

The drain in Spain

Intensive agriculture's thirst turns land to desert — ANALYSIS, PAGE 4

Generation R

Pandemic deepens radicalisation of the disaffected — BIG READ, PAGE 13



The truth hurts

The games craze that makes me love lying — TOM FABER, PAGE 12

Biden refuses to extend Afghan airlift as Taliban tightens grip

◆ US president defies G7 allies ◆ Airport road blocked ◆ CIA chief meets Islamist leader

JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON
AMY KAZMIN — NEW DELHI
JASMINE CAMERON-CHILLESSE — LONDON
SAM FLEMING — BRUSSELS

President Joe Biden is sticking by his plan to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan by the end of the month, defying international pressure — including from key European allies — to allow more time for evacuations.

Biden's decision caps days of uncertainty on the August 31 deadline for the final pullout of the US military. It comes despite growing concerns over security around Kabul airport and the chaotic effort to evacuate thousands of foreign nationals and Afghans.

The US president was following the Pentagon's recommendations to respect the self-imposed timeline for withdrawal, a White House official said. However, Biden asked for top officials to develop contingency plans in case the deadline needed to be extended.

Biden had been pressed by Britain, France and Germany in particular to extend the US mission, including during a virtual G7 meeting held yesterday.

Boris Johnson, the UK prime minister, who chaired the meeting, said G7 leaders had agreed a joint approach to put pressure on the Taliban to allow safe passage out of the country for Afghans even after August 31.

"The number one condition that we are setting as the G7 is that they have got to guarantee right the way through, through August 31 and beyond, safe passage for those who want to come out," he said. Johnson insisted the "immediate phase of evacuation is actually being a very considerable success by the military" but, along with French president Emmanuel Macron and German chancellor Angela Merkel, he wanted more time to get people out of Kabul.

Charles Michel, the European Council president, said a number of G7 leaders expressed concern over the deadline during the meeting.

The G7 meeting was held as the Taliban



US troops help the evacuation of US citizens and at-risk Afghans from Kabul airport
AP/WIDE WORLD

ban blocked the road to Kabul airport for Afghans, a move that threatens to leave stranded those vulnerable to reprisals from the Islamist movement.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said the group would allow foreigners to leave but ordered Afghans

not to go to the airport, urging them to return to their jobs and homes.

He reiterated that all foreign evacuations had to be completed by August 31. "We don't allow it any more and call on them to evacuate by that date," he said. "They [western states] have the possibilities, they have the planes, the airfield is with them and they can evacuate people by that date."

The Islamists' move came after CIA director William Burns had this week met Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar — the highest level person-to-person meeting since the Islamist group returned to power — according to a person familiar with the encounter.

The CIA declined to comment.

Washington has come under mounting criticism over the manner of its withdrawal. The Taliban seized power 10 days ago after a blitz across Afghanistan after the drawdown of US troops.

The fear for many Afghans is that the Taliban will persecute those who worked for western militaries.

Mujahid rejected suggestions that the Taliban was searching for individuals associated with the old regime, saying it had announced a general amnesty.

Additional reporting by Aime Williams and Katrina Manson

Beatings betray break page 2
Ajmal Ahmad page 15



Edward Luce
Page 15

What does Biden mean by 'America is back'? The pullout fulfilled one pledge, to get out of 'forever wars', and broke another, to revive the primacy of US alliances

OnlyFans founder says 'unfair' banks gave him no choice but to ban porn

PATRICIA NILSSON — LONDON

OnlyFans' founder Tim Stokely has blamed "unfair" treatment by banks for forcing him to ban pornography on the platform, a decision that has caused an outcry from the site's users and sowed doubt over its future.

"The change in policy, we had no choice — the short answer is banks," Stokely, who is the company's chief executive, told the Financial Times.

Since it banned explicit content last week, the UK company has faced criticism for abandoning the adult performers who helped attract its roughly 150m users. Scorpions question whether it can prosper under new rules that ban sex acts though permit nudity.

Stokely said the change was in response to obstructive behaviour from banks, which would "cite reputational

risk and refuse our business", adding:

"We pay over 1m creators over \$500m every month, and making sure that these funds get to creators involves using the banking sector." He singled out Bank of New York Mellon as having "flagged and rejected" every transfer connected to the company, "making it difficult to pay our creators".

BNY Mellon's role was as an intermediary, helping with payments between OnlyFans' bank and its creators.

Stokely said UK-based Metro Bank had in 2019 abruptly closed OnlyFans' account, and highlighted how many sex workers, including OnlyFans creators, struggled to access financial services.

"JPMorgan Chase is particularly aggressive in closing accounts of sex workers or... any business that supports sex workers," he said.

