

What's News

Business & Finance

Disney's parks saw a strong rebound in visitors, but the company acknowledged uncertainty ahead because of the coronavirus Delta variant. The company's quarterly results beat analysts' estimates. **A1**

◆ **Airbnb's second-quarter** revenue nearly quadrupled, rebounding from the lows of the pandemic as domestic travel lifted the home-sharing giant's fortunes. **B1**

◆ **Home prices surged** in almost every corner of the U.S. in the second quarter as robust demand continued to overwhelm the supply of housing for sale. **A3**

◆ **Boeing's Starliner** space capsule launch could be delayed several months, as the company will likely need to remove it from atop a rocket for repairs. **B1**

◆ **Reddit said** it raised \$410 million from Fidelity at a valuation of about \$10 billion and that it expects to secure additional financial commitments. **B1**

◆ **Jump, one of the world's** largest high-frequency trading firms, will launch a unit that executes stock orders for individual investors. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Dow** rose 0.3% and 0.04%, respectively, to close at records. The Nasdaq added 0.3%. **B11**

◆ **Adidas said** it agreed to sell Reebok to Authentic Brands Group for up to about \$2.5 billion. **B3**

◆ **Alibaba announced** new policies to combat sexual harassment, a response to sexual-assault allegations by a female employee. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The first detailed results** of the 2020 census show a diversifying nation where the total white population shrank for the first time in its history and where large metropolitan areas, especially in the South and Southwest, saw the strongest growth. **A1, A4**

◆ **The U.S. is temporarily** deploying thousands of troops to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan to evacuate diplomatic personnel from the Kabul embassy, cutting the size of the diplomatic presence as the Taliban advance toward the capital. **A1**

◆ **The Taliban conquered** western Afghanistan's main city of Herat and edged close to capturing the southern city of Kandahar. **A5**

◆ **The FDA authorized** giving a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines to certain people with weakened immune systems. **A1**

◆ **A divided Supreme Court** lifted part of New York's eviction moratorium, saying the state had gone too far in protecting tenants at the expense of landlords. **A6**

◆ **The head of a WHO-led** team that traveled to China to probe the origins of Covid-19 called for closer scrutiny of a lab near the site of the first known cluster of cases at a market in Wuhan. **A7**

◆ **The Border Patrol made** about 200,000 arrests at the southern border in July, marking the busiest month at the border in 21 years and a 12% increase over the previous month. **A3**

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Taliban's Abuse of Civilians Rises as Insurgents Expand Reach



Wazir Nazari was shot in the face by Taliban assailants when they seized her home district of Malistan in Ghazni province in July. Like many others who witnessed abuses by the Taliban, her family fled with her to Kabul after the attack. **A8**

Biden Adds Up to 8,000 Troops To Help Pullout in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—The U.S. is temporarily deploying thousands of troops to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan to evacuate diplomatic personnel from the Kabul embassy, cutting the size of the diplomatic presence as the Taliban advance toward the Afghan capital, officials said Thursday.

The evacuation will be undertaken by as many as 8,000 fresh troops in the region, who will augment the 1,000 already on the ground in Afghanistan. It comes in response to the rapidly deteriorating security situation, and the recognition that the Taliban's sweep of a number of provincial capitals is at present irreversible and threatens the seat of the internationally recognized Afghan government.

The decision to reduce the size of the embassy to an essential core and send U.S. troops to the region to do it amounts to a remarkable turnaround for the Biden administration, which has publicly expressed confidence in Afghan security forces even as those forces melted away and the Taliban took over districts and provincial capitals. Only a week ago, the administration anticipated that it would maintain an enduring diplomatic presence to assist the Afghan government to counter the Taliban.

On Thursday, the Taliban conquered western Afghanistan's main city of Herat and edged close to capturing the southern city of Kandahar, as Afghan police arrested the governor of the strategic Ghazni province for surrendering its capital city to the insurgents earlier in the day.

The accelerating Taliban victories have demoralized Afghan government forces and sown fears in Kabul that it is only a matter of days or weeks before the insurgents mount a large-scale attack on the nation's capital, home to six million people. The militants have

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FDA Clears Booster In Limited Cases

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized booster shots for certain people with weakened immune systems, likely the launch of broader efforts to better protect against evasive variants like Delta.

The agency on Thursday cleared giving a third dose of a messenger RNA Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and its partner BioNTech SE or from Moderna Inc. to immunocompromised people who had received a solid organ transplant or individuals who have been diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise.

"After a thorough review of the available data, the FDA determined that this small, vulnerable group may benefit from a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna Vaccines," Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement.

She said other people who are fully vaccinated are adequately protected and don't need an additional dose at this time. The agency is reviewing whether an additional dose may be needed in the future, she said.

The decision expanding the authorization of the mRNA

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THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

THE EDUCATION AND LEARNING ISSUE

R1-8

Ryan Cohen's Power Play at GameStop

36-year-old ousted executives in overhaul

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

It took just a few months for a 36-year-old entrepreneur to take over America's most talked-about company—and make \$1 billion for himself in the process.

Ryan Cohen rose to become chairman of GameStop Corp. with the verve of an old-school corporate raider. Wielding little more than a minority stake and a sharp tongue, Mr. Cohen pushed out GameStop's executive team and installed longtime associates on the company's board. The tactics made the

co-founder of online pet store Chewy Inc., a favorite of the individual investors who sent GameStop's stock on a roller coaster this year; they call him "Papa Cohen."

If Mr. Cohen has made winning look easy thus far, it is far from clear what comes next. From his perch as chairman, he has to revamp GameStop's business, if only to justify the stock's remarkable run. The stock closed Wednesday around \$159 per share, up more than eightfold this year, but far below the high of \$483 it touched

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Cotton Balls, Snowfall or Static?

Proliferation of white paint shades dazzles decorators

By MELISSA KORN

When Christopher Lyon walked into his Washington, D.C., home during his last renovation, he saw red.

Or rather, a dozen shades of off-white splashed on the walls in 2-foot squares, a neutral checkerboard that made him dizzy. "It looked like you were in some kind of modern art painting," recalls Dr. Lyon, a retired educator.

After staring at the samples for weeks, Dr. Lyon gave his husband, Art Coleman, one final week to pick a paint color and get it on the walls. Mr. Coleman, an education policy and legal consultant who quite

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Disney Rebounds, Sees More Virus Risk

By R.T. WATSON

Walt Disney Co.'s parks saw a strong rebound in visitors as people left their pandemic cocoon, but the company acknowledged uncertainty ahead because of the coronavirus Delta variant.

"We did not anticipate, nor did I think anybody, the resurgence of Covid with the Delta variant that would have such a significant impact on the marketplace," said Chief Executive Bob Chapek, on the quarterly call with analysts.

