

What's News

Business & Finance

Spending at U.S. retailers fell sharply in July amid cooling purchases of goods and signs of some pullback in consumer demand as U.S. Covid-19 cases tied to the Delta variant rose. **A1**

◆ **Walmart** logged another quarter of rising U.S. sales as a return to in-store shopping offset slower online growth. **B1**

◆ **Ford** plans to do a bigger portion of its sales by having buyers order from the factory, rather than pick from the selection at dealerships. **B1**

◆ **Several hedge funds** took out fresh positions in the second quarter betting against Cathie Wood's actively managed ARK Innovation exchange-traded fund. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Dow** retreated from records, falling 0.7% and 0.8%, respectively. The Nasdaq lost 0.9%. **B11**

◆ **China** is taking a more direct hand in managing its internet-content companies by acquiring stakes, filling board seats and sending dedicated regulators to police content at firms more frequently. **B1**

◆ **A new round** of proposed Chinese regulations aimed at internet firms sent Alibaba's U.S. listing down 4.9% to \$173.73, its lowest close since October 2019. **B4**

◆ **Chinese real-estate** billionaire Hui Ka Yan has stepped down as chairman of China Evergrande's flagship property business. **B1**

◆ **BHP** agreed to sell its oil-and-gas unit and separately approved a \$5.7 billion project to mine potash in Canada. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The Biden administration** said the airport in Kabul was open for military and civilian flights, but access remained near-impossible for the thousands of Afghans seeking to leave Afghanistan, as the Taliban strengthened control over the city and a Taliban leader returned from exile. **A1, A4, A6-A8**

◆ **The Delta variant** appears to be breaking through the protection vaccines provide at a higher rate than previous strains, a Wall Street Journal analysis found, though infections among the fully inoculated remain a tiny fraction of overall cases and symptoms tend to be milder. **A1**

◆ **Texas Gov. Abbott** tested positive for Covid-19, his office said. A spokesman said the governor was fully vaccinated against the virus and wasn't symptomatic. **A3**

◆ **The Florida Board of Education** voted unanimously to punish two school districts for implementing mask mandates that ran afoul of a state order barring such requirements. **A3**

◆ **Top House Democrats** said the chamber would move forward with voting on the budget blueprint next week, rebuffing demands from a group of centrist Democrats to first vote on the infrastructure bill. **A2**

◆ **David Sackler**, a former Purdue Pharma director, defended a settlement that would shield members of the company's controlling family from lawsuits accusing them of contributing to the opioid crisis. **A2**

CONTENTS Personal Journal A13-12 Arts in Review... A13 Property Report... B6 Business News... B35 Sports... A34 Crossword... A14 Technology... B4 Heard on Street... B12 U.S. News... A2-3 Markets... B11 Weather... A2-3 World News... A4-13



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Crowds seeking to flee the country gathered outside the Kabul airport Tuesday, as the Taliban set up checkpoints at entrances and prevented most people from reaching evacuation flights.

Fearful Afghans Struggle to Get Out of Country

Taliban strengthen control over capital, promise safe passage, as a key leader returns

The Biden administration said the airport in Kabul was open for military and civilian flights, but access remained near-impossible for the thousands of Afghans seeking to

By Yaroslav Trofimov, Saeed Shah and Andrew Restuccia

leave Afghanistan, as the Taliban strengthened control over the city and a Taliban leader returned from exile.

Military flights resumed as the U.S. sent additional troops to secure the perimeter and manage air-traffic control and ground operations, following two days of chaos as Western-

ers and Afghans raced to escape the country.

The U.S. said it had completed the evacuation of its embassy staff, leaving only a small contingent to process other departures from the country.

However, many thousands of Afghans who had worked for Western embassies and organizations remained stranded and unable to reach the airport for evacuation flights, as the Taliban erected checkpoints at the entrances to the airport, whipping and beating Afghans who attempted to cross.

The head of the Taliban's political office, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, returned to Afghanistan from exile in Qatar as the Taliban asserted control of the Afghan capital. Many stores in the capital reopened and traffic police returned to their posts.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Please turn to page A7

Biden Knew Risks of a Hasty Withdrawal

By Ken Thomas and Vivian Salama

WASHINGTON—In his Monday speech defending America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, President Biden said he would not shrink from his share of responsibility.

That would include his decision to bring home U.S. troops, which was made against the recommendations of his top military generals and many diplomats, who warned that a

hasty withdrawal would undermine security in Afghanistan, several administration and defense officials said.

The president's top generals, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark Milley, urged Mr. Biden to keep a force of about 2,500 troops, the size he inherited, while seeking a peace agreement between warring Afghan factions, to help maintain stability. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who previously served

Afghanistan Crisis

- ◆ U.S. blocked Taliban's access to cash..... A4
- ◆ Terror groups cheer insurgents' takeover..... A6

as a military commander in the region, said a full withdrawal wouldn't provide any insurance against instability.

In a series of meetings leading up to his decision, military and intelligence officials told

Mr. Biden that security was deteriorating in Afghanistan, and they expressed concerns both about the capabilities of the Afghan military and the Taliban's likely ability to take over major Afghan cities.

Other advisers, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan, raised the possibility of Taliban attacks on U.S. forces and diplomats, as well as the Afghan who for two decades worked

alongside them. Ultimately, neither disagreed with the president, knowing where he stood.

Mr. Biden, however, was committed to ending the U.S. military role in the country. The president told his policy advisers the U.S. was providing life support for the Afghan government, which, in his view, was corrupt and had squandered billions of dollars in American assistance.

Please turn to page A8

Shopper Pullback Leads to 1.1% Drop In July Retail Sales

By Amara Omeokwe

Spending at U.S. retailers fell sharply in July, amid cooling purchases of goods and signs of some pullback in consumer demand as U.S. Covid-19 cases tied to the Delta variant rose.

Retail sales—a measure of purchases at stores, at restaurants and online—fell 1.1% last month compared with June, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. Excluding autos—a category where supply-chain issues have limited available inventory—sales declined 0.4%.

Tuesday's report suggested people continued to shift spending toward services in July. Sales dropped across several categories, primarily autos—which was down 3.9%—but also clothing, sporting goods and furniture. The retail-sales figures capture spending mostly on goods and don't include services such as travel, entertainment and recreation. Restaurants and bars were

a bright spot, with sales rising 1.7% over the month, while sales at nonstore retailers—a proxy for online retail sales—fell 3.1%.

The retail data disappointed stock markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.8%, the S&P 500 slipped 0.7%, and the Nasdaq dropped 0.9%.

Retail sales rose briskly earlier in the summer, as shoppers boosted spending on services, such as dining out, and away from goods. That shift occurred as more people became vaccinated and state and local governments eliminated many Covid-19-related restrictions, some of which have now been reimposed with the recent rise in coronavirus cases.

Pooja Sriram, U.S. economist at Barclays, said she expects increased services

Please turn to page A2

- ◆ Shoppers return to Walmart stores..... B1
- ◆ Heard on the Street: Sales decline offers a preview... B12

America's Supply of Coins Can't Keep Up With Its Dirty Laundry

Quarter shortage creates loads of stress; 1,200-mile drive to parents' free machines

By Orla McCaffrey

The night before she was scheduled to serve jury duty, Kuromi Hendricks realized the clothes she planned to wear were dirty. She couldn't find the 12 quarters required for a wash and dry at her Boston apartment building.

By 11 p.m., desperation took hold. She hopped in a \$10 Uber to the only place she knew was open and might have spare change—a 24-hour cafe with a couple of arcade games. Not wanting to use the business just for their coins, she ordered a lemonade, asked

for about \$5 in quarters, played a few rounds of pinball, and headed home to wash.

"They've gotten me out of a pinch a couple times with quarters," Ms. Hendricks said. The scarcity of spare change—brought on as people leaned on digital transactions and fewer coins circulated—has pushed the quarter-dependent to extremes. Many have spent hours trekking across their cities in search of coins they used to easily procure from local bank branches. One couple hauled four loads of laundry across several states

Please turn to page A9



Flooding Follows Quake In Haiti

Children displaced by Saturday's earthquake huddled for shelter from Tropical Storm Grace on Tuesday in Les Cayes, Haiti. Flooding from the storm hampered relief efforts, as the death toll from the earthquake climbed to at least 1,941 people. **A18**

Breakthrough Cases Rising, But Still Remain Uncommon

By Robbie Whelan and Jared S. Hopkins

The Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus appears to be breaking through the protection vaccines provide at a higher rate than previous strains, a Wall Street Journal analysis found, though infections among the fully inoculated remain a tiny fraction of overall cases, and symptoms tend to be milder.

