

What's News

Business & Finance

Aon and Willis Towers abandoned a more than \$30 billion tie-up to create the world's largest insurance broker in the face of Justice Department opposition to the merger. **A1, A6**

◆ **New regulatory actions** in China rattled investors, hammering big tech stocks and fueling a fresh crash in the shares of firms that organize online and in-person tutoring for Chinese schoolchildren. **A1**

◆ **Bitcoin jumped** to a six-week high, with some investors attributing the rally to short positions being liquidated and speculation that Amazon may be venturing into digital currencies. **B1**

◆ **Intel CEO Gelsinger** laid out a plan to introduce at least a new central processing unit every year between 2021 and 2025. **B1**

◆ **Tesla generated** a record quarterly profit as the company largely sidestepped the effects of a chip shortage that has constricted production for many auto makers. **B1**

◆ **Shares of Lucid climbed** 11% in their trading debut after the electric-vehicle company completed a blank-check merger. **B1**

◆ **The Dow and S&P 500** both rose 0.2%, while the Nasdaq eked out a 0.03% gain. All three indexes closed at records. **B10**

◆ **Boeing is set** on Friday to again launch its Starliner space capsule without crew on board. **B3**

◆ **A judge gave** the FTC until Aug. 19 to file an amended version of its antitrust lawsuit against Facebook. **B5**

World-Wide

◆ **A significant uptick** in Covid-19 cases across the U.S. is leading to new vaccination mandates for public employees, with the VA becoming the first federal agency, California the first state, and New York the first major city to announce requirements for their workers. **A1**

◆ **The U.S. won't lift** restrictions on international travel at this point, a White House official said, citing rising coronavirus cases at home and abroad caused by the Delta variant. **A3**

◆ **A push to complete** a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure agreement hit a series of hurdles, as aides squabbled over funding for water infrastructure and other issues. **A4**

◆ **Biden said** the U.S. combat mission in Iraq would conclude by the end of 2021, but the U.S. military would continue to work with Iraqi forces against Islamic State. **A18**

◆ **Civilian casualties** of war in Afghanistan surged in the first half of the year as the U.S. began withdrawing its forces and the Taliban launched an offensive, a U.N. report said. **A7**

◆ **U.S. and Chinese officials** sparred over Covid-19, human rights and cybersecurity in the highest-level meetings between the two countries on Chinese soil since Biden became president. **A8**

◆ **Authorities said** they identified the remains of the final victim of the condo collapse in Surfside, Fla., who hadn't been accounted for, bringing the death toll to 98. **A3**

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Tempest Grows in Tunisia as President Tightens Grip



TUMULT: Tunisia plunged deeper into political crisis Monday as President Kais Saied tightened his grip on power, dismissing top government officials and deploying military forces around the prime minister's office in a move that opponents called a coup attempt. Supporters and opponents of the president's actions descended on the parliament building. **A18**

Aon, Willis Towers Scrap Deal After Resistance From DOJ

Aon PLC and Willis Towers Watson PLC abandoned a more than \$30 billion tie-up to create the world's largest insurance broker, deciding it

By Ben Dummett, Leslie Scism and Dave Sebastian

wasn't worth pursuing in the face of Justice Department opposition to the merger. The DOJ filed a lawsuit against the deal last month, the first big test of the Biden administration's more muscu-

lar antitrust policy. The suit, filed in a federal court in Washington, said that the proposed merger would lead to higher prices and reduced innovation for U.S. businesses, employers and unions that rely on their services. In a statement, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland called the decision "a victory for competition and for American businesses, and ultimately, for their customers, employees and retirees across the country." The brokers, which made public their deal in March 2020,

help companies buy insurance and advise them on risk management. They work on behalf of their corporate clients, earning fees by negotiating insurance packages across a range of property-casualty insurers. Aon and Willis Towers also are major consultants to businesses on health and other benefit packages for their employees. The Justice Department lawsuit followed an investigation of more than a year. Aon and Willis Towers had agreed to sell an assortment of assets to smaller rivals to appease Europe's anti-

trust regulator and the Justice Department by creating larger competitors. While the European Commission signed off on the moves, the DOJ argued they didn't go far enough. "We reached an impasse with the U.S. Department of Justice," Aon Chief Executive Greg Case said Monday. "The DOJ position is remarkably out of step with the rest of the global regulatory community." Please turn to page A6

◆ Under Garland, DOJ takes harder line on antitrust..... A6

Beijing's Regulatory Blitz Spurs A Selloff

A new onslaught of regulatory actions in China rattled investors Monday, hammering big tech stocks and fueling a fresh crash in the shares of companies that organize online and in-person tutoring for Chinese schoolchildren.

By Quentin Webb, Joanne Koh and Chong Kih Ping

The selloff knocked companies such as Tencent Holdings Ltd., which dropped 7.7%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Tech index declined 6.6%, the worst performance for the benchmark since it launched almost exactly a year ago. And education stocks dived, with New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc. crashing 47% in Hong Kong trading, building on a steep fall in the previous session.

Over the weekend, state media made public a severe curtailing of after-school tutoring was in the works, while regulators ordered Tencent to give up some exclusive music-licensing rights.

