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What's News

Business & Finance

T-Mobile said hackers took the Social Security numbers and other personal information of over 40 million current and prospective customers, a heist that could give criminals the keys to commit widespread online fraud. **A1**

◆ **Fed officials** last month indicated they were on track to begin reversing their easy-money policies later this year, minutes of their policy meeting show. **A2**

◆ **U.S. stocks dropped** after the release of the Fed minutes, with the S&P 500 and Dow both shedding 1.1% and the Nasdaq losing 0.9%. **B9**

◆ **Robinhood's revenue** surged in the second quarter thanks to a torrent of customers trading cryptocurrency, but the firm posted a big loss due to an emergency funding deal earlier this year. **B1**

◆ **Tencent pledged** to work with Chinese regulators and industry counterparts to manage how minors use online games, as the company posted quarterly results. **B1**

◆ **Illuminia said** it completed its acquisition of Grail, despite a pending legal challenge by the FTC and separate anti-trust concerns in Europe. **B4**

◆ **Target reported** increased revenue for the second quarter as more people returned to stores and online spending moderated compared with last summer. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The Taliban used** gunfire to disperse nascent protests against their rule in Afghanistan, killing two people and continuing to block access to Kabul's international airport after the U.S. said the group had agreed to allow evacuations. **A1, A7, A8**

◆ **The Biden administration** took action to fight rising Covid-19 cases, including a call for a third shot starting this fall for adults who were fully vaccinated with the two-shot regimen. **A1**

◆ **The president said** his administration would require nursing homes to vaccinate their staff against Covid-19 or risk losing Medicare and Medicaid funding. **A4**

◆ **The EPA is banning** chlorpyrifos, a pesticide employed throughout agriculture, from use on all food, saying it is toxic to children's brains. **A3**

◆ **Georgia's State Election Board** appointed a panel to probe past elections in Fulton County, taking a step toward a possible takeover of election operations in the state's most-populous county. **A6**

◆ **A judge threw out** federal approval of an oil project planned for Alaska, saying the government failed to properly assess the project's impact on climate change and its potential harm to polar bears. **A6**

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Taliban fighters patrol the streets of the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood in Kabul on Wednesday. Below, the Taliban released a photo of former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center left, Anas Haqqani, center right, a Taliban delegation leader, and former Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah, second from right, meeting Wednesday in Kabul.

Swift Victory Was Years in Making

By SUNE ENGEL RASMUSSEN

The first major Afghan city fell on Aug. 9. The last one, Kabul, capitulated just six days later. The offensive that returned the Taliban to power 20 years after they were ousted by a U.S.-led coalition seemed dizzyingly fast.

In reality, the Taliban's road to victory winds back many years.

Throughout the war, the Taliban capitalized on mistakes by the Western coalition and its Afghan partners to recruit fighters. They harnessed popular anger at human-rights abuses, civilian deaths and corruption to turn Afghans against the central government and its foreign backers.

And as the insurgents expanded their territorial control,



they set up shadow governments in the provinces that settled local disputes, levied taxes, provided public services and built a broader base for recruitment.

By the time the Taliban began their final offensive, morale among security forces and local officials had been so depleted that the insurgents could

flip them one by one and capture the country's major cities, often with no fighting at all. In a speech Monday, President Biden said the Taliban

Please turn to page A9

Fear Drives Afghan Women From View

By MARGHERITA STANCATI
AND JESSICA DONATI

Dr. Zuhul used to drive herself to work.

This week, she started taking a taxi to avoid reprisals from the Taliban, who once banned women from driving. It didn't help. On the second day of Taliban rule, a Taliban gunman

dragged the doctor, who didn't want to use her full name, out of the taxi and whipped her for filming the chaos surrounding the evacuations at the Kabul airport through her window.

Since seizing control of Afghanistan, the Taliban have sought to portray themselves

as more moderate than when they were last in power in the 1990s, when their hard-line interpretation of Sunni Islam and treatment of women helped make them a pariah state.

While the Taliban have publicly pledged to respect women's rights within the limits of Islam, the group hasn't

elaborated on their own reading of it, or made specific promises. Interpretations of Islamic law vary widely, and the possible range of restrictions are causing many inside and outside Afghanistan to fear the worst for women's freedoms. Already, women are retreating

Please turn to page A8

Data Breach At T-Mobile Affects Over 40 Million

By DREW FITZGERALD
AND ROBERT MCMILLAN

T-Mobile US Inc. said hackers took the Social Security numbers and other personal information of more than 40 million current and prospective customers, a brazen heist that could give criminals the digital keys to commit widespread online fraud.

The cellphone carrier said the stolen data included first and last names, birth dates, Social Security numbers and drivers' license information. The victims included people who applied for credit with T-Mobile—regardless of whether they ended up doing business with the carrier—and about 7.8 million current subscribers with postpaid plans.

Investigators said that stolen data have already been offered for sale in online forums and could eventually be used

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U.S. NEWS

In Austin, Texas, home-buying frenzy sends sale prices soaring. **A3**



SPORTS

A possible private-equity investment could bring rugby to new audiences. **A14**

You Can Still Meet the Band, Just Keep Your Distance

The pandemic has made hugs from fans and up-close chitchat relics of a past era

By AISHA AL-MUSLIM
AND RYAN NGUYEN

XENIA, Ohio—Back on the road, Brad Fischetti, the last surviving member of the pop-rap trio LFO, drew cheers from fans of the group's 1999 hit

single "Summer Girls" during a recent show at the Caesar Ford Park amphitheater. Mr. Fischetti joined the boy band O-Town on a tour that showcased the ups and downs of performers trying to please

Please turn to page A9

White House Plans Covid-19 Boosters Starting in the Fall

The Biden administration took actions to fight rising Covid-19 cases, including a call for a third shot starting this fall for adults who were fully vaccinated with the two-shot regimen.

By Stephanie Armour,
Jared S. Hopkins and
Andrew Restuccia

The administration also said Wednesday that nursing homes risk losing Medicare and Medicaid funding if staff aren't required to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

In addition, President Biden signed a memorandum that directs the Education Department to use all available tools to ensure that students can return to the classroom safely, an effort intended in part to counter state efforts prohibiting mask requirements in schools.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona plans to use his de-

partment's civil-rights enforcement authority to prevent states from blocking mask requirements in schools, according to department spokeswoman Rachel Thomas.

"We need to make sure children are wearing masks in school," Mr. Biden said during a speech at the White House, adding that state politicians who oppose mask mandates are "setting a dangerous tone."

Mr. Biden, a Democrat, also called on big U.S. companies to require their employees to get vaccinated. "Employers have more power today to end the pandemic than they have ever had before," he said.

In another indication that

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◆ Nursing homes are pressed on shots..... A4
◆ Florida schools defy state on masks..... A4
◆ Australia vaccinates teens to stop Delta..... A18

Afghanistan Crisis

◆ Crackdown belies promises by Taliban..... A7
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◆ Military fled with dozens of aircraft..... A8

Take a deep breath

The case for Marlboro Man's move into medicine — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 15

Disaster recovery

Painful lessons in preparing for the next pandemic — BIG READ, PAGE 13



Gear change

Digital promise of smoother, faster transactions — MARKETS INSIGHT, PAGE 9

Clean slate

Greens set out Berlin vision

Annalena Baerbock, the Greens' candidate to succeed Angela Merkel as German chancellor, has called for looser fiscal rules for EU members and a tough stance on China and Russia.

Baerbock, pictured at an election rally this week ahead of next month's federal elections, accused Merkel of being soft on Moscow in a rare interview with foreign correspondents in Berlin.