U.S. states counted at least

193,204 so-called breakthrough cases among vaccinated people between Jan. 1 and early August, according to data that health departments in 44 states and Washington, D.C., provided to the Journal. The figure represents 0.1% of the more than 136 million fully vaccinated people in those states and the capital.

The total number of breakthrough cases is likely higher, public-health experts said, because fully vaccinated people

with asymptomatic infections likely aren't getting tested for Covid-19. Additionally, several states said the data were unavailable, while others track only breakthrough cases that result in hospitalizations or death.

The Biden administration is

Please turn to page A9

- ◆ Texas governor tests positive for virus..... A3
- ◆ Failure to halt spread prompts Asia-Pacific curbs..... A16

INSIDE



SPORTS Disgruntled NFL players are showing up for practice, but skipping out on working. **A14**

Companies' Cash Stockpile Gives Investors Reassurance

By Hardika Singh

Investors are betting that cash-rich companies will increase spending on everything from factories to share buybacks, a combination many believe can boost stocks in coming months.

Businesses including Tyson Foods Inc., consumer-products firm Newell Brands Inc., Morgan Stanley and alcohol seller Constellation Brands Inc. have said in recent weeks they plan to build factories, expand research budgets, pay down debt or seek acquisitions while also

giving priority to dividends or share repurchases.

The hoard of cash held by U.S. companies is a key comfort for U.S. investors, despite worries that the spread of the Delta variant of coronavirus could dent the burgeoning recovery. Steady demand for stocks from companies joins a glut in household savings in powering indexes to highs, though the S&P 500 slipped 0.7% Tuesday.

At the same time, signs of growing capital expenditures are helping reassure those

Please turn to page A9

Macron squares up

Battle over Covid pass is a street fight he can win — BEN HALL, PAGE 4

Class conflict is back

Bidenomics rewinds the clock in policy debate — MARTIN SANDBU, PAGE 15



Start-up nation

India's entrepreneurs make the case for growth — HENRY SENDER, PAGE 9

Taliban vows to respect women's rights 'within Islam's framework'

◆ Promise of amnesty 'for all' ◆ Afghans remain sceptical ◆ Evacuation flights resume

STEPHANIE FINDLAY — NEW DELHI

The Taliban has pledged to protect the rights of women within the limits of Islamic law and grant amnesty to its opponents, as it sought to strike a moderate tone days after seizing control of Afghanistan.

In the Islamist group's first press conference since it took Kabul, Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesperson, said the militants would not seek revenge against officials or the Afghan forces it has fought for the past two decades. Women could work and study and "will be very active in society but within the framework of Islam", Mujahid said.

As the press conference took place, a delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Taliban co-founder and political chief, arrived in the southern city of Kandahar from Qatar. Baradar, known for his pragmatism, is expected to be a senior figure in the Taliban's new Afghan government in the coming days.

The Islamist group's effort to reassure Afghans came as evacuation flights resumed from the capital after chaotic scenes at the airport on Monday, when thousands of panicked residents mobbed aircraft to escape the country.

After widespread criticism of the mayhem — with desperate Afghans fleeing the US military aircraft as they took off — the US moved to regain control of the evacuation process yesterday. John Kirby, a spokesman for the defence department, said about 4,000 US troops would be on the ground in Kabul by the end of the day, adding that the pace of evacuations would then pick up and could reach up to 9,000 people a day.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 and imposed a brutal interpretation of Islam. Since retaking power, the Islamist group has sought to strike a more moderate tone declaring an amnesty "for all". But several government workers in Kabul told the Financial Times that they or their families had already been harassed.



Afghan women outside Kabul's presidential palace demand protection of their rights
Sayed Chaharil/Saif/Anadolu Agency via Getty

"I was beaten up by the Taliban after waiting in the airport and the flight did not come," one government worker said. "We got stuck in traffic coming here, they caught us, beat us, took everything... It was a nightmare. They are taking everything from the government; they say it belongs to us now."

Taliban leaders have pledged to create an "inclusive" Islamic government. Enamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban cultural commission, has suggested that women could be included in the administration, in what would be a radical departure from the 1990s when women were excluded from public life.

A government minister in Pakistan with knowledge of the US-Taliban peace talks in Doha said the Taliban was expected to allow women to work for UN agencies and NGOs. "Restrictions might be enforced such as segregation but it won't be like the 1990s," the minister said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "On the other hand, you are not going to see women become fighter pilots."

Many Afghans are sceptical of Taliban promises of peace, particularly given the Islamist group's attacks on civil society in the past two years, including the killing of judges and activists. "There are good reasons not to trust the Taliban. For so long they maintained that anyone who worked for the government was a legitimate target," said Haroun Rahimi, assistant professor of law at the American University of Afghanistan. Additional reporting by Amy Kazmin in New Delhi, Aime Williams in Washington, Sami Youssaf in London and Farhan Bokhari in Islamabad News & analysis pages 2 & 3 Letters page 14 David Miliband page 15

Edward Luce
Page 15

At each point in the post-9/11 story big US decisions have been based on conditions on the ground — the ground in Washington, that is

Briefing

► **BHP to shift primary listing to Australia**
The world's biggest miner has announced that it is to unify its dual-corporate structure in a Sydney listing. It also unveiled an exit from oil and gas, and a record dividend. — PAGE 5; HELEN THOMAS, PAGE 6

► **Storm harries Haiti quake survivors**
Survivors of the earthquake on Saturday that killed nearly 1,500 people have been struck by heavy rain and high winds from Tropical Storm Grace. Many are in makeshift shelters and tents. — PAGE 4

► **Single Covid case hits New Zealand dollar**
The currency has tumbled after an Auckland man tested positive, prompting a three-day nationwide lockdown. The discovery came on the eve of an expected rate rise by the central bank. — PAGE 8

► **Walmart lifted by back-to-school season**
The US retailer has raised its full-year outlook for the second time in three months, as sales defied the hit to confidence from the spread of the Delta variant. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 16

► **Just Eat Takeaway rejects divestment**
Chief Jitse Groen has thrown out a suggestion from investor Cat Rock Capital that the food delivery group should divest assets or explore a merger. Its half-year revenue growth was 52 per cent. — PAGE 5

► **Home Depot clocks up revenue record**
The world's biggest DIY chain has registered the highest quarterly sales in its history, even as surging pandemic demand for supplies begins to cool and as data showed US retail sales fell in July. — PAGE 5

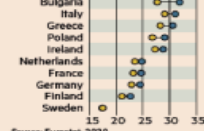
► **Charm offensive against Mr White Hat**
Poly Network, the decentralised financial network, has offered to install a hacker who stole \$600m in cryptocurrencies as its chief security adviser — if he cedes control of the outstanding assets. — PAGE 6

Datawatch

Flying the nest

Average age of people leaving home

Female Male



Source: Eurostat, 2020

Across Europe, men live with their parents for longer than women. In some cases, such as Bulgaria, they move out four years after their female counterparts, at the age of 32. Swedes tend to leave the nest earlier than most



Airline industry plots new path in changing climate

The contribution of aircraft to global warming is significant but the potential impact on the aviation industry itself is also far-reaching. Weather-related flight cancellations are on the rise. But in the longer term the industry expects much bigger change. Airlines believe changing wind patterns will alter routes and fuel economy. It will take longer to fly from Europe to the US as the jet stream shifts. Some airports face flooding, while delays raise costs. Learning to cope — PAGE 6

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Beijing turns fire on internet groups in ever tougher crackdown on tech sector

CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD — BEIJING

China's crackdown on the tech sector intensified yesterday as Beijing announced detailed rules to tackle anti-competitive behaviour by internet and e-commerce companies.

The draft rules, released by the State Administration for Market Regulation, China's antitrust watchdog, target practices such as false advertising, fraudulent online reviews, blocking access to rivals, data protection and consumer privacy, according to Angela Zhang, an expert on Chinese antitrust legislation at the University of Hong Kong. They are likely to come into force this year.