Then on Monday, authorities issued guidelines on how to treat food-delivery drivers, helping drive a 14% plunge in the stock of Meituan, one of a newer breed of Chinese tech platforms. Meanwhile, China's main technology-sector regulator also ordered the country's internet giants to fix certain anticompetitive practices and data-security threats.

China already has undertaken a monthslong campaign to rein in big tech, spanning issues such as data security, monopolistic behavior and financial stability. The latest Please turn to page A8

◆ China blames U.S. for stalemate in talks..... A8

TOKYO OLYMPICS



◆ **Jason Gay: Cycling's all-terrain rock star**..... A14
◆ **Russia's male gymnasts snag gold**..... A14
◆ **A star in rifle shooting and her secret candy rush**..... A13
◆ **Health protocols feel very 2020**..... A13

Despite Rising Virus Cases, Treatments Remain Elusive

Researchers struggle to find effective, easy-to-use options

By JOSEPH WALKER

Nearly a year and a half into the pandemic, researchers are still struggling to find effective, easy-to-use drugs to treat Covid-19. Ten drugs have been cleared or recommended in the U.S. for use. Two of those later had their authorizations rescinded after they failed to work. The government recently paused shipments of a third because it wasn't effective against new variants. The best medicines for early treatment are cumbersome to administer, and drugs for those in the hospital can only do so much for patients who are already severely ill. "We're really limited, to be honest," says Daniel Griffin, chief of infectious disease at healthcare provider network ProHealth New

York. "We do not have any dramatic treatments."

A long list of factors played into the checkered development of drugs to treat Covid-19 cases—exposing flaws in the infrastructure of medical research and healthcare, particularly in fighting a fast-moving pandemic.

Federal officials concentrated their resources on quickly developing vaccines, with success. However, a relative dearth of drug research focused on coronaviruses, despite previous outbreaks, held back a fast response on treatments. Scattered U.S. clinical trials competed against each other for patients. When effective yet hard-to-administer drugs were developed, a fragmented Ameri-

Please turn to page A9

12 Million Honey Bees Cause a Buzz in Detroit

New pollination stations prompt worry about impact on local species, people

By OMAR ABDEL-BAQUI

DETROIT—The Core City neighborhood of Detroit is getting 300,000 new residents next year. That is welcome news for some locals living in an area where the population has shrunk. But these newcomers don't pay taxes or mix well with some of the locals—especially when they sting.

The new imports are part of an effort that has brought about 12 million honey bees to metro Detroit over the last five years. The nonprofit behind it says pollination stations that house hives around the city support the rising number of urban farms that offer residents much-needed fresh produce. "There are so many empty fields, it can't

do anything but help add some color to all the green, grassy lots," said Don Carter, who was born and raised in Core City and regularly visits his 95-year-old mother, who still lives there.

But the effort has riled critics who are rushing to the defense of Detroit's native bees. Some environmentalists accuse the nonprofit of "bee washing," or glossing over the fact that local bees—which might not make honey but can hold their own as pollinators—are facing competition from newcomers that might spread disease and eat the nectar bees need to survive.

Then there are the humans. Damon Currie, 46, lives near a small orchard on Detroit's Please turn to page A9



Residents' grade: B-

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Older and calmer

Why the elderly have coped better during the pandemic — NOTEBOOK, PAGE 14

Reviving Brazil

Can a shift to feeding the world help nation bounce back? — BIG READ, PAGE 13



Taliban in waiting

Biden's Afghan pullout risks ending in tragedy — GIDEON RACHMAN, PAGE 15

Honours board Teenager sets Games records

Momiji Nishiya of Japan grins with delight after winning the women's street skateboarding finals at the Tokyo Olympic Games yesterday.

By claiming Japan's fifth gold in the Games, the 15-year-old skateboarder also secured the title of first female Olympic champion in the sport as well as the host nation's youngest medalist. Fellow Japanese Funa Nakayama took bronze and 13-year-old Rayssa Leal of Brazil clinched silver.

Japan's Naomi Osaka, who was given the honour of lighting the Olympic cauldron, stormed into the third round of the women's singles tennis tournament after easily beating Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic in straight sets. **Osaka fulfils Olympic mission page 2**



Ben Curtis/AP Photo

Aon's \$30bn tie-up with Willis collapses after US blocks deal

◆ Plan for huge insurance group dies ◆ 'Victory for competition' ◆ Underwriters relieved

IAN SMITH — LONDON

Aon and Willis Towers Watson have walked away from a \$30bn tie-up that would have created the world's biggest insurance broker after the US government sued to block the combination.

Greg Case, Aon's chief executive, said yesterday the companies had reached an "impasse" with the US Department of Justice, which had overlooked the fact "that our complementary businesses operate across broad, competitive areas of the economy". Aon must pay a \$1bn break fee to Willis, which said it would increase its share-repurchase programme by the same amount.

The all-share deal, which was first struck in March last year as the coronavirus pandemic swept the globe, was the

latest in the long-running consolidation of the insurance broking industry. Both listed in New York and built up over years of acquisitions, Aon and Willis have 95,000 employees between them, across more than 100 countries.