Early poll ratings suggesting she might be in line to win the chancellery have since drifted down but, with the Greens running at about 20 per cent, she is likely to play an important role in the coalition that will set Germany's course after Merkel, who is stepping down after 16 years in office.

Interview page 4



Dieter Krahn/Alamy

CME fuels exchange buyout spree with \$16bn offer for rival Cboe

Financial derivatives specialist targets Vix owner • Takeover subject to antitrust approval

PHILIP STAFFORD — LONDON
JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — NEW YORK
CME Group has made a \$16bn all-share offer for Cboe Global Markets, its fellow Chicago exchange company and owner of the Vix volatility index.

CME, the world's largest futures exchange operator, has offered 0.75 of its own shares for every Cboe share, say three people familiar with the talks. The price would value Cboe at about \$150 per share, roughly a 20 per cent premium to its current price of \$123.

CME declined to comment. Cboe said that it did "not comment on market rumours or speculation".

The proposed takeover would bring together two of the most important names in global financial derivatives.

The deal would allow CME to diversify

its product lines beyond the futures and options contracts related to commodity markets such as oil and wheat as well as US interest rates in which it specialises at present.

Cboe, which was formed out of a predecessor of CME in 1975, owns the Vix indices and contracts, as well as equity options exchanges, three stock exchanges and an extensive share trading and clearing business in Europe.

Volumes of equity options trading have soared in the past year as fund managers have sought to ride the market rebound after the coronavirus-induced crash of March 2020.

Retail investors have also piled into commission-free trading in options offered by brokers such as Robinhood.

The S&P 500 stock index has doubled

in the past 18 months, while the volume of trades in options on technology stocks such as Tesla, Apple and AMD has also soared.

COC, the US's main options clearing house, reported record activity in July, with nearly 800m contracts cleared, up 29 per cent on the same month a year before.

Average daily volumes for the year are up 42 per cent at 57m contracts per day, the clearing house said.

If a CME-Cboe deal is struck, it would extend a dealmaking spree among the world's largest exchange groups that has seen a handful of large groups scaling up and concentrating the trading data and information that underpin financial markets.

In 2019 over half of the \$35bn in revenue



Chicago-based CME, the world's largest futures exchange group, has offered 0.75 of its own shares for every Cboe share.

the industry generated came from just five exchange operators — CME, Intercontinental Exchange, London Stock Exchange Group, Deutsche Börse and Nasdaq — according to Burton-Taylor International Consulting.

In recent years LSE Group has bought data and trading provider Refinitiv for \$27bn while ICE snapped up mortgage software provider Ellie Mae for \$11bn.

A takeover of Cboe would also be the CME's largest acquisition since its \$7.9bn cash-and-shares purchase of the New York Mercantile Exchange in 2008.

Shares in the CME have fallen 5 per cent in recent months, underperforming the S&P 500 as the pace of trading has slowed.

Any deal would need approval from US and European antitrust regulators.

Briefing

► **Xi puts high earners in Beijing's sights**
President Xi Jinping has called for stronger "regulation of high incomes" in the latest sign that a clampdown on China's tech companies is expanding to encompass broader social goals. — PAGE 4

► **Boom in US borrowing triggers warning**
A corporate borrowing surge has laid the foundation for defaults at less creditworthy companies that may lead to a future debt crisis, say rating agencies that assess and rank bonds and loans. — PAGE 8

► **Tesla's driverless cars face fresh hazard**
Top senators are calling on the Federal Trade Commission to launch an investigation into marketing practices at Tesla, just days after a crash prompted a new safety inquiry. — PAGE 6



► **Tencent sees further jolts ahead for tech**
The social media, gaming and fintech group has posted a 29 per cent jump in quarterly profits but warned investors that more regulatory changes will have an impact on China's technology sector. — PAGE 5

► **Facebook's Novi digital wallet 'ready'**
The tech group has said that a digital currency wallet that will be integrated into its apps was "ready to come to market" and that it had licences or approvals in "nearly every" US state. — PAGE 5

► **NZ delays rates rise after Covid outbreak**
New Zealand's central bank has postponed an increase in interest rates after an outbreak of Delta variant Covid-19 in Auckland involving seven cases triggered a nationwide lockdown. — PAGE 4

► **Geely warns of further chip uncertainty**
The Chinese carmaker has warned of continued "uncertainty" over output because of chip-supply shortages, highlighting sustained pressure on the recovery in the world's largest car market. — PAGE 6

Datwatch

Denied education

Primary school attendance rate for girls in Afghanistan (%)



The Taliban has pledged to respect women's rights 'within the framework of Islam', permitting them to work and study. Under the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, girls' attendance at primary school dropped to zero.



Google left with questions as MUM has the final word

Google has revealed the latest in a series of upgrades to its search engine it says have improved the quality of its results. The US group says its large-scale AI model, known as MUM, could turn search into a virtual research assistant that scours the internet for solutions to complex questions. But critics warn that this will see Google step in front of other websites to 'internalise' search traffic and keep users locked in a Google universe.

Future of the search engine — PAGE 7

Afghan people face 'dire' financial outlook, warns ex-central bank chief

CHRIS GILES AND JONATHAN WHEATLEY — LONDON
COLBY SMITH — NEW YORK

The people of Afghanistan are facing "dire" financial prospects, the former head of its central bank has warned, with an acute shortage of dollars and rampant inflation set to increase the flow of migrants out of the country.

Ajmal Ahmad, who escaped Kabul on Sunday, told the Financial Times that Afghanistan had been dependent on bulk shipments of dollar reserves from the US and was now rapidly running short, leading to the likelihood of higher food prices and capital controls.

"If people think it's bad but it's over", I think they're underestimating the impact... we've finished the military phase and now we're going to start the economic phase," Ahmad said yesterday.

"It's going to be quite dire [when] people will not be able to access the funds they need from [the banks]."

The economy has a large trade account deficit and is dependent on military spending, foreign aid and access to about \$9bn of currency reserves. These fund sources have been extinguished or are drying up, he said, adding that living standards would drop "significantly".

"If you think the situation at the airport was bad now, I think over the medium term, you're going to see major, major migration flows from Afghanistan and, unfortunately, if Europe or other countries think that they could stop that, you simply can't," he said.

Afghanistan had \$9bn in foreign reserves last week but most of this is held in international accounts that have been frozen, Ahmad said. Joe Biden's US administration has

blocked Taliban access to Afghan central bank reserves held in US banks, an official told the FT.

Kabul is due to receive an unconditional disbursement of \$460m in special drawing rights from the IMF on Monday as part of the fund's programme to deal with the coronavirus crisis.

SDRs are equivalent to newly minted money. However, a number of Republican lawmakers have urged the Treasury to cut off this source of funding.

"The potential of the SDR allocation to provide nearly half a billion dollars in unconditional liquidity to a regime with a history of supporting terrorist actions against the US and her allies is extremely concerning," the group said in a letter to the Treasury secretary.