Overall, Disney beat analysts' estimates for the third quarter and recorded \$918 million in profit, or 50 cents a share, for the three-month period ended July 3, compared with a year-earlier loss of \$4.72 billion, or \$2.61 a share. Adjusted earnings were 80 cents a share.

The company posted sales of \$17 billion, up 45% from year-earlier quarter, when the

pandemic locked down much of the world, but results were still below the \$20.2 billion in the 2019 third quarter. Analysts polled by FactSet expected sales of \$16.76 billion. Disney's stock price climbed in after-hours trading to over \$188 a share, up around 5% from its close of \$179.29 a share before results were released.

Tourists returning to theme parks bolstered Disney's balance sheet, as key resorts stayed open throughout the third quarter.

Executives see the momentum continuing, they said. "We see strong demand for our parks," Mr. Chapek said.

The theme parks and consumer-products division posted its first profitable quarter in more than a year. Revenue in the division, which includes its storied Walt Disney World and Disneyland resorts—increased 300% from

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SAMSUNG

Galaxy Z Fold3 | Flip3 5G

Unfold your world

Image simulated. S Pen Fold Edition sold separately and is only compatible with Z Fold3 5G.

New age heist

How a \$600m robbery transfixed the crypto world — MARKETS INSIGHT, PAGE 9

Ruling the metaverse

Tech giants race to control a parallel digital universe — RICHARD WATERS, PAGE 5



No-brainer

Improving mental health will boost the economy — MEGAN GREENE, PAGE 15

Crucial poll
Zambia's test
for democracy

A woman casts her ballot in Lusaka yesterday as Zambians elect their next president after a tense campaign dominated by economic woes.

President Edgar Lungu has dismissed accusations that he is preparing to rig this year's vote in front of international observers although, if Lungu loses, the ruling party has already said it plans to challenge the result.

Zambia, which defaulted on \$3bn of dollar bonds last year, needs access to IMF loans as soon as possible after the election as stopgap financing, but negotiations on restructuring have been on hold ahead of the vote, which is expected to go down to the wire.

Election risks delaying talks page 4
David Pilling page 15



Maro Lungu/WFP

Taliban steps up push as US and UK send troops to evacuate staff

● Islamists sweep over Afghanistan ● Provincial capitals fall ● UN warns of humanitarian crisis

KATRINA HANSON — WASHINGTON
HELEN WARRELL — LONDON

The Taliban's rapid push to overthrow Afghanistan's western-backed government accelerated yesterday, prompting the US and UK to send troops to evacuate staff from Kabul.

As alarm rose in western capitals over the speed of the Islamist group's advances, Taliban forces captured Herat, Afghanistan's third-largest city, after a day of fierce fighting.

Escalating its rout of provincial capitals while US troops withdraw, the Taliban also appeared on the brink of capturing Kandahar, the country's second-biggest city.

"It does look like ANDSF forces are withdrawing from Kandahar," a US official told the Financial Times, using the

initials of the Afghan regular forces. The militant group had already captured its 10th provincial capital, the city of Ghazni, which is strategically located on the highway from western Afghanistan to the capital, Kabul.

The group also seized control of Kun-duz airport in the north of the country, and fighting raged around the town of Mazar-i-Sharif, a former bastion of anti-Taliban resistance.

The military successes have pushed the Taliban closer to its goal of encircling Kabul and forcing the surrender of President Ashraf Ghani's government.

"We are further reducing our footprint in Kabul in light of the evolving security situation," Ned Price, State department spokesman, told reporters. "We expect to draw down to a core

diplomatic presence in Afghanistan in the coming weeks."

Price said the extra troops would focus solely to help secure the draw-down. The British government said it was deploying 600 troops to the country to speed the evacuation of some diplomatic personnel and Afghans who worked with British forces.

Ben Wallace, defence secretary, said Britain's embassy on the outskirts of Kabul's green zone, would be moved to a safer location.

Afghanistan replaced General Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, who was appointed army chief in June, with General Hibatullah Alizai on Wednesday. But many analysts were sceptical that leadership changes in the armed forces would bolster Afghan troops, a number



Taliban forces are moving inexorably towards Kabul and appear on the brink of capturing Kandahar, Afghanistan's second city

of whom appear to have faded away in the face of the insurgents' onslaught.

Afghans fleeing the fighting as well as punishments meted out by the Taliban have sparked UN warnings of an imminent humanitarian crisis. The UN estimated in late July that 270,000 people had been displaced this year by the conflict. Michelle Bachelet, UN high commissioner for human rights, warned that "the already atrocious situation for so many Afghans will become so much worse" if hostilities do not cease.

Critics have blamed President Joe Biden's US decision to withdraw from Bagram air base earlier this year and pull out its troops for the Taliban's rapid gains. Biden said this week he did not regret his decision to withdraw.

Global insight page 2

Briefing

► **China plans to tighten hold on economy**
China has released a five-year plan to tighten its grip on key sectors, including technology and healthcare, in Beijing's latest push to assert party supremacy over the world's second-largest economy. — PAGE 2

► **Vectura board backs Philip Morris offer**
The board of UK inhaler maker Vectura has agreed to support a £1bn takeover offer from cigarette company Philip Morris International after a fierce bidding war. — PAGE 5

► **Freight rates fuel Hapag-Lloyd profits**
The shipping group has posted first-half profits tenfold higher at €2.7bn, far in excess of the €977m profit it made over the past decade, as strained supply chains boosts carriers. — PAGE 6



► **La Liga clubs support CVC rights tie-up**
Clubs in Spain's football league have voted in favour of a tie-up deal with UK-based buyout firm CVC, but only after the two biggest teams secured an opt-out in an eleven-hour compromise. — PAGE 5

► **Olam chooses London for spin-off's IPO**
The Singapore-based trading house has picked London for the flotation of its multibillion-pound food-ingredients business, as it seeks to tap investor interest in healthy eating and nutrition. — PAGE 8

► **Facebook under pressure to sell Giphy**
The British antitrust body has urged Facebook to sell Giphy, the online image platform that it bought for \$400m last year, after finding competition concerns following an in-depth investigation. — PAGE 6

► **Ramaphosa worries for ANC's future**
President Cyril Ramaphosa has told an inquiry that corruption posed an existential threat to his ANC party, as he defended being Jacob Zuma's deputy when his boss's allies looted the state. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Old guard

Average age of cabinet ministers (2018)



Source: OECD

The poor level of representation of young people in public life in developed nations is deepening intergenerational divides, the OECD says. The average age of cabinet ministers is 45 in Iceland and 62 in Japan. The overall average is 54.



Cuomo's downfall saps NY appetite for macho politics

New York governor Andrew Cuomo's fall from grace after claims of sexual harassment has laid bare the macho backdrop to the state's corridors of power. His legacy will be the bridges and airports he rebuilt, largely thanks to his uncompromising, "bullying the bureaucracy" style, but some New Yorkers are now wondering whether its time to ditch a political culture dominated by hyper-aggressive men who are prone to scandal.