However, in a lawsuit filed last month to block the transaction, the DOJ offered a scathing critique. The deal would create a "Big Two" in insurance broking and would "eliminate substantial head-to-head competition and likely lead to higher prices and less innovation, harming American businesses and their customers, employees and retirees", the suit said.

Merrick Garland, the US attorney-general, said the breakdown of the deal was a "victory for competition and for American businesses and, ultimately,

for their customers, employees and retirees across the country".

The chief executive of one Lloyd's of London underwriter said the move was a "massive sigh of relief" from companies and insurers that feared having less choice as a result of the mega-deal.

"It leaves Aon slightly dented but fine, because of Greg Case's record," said the person. "Willis, though, looked like they needed to do a deal." John Haley, Willis's chief executive, said his company was "well-positioned to compete vigorously across our businesses around the world".

The announcement came as Aon, Willis and the DOJ prepared for a showdown in the US courts in November.

"If we lose [the case], we're in a world of hurt," Aon's lawyer told the court.



US attorney-general Merrick Garland said the decision would be good for American businesses, their customers and retirees

A drawn-out legal battle would have risked pushing clients and employees to look elsewhere, analysts had warned.

The other option would have been to make deeper disposals in the US that could have chipped away at the merger's advantages: Aon had already offered to sell its US retirement business and its Aon Retiree Health Exchange operation, but the DOJ said the proposed divestitures did not go far enough.

Aon's shares had risen more than 9 per cent by lunchtime in New York. Willis's had fallen by a similar margin.

Authorities in the EU, the companies' other main market, had given the deal the green light this month.

Additional reporting by Kiran Stacey in Washington
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Briefing

China accuses US over 'deadlock'

A senior Chinese official has accused the US of pushing the countries' relations into a dangerous deadlock during meetings with Wendy Sherman, US deputy secretary of state. — PAGE 2

Tunisia democracy in crisis

Tunisia's president has been accused by opponents of launching a coup and breaching the constitution of the young democracy after he fired the prime minister and suspended parliament. — PAGE 3

BioNTech chief targets malaria vaccine

The head of Covid-19 vaccine group BioNTech, Ugur Sahin, is aiming to make a malaria jab that is 90 per cent effective and would be sold in Africa on a non-profit basis. — PAGE 6



Delta hits German business confidence

Business confidence in Germany has fallen as companies worry about global supply chain disruption and the latest wave of coronavirus infections led by the Delta variant. — PAGE 4

Bezos offers Nasa \$2bn moonshot deal

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's space flight company Blue Origin has offered to pay \$2bn in costs to Nasa if it is awarded a contract to help land astronauts on the moon. — PAGE 5

Beijing education blow to investors

Reform of China's private education sector will largely cut out foreign investors and could destroy billions of dollars of investments from groups including BlackRock and SoftBank. — PAGE 5

Just Eat under pressure from activist

An activist investor in Just Eat Takeaway.com has urged the food delivery app to either merge with a larger rival or make divestments to protect itself from a hostile takeover. — PAGE 6

Datawatch

An uphill job

Unemployment rate in South Africa (30)



Source: Statistics South Africa

The pandemic has exacerbated South Africa's labour market woes. The unemployment rate rose to 32 per cent in the first quarter of this year, its highest level on record and one of the worst in the world.



Orban uses anti-gay spat with EU to mobilise voters

Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán is using a spat with the EU over his party's anti-LGBT+ law to galvanise voters ahead of next year's elections. Orbán, whose conservative Fidesz party is neck and neck with rivals in polls, is in dispute with Brussels, which has withheld €1bn of pandemic funds, citing corruption concerns. However, Orbán claims the hold-up is an attack by EU liberals on Hungary's anti-gay laws and conservative culture. **Analysis — PAGE 4**

Crypto has 'no inherent worth' but is good to trade, says Man Group chief

GARY SILVERMAN — NEW YORK

The chief executive of Man Group, the world's largest listed hedge fund manager, says cryptocurrencies have "no inherent worth" but are creating trading opportunities for his company because of their wild price swings.

The comments made by Luke Ellis in an interview with the Financial Times highlight an irony of today's trade in cryptocurrencies: much of the market action involves participants who doubt their ultimate utility.

"If you look at cryptocurrencies as a whole, it is a pure trading instrument. There is no inherent worth in it whatsoever. It is a tulip bulb," Ellis said, referring to the flower that became the focus of a 17th-century Dutch trading mania.

London-based Man, which manages \$127bn, is known for using quantitative

models that seek to profit from trends in the markets. Ellis said cryptocurrencies were one of the "probably 800 markets we trade today on top of 15,000 stocks and thousands of credits". "We like to be long and short depending on what the models say is likely to happen to the market and we will trade it long and short just as happily and in as big a size as market liquidity lets you trade."

But Ellis said that just because Man dealt in cryptocurrencies, it did not mean they were "an asset management product", in which funds "deliver value" by owning an asset for investors. He said cryptocurrencies were "things to trade because they go up and down a bunch".

In a sign of how far digital currencies regularly fluctuate in value, bitcoin yesterday rose as much as 15 per cent to nearly \$40,000 on the back of speculation that retail group Amazon might

start accepting it as payment. Like many in the financial world, Ellis is a believer in the potential of the blockchain technology underpinning cryptocurrencies to increase the efficiency of payments systems. But he takes issue with the idea that tokens will always be "a limited-supply instrument".