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L.U.C. TIME TRAVELER ONE

Chopard

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| World Markets | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|--------------|------------|---------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| STOCK MARKETS | | | | | CURRENCIES | | | | |
| | Aug 18 | prev | %chg | | Aug 18 | prev | %chg | Aug 18 | prev |
| S&P 500 | 4442.06 | 4448.08 | -0.14 | \$ per € | 1.171 | 1.172 | -0.08 | US Gov 10 yr | 1.4976 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 14651.97 | 14656.18 | -0.03 | £ per \$ | 0.727 | 0.728 | -0.13 | UK Gov 10 yr | 1.26 |
| Dow Jones Ind | 35298.72 | 35303.28 | -0.13 | € per ¥ | 117.15 | 117.13 | 0.02 | Ger Gov 10 yr | 4.40 |
| FTSE 100 | 4180.03 | 4186.40 | -0.15 | ¥ per € | 109.89 | 109.88 | 0.01 | Japan Gov 10 yr | 1.1742 |
| FTSE 250 | 7189.32 | 7191.11 | -0.16 | ¥ per £ | 151.183 | 150.989 | 0.13 | US Gov 30 yr | 1.7560 |
| FTSE All-Share | 4122.91 | 4123.45 | -0.02 | £ per € | 1.071 | 1.072 | -0.09 | Ger Gov 2 yr | 105.62 |
| CAC 40 | 6770.11 | 6819.84 | -0.73 | € per \$ | 0.854 | 0.854 | 0.00 | | |
| Xetra Dax | 15865.97 | 15821.95 | 0.28 | | | | | | |
| Nikkei | 27185.01 | 27424.47 | 0.59 | COMMODITIES | | | | | |
| Hong Kong | 25867.01 | 25745.87 | 0.47 | | Aug 18 | prev | %chg | | |
| MSCI World \$ | 3101.12 | 3121.99 | -0.70 | Oil WTI \$ | 85.40 | 86.34 | -1.30 | Fed Funds Eff | 0.10 |
| MSCI EM \$ | 1255.78 | 1272.18 | -1.29 | Oil Brent \$ | 88.38 | 89.03 | -0.74 | US 3m Bill | 0.07 |
| MSCI ACWI \$ | 3228.13 | 3244.77 | -0.52 | Gold \$ | 1799.45 | 1798.35 | 0.17 | Euro Libor 3m | -0.56 |
| | | | | | | | | UK 3m | 0.07 |

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A Taliban member tried to hit a woman in Kabul on Wednesday who was waiting with her family to get to an airport to flee.

PROTESTS EMERGE AS TALIBAN STRIVE TO CEMENT POWER

Coaxing and Threats
Secured Victory

By DAVID ZUCCHINO

In early May, a Taliban commander telephoned Muhammad Jallal, a tribal elder in Baghlan Province in northern Afghanistan, and asked him to deliver a message to Afghan government troops at several bases in his district.

If they do not surrender, we will kill them," Mr. Jallal said he was told.

He and other tribal elders complied. After several rounds of negotiations, two government bases and three outposts surrendered without a fight. More than 100 security forces handed over weapons and equipment and were sent home unharmed.

The Taliban's strategy of coercion and persuasion was repeated across the country, unfolding for months as a focal point of the insurgents' new offensive this year. The militants cut multiple surrender deals that handed them bases and ultimately entire provincial command centers, culminating in a stunning military blitz this summer that put the militants back in power two decades after they were defeated by the United States and its allies.

The negotiated surrenders were just one element of a broader Taliban strategy that captured heavily defended provincial capitals with lightning speed, and saw the insurgents walk into the capital, Kabul, on Sunday with barely a shot fired. It was a campaign defined by both collapse and conquest, executed by patient opportunists.

Each surrender, small or large, handed the Taliban more weapons and vehicles — and, vitally, more control over roads and highways, giving insurgents freedom to move rapidly and collect the next surrenders as the security forces were progressively cut off from ammunition, fuel, food and salaries.

Each victory also added to a growing sense of inevitability that the Taliban would eventually prevail, especially after the militants poured so many resources into winning the north, a traditional stronghold of anti-Taliban militias. As those outposts and districts fell, the Taliban gained important propaganda victories quickly spreading the word that they could overcome even dogged resistance and would keep their word to allow soldiers and police officers to walk away with their lives.

The result was a lopsided fight between an adaptable and highly

Ex-Afghan President
Surfaces in U.A.E.

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

As the Taliban sought to consolidate control over Afghanistan on Wednesday, they faced the first challenges to their renewed rule, using force to break up protests in at least two cities, while an opposing faction vowed to hold out in one pocket of the country.

Millions of Afghans tried to parse conflicting clues about what lay in store for them and their nation, but many were not waiting to find out.

Despite Taliban assurances that there would be no reprisals against their opponents, thousands of people continued to crowd around the airport in Kabul, the capital, hoping to get a flight out of the country. Throngs rushed toward certain entrances, only to be met by Taliban troops who beat people back and fired their rifles into the air. A NATO official at the scene said 17 people were injured. Taliban fighters used gunfire to disperse demonstrations in the northeastern city of Jalalabad and the southeastern city of Host, where some of the protesters raised the Afghan government flag that the Taliban had taken down just days earlier. News reports said two or three people were killed in Jalalabad.



A damaged poster of Ashraf Ghani, the former president.

But in other cities, a tense quiet prevailed. The former president, Ashraf Ghani, who fled the country on Sunday, surfaced in the United Arab Emirates and made his first public statement, saying that if he had stayed in Kabul, "the people of Afghanistan would have witnessed the president hanged."

President Biden said on Wednesday that he was committed to getting every American out of Afghanistan, even if it meant keeping troops there past the Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline he

Continued on Page A8

U.S. Ramps Up Its Power to Act As Virus Surges

This article is by Sharon LaFraniere, Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Erica L. Green.

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration moved on multiple fronts on Wednesday to fight back against the surging Delta variant, strongly recommending booster shots for most vaccinated Americans and using federal leverage to force nursing homes to vaccinate their staffs.

In remarks from the East Room of the White House, President Biden also directed his education secretary to "use all of his authority, and legal action if appropriate," to deter states from banning universal masking in classrooms. That move is destined to escalate a fight with some Republican governors who are blocking local school districts from requiring masks to protect against the virus.

The shifts in strategy reflect the administration's growing concern that the highly contagious Delta variant is erasing its hard-fought progress against the pandemic and thrusting the nation back to the more precarious point it was at earlier in the year.

Thus far, Mr. Biden has been reluctant to use the federal government's power to withhold funding as a means of fighting the pandemic. But that changed Wednesday, when he said his administration would make employee vaccination a condition for nursing homes to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding. Officials said the decision would affect more than 15,000 nursing homes that employ 1.3 million workers.

"The threat of the Delta virus remains real, but we are prepared, we have the tools, we can do this," Mr. Biden said in the East Room, adding, "This is no time to let our guard down."

He accused politicians who were banning local school districts from requiring masks in the classroom of setting a "dangerous tone," adding, "We're not going to sit by as governors try to block and intimidate educators from protecting our children." The administration is sending letters to eight states — Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah — challenging their efforts to ban universal masking in schools.

For many Americans, the booster strategy will affect them

Continued on Page A14

Israel Provides Lesson in Vaccine Shortcomings

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Last spring, Israel's remarkably swift vaccination campaign was seen as a global model. Coronavirus infections plummeted, an electronic pass allowed the vaccinated to attend indoor concerts and sporting events, and distancing rules and mask mandates were eventually scrapped.

Israel offered the world a hopeful glimpse of the way out of the pandemic.

No longer. A fourth wave of infections is rapidly approaching the levels of Israel's worst days of the pandemic last winter. The daily rate of confirmed new virus cases has more than doubled in the last two

A Model for the World
Becomes a Hot Spot
in a Fourth Wave

weeks, making Israel a rising hot spot on the international charts.

Restrictions on gatherings and commercial and entertainment venues were reinstated this week, and the government is considering a new lockdown.

"I believe we are at war," Israel's coronavirus commissioner, Prof. Salman Zarka, told a parliamentary committee on Wednesday.