Reckoning time — PAGE 3

Spate of catastrophic weather events delivers \$40bn blow to global insurers

IAN SMITH — LONDON

Wildfires, US winter storms and tornadoes in Europe helped deal an estimated \$40bn blow to global insurers in the first half of 2021, marking the worst start to a year for natural catastrophe insurance in a decade.

Reinsurance group Swiss Re said that extreme weather caused by climate change and rapid urban development in disaster-prone areas had driven "ever higher natural catastrophe losses". It represented the highest insured first-half loss since earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand in 2011, and the second biggest on record for the period.

The North American winter storm Uri cost about \$15bn for insurers, the biggest hit for such an event on record.

While Swiss Re did not forecast claims for the second half of the year, "the stage

is set" for what could be record losses, according to Martin Bertogg, the group's head of catastrophic perils.

He pointed to severe floods in China and Europe in July, with the worst of the hurricane season still to come.

In Germany alone, insurers were expecting claims of €4.5bn to €5.5bn from last month's devastating floods.

Insurance broker Aon said yesterday that this was likely "to rank as the costliest weather event and second-costliest natural disaster event in Europe in the past 40 years", after adjusting for inflation, only behind the damage from the trinitia earthquake in Italy in 1980.

Bertogg also pointed to the rising threat of "secondary perils", or catastrophes that did not historically have the financial impact of events such as earthquakes or hurricanes. These were regularly reaching \$1bn in losses, he said.

The rising costs reflect the increased threat to the insurance sector as extreme weather combines with population growth and construction that can result in less water being absorbed into the ground, for example.

Global economic losses from natural and human disasters, which include insured and uninsured damage, were \$77bn in the first half of 2021, below the 10-year average.

The estimates of the financial toll follow the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report charting "unequivocal" evidence of global warming as a result of human activity.

"The intensity and the frequency of natural catastrophes, which are both growing, show that we are facing an absolute emergency," Generali's chief executive Philippe Donnet told the Financial Times last week.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Aug 12	prev	%chg		Aug 12	prev	%chg	Aug 12	prev		price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4448.36	4442.79	0.02	\$ per £	1.175	1.174	0.01	US Gov 10 yr			149.64	1.36	0.00	
Nasdaq Composite	14790.79	14705.14	0.17	\$ per €	1.384	1.387	-0.02	UK Gov 10 yr				0.82	0.00	
Dow Jones Ind	35393.94	35484.97	-0.28	€ per ¥	0.948	0.947	0.01	Ger Gov 10 yr				-0.46	0.00	
FTSE Euro Stoxx 500	1831.22	1829.37	0.10	¥ per \$	116.356	116.470	-0.10	Japan Gov 10 yr			117.15	0.02	-0.02	
Euro Stoxx 50	4227.13	4200.33	0.48	US Gov 30 yr				US Gov 30 yr			115.14	2.00	0.00	
FTSE 100	7193.23	7220.14	-0.37	Sfr per €	1.080	1.082	-0.02	Ger Gov 30 yr			105.67	-0.76	0.00	
FTSE All-Share	4131.76	4143.16	-0.28											
CAC 40	6882.47	6897.99	0.36											
Nikkei	15037.51	15025.09	0.70											
Hang Seng	28015.02	28070.51	-0.20											
MSCI World	29617.92	29690.16	-0.25											
MSCI EM	3108.97	3099.49	0.34											
MSCI ACWI	1297.58	1300.33	-0.21											
	734.01	732.02	0.27											

COMMODITIES				
	Aug 12	prev	%chg	
Oil WTI	69.23	69.25	-0.03	
Oil Brent	71.42	71.44	-0.03	
Gold	1743.60	1723.35	1.18	

FIXED INCOME				
	Aug 12	prev	%chg	
Feed Funds EFF	0.10	0.08	0.02	
US 3m Bill	0.05	0.05	0.00	
Govt 3m	0.50	-0.56	0.00	
UK 3m	0.07	0.07	0.00	

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by MarketWatch

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Packing up and fleeing Kandahar, Afghanistan, last week. By Thursday, the southern city was on the verge of falling to the Taliban.

Cuomo Exits With Millions In War Chest

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

Even after his resignation takes effect in less than two weeks, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo will still control the largest pot of campaign cash in New York politics, an \$18 million war chest amassed in apparent preparation for a run at a fourth term next year.

That prospect now seems remote: Mr. Cuomo, accused of sexually harassing nearly a dozen women, announced Tuesday that he would step down as he faced the threat of impeachment and a chorus of calls for his resignation.

But his huge stock of campaign funds — the most money retained by a departing New York politician in recent memory — affords him a range of possibilities, including the chance to attempt an eventual comeback or to play a role in the state's political life by donating to other candidates.

Mr. Cuomo is far from the first top New York elected official to abruptly leave office. What is remarkable, and has drawn attention in Albany political circles, is the magnitude of money still at his disposal. It is more than 10 times as much as Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who is poised to take his place, has in her campaign account.

When Eliot Spitzer resigned as governor in 2008 in a prostitution scandal, he had most recently reported \$2.9 million in the bank. Eric Schneiderman, the former attorney general, had about \$8.5 million in his campaign account when he stepped down in 2018 after several women accused him of assaulting them.

After each official left office, their campaigns reached out to donors and offered to refund contributions. The Schneiderman campaign did so in emails to major donors who contributed large

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U.S. Grew More Diverse During the Past Decade

By SABRINA TAVERNISE
and ROBERT GEBELOFF

The United States grew significantly more diverse over the past decade, as the populations of people who identify as Hispanic and Asian surged and the number of people who said they were more than one race more than doubled, the Census Bureau reported on Thursday.

Overall population growth slowed substantially over the past decade, but the growth that did occur — an increase of about 23 million people — was made up entirely of people who identified as Hispanic, Asian, Black and more than one race, according to the data, the first racial and ethnic breakdown from the 2020 census.

The white population declined

Overall, Growth Slowed as White Population Fell, Census Says

for the first time in history. People who identify themselves as white on the census form have been decreasing as a share of the country's population since the 1960s, when the United States lifted strict ethnic quotas aimed at keeping the country Northern and Western European.

That drop, of 2.6 percent, was driven in part by the aging of the white population — the median age was 44 in 2019, compared with 30 for Hispanics — and a long-running decline in the birthrate. Some

social scientists theorized that another potential reason for the decrease was that more Americans who previously identified as white on the census are now choosing more than one race.

The single biggest population increase was among people who identified as more than one race, a category that first appeared on census forms 20 years ago, and now is the fastest-growing racial and ethnic category.

People who identify as white now make up 58 percent of the population, down from 64 percent in 2010, and 69 percent in 2000.

"We are in a weird time demographically," said Tomás Jiménez, a sociologist at Stanford University who writes about immigrants, assimilation and social mobility.