"You can have an infinite number of different cryptocurrencies," he said. "Anyone can start another one any day." Despite his doubts about cryptocurrencies, Ellis shows empathy for investors who have turned to such assets as a potential hedge against inflation. "The number-one thing that clients are worried about is inflation," he said.

"I think we stay in a world of very low rates until central banks lose control and when they lose control, it's not going to be fun," he warned.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Jul 26	prev	%chg		Jul 26	prev	%chg	Jul 26	prev		price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4419.80	4411.79	+0.18	\$ per €	1.181	1.176	+0.42	US Gov 10 yr	149.81	1.28	-0.01			
Nasdaq Composite	14849.95	14836.99	+0.09	£ per €	1.382	1.375	+0.51	UK Gov 10 yr		0.57	-0.01			
Dow Jones Ind	35088.80	35061.55	+0.08	¥ per €	0.054	0.055	-0.18	Ger Gov 10 yr		-0.42	0.00			
FTSE100	1777.04	1776.78	-0.10	₹ per €	110.305	110.520	-0.19	Japan Gov 10 yr		117.45	0.01	0.00		
Euro Stoxx 50	4099.66	4109.10	-0.23	₹ per €	152.495	152.951	-0.30	US Gov 30 yr		116.31	1.92	-0.01		
FTSE MIB	7025.43	7027.58	-0.03	SFR per €	1.082	1.083	-0.09	Ger Gov 2 yr		105.76	-0.24	-0.01		
FTSE AEX	4029.99	4026.12	+0.02	€ per \$	0.847	0.850	-0.35							
CAC 40	6978.60	6968.92	+0.15											
Xetra Dax	15618.90	15669.29	-0.32											
Nikkei	27833.29	27548.00	+1.04											
Hang Seng	26192.32	27321.98	-4.13											
MSCI World	3072.38	3046.60	+0.85											
MSCI EM	1311.30	1326.38	-1.14											
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Rescue workers in the flooded streets of Zhengzhou, China, last week. At least 69 people died in storms that inundated central cities.

Tunisia Nears End of Its Try At Democracy

By VIVIAN YEE

CAIRO — Tunisia's fledgling democracy, the only one remaining from the popular revolutions that swept the Arab world a decade ago, trembled on the brink of collapse Monday after its president sought to seize power from the rest of the government in what his political opponents denounced as a coup.

The president, Kais Saied, who announced the power grab late Sunday, did not appear to have completely succeeded in taking control as of Monday evening, as chaos enveloped the North African country. But many Tunisians expressed support for him and even jubilation over his actions, frustrated with an economy that never seemed to improve and a pandemic that has battered hospitals in recent weeks.

With Syria, Yemen and Libya undone by civil war, Egypt's attempt at democracy crushed by a counterrevolution and protests in the Gulf States quickly extinguished, Tunisia was the only country to emerge from the Arab Spring revolutions with a democracy, if a fragile one.

But the nation where the uprisings began now finds even the remnants of its revolutionary ideals in doubt, posing a major test for the Biden administration's commitment to democratic principles abroad.

In Washington, officials did not cast the Tunisia events as a coup, but said they were following them with concern. "Tunisia must not squander its democratic gains," the State Department said in a statement. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, in a phone call Monday with Mr. Saied, encouraged him "to adhere to the principles of democracy and human rights."

Continued on Page A6

Extreme Weather Challenges City Life in China

This article is by Steven Lee Myers, Keith Bradsher and Chris Buckley.

China's breakneck growth over the last four decades erected soaring cities where there had been hamlets and farmland. The cities lured workers, and the factories lured workers. The boom lifted hundreds of millions of people out of the poverty and rural hardship they once faced.

Now those cities face the daunting new challenge of adapting to extreme weather caused by climate change, a possibility that few gave much thought to when the country began its extraordinary economic transformation. China's pell-mell, brisk urbanization has in some ways made the

Climate Change Forces New Thinking Over Infrastructure

challenge harder to face.

No one weather event can be directly linked to climate change, but the storm that flooded Zhengzhou and other cities in central China last week, killing at least 69 as of Monday, reflects a global trend of extreme weather that has seen deadly flooding recently in Germany and Belgium, and severe heat and wildfires in Siberia. The flooding in China, which engulfed subway lines, washed away roads and cut off vil-

lages, also highlights the environmental vulnerabilities that accompanied the country's economic boom and could yet undermine it.

China has always had floods, but as Kong Feng, then a public policy professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing, wrote in 2019, the flooding of cities across China in recent years is "a general manifestation of urban problems" in the country.

The vast expansion of roads, subways and railways in cities that swelled almost overnight meant there were fewer places where rain could safely be absorbed — disrupting what scientists call the natural hydrological cycle.

Faith Chan, a professor of geol-

Continued on Page A8



AMR HAMIA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

From Hotels Back to Shelters

Many homeless people in New York were frustrated and confused as transfers resumed. Page A13.

