et de Clotilde Brunetti-Pons
- L'analyse d'Alexis Feertchak

PAGES 14 À 17**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

Réponses à la question de mercredi :
Irez-vous voter au second tour des régionales ?

OUI 31% NON 69%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 118 838

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Abstention : faut-il instaurer le vote par internet pour la présidentielle ?

FRANCK FIFE/POOL REUTERS.

L'Europe sceptique face au ton conciliant d'Erdogan

Les Vingt-Sept, réunis à Bruxelles, débattront jeudi du renouvellement de l'accord migratoire conclu en 2016 avec les autorités d'Ankara, tout en maintenant le président turc sous pression.

Les Européens s'apprentent à faire un petit pas vers la normalisation des relations avec la Turquie à l'occasion du sommet qui débute ce jeudi à

Bruxelles. La Commission a transmis, mardi, aux États membres sa proposition pour renouveler l'accord migratoire de 2016 qui lie l'Union à

Ankara, comme le réclamait le président turc, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Elle prévoit de débloquer 3 milliards d'euros pour la période allant de 2022

à 2024. Depuis quelques mois, le président turc joue la carte de l'apaisement avec l'UE. L'objectif des Vingt-Sept est d'envoyer des signaux en-

courageants vis-à-vis d'un pays qu'ils savent économiquement très fragile, tout en maintenant la pression sur l'imprévisible Erdogan.

→ **APRÈS LE TEMPS DES PROVOCATIONS, ERDOGAN CHERCHE LA DÉSESCALADE** → **L'ITALIE Pousse UNE RÉFORME DES ACCORDS DE DUBLIN**
→ **A BRUXELLES, LE VIEUX SERPENT DE MER DE L'UNANIMITÉ REFAIT SURFACE** **PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**



Dans un entretien au Figaro, la présidente sortante de la région Île-de-France appelle à la mobilisation des électeurs au second tour face à l'« alliance contre-nature » de la « gauche décroissante et sectaire » emmenée par Julien Bayou. **PAGE 4**

Valérie Pécresse :
« Je suis le seul
rempart contre
la gauche extrême »

Régionales :
tensions
entre Dupond-
Moretti et
Darmanin
après la défaite

Mercredi, juste avant le Conseil des ministres, une vive passe d'armes a opposé le ministre de la Justice, Éric Dupond-Moretti, à son collègue de l'Intérieur, Gérard Darmanin, le premier accusant le second de « trahison » pour avoir notamment « félicité » Xavier Bertrand, arrivé largement en tête aux régionales dans les Hauts-de-France. De leur côté, Elisabeth Borne et Barbara Pompili se sont expliquées au sujet de la réforme de l'assurance-chômage. **PAGE 8**

ÉDITORIAL par Patrick Saint-Paul psaintpaul@lefigaro.fr

Accalmie turque

Il paraît que le Sultan s'est adouci ! Fini les tempêtes avec ses alliés européens, les insultes, les provocations et le chantage à l'afflux de migrants. Recep Tayyip Erdogan a besoin d'eux et, depuis le début de l'année, il a donc cessé ses bravades incendiaires. Méfiante, l'Europe n'est pas dupe de cette soudaine « métamorphose ». Elle joue la carte de l'apaisement, parce qu'elle n'a pas le choix... Sans accord avec le président turc, l'UE se sait à la merci d'un nouveau coup de tonnerre migratoire. Le précédent « deal » arrivait à terme. Dans son prolongement, l'enveloppe de 3 milliards d'euros, qui doit lui permettre d'absorber le coût de l'accueil des migrants syriens en Turquie (3,6 millions en dix ans), devrait faire tenir la digue turque. L'accalmie en Méditerranée orientale devrait aussi permettre au président turc d'échapper aux sanctions économiques, qui menaçaient de mettre définitivement à genoux l'économie de son pays. À deux ans des élections et alors que son parti, l'AKP, est en chute libre, Erdogan a besoin d'amorcer un redressement économique, notamment en attirant des investissements étrangers, s'il veut prolonger son règne.