"There's more choice about our in-

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Some Get Shelter, Others Quarantine

Migrants in McAllen, Texas, at Catholic Charities, which tests for Covid upon intake. Page A10.

SARAH/ETHI MANEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Confusion, Anger and Fear Spread as Evictions Blindside Tenants

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

LAS VEGAS — Inside Courtroom 8A of Las Vegas Justice Court last week, the benches were packed with renters and landlords battling over evictions that continued at a brisk pace despite a last minute, two-month extension of the federal protections meant to keep people in their homes.

Vanessa Merryman, 41, was among the tenants ordered to leave her apartment. "I have never been homeless in my life," she said through tears, slouched on a metal bench outside the courtroom as the scorching Las Vegas sun beat through the windows. She was shellshocked that the court session that upended her life lasted all of 15 minutes. "I

Millions Dread Ouster Despite Protections

do not know what I am going to do," she said. "It is really scary."

The federal moratorium on evictions — combined with billions of dollars in rent subsidies —

was supposed to avert the scenario of millions of Americans being turned out of their homes after they lost their jobs during the pandemic and were unable to afford their rent.

Yet despite these efforts, many local governments and courts were not sure how to apply the extension, and desperate tenants

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U.S. SENDS TROOPS TO AID EVACUATION AS TALIBAN SURGE

Two Major Cities on Brink of Takeover

This article is by Christina Goldbaum, Sharif Hassan and Fahim Abed.

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two more major cities in western and southern Afghanistan were on the verge of collapse to the Taliban on Thursday night, as the insurgency's race to seize control of the country accelerated.

With the Taliban's sudden gains in Kandahar, in the country's southern Pashtun heartland, and Herat, a vital cultural and economic hub, the insurgents appear to be nearing a complete military takeover. Only four major cities — including the capital, Kabul — remain under government control, and two of them are under siege by the Taliban.

Over the past week, the Taliban have toppled city after city in a stunning advance that has well positioned the insurgents to attack Kabul. It has also laid bare the Afghan security forces' near complete collapse less than three weeks before the United States is set to completely withdraw. Some American officials fear the Afghan government will implode within 30 days, and are preparing for an evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

The insurgents now control well over half of the country's 400-odd districts. And when Kandahar and Herat fall, the insurgents will control 13 provincial capitals, including another provincial capital south of Kabul, Ghazni, and one in the northwest, Qala-e-Naw.

It was a devastating 24 hours for government forces in Afghanistan.

Both Kandahar and Herat had been heavily defended, with battles raging for weeks. But increasingly, the Afghan security forces were overrun, with many soldiers and policemen reported to be deserting, or even changing sides in some places.

Kandahar, in particular, is a huge prize for the Taliban. It is the economic hub of southern Afghanistan, and it was the birthplace of the insurgency in the 1990s, serving as the militants' capital during their five-year rule. By seizing the city, the Taliban can effectively proclaim a return to power, if not complete control.

For weeks, a mix of Afghan army, commando and special police units have desperately tried to hold Kandahar city as it came under Taliban siege. Then on Wednesday, the insurgents overran Kandahar's central prison, freeing hundreds of inmates and

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Bracing for Afghan Government's Fall

This article is by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Helene Cooper, Lara Jakes and Eric Schmitt.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Pentagon is moving 3,000 Marines and soldiers to Afghanistan and another 4,000 troops to the region to evacuate most of the American Embassy and U.S. citizens in Kabul, as the Biden administration braces for a possible collapse of the Afghan government within the next month, administration and military officials said.

The sharply deteriorating situation in the country, as the Taliban rapidly advance across the north and Afghan security forces battle to defend ever shrinking territory in the south and west, has forced the Biden administration to accelerate plans to get Americans out.

President Biden, after meeting with his top national security advisers on Wednesday night, also ordered additional expedited flights out of the country for Afghans among the roughly 4,000 embassy personnel, so that their applications for special immigrant visas could be evaluated.

The embassy sent the latest in a series of alarming alerts, urging Americans to "leave Afghanistan



The U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, last month.

immediately using available commercial flight options."

And in Washington, the State Department spokesman, Ned Price, announced what he described as a drawdown of an unspecified number of civilians among the roughly 4,000 embassy personnel — including about 1,400 American citizens — to begin immediately.

"As we've said all along, the increased tempo of the Taliban military engagements and the resulting increase in violence and instability across Afghanistan is of grave concern," he said. "We've been working to ensure the security situ-

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In Iran, Delta Variant Hammers A Health System Already Reeling

By FARNAZ FASSIHI

Hospital medics in Iran are triaging patients on the floors of emergency rooms and in cars on the roadside. Lines stretch for blocks outside pharmacies. Taxis double as hearses, transporting corpses from hospitals to cemeteries. In at least one city, laborers are digging mass graves.

Iran is under assault from the most cataclysmic wave yet of the coronavirus, according to interviews with physicians and health workers, social media postings from angry citizens and even some unusually frank reporting in state media. The aggressive Delta variant has led to record numbers of deaths and infections, and appears to be overwhelming the health system of a country that

has been reeling from Covid-19 since the scourge began.

The latest phase of the crisis has intensified the challenges facing Iran's new hard-line president, Ebrahim Raisi, testing his abilities just after he took office. "The situation we are facing is beyond disastrous," said Dr. Mahdiar Saeedian, a 39-year-old physician in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city. "The health care system is on the verge of collapse."

Even during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, said Dr. Saeedian, who was born during that conflict, "it was not like this."

The official virus death toll is 500 to 600 people a day, but even these record-high figures are dis-

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NATIONAL A10-17, 20

Singer's Father Will Step Aside

Britney Spears's father has agreed to eventually give up his role in overseeing his daughter's finances. PAGE A20

Hydrogen Fuel Raises Doubts

Promoted as a next-generation energy source, it may be worse for the climate than thought, research shows. PAGE A17

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Bringing Joy to Hong Kong

A hugely popular 12-member boy band called Mirror has offered the city a rare burst of unity and pleasure amid the gloom and tension of political upheaval and the pandemic. PAGE A4

Lebanon Tribunal Winds Down

Set up to prosecute those behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the panel failed to show who ordered the attack or why. PAGE A5

Giddy to Enjoy Toronto Again

A nursing home resident relishes going out after nearly a year of being locked indoors because of the virus. PAGE A9

BUSINESS B1-6

Chasing Elusive Fusion Energy

A start-up founded by M.I.T. scientists is testing a powerful magnet it hopes will generate immense heat that can be converted into electricity. PAGE B1

A Return to Office for Many

A recent survey finds a large number of people are already back at their workplace or expect to be soon. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B10-11

Founder of a Mecca for Foodies

A "kitchen anthropologist," Nach Waxman, 84, opened a New York bookstore for chefs and everyday cooks. PAGE B10



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

Titian Through a Modern Lens

A show in Boston demonstrates that beautiful art is not exempt from moral scrutiny, Holland Cotter writes. PAGE C1

Broadway's Finer Threads

A new exhibition offers a close-up look at costumes from "Hamilton," "Moulin Rouge!" and other shows. PAGE C1

SPORTSFRIDAY B7-9

Soccer's Crowdsourced Fees

The player valuations on Transfermarkt are treated like gospel. But where do they come from exactly? PAGE B7

Rest for the Weary

As the U.S. Open approaches, many of tennis's biggest names are sitting out the tune-up tournaments. PAGE B9

OPINION A18-19

Paul Krugman

PAGE A18





FIRST-DAY JITTERS

Kindergartner August Russell clings to his mother outside Jackson Elementary in Altadena as Pasadena Unified students return to campus after more than a year of pandemic shutdowns and virtual learning.

AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

Amid Taliban's surge, Biden moves to pull embassy staff

U.S. troops will be sent to help evacuate as militants conquer more of Afghanistan.

By TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration, struggling to contain the rapid collapse of much of Afghanistan to Taliban forces, announced Thursday it was

pulling most U.S. Embassy personnel out of Kabul and urged American citizens — for the second time in a week — to leave the country immediately.

Several thousand U.S. troops will be dispatched to Afghanistan, mainly the Kabul airport, to help with what is shaping up as a military-run partial evacuation.

It was a significant escalation in a violently deteriorating situation. The urgent moves came as the Islamist

Taliban group, in its quest to topple the U.S.-backed government, reportedly conquered Afghanistan's third-largest city and pushed its second city, Kandahar, to the brink. Afghan refugees have flooded the capital city of Kabul, many sleeping in the streets, and talks to reach a political solution are going nowhere.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said that the administration would substantially reduce

its "civilian footprint" in Afghanistan to a "core diplomatic presence" in face of the grave violence spreading across the country, and that many employees would be relocated to the fortified Kabul airport for safety.

The moves are also likely to dismay an already desperate Afghan population. Many say they fear imprisonment, torture, repression and execution at the hands of the Taliban, who ruled

Redistricting as diversity is trending

U.S. Census Bureau releases detailed population data for redrawing political maps for next decade.

By MELANIE MASON AND SEEMA MEHTA

The United States is more diverse than ever, with growing numbers of Latino, Asian and multiracial residents, while the white population saw a historic decline, a census report revealed Thursday, kicking off a frenzied push to redraw the nation's political map.

The changing demographics provide the blueprint for carving the country into updated congressional and legislative districts. While the process has always been an exercise in consolidating power, it promises to be especially contentious because of the hyperpolarized political climate and compressed time frame before next year's midterm election.

The results will lock in the political map until the 2030 census and, more immediately, set the stage for next year's battle for control of the U.S. House of Representatives. With Democrats holding a narrow margin in the House, some analysts expect that Republicans could pick up enough seats just through partisan gerrymandering to win the majority in 2022.

"Our analysis of the 2020 census results [shows] that the U.S. population is much more multiracial and more racially and ethnically diverse than what we have measured in the past," said Nicholas Jones, director of race and ethnic research and outreach for the Census Bureau's population division.

Although diversity increased throughout the country, the trend was especially pronounced in states where battles over redistricting are expected to be bruising. In Texas, for example, the white population outpaced the number of Latinos by more than 7% in 2010; now the two groups are practically equal in size. And white residents now make up narrow majorities in Georgia, Florida and Arizona, all states that have passed restrictive voting laws this year that have come under criticism for disproportionately affecting people of color.

White people remained [See Census, A7]

Police without masks? Busted

At crime scenes and inside stations, LAPD officers often aren't wearing the coverings.

By KEVIN RECTOR

With coronavirus cases once again rising across Los Angeles and within the ranks of the city's police, LAPD officers have been ordered to wear face masks "whenever in public or in the workplace."

More than a few cops, however, are ignoring the directive — and getting caught.

At crime scenes and traffic stops, on patrol and even inside police stations, officers have been seen and filmed without face coverings. At times, they have been recorded scoffing at the notion they should wear a mask or offering vague reasons why the rule doesn't apply to them.

"You guys have nothing else better to do than to be on our butts about that?" an officer responded recently when William Gude, an activist critical of the LAPD, filmed a second officer making an arrest without a mask on and asked why he wasn't complying with the department's order.

"I'm inside the Hollywood LAPD station. The cops are maskless while helping civilians," Gude wrote in another tweet Tuesday, which quickly

[See Police, A7]

COLUMN ONE

Mexico revisits Spain's conquest

Aztecs' defeat stirs disquiet in national psyche 500 years later

By PATRICK J. McDONNELL REPORTING FROM MEXICO CITY

In a country that takes great pride in its museums and monuments, the final resting place of one of Mexico's signature historical figures is easy to miss. A simple red plaque — just a name and the years he lived — marks the spot where his tomb is embedded in a wall to the side of the altar in a dilapidated downtown church. Few worshippers take notice.

The name alone, however, recalls centuries of conflict and a never-ending debate about the essential identity of Mexico: HERNAN CORTES 1485-1547.

The legendary Spanish military commander may be hidden away in death, but a few blocks away, authorities are readying a remembrance of his momentous triumph — the conquest of the Aztec Empire.

[See Mexico, A5]



RYAN RHOADES, superintendent of the Mendocino City Community Services District, said he receives daily reports of dry wells. "People are scared," he said.

JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

On the water, but out of it

Mendocino residents must limit use as wells run dry. Tourists are asked to do their part.

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

MENDOCINO, Calif. — The Santa Claus of water rolls through this foggy coastal hamlet in a silver and white truck, bringing joy and relief.

Wayne Jones refills water tanks for residents and businesses whose wells have gone dry. A bespectacled bald man with a majestic white goatee, he moves quickly and speaks sparingly.

Amid Mendocino's worst drought on record, people are desperate for the private water hauler's help.

Mendocino has no municipal water system. All businesses and homes rely on wells — some hand-dug in the 1800s. But rain has been

scant. Underwater aquifers are depleting. Wells are running dry.

"We need water. We don't have it," Mendocino County Supervisor Ted Williams said.

Far from the dusty, fallow fields, the record-breaking wildfires and the shrinking reservoirs that have symbolized extreme drought farther inland, towns along the Mendocino Coast are grappling with a more invisible crisis.