Scientists are still assessing how Israel's pandemic response

plunged from shining example to cautionary tale, and the stunning reversal has provided a crucial test for Israel's new prime minister, Naftali Bennett, who staked a claim for leadership partly on the strength of his manifesto, "How to Beat a Pandemic."

But some experts fear that Israel's high rate of infection among early vaccine recipients may indicate a waning of the vaccine's protections over time, a finding that contributed to a U.S. decision Wednesday to begin offering booster shots to Americans starting next month.

The vaccine may be less effective at preventing infection with the highly contagious Delta variant, now the primary version of

Continued on Page A12



A funeral procession in L'Asile, Haiti, for a construction worker who died when a quarry collapsed.

Mass Graves, Makeshift Shelters and No Help

By ANATOLY KURMANAEV
AND ANDRE PAULTRE

TOIRAC, Haiti — The destruction was everywhere. The help nowhere.

Days after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake devastated part of Haiti's southern peninsula, the hillside village of Toirac had yet to be visited by any emergency authorities or aid groups.

Haitians Can't Rely on
Government or Aid

At least 20 Toirac villagers who had been attending a funeral when the quake struck on Saturday were killed as the church collapsed, survivors said.

With some help from Boy

Scouts, the Toirac villagers dug out their dead loved ones, buried them in mass graves and built makeshift shelters as Tropical Storm Grace pelted the area with heavy rain that caused floods and mudslides. The villagers used salvaged pieces of their collapsed houses.

"I don't expect any help, we're on our own," said Michel Milord, a 66-year-old farmer in Toirac, who

Continued on Page A11

Promises Go Unmet for Afghans Who Risked Their Lives for U.S.

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNG and ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — As President Biden last month defended his decision to end the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, he delivered a promise as old as the war itself to the Afghans who had risked their lives to assist American troops.

"Our message to those women and men is clear: There is a home for you in the United States, if you so choose," the president said. "We will stand with you, just as you stood with us."

But his decision not to begin a mass evacuation of Afghan interpreters, guides and their relatives earlier this year has left thousands of people in limbo, stranded in a country now controlled by the Taliban after 20 years of war.

Even before Mr. Biden an-

nounced the withdrawal of U.S. troops, his administration rejected frantic calls from lawmakers and activists to evacuate Afghans, who now find themselves in jeopardy.

Then this summer, Afghanistan's president, Ashraf Ghani, implored Mr. Biden to hold off on evacuations until U.S. forces were gone for good, fearing that the image would undermine confidence in his government.

Mr. Biden instead took steps to streamline a visa system plagued

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REFUGEES In Europe, memories of a 2015 crisis are making some leaders wary. PAGE A6



NATIONAL A13-17

E.P.A. to Limit Pesticide Use

Citing risks to children, the agency bars the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops, reversing a Trump-era decision. PAGE A13

No Mask Mandate. Few Masks.

Gov. Greg Abbott's positive Covid test came amid a fierce battle over public health measures in Texas. PAGE A15

BUSINESS B1-6

A Problematic Apple Solution

The tools the company has put in place to root out images of child sexual abuse have added to a debate between privacy and security. PAGE B1

A Price for Disney Privileges

For the first time, line-skipping at Walt Disney World in Florida will come at a cost — \$15 per person. PAGE B3

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

No Charges in Wife's Death

Shashi Tharoor, a member of Parliament in India, was accused of driving Sunanda Pushkar to suicide. PAGE A12



ARTS C1-6

A Treasury of Images

The Smithsonian has acquired a trove of daguerotypes made by African American photographers. PAGE C1

One Over Their Limit

Denmark has two mermaid statues, and that has become an issue. PAGE C6

SPORTS B7-9, 12

A Rebirth in the Bronx

Six weeks ago, the Yankees were in free fall and heading toward major upheaval. So how are they right back in the thick of the playoff race? PAGE B7

OBITUARIES B10-11

Hip-Hop's Hit Maker

Chucky Thompson brought a range of musical influences to bear on the tracks he helped create for Mary J. Blige and many others. He was 53. PAGE B10

OPINION A18-19

Peter Coy

PAGE A18



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

An Unexpected Star

Kathy Hilton, who watched her daughters rise to fame, is drawing attention now as a darling of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills." PAGE D5



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'DICE ARE LOADED' IN UGLY WILDFIRE SEASON

California's millionth acre of the year burns, with the windiest months still ahead.

BY HAYLEY SMITH, LILA SEIDMAN AND HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

3With more than a million acres burned fairly early in the fire season, California is entering uncharted territory as the record dry conditions that have fueled so much destruction will soon combine with seasonal winds that fire officials fear will bring unprecedented dangers.

Officials have attributed warming temperatures and worsening drought to the explosive growth of fires, mostly in the mountains of Northern California, this summer.

And while the fire-prone state has seen gusty winds this season, many experts fear that the impending arrival of strong Santa Anas and Diablos — which typically move in around mid-September — could mark even more misery for weary residents and beleaguered fire crews.

"We're coming into the high fire season, and right now we're on our knees," said climatologist Bill Patzert. "The weather is the wild card, and the weather patterns have shifted. Looking ahead here, it's hard to be optimistic."

Already, strong winds caused a fire north of Sacramento to explode, burning through one town and spurring evacuations. A second fire raged in Lake County, destroying homes.

[See Wildfires, A14]



FLAMES FROM the Dixie fire cast a glow in the hills near Milford, Calif. More than 1.3 million acres have been scorched this summer, as warming temperatures and worsening drought fuel the fires' explosive growth.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/Getty Images

Drought dims family's Eden

'Without water, you are nothing,' rancher says after two years of watching his Madera County land shrivel



ARIANNA Sevilla and her father, Heriberto, borrow water from their neighbor's line to fill a trough for their animals this month.

MEL MELCON/Los Angeles Times

BY PRISCILLA VEGA

MADERA COUNTY, Calif. — Fourteen years ago, Heriberto Sevilla came across a ranch on the outskirts of Madera set among fields of stalk grass and bright wildflowers. Pepper trees dotted the meadow, and children played in the natural lakes created by heavy rains.

It was the perfect place to raise a big family. So the 51-year-old native of Chilapa, Mexico, bought it and made sure the property included a functioning well.

On spring days, he'd lounge in the backyard. Heriberto taught his daughters how to ride horses. They helped him feed the chickens and sheep. Goats kept the area tidy, munching on grass. When fruit in the trees was ripe, he proudly showed his children how to harvest

[See Drought, A8]

Moms may pay for stepping back from jobs amid COVID

BY DON LEE

WASHINGTON — Mothers with outside employment, among the hardest-hit by the COVID-19 recession, are returning to the workforce in impressive numbers, aided by the reopening of schools and day-care programs.

But the pandemic has exacted a heavy toll on millions of moms in terms of job security, pay equity and long-term career opportunities — losses many will probably never recover.

Because of increased child-care responsibilities brought on by school and day-care center closings, many women say they had

little choice but to leave their jobs or take on reduced responsibilities.

In significant numbers, they endured pay cuts, reduced hours, diminished retirement benefits and lost promotions.

And contrary to the hope that working from home would make it easier for women to balance the new demands placed on them, it's teleworking moms who may be struggling the most or falling out of the labor force, said Misty Heggeness, a senior advisor and research economist at the U.S. Census Bureau.

"They are getting extremely burned out, because in addition to trying to figure

[See Mothers, A14]



JEFF CHIU/Associated Press

GREATER parenting demands like home-schooling have put many moms' careers on hold amid COVID.

Pandemic priorities: Biden outlines plan for booster shots and other steps to combat COVID-19. **NATION, A6**



A TRUE ZERO station in Aliso Viejo. Getting stranded is a constant risk for hydrogen car drivers because stations often malfunction or run out of fuel.