Shares in Chinese internet groups JD.com, Alibaba and Tencent closed down 5.2 per cent, 4.8 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively in Hong Kong yesterday.

The Chinese Communist party has made antitrust regulation central to a broad campaign to limit behaviour by internet groups that it considers damaging to social stability and national security. The crackdown has shaved billions of dollars of market value from China's leading tech companies.

Li Chengdong, founder of Dolphin, a technology-focused think-tank in Beijing, said SAMR's rules would crack down on platforms "using monopoly status to suppress small and medium businesses" and marked an expansion of the rectification campaign to the entire sector.

China's market regulator has previously demanded "self-rectification" from dozens of internet companies, including ride-hailing platform Didi Chuxing, which became a particular target of scrutiny after its \$4.4bn initial

public offering in New York in June. The SAMR also fined Alibaba, the e-commerce group, a record \$2.8bn in April for abusing its market dominance.

Analysts said the crackdown had been driven in part by user anger over perceived exploitation by powerful internet companies.

The long list of practices and unusual level of specificity in yesterday's rules would be "extremely significant" for tackling business practices that regulators disliked, said Kendra Schaefer, a tech analyst for Trivium, a consultancy.

"It's a very long list of behaviours, many of which are rampant [in China]," Schaefer added. "Regulatory displeasure with some of these things has been signalled in the past year but this is the ultimate collection."

Additional reporting by Nian Lu in Beijing Start-ups in US listings limbo page 6

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Aug 17	prev	%chg		Aug 17	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4438.95	4479.71	-0.91	\$ per €	1.172	1.179	-0.722	US Gov 10 yr	150.30	1.26	0.00
Nasdaq Composite	14839.94	14793.76	-1.28	£ per \$	1.374	1.366	0.579	UK Gov 10 yr	0.96	-0.01	
Dow Jones Ind	26296.01	26625.40	-0.92	€ per \$	0.853	0.851	0.235	Ger Gov 10 yr	-	-0.47	0.00
FTSE 100	1827.68	1824.82	0.16	¥ per \$	109.600	109.145	0.411	Japan Gov 10 yr	117.42	0.00	-0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4197.48	4202.44	-0.12	₹ per \$	150.568	151.281	-0.468	US Gov 30 yr	116.34	1.92	0.01
FTSE 100	7181.11	7193.58	-0.36	S\$ per \$	1.072	1.074	-0.188	Ger Gov 2 yr	105.62	-0.74	0.00
FTSE All-Share	4123.45	4111.89	0.28	€ per \$	0.854	0.848	0.696				
CAC 40	9819.94	9820.77	-0.28								
Nikkei	15821.95	15825.73	-0.02								
Hang Seng	27424.47	27523.19	-0.36								
MSCI World \$	3121.99	3125.12	-0.10								
MSCI EM \$	1272.19	1280.86	-0.68								
MSCI ACWI \$	734.78	736.02	-0.17								

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VIOLENT HISTORY CLOUDS TALIBAN'S VOWS



Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, addressed reporters on Tuesday in the room where the government used to brief the press.

Post-9/11 Era Ends Painfully, For America and Afghanistan

By ROGER COHEN

An era that began two decades ago with the shock of hijacked planes flying into American skyscrapers drew to a close this week with desperate Afghans clinging to American planes as they tried to escape the chaos of Kabul. Some fell; one was found dead in the landing gear.

A colossal bipartisan investment of American force, treasure and diplomacy to defeat a hostile ideology bent on the creation of an Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has failed. Over four presidencies, two Republican and two Democratic, more than 2,400 Americans gave their lives, and more than \$1 trillion was spent, for shifting Afghan goals, many of which proved unattainable.

The curtain came down on the post-9/11 era, with the Taliban retaking control of the country that served as the base for the

attack on America, a full-circle debacle for the United States that will engrave Afghanistan painfully in the national memory.

Mistakes and illusions and a particular American naïveté, or hubris, about remaking the world in its image led to the swift Taliban takeover almost two decades after its defeat, but a more fundamental factor also played a part. With China flexing its muscles, the nation's priorities shifted. The relative power of the United States is not what it was 20 years ago.

The country's capacity and inclination to commit resources to faraway struggles ebbed. Absent the Cold War, Americans have little appetite for the kind of open-ended military commitment that cemented democracies in Germany, Japan, South Korea

Continued on Page A8

NEWS ANALYSIS

'My Future Is Dark': Fear Rises In Women After Years of Gains

By FARNAZ FASSIHI and DAN BILEFSKY

As Afghan women cloistered in their homes on Tuesday, fearing for their lives and their futures under Taliban rule, a pair of female television broadcasters offered starkly contradictory visions of the country's direction.

On Tuesday morning, Beheshta Arghand, a newscaster with the privately owned Tolo News channel, interviewed a Taliban official, asking him about the Taliban's house-to-house searches in the Afghan capital.

"The entire world now recognizes that the Taliban are the real rulers of the country," said the official, Mawlawi Abdulhaq Hemad, a member of the Taliban's media team. "I am still astonished that people are afraid of Taliban."

The remarkable scene of a Taliban official taking questions from a female journalist was part of a broader campaign by the Taliban

to present a more moderate face to the world and to help tame the fear gripping the country since the insurgents seized the capital on Sunday.

But hours later, a prominent anchorwoman on state television, Khadija Amin, tearfully told a Clubhouse chat room that the Taliban had suspended her, and other female employees, indefinitely.

"I am a journalist and I am not allowed to work," said Ms. Amin, 28. "What will I do next? The next generation will have nothing; everything we have achieved for 20 years will be gone. The Taliban is the Taliban. They have not changed."

The stories of the two journalists reflect the uncertainty and deep anxiety Afghan women face as they try to assess what will befall them as the Taliban take con-

Continued on Page A5

Contradicting Biden, Reports Warned of Rapid Collapse

This article is by Mark Mazzetti, Julian E. Barnes and Adam Goldman.

WASHINGTON — Classified assessments by American spy agencies over the summer painted an increasingly grim picture of the prospect of a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and warned of the rapid collapse of the Afghan military, even as President Biden and his advisers said publicly that was unlikely to happen as quickly, according to current and former American government officials.

By July, many intelligence reports grew more pessimistic, questioning whether any Afghan security forces would muster serious resistance and whether the government could hold on in Kabul, the capital. President Biden said on July 8 that the Afghan government was unlikely to fall and that there would be no chaotic evacuations of Americans similar to the end of the Vietnam War.

The drumbeat of warnings over the summer raised questions about why Biden administration officials, and military planners in Afghanistan, seemed ill prepared to deal with the Taliban's final push into Kabul, including a failure to ensure security at the main airport and the rush to send thousands more troops back to the country to protect the United States' final exit.

One report in July — as dozens of Afghan districts were falling, and Taliban fighters were laying siege to several major cities — laid out the growing risks to Kabul, noting that the Afghan government was unprepared for a Taliban assault, according to a person familiar with the intelligence.

Intelligence agencies predicted that should the Taliban seize cities, a cascading collapse could happen rapidly and the Afghan security forces were at high risk of falling apart. It is unclear whether other reports during this period presented a more optimistic picture about the ability of the Afghan military and the government in Kabul to withstand the insurgents.

A historical analysis provided to Congress concluded that the Taliban had learned lessons from their takeover of the country in the 1990s. This time, the report said, the militant group would first secure border crossings, commander provincial capitals and

Continued on Page A6

World Is Skeptical as Leaders Lay Out Afghan Future

By MUJIB MASHAL and RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

KABUL, Afghanistan — For the first time since retaking power in Afghanistan, the Taliban's leaders on Tuesday sketched out what their control of the country could look like, promising peace at home and urging the world to look past their history of violence and repression.

"We don't want Afghanistan to be a battlefield anymore — from today onward, war is over," said Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's longtime chief spokesman, in a news conference in Kabul, the capital.

Mr. Mujahid, a high-ranking leader, said the Taliban had declared a blanket amnesty, vowing no reprisals against former enemies. And the group has in some places appealed to civil servants — including women — to continue to go to work.