Latinos Moved Toward G.O.P., and Now Biden Wants Them Back

By JENNIFER MEDINA
and LISA LERER

Alejandra Gomez was surprised, but pleased, by a flurry of phone calls from the White House in the spring, offering updates on its efforts toward an immigration overhaul. Officials also asked what her Arizona-based advocacy group thought of its work on vot-

ing rights and how the pandemic relief package was affecting the state.

"It's absolutely different than what we've seen before," Ms. Gomez said, comparing the efforts with those of previous Democratic administrations, which typically waited to reach out only during re-election campaigns.

She wasn't alone. Leaders of the National Association of Latino

Trying to Avoid Taking a Group for Granted

Elected and Appointed Officials were taken back when both the president and vice president committed to speaking at their conference in June, the first time in the

event's decades-long history that the top two White House officials had agreed to speak in a non-election year.

And in Wisconsin, Voces de la Frontera, a group that represents low-wage immigrant workers, was thrilled when the White House reached out to arrange a conversation between their mem-

Continued on Page A16

2 KEY REGIONS GIVE WORKERS CHOICE: VACCINES OR TESTS

Fear of Delta Variant Prompts Mandates by California and New York City

This article is by Emma G. Fitzsimmons, Shawn Hubler and Jennifer Steinhauser.

The push to mandate coronavirus vaccinations amid sharply rising case loads nationwide accelerated on Monday, as the country's most populous state and its largest city both announced that they would require hundreds of thousands of government workers to get inoculations or face weekly testing.

At the same time, the Department of Veterans Affairs became the first federal agency to require such vaccinations, by announcing that all 115,000 of its frontline health care workers must receive a coronavirus inoculation in the next two months or face possible termination.

The actions by Gov. Gavin Newsom in California and Mayor Bill de Blasio in New York City reflected growing concern among many government officials that vaccine skepticism and the spread of the more contagious Delta variant could lead to a new wave of the pandemic. Their orders would cover hundreds of thousands of government employees and, in the case of California, the more than two million health care workers in private and public hospitals, nursing homes and other congregate care facilities, according to the state Department of Public Health.

New cases per day have risen fourfold in the U.S. over the last month, leading some public health experts to call for stricter measures to increase lagging vaccination rates.

SHOTS REQUIRED The V.A. told 115,000 of its frontline health care workers to be vaccinated or face penalties, including removal. PAGE A15

EFFECTS ON CHILDREN The F.D.A. urged Pfizer and Moderna to increase the number of 5- to 11-year-olds in vaccine trials. PAGE A14

Vaccinated Aim Anger at Those Who've Said No

By RONI CARYN RABIN

As coronavirus cases resurge across the country, many inoculated Americans are losing patience with vaccine holdouts who, they say, are neglecting a civic duty or clinging to conspiracy theories and misinformation even as new patients arrive in emergency rooms and the nation renews mask advisories.

The country seemed to be exiting the pandemic; barely a month ago, a sense of celebration was palpable. Now many of the vaccinated fear for their unvaccinated children and worry that they are at risk themselves for breakthrough infections. Rising case rates are upending plans for school and workplace reopenings, and threatening another wave of infections that may overwhelm hospitals in many communities.

"It's like the sun has come up in the morning and everyone is arguing about it," said Jim Taylor, 66, a retired civil servant in Baton Rouge, La., a state in which fewer than half of adults are fully vaccinated.

"The virus is here and it's killing people, and we have a time-tested way to stop it — and we won't do it. It's an outrage."

The rising sentiment is contributing to support for more coercive measures. Scientists, business leaders and government officials are calling for vaccine mandates

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Return to Office Faces a Hurdle: Young Resisters

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ
and CORAL MURPHY MARCOS

David Gross, an executive at a New York-based advertising agency, convened the troops over Zoom this month to deliver a message he and his fellow partners were eager to share: It was time to think about coming back to the office.

Mr. Gross, 40, wasn't sure how employees, many in their 20s and early 30s, would take it. The initial response — dead silence — wasn't encouraging. Then one young man signaled he had a question.

Is the policy mandatory?" he wanted to know.

Yes, it is mandatory, for three days a week, he was told.

Thus began a tricky conversation at Anchor Worldwide, Mr. Gross's firm, that is being replicated this summer at businesses big and small across the country. While workers of all ages have become accustomed to dialing in and skipping the wearying commute, younger ones have grown especially attached to the new way of doing business.

And in many cases, the decision to return pits older managers who view working in the office as the natural order of things against younger employees who've come to see operating remotely as completely normal in the 16 months since the pandemic hit. Some new hires have never gone into their

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NATIONAL A11-17

Who Is Really an Astronaut?