CAROLYN COLE/Los Angeles Times

Hydrogen car vision looks like an expensive dead end

BY EVAN HALPER

Soon after Maribel Munoz joined the trailblazing ranks of American owners of hydrogen cars — a group that exists only in California — she began to fear that the low price of the taxpayer-subsidized Toyota Mirai she purchased came with a tremendous cost.

"You can't have a job and own this car," said the 49-year-old clothing designer from Azusa. "Finding fuel for it becomes your job. It is constant anxiety. I told the guy at Toyota, 'If I have a stroke, it's on you.'"

Munoz found herself

UNITED STATES OF CALIFORNIA

No state has had a bigger impact on the direction of the United States than California, a prolific incubator and exporter of outside-the-box policies and ideas. This occasional series examines what that has meant for the state and the country, and how far Washington is willing to go to spread California's agenda as the state's own struggles threaten its standing as the nation's think tank.

stranded with an empty tank on the highway and stressed out by the repeated fuel shortages Mirai drivers call "hydrogen apocalypses." She struggled not to scream at her phone after driving miles to stations that a hydrogen fueling app said were working just fine, only to find them out of order.

These are the kinds of hassles that can come with being an early adopter. But in the case of California's "Hydrogen Highway" — a network of fueling stations then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger dreamed would lure masses of Americans to hydrogen vehicles — even

[See Hydrogen, A7]

Taliban cracks down as protests erupt

Militants open fire at flag-raising event. The overnight rulers face new concern: cash.

BY MARCUS YAM AND LAURA KING

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban on Wednesday faced the first known street protests against the militant group's lightning-quick takeover of Afghanistan, and disorder again erupted near Kabul's international airport, where armed insurgents violently rebuffed Afghans trying to make their way inside to board outgoing flights.

President Biden, in a televised interview, said U.S. forces would stay in Afghanistan beyond their scheduled Aug. 31 departure if necessary to evacuate any Americans wanting to leave.

"If there are American citizens left, we're going to stay until we get them all out," Biden said in an interview with ABC News.

But the administration made no such pledge for Afghans desperate to flee because they fear Taliban retribution over their ties to the U.S. military, or others considered vulnerable because of work with Western organizations or advocacy groups.

Three days after having overrun the capital, Kabul, and driven President Ashraf Ghani into exile, the Taliban grappled with elements of basic governance, including a cash-flow crunch in this heavily aid-dependent country.

Ghani, 72, who had dropped out of sight since fleeing Kabul on Sunday, resurfaced in the United Arab Emirates, which announced his presence in a terse communique. The United Arab Emirates is a close American ally.

The deposed president, a scholar and technocrat, is now widely reviled in his homeland for having slipped away as the Taliban closed in. He said he left to prevent

[See Taliban, A4]

Obstacles to their flight from Kabul

President Biden pledges that no Americans will be left behind in Afghanistan. **WORLD, A3**

Vaccine rules for city workers

L.A. City Council approves mandate for full inoculation against COVID-19 by October. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



ALEX ORLOV

Public Storage billionaire dies

B. Wayne Hughes Sr., 87, pioneered the self-storage industry and became USC's largest donor. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Fog clearing.
L.A. Basin: 80/64. **B6**



BUSINESS INSIDE: Disney unveils new app to let visitors skip park lines — for a fee. **A10**

BREAKING DOWN, BUILDING UP

Critical infrastructure projects across the nation **SPECIAL SECTION**

THE NINE

Shaping baseball: Nine influential Black players **SPECIAL SECTION**



DOGS

Inside the brain of your pet: What is she thinking? **SPECIAL SECTION**

LOCAL LIVING

A back-to-school guide to the 'new normal' **EXPANDED SECTION**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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Handling of data by CDC set U.S. back

Siloed approach made nation late in recognizing delta's threat, critics say

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND LENA H. SUN

When Pfizer representatives met with senior U.S. government health officials on July 12, they laid out why they thought booster shots would soon be necessary in the United States. Data from Israel showed the vaccine's effectiveness waned over time, especially in older and immunocompromised people.

But officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disagreed, saying their own data showed something quite different, according to four people with direct knowledge of the meeting who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Other senior health officials in the meeting were stunned. Why hadn't the CDC looped in other government officials on the data? Could the agency share it — at least with the Food and Drug Administration, which was responsible for deciding whether booster shots were necessary? But CDC officials demurred, saying they planned to publish it soon.

That episode, say senior administration officials and outside experts, illustrates the growing frustration with the CDC's slow and siloed approach to sharing data, which prevented officials across the government from getting real-time information about how the delta variant was bearing down on the United States and behaving with greater ferocity than earlier variants — an information gap they say stymied the response.

"The moment there's something really problematic, it should be shared," said Eric Topol, professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research. "In the time it takes to get out an MMWR report [a weekly scientific digest], too many people have gotten infected, too many people have gotten long covid, too many people among them have gotten very sick, some

SEE CDC ON A8

Delta crisis: Variant pushes hospitals back into crisis mode. **A7**

Third dose: New data persuaded White House to back boosters. **A9**

Taliban meets early resistance



People board a Spanish military transport plane at the International Airport in Kabul on Wednesday. Two other Spanish aircraft were expected to join the evacuation of Spanish citizens and Afghan nationals who worked with Spanish forces over the past four years.

PROTESTS DRAW VIOLENT REPRISALS

Harsh tactics contradict assertions of restraint

BY EZZATULLAH MEHRDAD AND KAREEM FAHIM

KABUL — Rumbles of resistance to the Taliban's grip on Afghanistan emerged Wednesday as protests erupted in at least two cities, drawing a violent response from the militants that laid bare the challenges that await as the group attempts to transform itself from an insurgency into a government.

The crackdown on the protests came as Taliban fighters were again accused of using gunfire and violence during their struggle to control crowds at Kabul's international airport, where thousands of people have gathered in recent days hoping to find seats on evacuation flights.

And in Bamiyan province — home of the Buddha statues blown up during the Taliban's last run in power — locals said militants had destroyed the memorial to an anti-Taliban leader, an allegation that undercut the group's pledges to avoid retribution.

Since Taliban fighters overran Kabul on Sunday, the group has sought to convince audiences at home and abroad that it does not plan a return to the brutal rule imposed in an earlier era, favoring instead inclusivity and peace. The pledges, made in the soft light of victory, have left many unconvinced.

But intentions aside, the Taliban faces myriad challenges with the basics of governing. The group inherits a country struggling with drought, the coronavirus pandemic and unrelenting poverty. The state's coffers are empty, its overseas funds are frozen, and many aid agencies have suspended activities because of the Taliban's advance.

Foreign governments, meanwhile, have hedged on whether they will offer the Taliban recognition. At home, officials with the ousted government have pledged to start a campaign of "resistance" to Taliban rule.

"The transition from being a warring group that uses, among other things, terror to achieve its goals to a government that will be held to account and must learn to

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A13

'There is no hope': Afghans in U.S. voice despair at recent events. **A14**

Social media: Taliban's tactics show unusual sophistication. **A15**

Critics see politics in slow start getting Afghan allies out

BY ANNE GEARAN, TYLER PAGER, JACQUELINE ALEMANY AND MISSY RYAN

The Biden administration moved slowly for months to address the plight of vulnerable Afghans who had worked for the United States even as a deadline for U.S. military withdrawal loomed, refugee advocates said — a lull some blamed on White House concern that the influx would invite partisan political backlash amid a rush of migrants at the southern border.