After days of uncertainty around the world over Afghanistan's swift fall to a group notorious for its brutality, Mr. Mujahid's words, delivered in a restrained tone, were a glimpse into a Taliban desire to portray themselves as ready to join the international mainstream.

But much of the world is wary of their reassurances. After taking over Afghanistan in 1996, the Taliban imposed their harsh interpretation of Islam with punishments like floggings, amputations and mass executions.

On Tuesday, a Biden administration official confirmed that any central bank assets the Afghan government had kept in the United States would not be available to the Taliban.

Many Afghans, too, remain utterly unconvinced by the new face presented by the Taliban, and its promises of political pluralism and women's and minority rights.

On Tuesday, fearful Afghans hunkered down in their homes or attempted to flee, joining the frenzied rush to Kabul's airport, which continued to be a scene of mass desperation and chaos two days after the Taliban entered the city. The group said its fighters were acting to restore order, but in some corners, they were also inflicting fear.

More broadly, the United Nations secretary-general warned of having received "chilling reports of severe restrictions on human rights" across Afghanistan since

Continued on Page A8

Rethinking the Risks as the Cases Climb for Vaccinated Americans

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

Since Americans first began rolling up their sleeves for coronavirus vaccines, health officials have said that those who are immunized are very unlikely to become infected, or to suffer serious illness or death. But preliminary data from seven states hint that the arrival of the Delta variant in July may have altered the calculus.

Breakthrough infections in vaccinated people accounted for at least one in five newly diagnosed cases in six of these states and higher percentages of total hospitalizations and deaths than had been previously observed in all of them, according to figures gathered by The New York Times.

The absolute numbers remain very low, however, and there is little doubt that the vaccines remain powerfully protective. This continues to be "a pandemic of the unvaccinated," as federal health officials have often said.

Still, the rise indicates a change in how vaccinated Americans

might regard their risks.

"Remember when the early vaccine studies came out, it was like nobody gets hospitalized, nobody dies," said Dr. Robert Wachter, chairman of the department of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. "That clearly is not true."

The figures lend support to the view, widely held by officials in the Biden administration, that some Americans may benefit from booster shots in the coming months. Federal officials plan to authorize additional shots as early as mid-September, although it is not clear who will receive them.

"If the chances of a breakthrough infection have gone up considerably, and I think the evidence suggests that," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Continued on Page A14

BOOSTERS The U.S. will advise getting a third shot eight months after full vaccination. PAGE A14



Winds Push Flames Toward a Refuge

The Dixie fire, one of six raging in Northern California, as it neared Janesville late Monday. Residents were evacuated to Susanville, a city of 15,000, which is next in the blaze's path. PAGE A20.

CHRISTIAN MONTEREISA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Tesla Crash Exposes Perils Of Its Autopilot

By NEAL E. BOUDETTTE

George Brian McGehee, a finance executive in Florida, was driving home in a Tesla Model S operating on Autopilot, a system that can steer, brake and accelerate a car on its own, when he dropped his phone during a call and bent down to look for it.

Neither he nor Autopilot noticed that the road was ending and the Model S drove past a stop sign and a flashing red light. The car smashed into a parked Chevrolet Tahoe, killing a 22-year-old college student, Naibeh Benavides.

One of a growing number of fatal accidents involving Tesla cars operating on Autopilot, Mr. McGehee's case is unusual because he survived and told investigators what had happened. He got distracted and put his trust in a system that did not see and brake for a parked car in front of it. Tesla drivers using Autopilot in other fa-

Continued on Page A16



INTERNATIONAL A4-12

A Regime's Protector

The dictator Enver Hoxha's image once covered Albania. A last statue is guarded by an 80-year-old defender. PAGE A10

Cuba's Health System Reels

The free medical system, long a source of national pride, is in acute distress as the Delta variant takes a toll. PAGE A12

NATIONAL A13-16, 20

Texas Governor Tests Positive

Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican who is a staunch opponent of mask and vaccine mandates, is receiving monoclonal antibody treatment. PAGE A14

Newsom in Tight Recall Race

Democrats are working to mobilize enough of their huge base to save the job of California's governor. PAGE A15

OBITUARIES A17

'Godfather of Sudoku'

Maki Kaji, a college dropout, turned a numbers game into one of the world's most popular puzzles. He was 69.



FOOD D1-8

Making a Better Pizza

J. Kenji López-Alt offers praise for grilled pizza, an easy way to get a restaurant-quality pie at home. PAGE D8

History on the Menu

Lusco's, in Greenwood, Miss., where a Black waiter once spoke out about the Jim Crow South, is closing soon. PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-6

Amazon Outsell Walmart

In a milestone for how people shop, the biggest e-commerce giant outsold China has unleashed the biggest brick-and-mortar seller. Online demand during the pandemic probably helped. PAGE B1

When Kmart Moves Out

The retailer's former stores are being used by tenants, such as churches and flea markets, that might not typically get a crack at so much commercial space at an affordable price. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Paul Krugman



ARTS C1-6

Dressing Up 'Merry Wives'

Shakespeare in the Park is back, and Dede Ayite's West African-influenced costume designs are as lively as Jocelyn Bioh's version of the play. PAGE C1



WATER AGENCY ISSUES SUPPLY ALERT

Residents are asked to conserve as drought leaves reservoirs at historically low levels.

By Hayley Smith and Julia Wick

Southern California's powerful water agency on Tuesday issued a supply alert, calling on the region to conserve vital resources and prepare for continued drought — a move that brings the state's largest population center closer to the tough water restrictions imposed on communities elsewhere.

The move comes one day after U.S. officials declared the first-ever water shortage on the Colorado River, which is a key source of water for the region.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supplies water to some 19 million people across six counties and is one of the largest water distributors in the nation. The decision by its board Tuesday marks the first time in seven years that the agency has issued an official supply alert — the third of four escalating phases in its water supply framework.

The declaration calls on residents to voluntarily reduce their water consumption in order to preserve the region's storage reserves. It is also intended to help mitigate the need for more severe actions in the future, which could include restricting water supplies to MWD's 26 member agencies.

"This is a wake-up call for what lies ahead. This is climate change," MWD Chief Operating Officer Deven Upadhyay said during a news conference about the declaration. "This water supply alert sounds the start of a unified message across our region."

In July, Gov. Gavin Newsom called on all Californians to conserve water. [See Water, A12]



AN AFGHAN child and a woman are among those beaten with sticks, hoses and ropes by Taliban fighters outside the Kabul airport gates. Tens of thousands of people are pressing ahead with a desperate quest for spots on a now-restarted U.S. airlift out of the country.

Taliban offers reassurances

Militants' pledge to eschew revenge and respect women's rights elicits skepticism.

By Marcus Yam, Laura King and Nabih Bulos

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban, seeking to dispel fears of a return to the group's repressive rule of two decades ago, promised Tuesday to respect the rights of Afghan women and refrain from seeking vengeance against former foes.

But tens of thousands of compatriots, some enduring bloody beatings at the hands of Taliban fighters, pressed ahead with a desperate quest for places on a now-restarted U.S. airlift ferrying American citizens and Afghan allies out of the country.

The militant movement's [See Taliban, A4]



A MAN is overcome by the sight of fellow Afghans being beaten bloody by Taliban fighters. The Afghans are trying to make their way to the airport terminal.

Other Islamic militant groups find inspiration in the tale of strength, tenacity and patience.

By Nabih Bulos

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — It was a scene that once seemed unthinkable: a dour-looking Taliban fighter, his AK-47 on the desk before him, his comrades by his side in the ornate office formerly occupied by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who had fled the country hours before.

For the Taliban, those images from Sunday night, when the group's fighters advanced from the provinces and breached the presidential palace in Kabul, culminated in a lightning takeover of the country after two decades of grinding combat against the U.S. and its allies.

For other jihadi groups, it was nothing less than an inspiration.

"Twenty years ago, [George W.] Bush declared the end of the Taliban ... but the Taliban were patient and did jihad," Abdul Razzaq Mahdi, a prominent jihadi cleric based in Syria's opposition areas, declared on his social media channel Monday. "So, men of Syria! Rely on God, unify your ranks and have the Taliban as your example."