Under a new Federal Aviation Administration definition, Jeff Bezos may just be a "spaceflight participant." PAGE A11

Infrastructure Talks Drag On

Disagreement over the final details of a \$600 billion package may put a bipartisan bill at risk of collapse. PAGE A17

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Two Paths to Ending Wars

President Biden is making a clean break in Afghanistan but leaving a lingering presence in Iraq, revealing different views on the conflicts. PAGE A5

New Nuclear Base for China

A desert field of what appear to be missile launch silos raises questions about China's strategy. PAGE A8

ARTS C1-6

A Theater Festival Adapts

In Williamstown, Mass., a usually indoor event has faced many storms, including the weather-related. PAGE C1



SPORTS B7-14

No Russia, but Lots of Russians

A doping punishment changes a country's official name but little else about its Olympic experience. PAGE B7

Doors Open for a Runner

The United States will allow a DACA athlete representing Guatemala to return after the Olympics. PAGE B14

BUSINESS B1-5

QR Codes Are Tracking You

The pixelated squares that popped up everywhere in the pandemic enabled touchless transactions but also gave businesses more customer data. Some privacy experts are worried. PAGE B1

No Rush to Fight Inflation

Prices have risen by more than Fed officials expected this year, but policymakers are mindful that acting prematurely to prevent overheating could slow hiring and wage growth. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Margaret Renkl

PAGE A18



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

'Rewilding' Grizzly Bears

Researchers in British Columbia are tracking orphaned cubs, reared in a shelter, to see whether they can thrive back in their natural habitat. PAGE D1



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Mostly sunny, hot 93/74 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 92/72 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021 • \$2

U.S. to stop combat role in Iraq by year's end

Part of Biden goal to shift 2-decade foreign policy focus from terrorism

BY ANNE GEARAN

President Biden on Monday announced that the United States will wrap up its combat mission in Iraq by year's end, his latest effort to push American diplomacy past a post-9/11 worldview and shift its focus away from terrorism and the Middle East and toward threats like China and cyberwarfare.

Welcoming Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadiri to the Oval Office, Biden promised ongoing support for democracy in Iraq, including elections this fall, but he said the military mission there will change.

"Our role in Iraq will be... just to be available to continue to train, to assist and to help, and to deal with ISIS as it arrives, but we're not going to be, by the end of the year, in a combat mission," Biden said, referring to the Islamic State terrorist group.

The Iraq announcement came three months after Biden announced the full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and just one week after he started transferring prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in hopes of eventually shutting down the prison.

Taken together, the moves represent what has become a pillar of Biden's foreign policy: ending two decades of what he sees as an outdated reaction to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and focusing on an increasingly aggressive China, which he sees as the biggest threat to American security.

By relegating U.S. forces in Iraq to the back seat, Biden is trying to draw the curtain on the costliest, deadliest conflict of the era that past presidents called the "global war on terrorism." Some 18 years after it began, the Iraq War is now a deeply unpopular chapter of American foreign policy.

SEE BIDEN ON A2



PHOTOS BY SIMONE DALMASSO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A trek to find separated families

By motorcycle and on foot, Guatemalan lawyer travels to remote villages on a mission for U.S.

BY KEVIN SIEFF

CHICAMÁN, GUATEMALA — The missing family on Eriberto Pop's list had to be around here, he thought.

He had spent eight hours in a car and several more on a motorcycle to get to this remote area in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Now he looked up at the muddy slope rising before him, the road disappearing into the hillside. This last stretch he would have to do on foot.

He stuffed the U.S. government records in his backpack. There was a note printed at the



TOP: Eriberto Pop crosses the Cuatro Chorrros River in the Western Highlands of Guatemala in May on his search for migrant parents deported by the United States without their children. ABOVE: A mother shows Pop a photo of her separated daughter.

bottom of the first page, a dispatch from the Biden era that had made its way here:

"Do whatever you can to find the family."

More than four years after the Trump administration began separating migrant families at the border, Pop is among a handful of searchers trying to find the parents deported alone to some of the farthest-flung corners of Central America. Two hundred seventy-five of them are still missing.

Most of their children remain in the United States with relatives

SEE SEARCH ON A14

A rising push to mandate vaccines

EFFORTS COULD AFFECT MILLIONS

NYC, Calif., VA act after appeal by medical groups

BY DAN DIAMOND

The Department of Veterans Affairs, which runs one of the nation's largest health systems, announced Monday it would mandate coronavirus vaccines for its front-line workers, becoming the first federal agency to do so and signaling what some experts said could be a national pivot to such requirements.

Faced with the explosive growth of a new virus variant, the state of California and the city of New York gave workers a choice: Get vaccinated or face weekly testing. And an array of hospitals from coast to coast, including the Mayo Clinic, declared they would require staff to get vaccinated, following a joint plea from the nation's major medical groups.

Health-care leaders say the moves represent an escalation of the nation's fight against the coronavirus — the first concerted effort to mandate that tens of millions of Americans get vaccinated, more than seven months after regulators authorized the shots and as new cases rip through the nation. VA's mandate applies to more than 100,000 front-line workers, New York City's applies to about 45,000 city employees and contractors, and California's applies to more than 2.2 million state employees and health workers.

"You can call it a tipping point," said Mark Ghaly, California's health secretary, noting that millions of Americans are still unvaccinated.

SEE MANDATE ON A7

Vaccines for children: FDA wants more Pfizer, Moderna testing. A9

Delta's 'canary': U.S. monitors variant's impacts on Britain. A18

TOKYO OLYMPICS

Biles is on the crest of gymnastics' wave of change

The Tokyo Olympics gold medal favorite leads a diverse U.S. squad that reflects a diversifying sport

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

TOKYO — For years, Wendy Hilliard managed a gymnastics program in New York City, welcoming kids into a massive facility with 70-foot ceilings. Her staff introduced them to a sport to which they might not otherwise have had access. She offered free and low-cost classes to the eager children, who were mostly Black and Hispanic, but interwoven was such that she never needed to turn away anyone.