Afghans who served as interpreters, fixers and other staff for the U.S. military and diplomats over the nearly 20-year U.S. military mission were among thousands evacuated in recent days, following the stunning collapse of the U.S.-backed government. Getting thousands more out of the country is a top priority now ahead of an Aug. 31 deadline to exit, the nation's top military officials said Wednesday.

"We have a moral obligation to help those

SEE BIDEN ON A17



FRANCISCO SEO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man draped in the Afghan flag outside the E.U. headquarters in Brussels calls attention to the crisis in Afghanistan.

Russia's tack: Country sees potential for cooperation, but readies for the worst. **A19**

A lone vote remembered: Why everyone wants to hear from Rep. Barbara Lee. **C1**

Pentagon defends planning, pledges to save every American

BY DAN LAMOTHE AND GREG JAFFE

The Pentagon's top leaders on Wednesday sought to defend the military's planning ahead of a Taliban assault that led to the fall of Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government, saying they are focused for now on securing the Kabul airport and evacuating all American citizens and as many Afghan allies "as possible."

In their first public remarks since the Afghan government's collapse, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, declared the airport "secure" and said evacuation flights were ongoing, but they repeatedly declined to address what will be done for Americans who cannot reach the airport safely. They were even more evasive on the question of how they planned to aid Afghan allies whom the United States had pledged to evacuate but who were being stopped at Taliban checkpoints.

Administration officials informed Con-

SEE PENTAGON ON A17

Haiti laments its losses: 'It is as if we are cursed'

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA

L'ASILE, HAITI — A wailing rose Wednesday from the brass section in front of what was left of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. A drum beat added to the doleful rhythm as women in white emitted guttural, anguished cries at the foot of a flower-covered coffin.

It was a lament for Delirynny Barbier, a truck driver killed in the earthquake that shook Haiti's southwestern peninsula Saturday. It was also a lament for L'Asile, this proud farming community 11 miles from the epicenter, that now lies in ruin.

But perhaps more than anything, the Rev. Lucson Simeon said before putting on his white vestments for yet another funeral, it was a lament for Haiti.

"It is as if we are cursed," Simeon said. "We just keep getting beaten down. I ask myself, how can this be?"

"All I can say is that it is as if we

SEE HAITI ON A12



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

Mourners attend the funeral for Delirynny Barbier in L'Asile, Haiti, on Wednesday. Barbier, a truck driver, was killed in the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck the nation on Saturday.

Some families see summer disappear in a smoky haze

Wildfires' impact on air quality raises health risks, forcing children indoors

BY MARC FISHER, JENNIFER OLDHAM AND SHEILA REGAN

In Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the eye-watering haze forced Camp Swevolakan to pack up 150 kids and cut short their week in the mountains. In Denver, the acrid smell clawed at the throat and led Kathryn and Dennis Wright to scrap a long-awaited family camping trip.

And in Green Bay, Wis., the smoke filled Sarah Cramer's lungs and tightened her airway, prompting her to interrupt her 9-year-old son's reading of a National Geographic book. She felt

like she'd been hit with a second slam of covid-19, but this time it was the very air that plagued her.

The smoke from Western wildfires that has settled over much of the Pacific Northwest and America's northern tier, wafting even into parts of New England, is bad enough for adults. But for children, the smoke is a summer wrecker, spoiling outdoor fun and driving kids too long penned up by the coronavirus pandemic back inside.

"You want to put a big bubble over them," said Steve Jurich, executive director of Camp Fire in Spokane, Wash., who had the unpleasant duty of shutting down his organization's sleep-away camp in northern Idaho this month because of the unhealthy air. In these past two

SEE FIRES ON A28

Dixie Fire: Blazes, heat wave complicate aid for evacuees. **A3**

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La Libertadores se terminó en cuartos para River

Después de haber llegado al menos a las semifinales en los cuatro años anteriores, el equipo de Gallardo cayó 3-0 con Mineiro y se despidió de la Copa. **Deportes**



INCENDIOS SIN CONTROL CASTIGAN OTRA VEZ A CÓRDOBA

—sociedad

En Calamuchita actúan 22 dotaciones de bomberos y 80 personas debieron abandonar sus casas; en lo que va del año ya hubo 88 siniestros. **Página 24**

CIUDAD ESCENARIO: LAS CÁMARAS VOLVIERON A TOMAR NUEVA YORK

—espectáculos

La industria del cine y la TV siempre aportó a la ciudad millones de dólares y miles de empleos; tras la pandemia, *Sex and the City* y otras producciones la hacen revivir.

LA NACION

JUEVES 19 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno filtró videos del festejo y reaviva el escándalo

OLIVOS. Desde la Casa Rosada admitieron que anticiparon la difusión para evitar que se conocieran más cerca de las elecciones; el oficialismo busca reencauzar la campaña

Para evitar que se filtraran más cerca de las elecciones, y en un intento de acotar su daño político, el Gobierno difundió ayer dos videos del cumpleaños de Fabiola Yáñez en la quinta presidencial de Olivos, que se celebró el año pasado mientras regían las restricciones por el coronavirus.

Las imágenes del festejo fueron difundidas primero por El Destape, un medio ultrakirchnerista, y pocos minutos después por la TV Pública, en una clara acción dirigida a adelantarse a posibles filtraciones. La difusión en ambos medios llevó al Gobierno a admitir que había estado detrás de la maniobra y reavivó el debate público por el escándalo. Las imágenes son una nueva muestra de que el presidente Alberto Fernández participó en el festejo, en contra de las restricciones por la cuarentena que había dispuesto. **Página 10**

EL ESCENARIO

La foto que teme Cristina

Carlos Pagni
—LA NACION—

En tiempos de Mussolini, los muros de Italia solían estar tapizados con un afiche que subrayaba la foto del líder con el eslogan "Il Duce ha sempre ragione" (El Duce siempre tiene razón). Allí está la esencia del culto a la personalidad. **Continúa en la página 12**



GERARDO VIERCOVICH

Desafío piquetero con una masiva movilización

COLAPSO. Las organizaciones sociales no kirchneristas protagonizaron ayer una masiva protesta en la Capital y en otros puntos del país. En la ciudad hizo colapsar el tránsito, como en el ingreso por Puente Pueyrredón. **Página 14**

Rechazan cerrar la causa del pacto con Irán

AMIA. El fiscal Marcelo Colombo rechazó los planteos de la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner a favor de cerrar la causa por el pacto con Irán, que se abrió a partir de la denuncia de encubrimiento del atentado contra la AMIA presentada por el fallecido fiscal Alberto Nisman. Ahora deberán resolver los jueces del Tribunal Oral Federal 8. **Página 13**

Guzmán le pide plata al BCRA cada cuatro días

EMISIÓN. La semana pasada, el Banco Central giró al Ministerio de Economía \$40.000 millones en concepto de remisión de utilidades. Así, agosto ya es el mes de mayor emisión monetaria (\$200.000 millones) para asistir al Tesoro en lo que va del año. La frecuencia de la ayuda es cada cuatro días. **Página 18**

Represión y muerte en una protesta contra los talibanes

Página 2



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Ilustrada C1

Guru de luxo

Nicole Kidman retoma parceria com autora de "Big Little Lies", investe na televisão e vive uma guru misteriosa que gerencia crises em spa na nova série "Nove Desconhecidos".

Esporte B6

Australiano ouro no skate usa tradutor para ler mensagens de ídolos brasileiros

Aras refuta crítica de omissão e defende sistema de voto

Em entrevista à Folha, procurador-geral da República diz que não é agente partidário no cargo

Augusto Aras, o procurador-geral da República, nega ter se omitido em relação aos ataques do presidente Jair Bolsonaro ao sistema de votação e, em contraposição ao chefe do Executivo, defendeu a urna eletrônica em entrevista à Folha.