Whether it's Al Qaeda affiliates in Mali and Somalia; extremist factions operating in Iraq, Syria and Yemen; or so-called keyboard warriors cheering the group on from their homes in the West, the Taliban's victory over Afghanistan's Western-created government "is the most significant boost to the global jihadist movement since Sept. 11," said Rita Katz, the founder of SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist online activity.

"Almost every corner of [See Extremism, A6]

Uncertainty about their lives, future

Afghan women worry they will lose the right to work and study and be forced to wed. **WORLD, A3**



ASHLEY VASQUEZ, 15, gets vaccinated Tuesday in L.A. The first 200 people ages 12 to 20 who got vaccinated at the event received a Beats by Dre headset.

Next up: Booster shots

U.S. officials expected to recommend third dose

By Zeke Miller and Matthew Perrone

WASHINGTON — After struggling for months to persuade Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19, U.S. health officials could soon face a fresh challenge: talking vaccinated people into getting booster shots to gain longer-lasting protection as the Delta variant sends infections soaring.

As early as this week, U.S. health authorities are expected to recommend an extra dose of vaccine for all Americans eight months after they get their second shot, according to two people who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

That means the biggest vaccination drive in U.S. history is about to get even [See Boosters, A12]

L.A. Unified case rate is creeping up

Tests show an uptick in infections leading up to the start of the school year. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Mask up at large outdoor events

L.A. County mandate on concerts, sports, other gatherings takes effect Thursday. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

EDD woes may be a vulnerability for the governor

By Patrick McGreevy

SACRAMENTO — Nearly a year after a "strike team" appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom recommended an overhaul of California's unemployment benefits system, hundreds of thousands of jobless residents continue to experience delays in getting payments and the state is still grappling with the loss of billions of dollars to fraud.

And while the state Employment Development Department has made some progress in adopting change, the festering problems have become a leading issue for the campaign seeking to recall Newsom from office on Sept. 14.

Newsom's record on the EDD has been attacked in

Recall candidate feuds with media

GOP talk radio host Larry Elder bans Sacramento Bee from his events. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

campaign ads and public speeches by activists who put the recall on the ballot and by Republican candidates seeking to replace him as governor. The agency's problems are listed as a primary reason to recall Newsom in the official Ballot statement submitted by leading recall proponent Orrin Heatlie, a retired Yolo County sheriff's sergeant.

"Newsom's Employment Development Department spent over \$30 billion in [See Newsom, A9]

Storm adds to Haiti's troubles

Heavy rain disrupts search-and-rescue efforts after a quake that has claimed nearly 2,000 lives. **WORLD, A4**

Texas governor tests positive

Greg Abbott, who has opposed mask mandates, has no symptoms, his office says. **NATION, A7**

Weather
Low clouds clearing.
L.A. Basin: 77/86. **B6**



BUSINESS INSIDE: Quinceañeras were canceled by the pandemic but are back again. **A8**



T-storm 85/75 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 90/74 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 • \$2

Fear of delta fuels push for boosters

Administration expected to recommend follow-up shot after eight months

BY TYLER PAGER,
LAURIE MCCINLEY,
DAN DIAMOND
AND LENA H. SUN

Growing fears that the swift-moving delta variant of the coronavirus could ignite a firestorm of serious illness — resulting in a further spike in hospitalizations and deaths — prompted a forthcoming announcement by the Biden administration to recommend booster shots for the millions of Americans who have been vaccinated, officials said.

Data from an array of sources — including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mayo Clinic and Israel — shows immunity from the vaccines declines over time and suggests that greater protection may be needed to fight off the highly contagious variant, according to several senior officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The administration is expected to outline the plan Wednesday during a White House covid-19 briefing, in which health officials are poised to tell Americans they should get a booster shot eight months after being inoculated. President Biden is expected to speak on the effort after the briefing, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday.

The news about the administration's plan drew praise and

SEE BOOSTER ON A5

Breakthrough cases on rise as vaccine efficacy wanes

BY JOEL ACHENBACH
AND BEN GUARINO

Officials in the Biden administration responsible for communicating with the public have repeatedly said this has become a “pandemic of the unvaccinated.” Such words may not ring true to people who got their shots and still became sick.

A growing number of studies suggest that coronavirus vaccines continue to provide strong protection against severe disease and hospitalization, but their ability to prevent mild illness is less robust today than the original clinical trial studies demonstrated a year ago.

The virus has mutated. The delta variant is rampant. Some elements of immunity may be gradually waning for people who got shots many months ago. New research studies in the United States, Israel, Britain and Qatar have shown a partial erosion in the effectiveness of vaccines against mild to moderate infections. Immunocompromised

SEE BREAKTHROUGH ON A6

Taliban promises peaceful transition



Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, center, speaks Tuesday at a news conference in Kabul. He said that “nobody will be harmed in Afghanistan,” including anyone who had participated in the military or the previous government, women and foreigners.

U.S. exit forces a reconsideration of global role

BY JOHN HUDSON
AND MISSY RYAN

President Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan has triggered a globe-spanning rethink of America's role in the world, as European allies discuss their need to play a bigger part in security matters and Russia and China consider how to promote their interests in a Taliban-led Afghanistan.

Biden's defiant address to the nation on Monday, when he stood “squarely” behind his decision to pull out U.S. troops, also renewed one of the most hotly contested debates of the post-9/11 era: Would a withdrawal from Afghanistan convey weakness, provoke

SEE BIDEN ON A16

Afghanistan's future hinges on whether Taliban's new face is real

BY EZZATULLAH MEHRDAD AND GRIFF WITTE

KABUL — For years, the man who spoke for the Taliban hid his face from the world.

As the voice of insurgents seeking to overthrow the U.S.-backed government in Afghanistan, Zabihullah Mujahid was an outlaw and a target. In media appearances, his face was covered or blurred.

But that changed in dramatic fashion Tuesday when Mujahid spoke openly and extensively at a news conference in Kabul. His group, he said, had changed, too.

As Afghanistan's once-again rulers, the Taliban would refrain from retributive violence and respect women's rights — at least so far as Islam allows. It

would forgive domestic rivals and seek good relations with longtime foreign enemies. It would, in short, be entirely different from the way the group behaved during its last run in power, a calamitous five years that left the country a ruined pariah.

“Nobody,” he insisted, “will be harmed in Afghanistan.”

Those gauzy assurances were consistent with how the Taliban has projected itself since its fighters overran the capital Sunday, with leaders offering conciliation and rifle-toting fighters on Kabul's streets largely showing restraint.

SEE TALIBAN ON A15

Among women, fears of a return to bias, brutality

BY SAMMY WESTFALL
AND CLAIRE PARKER

In some parts of Afghanistan, including Kabul, a generation of girls grew up in a world completely different from the one their parents knew.

The Taliban's return to the city and consolidation of power this week appeared to bring those nearly two decades of change, including hard-won rights for women, crashing down.

Friba, who fled from Kunduz, a northern provincial capital, to Kabul this month in the face of the Taliban's rapid advance, only to find herself living under the Taliban anyway, described the

SEE WOMEN ON A17

DESPITE CALM, U.S. AND AFGHANS WARY

Evacuations a priority as airport security restored

BY KAREN DEYOUNG
AND DAN LAMOTHE

The Taliban's top political leader arrived Tuesday in Afghanistan, as the militants moved toward organizing a new government and insisted that all Afghans and foreigners inside the country would be safe.

The Biden administration tentatively accepted the assurances but said it was interested in deeds, not words. The U.S. military said that it had established direct lines of communication with the Taliban on the ground, and that evacuations of American and other civilians were proceeding calmly and quickly after Monday's chaotic airport scenes.

At times, it seemed as if much of the world, and the citizens of Afghanistan, were holding their collective breath, waiting to see if the apparent calm and outreach were just tactical maneuvers by militants with a long history of brutality and isolation as they consolidate their grip on power.

“Ultimately, it's going to be up to the Taliban to show the rest of the world who they are and how they intend to proceed,” White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters. “The track record has not been good.”