Then Gabby Douglas emerged as a star of the 2012 Olympics.

"Kazoo, kazah!" Hilliard said. "All of a sudden, every-



TONI L. SANDOZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

From left, Sunisa Lee, Simone Biles, Jordan Chiles and Grace McCallum will represent Team USA during Tuesday's team final.

body wanted to take gymnastics."

As Douglas became the first Black all-around champion at the Olympics, these kids saw someone who looked like them. So did their parents. Hilliard's foundation allowed them to test the sport. And her newly created waitlist grew to more than 150 prospective enrollees, a sign that the country's collection of interested gymnasts had shifted dramatically.

SEE DIVERSITY ON A24

Kid's gold: Lydia Jacoby, 17, pulls upset in 100 breaststroke. D1

One nation, under rugby: In Fiji, sport stops 'everything.' D3

Months later, D.C. officers bear trauma of Capitol riot

BY PETER HERMANN

More than six months after Police Sgt. Aquilino Gonell battled the mob that stormed the Capitol, he remains hobbled, a hand scarred, a shoulder aching, recovering from surgery to an injured foot that swelled so large it no longer fit his shoe.

The 42-year-old Capitol Police officer and Army reservist is also seeing a therapist to help with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), first diagnosed after he served in the war in Iraq.

He said bouts of anxiety returned after his battle on American soil in the Jan. 6 riot.

"I can be fine now and see or hear something and next thing I get tears and get emotional," said Gonell, who was hurt when riot-

ers tried to yank away his ballistic shield, threw a speaker at him, struck him in the face with a pole and sprayed him with chemical irritants.

"I tried to be strong," he said of the months following the riot. "I tried not to show my emotion." But once, he said, he retreated to a quiet space at his home in Virginia, away from his wife and 9-year-old son: "I completely broke down."

In the aftermath of the riot, authorities said about 140 Capitol and D.C. police officers were hurt when supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol in a failed effort to overturn the 2020 election results.

SEE OFFICERS ON A8

Elevated roles: Republicans on panel are given prominent jobs. A10

IN THE NEWS



KYLE GRILLOT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

An 'unpredictable' blaze Battling California's largest wildfire, firefighters faced winds, potential lightning and other dangers. A6

Infrastructure talks hit snag Lawmakers had hoped to meet a self-imposed Monday deadline, but disagreements are piling up. A4

THE NATION

A sandstorm caused accidents that killed at least eight people and injured several motorists in Utah. A3

The Biden administration will set stricter requirements for how coal-fired power plants dispose of wastewater. A5

Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin offered to waive \$2 billion in NASA contract fees in a bid for involvement in the U.S. effort to return astronauts to the moon. A6

THE WORLD

Civilian deaths in Afghanistan hit record

highly recently, the U.N. said, as U.S. forces withdrew and the Taliban gained ground. A11

Demonstrators for and against Tunisian President Kais Saied clashed as the country moved into the second day of a political crisis. A15

Just after floods swept parts of Germany and Belgium, wildfires forced thousands to evacuate in Italy and Spain, while London battles floodwaters. A16

The search for flood survivors in China has grown desperate as the nation's east coast braces for Typhoon In-fa. A17

THE ECONOMY

To enforce "Right to Repair" rules, the FTC has asked the public to submit stories of haggling with companies over products and warranties. A20

Frito-Lay workers in Kansas ended a 19-day strike after the company guaranteed them one day off a week and raised wages amid complaints of forced overtime. A20

THE REGION

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser urged the council to "reconsider" raising taxes on those making over \$250,000, but lawmakers said options are limited. B1

The new hospital in

Prince George's County has seen a surge at its emergency department and long wait times. B1

Though Virginia's nominees for governor hold widely divergent political views, they share a taste for pricey adjacent Zip codes. B1

Two former prosecutors were nominated by the White House to serve as U.S. attorneys in Maryland and the District. B1

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE

In the footsteps of dinosaurs Scientists searched Alaska for prints to shed light on the reptiles' ecosystem and possibly on climate change. E1

STYLE

D.C. newbie Pete Buttigieg knows what he's doing here. His husband, Chasten, is still trying to figure it out. C1

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tóquio 2020

A FADA QUE REINA EM IMPERATRIZ

Medalha de prata comove cidade do Maranhão onde Rayssa Leal, 13, aprendeu a voar sobre 4 rodinhas p. 1

+ **ANÁLISE** Daniel E. de Castro Skate dribla resistências e rejuvenesce Jogos em sua estreia p. 2

BRONZE NA PISCINA

Nos 200 m livre, Fernando Scheffer vai ao pódio, o primeiro para o Brasil na natação desde Londres-2012 p. 6