Indagado se o sistema é confiável, disse que contra ele "não há nenhuma prova do Ministério Público Eleitoral". "O procurador-geral da República participou, na minha gestão, de todos os atos pertinentes às eleições, legitimando as eleições, todas."

Aras mostrou incômodo ao ser questionado sobre sua atuação na PGR e rechaçou críticas de que tem sido omissivo com Bolsonaro. afirmou que a avaliação vem de pessoas que não conhecem as leis e que ele só pode se manifestar juridicamente.

Em 13 minutos de conversa com a reportagem, declarou que não vê dificuldade na relação com o Supremo Tribunal Federal e que o diálogo é permanente. E se esquivou do parecer da PGR que questiona a eficácia da máscara facial para conter a Covid.

"Posso reconsiderar a decisão de um colega", disse sobre a subprocuradora Lindora Araújo. "Mas nem sempre vou poder fazê-lo." Poder A6 e A7

Thiago Amparo Aras fantasia de antitativismo o que de fato faz A2



Jovem de 17 anos com Síndrome de Down toma vacina em SP, no primeiro dia de imunização de adolescentes Zanon Praliss/Folhapress

Queiroga fala em reforço para idosos e profissionais

Marcelo Queiroga (Saúde) disse ontem que a aplicação da terceira dose para reforçar a imunização contra a Covid-19 deve começar por profissionais de saúde e idosos. Segundo o ministro, isso ainda depende de dados científicos e de quantidade suficiente de imunizantes. Saúde B2

Imunização com Coronavac dos 3 aos 17 anos é rejeitada pela Anvisa

A Anvisa (Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária) negou ontem o aval para uso da Coronavac em crianças e adolescentes de 3 a 17 anos. Técnicos apontaram falta de dados para confirmar segurança e eficácia da aplicação das doses neste grupo.

"O que estamos apresentando aqui é um retrato do momento. Dados adicionais, mais robustos, podem ser apresentados para que a gente reconsidere", declarou o gerente-geral de Medicamentos e Produtos Biológicos, Gustavo Mendes.

A relatora do processo, Meiruze Sousa Freitas, recomendou ainda análise de dose de reforço para grupos de maior risco. Saúde B1

São Paulo quer reduzir para 21 dias intervalo entre doses da Pfizer B1

TSE bloqueará verba a canais políticos em redes sociais

O Tribunal Superior Eleitoral (TSE) pretende barrar a transferência de recursos para canais online usados para fins políticos em eleições, seja por candidatos ou por apoiadores. O dinheiro arrecadado nessas plataformas corresponderia a financiamento privado de campanha.

Embora a prática seja ilegal, nenhum procedimento do tipo foi aberto contra páginas de redes sociais ou sites nos dois últimos ciclos, quando o patrocínio a fake news tornou-se um problema maior. Para o TSE, a emissão de uma resolução específica deve ajudar a tornar a questão clara. Poder A4

Acesso à internet aumenta em 2020 no Brasil

DIAS MELHORES

O acesso à internet nas casas brasileiras cresceu em 2020, chegando a 83%, indica pesquisa. A alta é puxada pelos mais pobres. Nas classes C e D/E, a conexão foi de 91% e 64%, respectivamente. Mercado A20

Blogueiro Allan dos Santos é alvo de denúncia

Poder A4 e A5

FHC declara apoio a Doria nas prévias do PSDB para 2022

Poder A10

Vacina é ameaçada por precatórios, diz secretário

Secretário de Orçamento Federal da Economia, Ariosto Culau disse que o plano de vacinação pode ficar comprometido caso não passe no Congresso a proposta para reduzir as despesas com precatórios. A compra de doses, porém, tem sido feita fora do teto de gastos. Mercado A15

Pacote pré-eleição põe em risco contas públicas

Mercado A17

Cantareira, em SP, entra em estado de alerta

O sistema Cantareira entrou em alerta com 39% da capacidade. Para ser considerado normal, o volume deveria estar em 60%. B5

FOLHA, 100

Cátedra Otavio Frias Filho escolhe como titular Muniz Sodré A11

Em 1950, Oswald de Andrade escreveu sobre Guerra da Coreia; leia A11

Lúcia Guimarães

Mídia dos EUA esquecera afegãos

A atenção da imprensa local à mais longa guerra dos EUA vinha sendo comparável à de crianças entediadas. Ai começaram a correria para achar culpados e a competição por indignação súbita. Mundo A13

EDITORIAIS A2

Se insistir, piora Sobre descaminhos do projeto de reforma do IR.

Alerta Cantareira Acerca de baixa do nível dos reservatórios de água.

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São Paulo hoje
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Wakil Kohsar/AFP

OLHOS QUE NÃO CONDENAM

Miliciano do Taleban passa diante de salão de beleza pichado em Cabul; grupo fundamentalista conversa com rivais sob anuência ocidental enquanto violência emerge no país Mundo A12

Total da população vacinada

| | ao menos uma dose* | totalmente vacinada |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Brasil | 58% | 24,8% |
| MS | 67,7% | 38,9% |
| RS | 63,9% | 30,9% |
| SP | 71,6% | 30,4% |

Totalmente vacinada



Total de doses aplicadas

| | 1ª | 2ª | única |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Brasil | 118,9 mi | 48,4 mi | 4 mi |
| 1ª SP | 32 mi | 12,9 mi | 1,1 mi |
| 2ª MG | 11,6 mi | 4,6 mi | 470,5 mil |
| 3ª RJ | 9 mi | 3,8 mi | 308,1 mil |

Números da pandemia

| | Casos | Óbitos |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Total | 20,5 mi | 571,7 mil |
| Méd. móvel | 29,9 mil | 813 |
| Variação*** | -8,7% | -11,6% |
| Em 24 h | 41,0 mil | 985 |

Estágios

☒ Acelerado
☒ Estável
☒ Desacelerado
☒ Reduzido

Brasil

Desacelerado

Dados das 20h de 18 ago
* Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose
** Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose
*** Em relação a 14 dias

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9 771414 572050 3 3 7 4 1

Negociaciones para levantar la medida de fuerza están en cuarto intermedio

Camioneros se mantienen en continuar con impopular paro

Tras finalizar la reunión técnica de la víspera afirmaron que hoy sería un día clave para llegar a un acuerdo. Mientras sigue el daño para los distintos sectores económicos.

PÁGINA 12

Los escándalos del clan
Colorados siguen con la defensa de Óscar González Daher en la Cámara de Diputados

PÁGINA 6

Se extraviaron 380 cheques, pero quedan otros 4.300 que prueban usura de RGD

PÁGINA 42

Informe de la DNCP y el MIC
Solo el 8,9% de las compras del Estado se hacen con las mipymes

PÁGINA 14



Tragamonedas: Nueva ley genera dudas
Cuestionamiento. Proyecto de ley sobre explotación de tragamonedas tiene media sanción en Senado y se tratará en Diputados. Hay críticas a la normativa.

PÁGINA 20

Se corre el riesgo de una tercera ola de contagios por Covid
Población empieza a relajarse y se descuida en el uso de los tapabocas

PÁGINA 4

Presentación alega que el Estado paraguayo no lo protegió
Gobierno se allana a demanda ante la Corte IDH por caso Leguizamón

PÁGINA 10

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de mercredi :
Craignez-vous une vague
migratoire en provenance
d'Afghanistan ?