[See Mendocino, A12]

Asian Americans often targeted

Despite a social media push and a COVID hate crimes act, incidents from taunts to assaults persist. NATION, A6

Weather Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 87/66. B6

Biden to fight on Newsom's behalf

The president will rally Democratic voters against California's recall. PERSPECTIVES, A2



BUSINESS INSIDE: Three U.S. airlines require workers be vaccinated; will fliers care? A8

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Messi y el rompecabezas del PSG

La radiografía futbolística del conjunto parisino muestra fortalezas y debilidades del proyecto que conduce Pochettino; ayer, el rosarino se encontró con Mbappé. **Deportes**



LA UBA CELEBRÓ 200 AÑOS Y HOMENAJEÓ A GRADUADOS ILUSTRES

—sociedad

El presidente Alberto Fernández, políticos, científicos, empresarios, periodistas y docentes recibieron ayer el reconocimiento. **Página 23**

GUERRA NARCO, 54 TIROS Y TRES MUERTOS EN FLORENCIO VARELA

—seguridad

Se enfrentaron dos bandas en el barrio San Rudecindo, donde los traficantes están armados a la vista de todos; murió una chica inocente. **Página 26**

LA NACION

VIERNES 13 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR



Fernández y Fabiola Yáñez, junto a un grupo de amigos en la residencia de Olivos, el 14 de julio de 2020

Connmoción política por la foto de un festejo en Olivos en plena cuarentena

PANDEMIA. La imagen confirma un encuentro social por el cumpleaños de la primera dama mientras regía el aislamiento obligatorio; la oposición pide enjuiciar al Presidente

La difusión de la foto de un festejo en la residencia presidencial de Olivos en momentos en los que regía, el año pasado, el decreto de aislamiento obligatorio, provocó un fuerte cimbronazo político. Desde la oposición adelantaron que presentarán un pedido de juicio político contra el presidente Alberto Fernández.

La imagen fue revelada por LN+ y corresponde a un encuentro social celebrado el 14 de julio de 2020, el día del cumpleaños de la primera dama, Fabiola Yáñez, según el registro de ingresos de la quinta presidencial. En ella aparecen, sin barbijos ni distanciamiento, el jefe del Estado y su pareja junto a otras diez personas alre-

dedor de una mesa con torta de cumpleaños. Hasta ahora, el Gobierno no dio ninguna explicación oficial. El jefe del bloque de Juntos por el Cambio, Mario Negri, dijo ayer que evalúan presentar un pedido de juicio político porque "esta gota rebalsó el vaso; se ha deshonrado la investidura pública y han violado la ley". **Página 10**

EL ESCENARIO

El Gobierno tropieza con sus bloopers

Claudio Jacquelin

Página 12

En siete meses, la inflación ya superó la meta anual

PRECIOS. Fue de 3% en julio y acumula 29,1% desde enero

La inflación de julio fue 3% y acumuló en lo que va del año un 29,1%. Con esa variación, en siete meses ya superó lo que el ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, había presupuestado para todo 2021 (29%).

La suba de precios se desaceleró solo dos décimas frente a junio y no logró perforar el piso del 3%, igual que en los últimos 10 meses. En doce meses, la inflación acumuló un 51,8%. Los alimentos subieron más que el nivel general, pese a la desaceleración del precio de la carne. **Página 18**

Imponen más trabas a los dólares financieros

CEPO. El BCRA decidió que solo se puedan depositar en cuentas propias. **Página 20**

Campo: freno a un proyecto exportador

ECONOMÍA. Prevé agregar US\$35.000 millones y 700.000 empleos. **Página 20**



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Descubrí la nueva Tarjeta de Santander Agronegocios y accedé a los mejores convenios para la compra de insumos, hacienda y repuestos de maquinaria agrícola.

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Supremo vai investigar Bolsonaro por vazamento

O ministro Alexandre de Moraes, do Supremo Tribunal Federal, acolheu notícia-crime do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral e decidiu investigar Jair Bolsonaro por suposto vazamento de dados sigilosos de inquérito da Polícia Federal sobre invasão hacker à corte eleitoral em 2018.

O magistrado mandou excluir a publicação do chefe do Executivo sobre o tema nas redes. Poder A8

Barroso amplia transparência de urnas eletrônicas

Após a Câmara derrotar a proposta do voto impresso, o presidente do TSE, Luís Roberto Barroso, anunciou medidas para ampliar a transparência da urna eletrônica. O tribunal decidiu criar uma comissão externa de auditoria, em reação aos ataques de Jair Bolsonaro. Poder A9

Volta de coligações terá resistência no Senado

Aprovada na Câmara, a PEC deve ter dificuldade no Senado, onde é defendido que o sistema atual seja testado mais vezes. A4

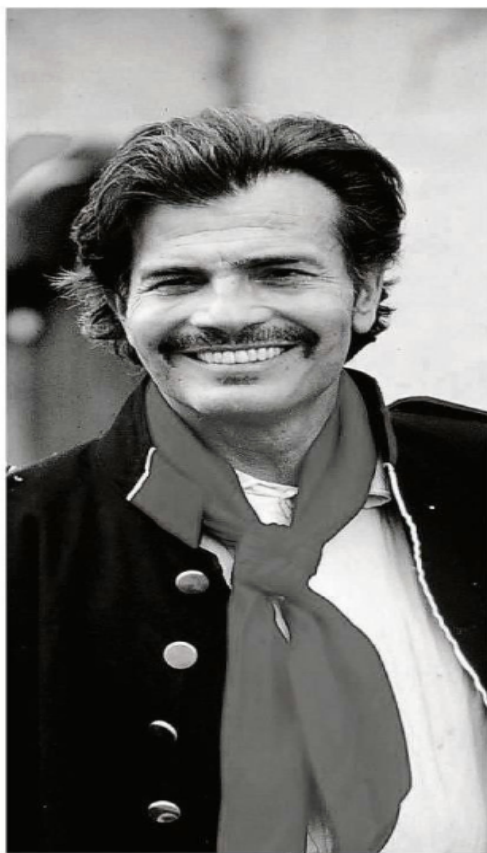
Reinaldo Azevedo

Barros e o crime como liberdade de expressão

Poder A8

EUA registram redução inédita da população branca

Mundo A14



O ator em 'O Tempo e o Vento', exibida em 1985. Divulgação

Ilustrada C1

Morre Tarcísio Meira

Nome incontornável na televisão e no cinema brasileiros e protótipo do eterno galã, Tarcísio Meira morreu ontem, aos 85 anos. O ator, que era casado com Glória Menezes, foi vítima de complicações decorrentes da Covid-19.

Esporte B6

Patrocínio a atletas do vôlei gerou tensão entre CBV e COB

Guia C7

Shows retornam a SP após anúncio de quarentena leve

Câmara aprova projeto que reduz FGTS e vínculos

Chamado de 'minirreforma trabalhista', texto que afrouxa regras de contratação de mais jovens segue para Senado

Um projeto de lei que cria novas modalidades de contratações e muda normas da CLT (Consolidação das Leis do Trabalho) — como o recolhimento de FGTS — foi aprovado pela Câmara ontem e seguirá para o Senado. Conhecido como "minirreforma trabalhista", o texto-base recebeu 304 votos a favor e 133 contra. Os 25 artigos enviados pelo governo em abril viraram quase 100.