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A18



Who is Abdul Ghanai Baradar? Little is known about the man who is expected to be the nation's next leader. A18

The Critique

Saying the U.S. was humiliated is selfish, Robin Givhan writes. A2

72 hours at Camp David

How President Biden's lagging response came together. A14

A lone voice against the war

Days after 9/11, Rep. Barbara Lee said no. Some called her traitor. B3

Forget the Hollywood ending

Movies on war didn't quite match reality, Ann Hornaday writes. C1



People shelter from the rain Tuesday in Les Cayes after Tropical Storm Grace passed over Haiti's southwestern peninsula, which was already staggered by Saturday's 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

Death toll from Haiti quake jumps past 1,900

Storm after tremor brings mudslides, stalling aid in worsening crisis

BY WIDLORE MERANCOURT,
MARY BETH SHERIDAN
AND ANTHONY FAIOA

LES CAYES, HAITI — Tropical Storm Grace battered Haiti on Tuesday, triggering mudslides and hampering relief efforts as the country struggled to recover from an earthquake that killed more than 1,900 people and pulverized tens of thousands of homes.

Rescue workers in some areas were forced to suspend their efforts as the rains swept in. Grace strengthened from a tropical depression to a tropical storm early

Tuesday, drenching Haiti with up to 10 inches of rain, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. Isolated areas received 15 inches.

In Les Cayes, a major city on Haiti's southwestern peninsula, the rain and wind exacerbated a burgeoning homelessness crisis caused by the earthquake. Many desperate residents spent Monday night huddling outdoors under tarps or other makeshift shelter, while others fled back to quake-damaged homes as the downpour intensified.

Casimir Chery, 24, said no emergency shelter was available, so he slept on the street under a plastic sheet. “We hear that we can't sleep in our homes, but what can we do?” he said. “We don't have tents.”

Marie Michel Nicolas, 60, said

SEE HAITI ON A12

IN THE NEWS

Exploring In Rome, tourists looked at ancient ruins and into issues such as church sex abuse cases. A8



STEFANO PITRELLI/THE WASHINGTON POST

THE NATION Tropical Storm Fred weakened into a tropical depression but may still bring heavy rain, flooding and tornadoes to parts of the Appalachians, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. A3
The prosecutor examining the origins of the FBI's 2016 Russia investigation is using a grand jury to explore whether someone fed the bureau fabricated evidence. A4
The infrastructure bill

that cleared the Senate last week included a funding mandate for buses that pollute. A24

THE WORLD New Zealand's prime minister ordered a three-day nationwide lockdown as the country's first new coronavirus case in six months was detected. A11

THE ECONOMY Companies were grumbling as President Biden has kept some trade ap-

proaches inherited from the Trump administration. A20

Retail sales dropped by 1.1 percent in July, more than expected. A23

THE REGION Metro will institute a vaccination mandate for employees starting Sept. 7, after the agency fell short of its goal in August. B1

A Washington Post-Schar School poll showed 1 in 7 D.C.-area residents said they had moved in the past year, although most said their

move was not related to the pandemic. B1

A panel appointed to redraw Virginia's political maps has faced partisan pressure with weeks left to finish. B1

In Princess Anne on Maryland's Eastern Shore, changing minds on vaccination is painfully slow work. B1
A bill from Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) would make Big Oil help pay for projects to mitigate flooding in Anne Arundel County related to climate change. B4

INSIDE



FOOD Wrap it up As back-to-school time approaches, beat that brown-bag boredom with enticing, flexible recipes for simple lunches and snacks that are perfectly adaptable for kids and parents alike. E1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A20
COMICS.....A25
OPINION PAGES.....A25
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B6
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A8

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Los cambios que se vienen en Boca con Battaglia

La llegada del exvolante como DT en lugar de Miguel Russo trae ganadores y perdedores; "esperemos que el equipo tenga una identidad, es lo que intentamos inculcarle".



EL MISTERIO DE GARCÍA LORCA, A 85 AÑOS DE SU MUERTE

—cultura

Mientras siguen las investigaciones sobre el destino de sus restos, vuelve a recordarse en España y en la Argentina el asesinato del poeta durante la Guerra Civil. **Página 25**

EL REINO, UN ÉXITO DE NETFLIX EN LA VOZ DE SUS AUTORES

—espectáculos

Claudia Piñeyro y Marcelo Piñeyro, escritora y director de la miniserie, cuentan cómo surgió esta ambiciosa producción que combina política y religión.

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 18 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Duro reclamo de Cristina al Presidente: "Poné orden"

FESTEJO EN OLIVOS. Respaldó a Fernández en un acto en Avellaneda tras el escándalo por las fotos de la celebración en cuarentena, pero pidió cambios; Yáñez se presentó en los tribunales

"Alberto, poné orden donde tengas que poner orden", le exigió ayer Cristina Kirchner al presidente Alberto Fernández, en su primera aparición pública tras el escándalo por la revelación del festejo de cumpleaños de la primera dama, Fabiola Yáñez, el año pasado en la quinta de Olivos en plena restricción por la cuarentena. Según pudo reconstruir LA NACION de

fuentes cercanas a la expresidenta y de la Casa Rosada, el mensaje de Cristina Kirchner estuvo centralizado en la conducta de Fernández, aunque desde otros sectores del kirchnerismo se apuntó también al círculo más cercano del Presidente.

En paralelo, Fabiola Yáñez y la mayoría de las personas que participaron del festejo el 14 de julio de

2020 se presentaron ayer a través de los mismos abogados ante la Justicia, donde se busca determinar si aquella celebración fue un delito. Mientras, el fiscal a cargo de la investigación, Ramiro González, espera recibir información que requirió a la Casa Militar sobre los ingresos y egresos de la quinta presidencial. **Página 10**

EL ANÁLISIS

La furia que sucede al papelón

Joaquín Morales Solá

Página 12

Maniobra kirchnerista para ocupar dos cargos claves en la Justicia

CÁMARA. El kirchnerismo cambió el orden del concurso para cubrir dos vacantes en la Cámara Federal. Relegó al camarista Pablo Bertuzzi, que había confirmado un procesamiento contra Cristina Kirchner, y priorizó a la fiscal Cecilia Incardona, que investigó presunto espionaje ilegal durante el macrismo. **Página 15**

Promesa de apertura a las mujeres afganas

KABUL (AP).—Mientras avanzan con la consolidación de su poder en Afganistán, los talibanes prometieron ayer que respetarán los derechos de las mujeres dentro de la ley islámica y que les permitirán educarse y trabajar, un giro respecto de su anterior régimen. **Página 2**

Biden, frente a su peor crisis
Rafael Mathus Ruiz.
Página 4



Un grupo de mujeres protestaron ayer en Kabul y reclamaron igualdad de derechos tras la toma del poder por los talibanes

TWITTER

Subieron el dólar blue y el CCL por el nuevo cepo

MERCADO. El paralelo trepó un peso, a \$183; el contado con liquidación avanzó 1,2%. **Página 18**

"Créase el programa...". El plan con el que crece el Estado

Cada día se acumulan más estructuras que suman discrecionalidad al gasto

Texto Diego Cabot

Página 21

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Cotidiano B5

Cinco personalidades negras ganharão estátuas na cidade de São Paulo

Esporte B8

Palmeiras quebra histórico contra SPFC e volta à semifinal da Libertadores

Ilustrada C1

Mostras jogam luz sobre a trajetória crítica e irreverente de Regina Silveira

Total da população vacinada

	ao menos uma dose	totalmente vacinada
Brasil	57,5%	24,4%
MS	66,9%	38,2%
RS	63,0%	30,4%
SP	71,0%	29,5%

Totalmente vacinada



Total de doses aplicadas

	1ª	2ª	única
Brasil	117,7 mi	47,5 mi	4 mi
1ª SP	31,7 mi	12,5 mi	1,1 mi
2ª MG	11,4 mi	4,5 mi	469,6 mil
3ª RJ	9 mi	3,8 mi	308,3 mil

Dados das 20h de 17 ago

* Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose

** Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose

*** Em relação a 14 dias

Pacheco indica que rejeitará processo de juizes do STF

Bolsonaro promete acatar decisão do Senado, que trava indicação ao Supremo

O presidente do Senado, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), fez um alerta público a Jair Bolsonaro diante da promessa do chefe do Executivo de pedir o impeachment dos ministros Luís Roberto Barroso e Alexandre de Moraes, do STF (Supremo Tribunal Federal). Os dois o incluíram como investigado no inquérito das fake news.