L'isolement diplomatique croissant de la Turquie et l'arrivée d'une Administration Biden moins clémentine que la précédente à son égard ont aussi fait comprendre à ce pragmatique les limites de sa politique ultranationaliste. Fort heureusement, l'UE reste sur ses gardes. Erdogan souhaite renouer l'improbable dialogue pour une modernisation de l'union douanière avec l'UE, en y incluant notamment les produits agricoles. Mais tout indique que cela restera un lointain mirage. Les avancées sur ce dossier sont conditionnées à des gestes de bonne volonté en Syrie et en Libye, où le président

L'UE reste sur ses gardes malgré les gestes d'Erdogan

turc maintient une présence militaire déstabilisatrice, ainsi qu'à un changement d'attitude vis-à-vis de Chypre et en Méditerranée orientale. Mais, surtout, à des progrès de l'État de droit en Turquie. Las, celui-ci se dégrade de jour en jour ! Et le Sultan, accroché à son pouvoir, ne semble pas près de ralentir sa fulgurante dérive autocratique. ■

CONÇUE PAR
INDIA. WHISKEY. CHARLIE.



BIG PILOT'S WATCH 43



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Police officer convicted of footballer's manslaughter

Atkinson's family tell of pain and relief after their five-year fight for justice

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

Dalian Atkinson's family told of their relief and continuing pain after a five-year battle for justice resulted in a British police officer becoming the first in 35 years to be convicted of manslaughter while on duty.

PC Benjamin Monk used excessive force when he fired an electric stun gun into the former professional footballer for 33 seconds - six times longer than is standard - and kicked him twice in the head as he lay on the ground, a jury found.

Monk was called to a disturbance in Telford, Shropshire, in August 2016, when Atkinson was suffering an acute mental health crisis. His behaviour was erratic and out of character, the trial heard.

At the end of a six-minute clash, Atkinson was kicked with such force that his blood was found in the laces of Monk's police-issue boots, the trial heard. The West Mercia police officer was accused of lying in court about his account.

Legal restrictions meant details of the clash were not made public until the trial began in May, almost five years after Atkinson, 48, died.

After the verdict, his family condemned Monk, saying they were "sickened" by his defence, and that he had meted out violence to a man who needed help.

Monk told the jury he had been terrified by Atkinson and acted solely in self defence as he was entitled to do.

The Atkinson family said: "On the night he died, Dalian was vulnerable and unwell and needed medical attention. He instead received violence, and died with PC Monk's boot lace prints bruised on to his forehead. We have been sickened to hear PC Monk try to minimise the force he used on Dalian and exaggerate the threat he posed ... We would like to thank the jury members for all their hard work and attention."



Inside

Unreasonable force Officer kicked footballer on ground
Pages 4-5 →

'One of the best' The life and death of an infectious talent
Pages 6-7 →

The family condemned the delay in achieving justice: "The fact that this case has taken nearly five years to get to trial is completely unacceptable, especially when you consider that PC Monk's identity was known to the prosecuting authorities from day one."

The jury at Birmingham crown court reached its verdicts on Monk after nearly 19 hours of deliberation over six days. They first acquitted him

▲ Dalian Atkinson at Aston Villa. 'We can start to remember him not for how he died, but how he lived'

of murder but then unanimously convicted him of manslaughter.

The last successful manslaughter prosecution of an on-duty police officer was in 1986. A retired bus driver, Henry Foley, had been beaten in custody by Alwyn Sawyer of Merseyside police.

Longest Covid

One man's recovery after 10 months

Exclusive
Linda Geddes

Like thousands of people, Dave Smith was infected with coronavirus at the start of the UK's first wave last year. But while most eliminated the live virus from their bodies within a couple of weeks - including those who suffered "long Covid" - Smith experienced a very different sort of long-term problem: a persistent infection lasting more than 290 days, or almost 10 months. His is the longest recorded active Covid-19 infection to date.

During that period, Smith, 72, recorded 42 positive PCR tests and was admitted to hospital seven times. He told the Guardian: "Whenever I went bad, I went really bad - down to death's door. My wife started to arrange a funeral five times."

In an interview in which he revealed his harrowing and rare experience for the first time, he added jokingly: "I called all the family in to make my peace with them. I wish I'd kept my mouth shut now."

Smith, a retired driving instructor from Bristol, 13 →

Russia

UK denies shots were fired at Royal Navy ship

News Page 2 →



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