Entre outras coisas, eles mantêm a possibilidade de corte de jornada e salário em casos de calamidades futuras e preveem três programas que flexibilizam a contratação, como defende o ministro Paulo Guedes (Economia), ao custo de R\$ 41,1 bilhões nos próximos cinco anos à União. O alvo dos programas é sobretudo pessoas de 18 a 29 anos e acima de 50 sem emprego.

Uma das mudanças recai no FGTS, que deixa de ser recolhido no caso Requip (vinculado a cursos de qualificação) ou tem a alíquota de 8% reduzida a 6%, 4% ou 2%, conforme o tamanho da empresa, com o Pior, que visa a contratação de jovens.

As reações de especialistas e representantes de setores variam da crítica a uma maior precarização ao elogio à flexibilidade. Mercado A15

Sucessor do Bolsa Família corta verba de creche para prefeituras

O Auxílio Brasil, novo programa social do governo com o qual o presidente Jair Bolsonaro pretende substituir o Bolsa Família, retira recursos destinados às prefeituras para a educação de crianças carentes de 0 a 2 anos e prevê o pagamento de vouchers para creches privadas credenciadas.

A proposta não prevê valor para o chamado Auxílio Criança Cidadã, cuja regulamentação cabe ao governo. Com vistas a 2022, o Auxílio Brasil foi criado por medida provisória apresentada nesta semana ao Congresso e precisa do aval Legislativo em 120 dias para não perder a validade. Mercado A16

Presidente usará subsídio para zerar tributo do diesel

Jair Bolsonaro afirma que pretende usar R\$ 15 bilhões destinados a subsídios para zerar a cobrança de tributos federais (PIS e Cofins) sobre o óleo diesel em 2021. Ele tem feito acenos aos caminhoneiros para contornar a insatisfação pelo aumento dos combustíveis. Mercado A17

Ocupação de UTI tem queda em 91% das regiões paulistas

O número de leitos de UTIs (Unidades de Terapia Intensiva) ocupados por pacientes com Covid-19 apresentou queda em 91% das regiões de saúde do estado de São Paulo — 20 das 22 — entre os dias 5 e 11 de agosto. Saúde B1

Universidades de SP vão exigir vacina para volta presencial B4

População com 18 anos ou mais*

	ao menos uma dose	totalmente vacinada
Brasil	72,1%	30,0%
MS	86,6%	49,8%
RS	77,4%	37,2%
SP	86,3%	34,4%

Totalmente vacinada



Total de doses aplicadas

	1ª	2ª	única
Brasil	110,9 mil	44,3 mil	4,0 mil
1ª SP	30 mil	11,3 mil	1,1 mil
2ª MG	11 mil	4,3 mil	463,2 mil
3ª RJ	8,6 mil	3,5 mil	293,3 mil

Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	20,3 mil	566,9 mil
Méd. móvel	31,2 mil	884
Variação**	-30,6%	-17,4%
Em 24 h	35,6 mil	975

Dados das 20h de 12 ago. *Ao menos uma dose: tomou dose única ou 1ª dose. Totalmente vacinada: tomou dose única ou 2ª dose. **Em relação a 14 dias.



Rubens Cavallari/Folhapress

RODA-GIGANTE DE 20 METROS É NOVA ATRAÇÃO DO IBIRAPUERA

Brinquedo no parque paulistano funciona sextas, sábados, domingos e feriados, com ingressos a R\$ 30 por cabine de até quatro pessoas. Cotidiano B5

EDITORIAL A2

Emergência climática
Acerca de alerta sobre aquecimento do planeta.

Regressão política
Sobre volta de coligações em eleições proporcionais.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br

	Hoje	Amanhã
Rio	16 25	17 28
Brasília	14 28	14 29
Ribeirão	14 31	14 32

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OGD y su hijo condenados a 7 y 8 años de prisión

Duro castigo para el otrora todopoderoso manipulador de la política y la Justicia

● Ex senador fue sentenciado por enriquecimiento y no por lavado

● Fallo judicial cuestiona el flojo trabajo realizado por la Fiscalía

● González Chaves puede ser concejal, pese a prohibición de ocupar cargos

Esperada resolución. Luego de deliberar más de 22 horas, el Tribunal emitió un histórico fallo contra el ex senador Óscar González Daher.

PÁGINAS 6, 46 y 47



Los campesinos dejan Asunción tras promesa de recibir más dinero

PÁGINA 14

Arranca hoy una maratón de segunda dosis de vacunas anti-Covid

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

El oficialismo dispara contra Santiago Peña, candidato de HC

PÁGINA 7

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PÁGINAS 12 y 13

El punto de mayor flujo es el nordeste de Itapúa
Crecen contrabando e ingreso ilegal de personas por bajante del Paraná

PÁGINA 21

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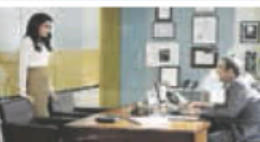
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LE FIGARO

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

L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO

CE QUE LES SÉRIES NOUS APPRENNENT SUR L'ÉCONOMIE
« SUITS », LA SATIRE DE L'UNIVERS DES AVOCATS D'AFFAIRES
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OUVERT LA NUIT DANS UNE CABANE EN CHARTREUSE, HORS DU MONDE
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À ZÜRICH, LE CAFÉ ODEON, ANTICHAMBRE DES RÉVOLUTIONS
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FIGARO NON

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Joe Biden peine à rallier les Européens à sa diplomatie

Depuis son arrivée à la Maison-Blanche, le président américain s'emploie à renouer avec ses alliés pour bâtir une « alliance des démocraties » face à la Chine. Sans succès pour le moment.

Joe Biden a rompu avec le style Trump depuis son arrivée à la Maison-Blanche, il y a sept mois. Il revient à une diplomatie plus classique en s'appuyant sur les

alliés traditionnels de l'Amérique. Le président américain tente de rallier les Occidentaux à son « alliance des démocraties », pour contrer la montée en

puissance de la Chine. Après le caractère parfois confus de l'ère Donald Trump, il s'appuie sur une équipe de diplomates chevronnés. Mais cela n'a pas éliminé les

doutes sur l'avenir du leadership américain. Car, si le président des États-Unis revendique un rôle majeur pour son pays, parlant d'un combat à venir entre démocraties et régimes autoritaires, on sent un hiatus entre les mots et la capacité d'action véritable, en raison des divisions profondes au Congrès.

craties et régimes autoritaires, on sent un hiatus entre les mots et la capacité d'action véritable, en raison des divisions profondes au Congrès.