"Precipitarmos uma discussão de impeachment, seja do Supremo, seja do presidente da República, qualquer tipo de ruptura, não é algo recomendável para um Brasil que espera uma retomada do crescimento, uma pacificação geral, uma pauta de desenvolvimento econômico, de combate à miséria e à pobreza", disse o senador.

Bolsonaro tem sido aconselhado por integrantes de seu círculo de auxiliares a amenizar atritos com o Judiciário. Ontem, o presidente declarou reconhecer a independência do Legislativo e afirmou que não vai cooptar senadores para que apoiem seu pedido —ainda assim, mantém a ideia de protocolá-lo, bem como as críticas.

O fim dos crescentes ataques aos demais Poderes é colocado por Davi Alcolumbre (DEM-AP, à frente da Comissão de Constituição, Justiça e Cidadania) como condição para destravar a indicação ao STF de André Mendonça. Para ascender ao posto, o ex-advogado-geral da União deve passar por sabatina no Senado. Poder A4 e A5



Zabihullah Mujahid (à esq.), porta-voz do Taleban, concede entrevista coletiva em Cabul, a primeira após tomarem o poder com a saída dos EUA. Hoshang Hashimi / AFP

SP inicia hoje vacinação de adolescentes de 16 e 17 anos

A capital paulista inicia hoje a vacinação de jovens de 16 e 17 anos com comorbidades e deficiências permanentes, além de gestantes e puérperas. Para tomar a dose, o adolescente precisa comprovar a condição com laudo médico e estar acompanhado por um responsável. Saúde B1

Capitais pelo país ainda imunizam adultos com mais de 30 anos B3

RJ tem sete cidades com UTIs lotadas e reabre leitos

Saúde B3

Taleban desafia ceticismo com promessa de moderação

Na tentativa de mitigar a imagem de grupo fundamentalista atroz que anulou os direitos das mulheres e cerceou liberdades no Afeganistão quando governou o país de 1996 a 2001, o Taleban se lançou em uma ofensiva de comunicação com a promessa de moderação.

Em entrevista coletiva, a facção que tomou Cabul há três dias disse querer paz, negou represálias e afirmou que haverá presença feminina no governo e na sociedade, inclusive nas escolas, antes vetadas a elas —desde que isso se dê no "arabouço do islã". Mundo A12

Giuliana Miranda De Borba Gato a Descobrimientos

Classificar de revisionismo qualquer tentativa de mudança é ignorar o dilema moral latente nos símbolos nacionais. Se o assunto só for motivo de análise no calor de atos de vandalismo, jamais imprimiremos racionalidade e pluralismo ao debate. Opinião A2

Gregorio Duvivier O Brasil é gigante quando fala baixo

O brasileiro não reconhece o silêncio como direito. Tenho a impressão que Pedro Álvares Cabral ancorou fazendo furdunço, com o famoso "terra à vista!". A independência foi proclamada com um brado. Nosso país nasceu na base da gritaria. Ilustrada C7

Câmara aprova em 2º turno volta das coligações

A Câmara concluiu ontem a votação da reforma eleitoral que retoma a possibilidade de coligações nas eleições para deputados e vereadores, além de colocar na Constituição amarras ao STF e ao TSE. Agora, o texto seguirá para o Senado. Poder A7

Doria compete com presidente em verba liberada

Neste ano, integrantes da Câmara tiveram R\$ 301 milhões em recursos paulistas liberados por João Doria (PSDB), valor 120 vezes maior que no ano passado. Segundo parlamentares, o montante chega a competir com verbas federais de Jair Bolsonaro. Poder B1

Ex-'noiva americana em Cabul', professora tenta socorrer afegãos A13

Queda de Saigon, fiasco dos EUA, foi repaginada como ato heroico A13

Bolsonaristas usam método de Trump, afirma PF ao TSE Painel A4

Temor de retrocesso econômico derruba Bolsas pelo mundo A18

Governo vê perdas e aceita adiar reforma do IR pela terceira vez A16

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Descubra como a arte será ainda mais fundamental no pós-pandemia.

folha.com/culturanapandemia

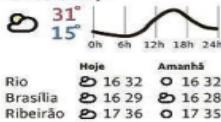
Saiba mais na página A11

EDITORIAIS A2

A decisão do Senado Sobre indicação e ataques de Bolsonaro ao Supremo. Retomada com máscara A respeito de volta de atividades no estado de SP.

ATMOSFERA

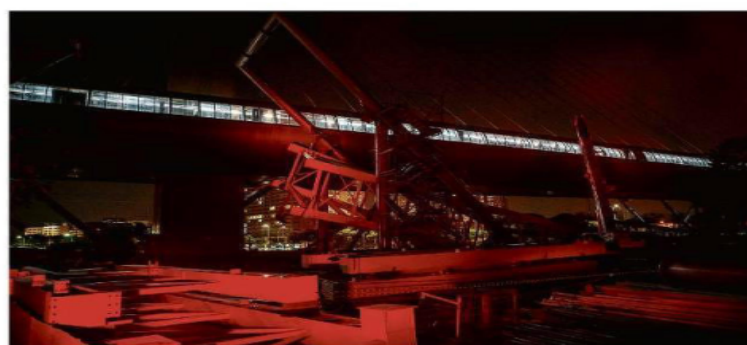
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Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br

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Bruno Santos/Folhapress

PASSARELA DESABA DURANTE OBRA EM SP

Duas pessoas foram levemente feridas quando passarela metálica ao lado da estação Santo Amaro da linha 5 - Lilás do metrô caiu dentro rio Pinheiros, zona sul de São Paulo. Cotidiano B7

Embratel

APRESENTA A TECNOLOGIA NO PRÓXIMO NÍVEL

Solução acelera inovação ao integrar áreas de Desenvolvimento e de Operações

Pág. A7

Estúdio **FOLHA**

Empresarios llamaron a la cordura a los dirigentes del transporte de cargas

UIP denunció penalmente a los camioneros por extorsión

Tras presentación los fleteros volvieron a la mesa de negociaciones y hay un preacuerdo, pero el paro sigue. Las pérdidas que ocasionan son de USD 30 millones por día.

PÁGINAS 14 y 15

Plantean redireccionar crédito para MOPC
Salud necesita de USD 150 millones más para cubrir sus necesidades

PÁGINA 6

Tomás Rivas sigue chicaneando
Tribunal de Apelaciones confirma que Cuevas debe ir a juicio oral

PÁGINA 10

CON ESTA EDICIÓN

CÓMO APRENDER A DIBUJAR
CÓMICOS Y PLANCHAS 12



COMPRA OPCIONAL

COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA 6
G. 50.000



Veteranos de EEUU decepcionados
Talibanes dictan sus primeras medidas para las mujeres afganas

PÁGINAS 46 y 47



Final feliz: Rescatan ilesa a secuestrada

Operativo exitoso. La Policía Antisecuestro logró recuperar sana y salva a Sandra Macedo, luego de un enfrentamiento con sus captores en colonia Guarani. PÁGINA 48

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L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO
LES FEMMES PIONNIÈRES
JEANNE-ALEXANDRINE
POMMEROY, CELLE QUI CRÉA
LE CHAMPAGNE MODERNE
 PAGE 23

CHINE
LE NOUVEAU TOUR DE VIS
DE PÉKIN CONTRE LES GÉANTS
DE LA TECH PAGES 20 ET 21

LES BOUCLES
DU TEMPS
PLONGÉE DANS
LE MYSTÈRE DE
STONEHENGE
 PAGE 12

LES DÉTROITS
STRATÉGIQUES
BAB EL-
MANDAB,
« PORTE DES
LAMENTATIONS »
 PAGE 16

L'ÉTÉ AVANT
LA PRÉSIDENTIELLE
L'ÉTÉ QUI POSE
LE DUEL ENTRE
NICOLAS
SARKOZY
ET SÉGOLÈNE
ROYAL
 PAGE 18

JEUX D'ÉTÉ PAGE 14

HOMMAGE
Emmanuel Macron
au 77^e anniversaire
du débarquement
en Provence
 PAGE 4

POLOGNE
Sous la pression
de Bruxelles,
Varsovie
promet de revoir
sa réforme
de la justice
 PAGE 5

CINÉMA
Sortie de films
vus à Cannes
 PAGE 11

CHAMPS
LIBRES
• Afghanistan :
les tribunes
de Jean-Louis
Bourlanges et de
Christian Venard
 PAGE 17

FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON
Réponses à la question
de mardi :
La France doit-elle
accueillir les Afghans
qui l'ont aidée
pendant la guerre ?
NON
30%
OUI
70%
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 234 071
Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr
Craignez-vous une vague
migratoire en provenance
d'Afghanistan ?