+ AGENDA DOS JOGOS

NATAÇÃO
7h Eliminatórias*
BOKE
7h Finais
VÔLEI FEMININO
7h30 Brasil X Rep. Dominicana
GINÁSTICA ARTÍSTICA
7h45 Final por equipe
FUTEBOL FEMININO
8h30 Brasil X Zâmbia
VÔLEI DE PRAIA FEMININO
10h Brasil X China
NATAÇÃO
22h Finais
VÔLEI DE PRAIA FEMININO
23h Brasil X Letônia
JUDÔ
0h Eliminatórias*
FUTEBOL MASCULINO
5h Brasil X Arábia Saudita
JUDÔ
5h Finais

Hélio Schwartsman

Incendiar estátua do Borba Gato é péssima ideia

Opinião A2

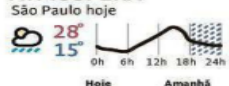
Crise hídrica já estava anunciada, afirma especialista

Mercado A14

Sul terá mínima de até -10°C com nova onda de frio

A onda de frio que se aproxima vai derrubar as temperaturas para até -10°C nas partes altas de Santa Catarina, com queda pontual de neve. A máxima não deve passar de 15°C na capital paulista na sexta, e a prefeitura estuda usar escolas para acolher moradores de rua. Cotidiano B4

ATMOSFERA



EDITORIAIS A2

Fome de voto
Sobre efeito do desgaste de Bolsonaro entre os pobres.

O ensino médio se move
Acerca de cronograma do MEC para novas regras.



Rayssa Leal executa uma das manobras que lhe deram a prata Richard Calais/Fotoarena/Folhapress

Saúde quer antecipar segunda dose da Pfizer

Ministro planeja reduzir intervalo entre aplicações de 84 para 21 dias, como indica bula, se entregas fluírem

O Ministério da Saúde planeja reduzir de 12 para 3 semanas o intervalo entre a aplicação da primeira e da segunda dose da vacina contra Covid da Pfizer, informa Mônica Bergamo. O plano segue a indicação da bula do imunizante, mas só será viável se não houver mais soluções nas entregas do fármaco — algo difícil de garantir.

“Naquele momento [em que se fixaram 90 dias] não tínhamos certeza da quantidade de doses de Pfizer que receberíamos neste ano e optamos por ampliar o número de vacinados com a primeira dose”, disse o ministro Marcelo Queiroga.

Segundo ele, agora há segurança de entrega, e falta só planejar a logística local.

O estudo com simulações da distribuição doméstica está em finalização, afirmou. Tão logo esteja, o novo intervalo será anunciado.

O Brasil demorou a começar a vacinar, e, com a antecipação da segunda dose, pretende-se frear a disseminação da variante delta, mais transmissível. Dos demais imunizantes em uso, a Janssen tem dose única, e a Coronavac, intervalo de 28 dias. Agora, apenas a AstraZeneca mantém um hiato maior, de 12 semanas, como indica o fabricante. Estados como o RJ, contudo, encurtaram o período. Saúde B1

Nove capitais suspendem imunização de novos grupos por escassez B1

Ramos resiste a deixar Casa Civil; Guedes cerceia Onyx

A reforma ministerial prevista pelo presidente Jair Bolsonaro para afagar o centrão encontra resistência no ministro Luiz Eduardo Ramos, que não quer passar a Casa Civil para o senador Ciro Nogueira (PP-PI). Paralelamente, Paulo Guedes (Economia) tenta limitar o tamanho da nova pasta do Trabalho e Previdência, na qual Onyx Lorenzoni absorverá parte de suas funções. Poder A6

Por centrão, Bolsonaro muda tom sobre fundo

Após críticas sobre o valor destinado à campanha de 2022, Jair Bolsonaro disse que deve vetar apenas um “extra” de R\$ 2 bilhões do fundo eleitoral e sinalizou aceitar uma quantia próxima de R\$ 4 bilhões, o que deve dobrar o financiamento público e agradar ao centrão. Poder A4

Presidente recebeu vice-líder da ultradireita alemã

Mundo A13

Oposição repensa atos ante cansaço do público
Organizadores falam em intervalo maior para próxima convocação de protestos e reconhecem necessidade de novos fatos. A9

População com 18 anos ou mais*

	ao menos uma dose	totalmente vacinada
Brasil	62,1%	23,6%
MS	75,6%	42,5%
RS	69,9%	31,7%
SP	73,6%	26,3%



Total de doses aplicadas

	1ª	2ª	única
Brasil	96,3 ml	34,4 ml	3,6 ml
1ª SP	25,4 ml	8,4 ml	1,1 ml
2ª RJ	9,4 ml	3,2 ml	342,4 ml
3ª RJ	7,4 ml	2,8 ml	253,5 ml

Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	19,7 mil	550,6 mil
Méd. móvel	45,4 mil	1.101
Variação**	1,5%	-15,1%
Em 24 h	21,1 mil	587



Dados das 20h de 26 jul. *Ao menos uma dose; somou dose única ou 1ª dose. Totalmente vacinada: tomou dose única ou 2ª dose. **Em relação a 14 dias

Ilustrada C1 e C2

Tiago Rodrigues, à frente do festival de Avignon, vê risco à arte no bolsonarismo

Comida C6

Reformas na região de Bordeaux devem produzir vinhos ainda melhores