→ POUR FIONA HILL, « LA POLITIQUE ÉTRANGÈRE EST DEVENUE PARTISANE » → WASHINGTON INQUIET DE LA SANTÉ DES DÉMOCRATIES PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Aux Antilles, les hôpitaux submergés par l'afflux de malades du Covid



En Martinique (ici, à Fort-de-France) et en Guadeloupe, les soignants se mobilisent pour armer des lits de soins critiques supplémentaires. Mais le flot des arrivées de patients est tel que les médecins doivent faire des choix difficiles. PAGES 10 ET 11

Afghanistan : l'avancée foudroyante des talibans

En une semaine, la rébellion a pris onze capitales régionales. Les talibans se sont emparés jeudi de Hérat, la troisième ville d'Afghanistan, dans l'ouest du pays. Une étape majeure de leur offensive, quelques heures après la prise de Ghazni, à 150 km au sud-ouest de Kaboul, qui les a rapprochés dangereusement de la capitale. Face à la dégradation de la situation militaire, le régime a proposé aux talibans « de partager le pouvoir en échange d'un arrêt de la violence dans le pays » : un aveu d'impuissance face aux « étudiants en religion ». PAGES 5

ÉDITORIAL par Patrick Saint-Paul psaintpaul@lefigaro.fr

Mirage d'Amérique

« *America is back!* » Après l'ouragan Donald Trump qui a soufflé pendant quatre ans sur le monde le vent de « l'Amérique d'abord », Joe Biden prometait le retour des États-Unis. Destabilisée par les tacles de son prédécesseur, renvoyée à ses propres faiblesses stratégiques et à son incapacité à prendre en mains sa sécurité, l'Europe appelait de ses vœux la fin de la parenthèse Trump. Le chef de la Maison-Blanche se présente comme l'antidote au trumpisme et a bien mené une rupture sur la forme en renouant avec le multilatéralisme. Mais attention à ce mirage américain ! Sa diplomatie est à bien des égards une prolongation de celle de Trump. Elle est fondée en priorité sur les intérêts de l'Amérique. Exit les clowneries de Donald Trump, son étrange fascination pour les dictateurs, qu'il préférait souvent à ses propres alliés, considérés comme des profiteurs. À l'art du contre-pied professé par Trump, Biden préfère des relations stables et prévisibles. Il est revenu aux alliances traditionnelles et à une diplomatie plus classique, emmenée par une équipe de professionnels chevronnés. Face à

l'inexorable montée en puissance de la Chine et de son antidote autocratique, il s'affiche en défenseur d'intérêts et de valeurs partagés et propose de forger une « alliance des démocraties ».

Lors de sa première tournée en Europe, Biden a bien obtenu de ses alliés un début d'alignement face à la République populaire. Mais il n'est pas question pour les Européens, guidés par leurs propres intérêts, de « découpler » leurs économies de celle de la Chine, sur le modèle américain. Face à la Chine et la Russie, rien n'a changé sur le fond. Ni en Irak ni en Afghanistan, où le retrait est confirmé. Avec une contradiction. À Kaboul, le champion de la démocratie cède le terrain aux talibans, sous le regard ironique de Pékin et Moscou... Sa priorité est de réparer le système démocratique, si éprouvé aux États-Unis. Une urgence s'il veut que l'Amérique retrouve son crédit dans le monde ! ■

Une diplomatie en rupture avec Trump sur la forme.

Le retrait est confirmé. Avec une contradiction. À Kaboul, le champion de la démocratie cède le terrain aux talibans, sous le regard ironique de Pékin et Moscou... Sa priorité est de réparer le système démocratique, si éprouvé aux États-Unis. Une urgence s'il veut que l'Amérique retrouve son crédit dans le monde ! ■

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'Romantic leads aren't that interesting' **Dan Stevens** Interview

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Tributes to Una Stubbs 1937-2021 ➔ Page 9 and Obituaries



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Britain and US evacuate as Taliban advance on Kabul

At least five dead in gun rampage in Plymouth

Vikram Dodd
Lucy Campbell
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At least five people have died after a gunman repeatedly opened fire in Plymouth yesterday, with armed police locking down part of the city.

The atrocity is initially being classed as a domestic incident and it is not thought to be related to terrorism. The gunman is believed to have shot himself.

A massive response by police, including armed officers and paramedics, followed the shooting on Thursday just outside the centre of Plymouth in south-western England. In a statement Devon and Cornwall police said: "Police were called to a serious firearms incident in Biddick Drive, in the Keyham area of Plymouth at about 6.10pm.

"A critical incident has been declared. We are appealing to the public not to speculate or share pictures of the scene on social media or anywhere else."

Multiple police vehicles were present and several roads were closed, with police urging the public to avoid the area. The force said last night it believed the



Troops sent in to hasten removal of citizens and thousands of Afghans

Patrick Wintour
Peter Beaumont
Julian Borger

The US and UK are scrambling reinforcements to Kabul to help evacuate their diplomats, soldiers and citizens as well as thousands of Afghans who have worked with them, as the Taliban advance towards the capital.

The Pentagon announced it would send three battalions, about 3,000 soldiers, to Kabul's international airport within 24 hours of the announcement yesterday. The US defence department spokesman, John Kirby, said the reinforcements

would help the "safe and orderly reduction" of numbers of US nationals and Afghans who worked with the Americans and so had been granted special immigrant visas. Kirby said the move was the "prudent thing to do ... given the rapidly deteriorating security situation". He added: "Commanders on the ground will be working with the state department to determine what's most needed."

The UK said it would send 600 troops, and the defence secretary, Ben Wallace, said the embassy was moving from the outskirts of the secure Green Zone to a potentially safer location nearer Kabul's centre.

As many as 200 UK diplomats and soldiers are being evacuated. Britain expects to evacuate up to 4,000 entitled Afghans as well. Other western governments are also accelerating plans for evacuating embassy staff amid fears over the Taliban's advance.

▲ Afghan children displaced by the Taliban offensive take refuge at a camp in the Afghan capital, Kabul
PHOTOGRAPH: PAULA BRONSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

In a tweet, the German embassy in Kabul urged all its citizens to leave the country as fast as possible on commercial flights. "Capacities for consular assistance to German nationals are extremely limited," it said.

'We recognise what is going on now on the ground, but this is a pre-planned phased draw-down'

Ben Wallace
Defence secretary

The announcements came as Taliban fighters captured Afghanistan's second and third largest cities. The seizure of Kandahar and Herat marked the biggest prizes yet for the Taliban, who have now taken 12 of the country's 34 provincial capitals and have established a bridgehead within 95 miles of Kabul.

At the same time as deploying three battalions to Kabul, the US is sending 1,000 troops to Qatar to help the processing of interpreters and other former Afghan staff who have been granted special visas. Up to 4,000 additional US troops will be put on standby in Kuwait.

Ned Price, a state department spokesman, said the US embassy would be reduced to a core staff but insisted: "What this is not - this is not abandonment. This is not an evacuation. This is not the wholesale withdrawal." But

Team GB Silver medal sprinter fails doping test

Chijindu Ujah, part of Britain's 4x100m relay team, has been suspended after testing positive for a banned substance and may be stripped of his medal

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