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Afghanistan : l'Europe veut éviter une vague migratoire

La France et l'Allemagne souhaitent une réponse coordonnée pour faire face aux « conséquences de la crise » à Kaboul, qui « pourrait entraîner des mouvements de population importants ».

Malgré la polémique déclenchée par la gauche, l'Élysée persiste et signe : son « devoir de responsabilité » lui commande, au-delà de l'évacua-

tion des Afghans menacés, d'« anticiper » des « mouvements de population importants (...) tout à fait envisageables ». Sur la même ligne, Angela

Merkel évoque l'accueil « contrôlé » de réfugiés « particulièrement vulnérables ». Alors que les ministres des Affaires étrangères de l'UE ont entamé

des discussions mardi, Paris et Berlin préparent une « initiative européenne » en direction des pays de transit. Offrant pour l'heure un visage relatif-

vement modéré, les dirigeants talibans cherchent à se présenter comme des interlocuteurs acceptables par la communauté internationale.

→ BERLIN NE VEUT PAS SE LAISSER DÉBORDER → LA CRISE AFGHANE FRACTURE LA CLASSE POLITIQUE FRANÇAISE → LES TALIBANS VEULENT RASSURER
 → BIDEN DROIT DANS SES BOTTES → LES TRIBUNES DE JEAN-LOUIS BOURLANGES ET DE CHRISTIAN VENARD PAGES 2, 3, 17 ET L'EDITORIAL



Dans le Var, le massif des Maures ravagé par les flammes

Plusieurs milliers d'hectares partis en fumée, 7 000 personnes évacuées : Emmanuel Macron a rendu visite au poste de commandement des pompiers d'où étaient dirigées les opérations. Mardi soir, l'incendie n'était pas fixé. PAGE 8

Covid-19 : quand le vaccin sème la discorde dans les familles

Des déjeuners de famille dynamisés, des retrouvailles entre amis qui dégénèrent : devenu presque obligatoire depuis la mise en œuvre du passe sanitaire en France, le vaccin introduit une nouvelle ligne de fracture dans la société française. Celle-ci touche la sphère la plus privée des relations sociales. Par ailleurs, malgré le consensus qui règne chez les pédiatres, les parents s'opposent souvent sur la question de la vaccination des adolescents. PAGES 6 ET 7

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Hypocrisie

Emmanuel Macron a déclenché une bourrasque estivale à gauche en évoquant les conséquences du fiasco afghan : « Nous devons anticiper et nous protéger contre des flux migratoires irréguliers importants qui mettraient en danger ceux qui les empruntent et nourrissent les trafics de toute nature. » Il aurait pu y ajouter le risque de déstabiliser nos démocraties, illustré il y a moins de six ans par l'afflux incontrôlé en Europe de 2,6 millions de Syriens et d'Irakiens. Le PS et les Verts ne lui font pas crédit de sa délicatesse, jugeant « honteux », « sordide » de ne pas accorder à tous les Afghans le statut de « victimes » – des talibans et de nos propres lâchetés.

Réveil groggy des bonnes consciences, qui seraient les premières à reprocher aux autorités de ne pas avoir « anticipé » les drames et la misère d'un nouvel exode. Le risque existe bel et bien, avec 500 000 civils chassés de leurs maisons depuis le début de l'année. Les Afghans forment déjà le deuxième contingent de demandeurs d'asile en Europe, le premier en France (10 000 dossiers par an depuis 2018, approuvés à 90 %). C'est le nombre que l'Allemagne se propose d'accueillir à la faveur de la cri-

se, cent fois moins que de Syriens en 2015. À un mois des élections fédérales, la leçon semble avoir été retenue.

L'attention immédiate se porte sur l'évacuation des quelques milliers d'employés de la coalition occidentale, un « devoir » unanimement soutenu. Mais l'hypocrisie domine même là : alors que les États-Unis se disent prêts à distribuer 30 000 visas (80 000 avec les familles), la majorité de ses suppléants n'ont pu atteindre l'aéroport à temps et n'ont plus guère de chances d'être secourus.

Paradoxe de la nouvelle donne : les talibans eux-mêmes empêcheront sans doute la population afghane de déferler en masse sur les routes de l'exil. Il en va de leur image et, contrairement à leur premier règne (1996-2001), ils ont pris cette fois le contrôle des frontières avant de s'emparer des villes. Leur victoire sans presque combattre a aussi réduit les risques de catastrophe humanitaire, à condition que l'aide occidentale – dont dépendent 16 des 39 millions d'Afghans – ne leur soit pas supprimée. Le marché est entre les mains vertueuses des Occidentaux. ■

.FRAPPÉ PAR LA GRÂCE.

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AUJOURD'HUI AU CINÉMA


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The women forced out of work because of the menopause → G2



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UK to take 20,000 refugees fleeing the Taliban regime

Watchdog in U-turn amid dispute over ME therapy

Natalie Grover
Science correspondent

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has withdrawn long-awaited guidance on ME hours before its planned publication amid a backlash from medical groups.

Charities and patient groups fighting for greater recognition of the poorly understood condition as a medical illness rather than a psychological problem had welcomed the planned guidance, which was due to stop advising doctors to administer a controversial therapy.

This disputed graded exercise therapy (GET) involves incremental increases in physical activity to gradually build up tolerance. But patient groups have argued its use suggests those with ME have no underlying physical problem but are suffering symptoms due to inactivity.

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, is thought to affect about 250,000 people in the UK and has been estimated to cost the economy billions of pounds annually. Characterised by pain and a long-term debilitating loss of energy, one in four sufferers are so

2 →



PM to face questions on scale and speed of plans as parliament is recalled

Jessica Elgot
Dan Sabbagh
Lisa O'Carroll

Women, children and religious minorities will be prioritised in a new UK resettlement scheme for 20,000 Afghan refugees, Boris Johnson will announce, acknowledging that those who helped the western coalition over two decades are now most at risk from the Taliban takeover.

But most of the 20,000 are likely to have fled to neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan, before being resettled in Britain over five years, a Whitehall source said, unless the

UK can strike an agreement with the Taliban to let people depart.

Johnson said Britain owed "a debt of gratitude to all those who have worked with us to make Afghanistan a better place over the last 20 years" and "many of them, particularly women, are now in urgent need of our help".

Speaking on the eve of the recall of parliament today, the prime minister added: "I am proud that the UK has been able to put in place this route to help them and their families live safely in the UK. The best solution for everyone is an Afghanistan that works for all Afghans."

"That means the international community coming together to set firm, political conditions for the country's future governance. And it means focusing our efforts on increasing the resilience of the wider region to prevent a humanitarian emergency."

▲ British citizens and dual nationals residing in Afghanistan board an RAF flight in Kabul bound for the UK
PHOTOGRAPH: LPHOT BEN SHREED/PA WIRE

Johnson spoke to the US president shortly after finalising the settlement scheme. No 10 said he had agreed with Joe Biden to keep cooperating over the evacuation plan.

"They resolved to continue

working closely together on this in the days and weeks ahead to allow as many people as possible to leave the country," a No 10 spokesperson said.

They said Johnson had "stressed the importance of not losing the gains made in Afghanistan over the last 20 years" and that the pair would speak again at a virtual meeting of G7 leaders in the coming days.

The home secretary, Priti Patel, said refugees could "start a new life in safety in the UK, away from the tyranny and oppression they now face". The scheme is similar in size and scope to one for Syrians under which 20,000 people have been resettled since 2014, prioritising survivors of torture, people with serious medical conditions and women with children.

However, questions are likely to be raised about why the number is similar to the

If the Canadians can take 20,000 Afghan refugees, why are we only taking 20,000 over five years?

Lord Dubs
Labour peer



New Zealand in national lockdown after single Covid case detected

News Page 28 →

4 →