OUI 75% NON 25%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 206 615

Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.frLa France a-t-elle eu
raison d'imposer
le passe sanitaire pour
favoriser la vaccination ?J.-C. MARMARA/LE FIGARO-
C. HARTMANN / REUTERSVaccination: comment la
France a rattrapé son retard

Après des débuts très timides, notre pays est passé à la vitesse supérieure, notamment cet été. L'objectif reste de 50 millions de Français ayant reçu au moins une dose d'ici à la fin août.

Longtemps en queue de peloton sur le front de la vaccination parmi les pays les plus riches, la France a effectué, ces dernières semaines, une « remontada » spectaculaire. Elle

devance des nations souvent citées en référence comme l'Allemagne ou l'Italie. Les propos tenus à la télévision par le président de la République, le 12 juillet, n'y sont pas pour

rien. Au 17 août, plus de 46,5 millions de personnes avaient reçu au moins une dose de vaccin, soit 69 % de la population. D'ici à la fin de l'été, les possibilités de se faire vacciner

devraient encore se multiplier, que ce soit dans les centres commerciaux ou sur les lieux de travail, tandis que les collégiens et lycéens devraient, eux aussi, être soumis à la vaccina-

tion dans leur établissement scolaire. Hors d'Europe, les États-Unis, comme d'ailleurs la France, se préparent à l'administration d'une troisième dose pour endiguer l'épidémie.

➔ MALGRÉ LES VACCINS, ISRAËL REDOUTE UN RECONFINEMENT ➔ À CAUSE DU VARIANT DELTA, L'Australie tente d'accélérer le rythme des injections
➔ LES ÉTATS-UNIS MISENT SUR UNE TROISIÈME DOSE POUR ENDIGUER L'ÉPIDÉMIE PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Ces têtes d'affiche qui font la rentrée littéraire



Après une année 2020 atypique, ce nouveau millésime a repris des couleurs, avec pas moins de 521 nouveaux romans et un retour en force des débutants. Du côté de l'étranger, on notera la présence du Nobel Mario Vargas Llosa et de Quentin Tarantino, avec un premier roman. PAGES 10 ET 11

Le dilemme
diplomatique
occidental
face au
régime
des talibans

La méfiance prévaut mais le réalisme s'impose. Pour Josep Borrell, chef de la diplomatie européenne, « les talibans ont gagné la guerre, donc nous devons parler avec eux ». Washington compte toutefois prendre son temps. Londres et Paris sont eux aussi attentistes. Au-delà des déclarations, ils attendent des actes, notamment sur les droits des femmes et la formation d'un gouvernement « inclusif ».

PAGES 6 ET 7

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thureau ythureau@lefigaro.fr

Le paradoxe français

Dans un pays volontiers pessimiste comme le nôtre, c'est une information propre à remonter le moral. La France a rattrapé son retard et devrait bientôt figurer dans le peloton de tête des nations qui comptent le plus de personnes vaccinées au monde. L'opération s'annonçait plutôt mal au début de l'année. Alors que Maurice recevait sa première injection, les critiques fusaient pour dénoncer notre incapacité à faire comme les Américains, les Israéliens ou les Allemands. Trois peuples auxquels les Français adorent se mesurer pour, généralement, mieux « s'autoflageller » dans des comparaisons rarement flatteuses pour eux...

Y aurait-il donc loin du battage médiatique à la réalité ? Serait-ce la preuve que les campagnes hostiles à la vaccination, les violentes condamnations du passe sanitaire et les appels à défendre les libertés contre la « dictature » ne seraient qu'anecdotes ? Le prisme des cortèges animés du samedi est sans doute déformant et le rapprochement des chiffres entre vaccinés et manifestants est, bien sûr, sans appel. Il convient

néanmoins de ne pas tirer de conclusions hâtives de ce paradoxe français. On en verra politiquement les effets - ou pas - dans les urnes l'année prochaine. L'intervention d'Emmanuel Macron, le 12 juillet dernier à la télévision, a été, semble-t-il, déterminante. L'incitation à la vaccination a été suivie d'effet, mais nul ne peut dire si cela vaut approbation.

Sur les
vaccins,
y aurait-il
donc loin
du battage
médiatique
à la réalité ?

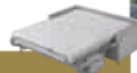
Face au coronavirus et à ses variants présents et futurs, la France est en passe de remporter une bataille, mais elle n'a pas gagné la guerre. La rentrée sera placée sous le signe du rappel de la troisième dose, de la vaccination des jeunes et de nombreuses personnes âgées ou fragiles isolées, ou encore de celle, obligatoire, des soignants à partir du 15 septembre. Des missions délicates mais essentielles à conduire si nous voulons, un jour, atteindre l'immunité collective et pouvoir, souhaitons-le, crier victoire. ■

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MPs lambast Johnson over Afghanistan 'humiliation'

Rowena Mason
Peter Walker

Boris Johnson faced a wall of fury from all wings of the Conservative party over the UK's conduct in Afghanistan, with 11 former cabinet ministers among the dozens of MPs and peers expressing anger and frustration at Britain's failures in intelligence and preparation.

During a torrid session in the Commons, the overwhelming majority of Tories who spoke condemned Britain's failure to anticipate the Taliban takeover of Kabul and its perceived humiliation on the world stage. More than 30 Tory MPs spoke against the government, while only a handful voiced support for its actions.

Some also roundly criticised the US president, Joe Biden, whose blaming of Afghanistan's security forces for the Taliban's return to power was described as "shameful".

Opposition MPs taunted Johnson and the foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, who were both on holiday last weekend when Kabul was being surrounded by Taliban gunmen.

Opening the debate after recalling

parliament, Johnson insisted that Britain could not have stayed in the country "without American might".

He said a military defence of Afghanistan by the west was not possible in the absence of Washington's support.

However, his claim about the UK's withdrawal efforts were challenged by high-profile Conservatives, including the former prime minister Theresa May, the former defence secretary Liam Fox, and the former foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt.

May delivered a scathing attack on the foreign policy and intelligence failures of Johnson and President Biden, and suggested the prime minister should have tried to form a Nato alliance to stay in without America.

"Was our intelligence really so poor? Was our understanding of the Afghan government so weak? Was our knowledge on the ground so inadequate? Or did we just think we had to follow the United States and on a wing and a prayer it would be all right on the night?" she said.

Other ex-cabinet ministers who joined in the criticism included Iain Duncan Smith, who said the "parallels with the



▲ Boris Johnson leaves Downing Street for the Commons, where he faced attacks from all sides PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE BACK

Britain fears US could pull out of Kabul airport

Dan Sabbagh
Rowena Mason
Jessica Elgot

Britain fears US forces may pull out of Kabul international airport within days, putting it at risk of closure and raising concerns over the emergency

airlift of thousands of people from Afghanistan.

Whitehall and security sources said they could not guarantee how long the US would keep its 6,000 troops on the ground and cautioned that the UK could not continue the rescue without their presence. They also indicated

Rise in train fares may be biggest since 2012

Jasper Jolly

Rail fares in England and Wales are on track to rise at their fastest rate in a decade unless ministers decide to prevent steep price increases to coax commuters back on to trains.

Annual increases in rail fares are usually governed by the July retail prices index (RPI), plus one percentage point. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said yesterday that the RPI for July was 3.8%, meaning prices could rise by 4.8% in January. That would be the steepest increase since 2012.

However, the government has not yet revealed its plans for January price rises as it considers the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on British transport and switches control of train services to a new arm's-length body, Great British Railways.

A steep fare rise could also prove politically contentious in the run-up to the UN climate summit, Cop26, which is being held in Glasgow in November. The UK has already come under fire for its implicit subsidies for polluting petrol and diesel cars with a decade-long freeze in fuel duty. Campaigners