BNY Mellon, Metro Bank and JPMor-

gan declined to comment. OnlyFans did not name its current banking partners.

Unsure over the porn industry has been fuelled by media investigations into child pornography and other non-consensual footage. OnlyFans has not been immune to scrutiny, despite operating a model where both viewers and creators are verified and content stays behind a paywall. Stokely claimed OnlyFans had been unfairly targeted by reports into "illegal content" that failed to mention how all social media platforms grapple with similar issues.

OnlyFans would "absolutely" welcome porn back were the banking environment to change, he added. "This decision was made to safeguard their funds and subscriptions from increasingly unfair actions by banks and media companies. We obviously do not want to lose our most loyal creators."

World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES	
	Aug 24	prev	%chg		Aug 24	prev			
S&P 500	4488.01	4479.53	0.19	\$ per £	1.176	1.174	£ per \$	0.728	0.729
Nasdaq Composite	15006.94	14942.95	0.43	€ per €	1.373	1.372	€ per €	1.166	1.166
Dow Jones Ind	35380.23	35356.71	0.13	¥ per ¥	0.857	0.856	¥ per ¥	129.007	128.942
FTSEfirst 300	1019.44	1019.47	0.03	₩ per ₩	109.695	109.745	₩ per ₩	81.405	81.649
Euro Stoxx 50	4177.73	4176.42	0.03	₹ per ₹	150.612	150.598	₹ per ₹	1.252	1.253
FTSE 100	7125.79	7109.62	0.24	Sfr per Sfr	1.072	1.072			
FTSE All-Share	4104.94	4092.12	0.31	₪ per ₪	0.850	0.852			
CAC 40	6664.31	6663.10	0.28	COMMODITIES					
Xetra Dax	15685.05	15682.79	0.33		Aug 24	prev	%chg		
Nikkei	27792.10	27494.24	0.87	Oil WTI \$	81.42	80.64	2.21	Oil Brent \$	79.01
Hong Kong	25727.92	25109.59	2.46	Gold \$	1882.00	1779.05	1.29		
MSCI World \$	3112.57	3090.82	1.36						
MSCI EM \$	1227.53	1220.76	1.37						
MSCI ACWI \$	730.48	722.56	1.09						



Pushy parents and local officials hinder Xi's hopes

President Xi Jinping's bid for common prosperity by reining in house prices and cracking down on private tutors is not going well in one central China backwater. Officials in Hengshui allow property developers to fund schools. The high academic reputations of the schools have fuelled a house price boom. "I have no problem buying an overpriced home if it helps my child get into a good school," says a parent.

Distorted prices — PAGE 3
Robin Harding — PAGE 15

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Afghan refugees in Chantilly, Va., on Tuesday. The Pentagon said it had airlifted 21,600 people out of the country over 24 hours.

In Kabul Streets, Eerie Quiet and a Struggle to Make Ends Meet

By NORIMITSU ONISHI
and SHARIF HASSAN

The Americans are all but gone, and the Taliban rule the streets of Kabul now. Overnight, millions of Kabul residents have been left to navigate an uncertain transition after 20 years of U.S.-backed rule.

On Tuesday, nine days after the Taliban walked back into power, government services were still largely unavailable. Residents are struggling to lead their daily lives in an economy that, propped up for the past generation by Ameri-

can aid, is now suddenly in free fall.

Banks are closed, and cash is growing scarce even as food prices rise. Gas is becoming harder to find.

With American forces clinging to the international airport to conduct a rushed evacuation, the Taliban continued to tighten their grip in the capital's neighborhoods and streets. While relative calm reigned over the capital, in sharp contrast to the free-for-all at the airport, many residents hid in their homes or ventured out only cautiously to see what life might be like under their new rulers.

Reports varied according to

Moods Veer From Fear to Hope in a Capital on the Edge

neighborhoods and people, providing an evolving and sometimes contradictory snapshot of life in a city governed, once again, by the Taliban — a movement now promising moderation and inclusiveness but with a history of adherence to a harsh and uncompromising Islamist order of society.

Even residents who said they

feared the Taliban were struck by the relative order and quiet on the streets — a sharp contrast with years of rising crime and violence that had become a daily facet of life in the capital.

But for some, the quiet has been ominous.

A resident named Mohib said that, in his section of the city, streets were deserted, with people hunkering down in their homes "scared and terrorized."

"People feel the Taliban may come any moment to take away everything from them," said Mohib, who, like the dozen residents interviewed for this article, is be-

Continued on Page A7

Graft Hinders Migrant Effort in Guatemala

By NATALIE KITROEFF

The testimony was explosive: In June, a witness told Guatemala's top anticorruption prosecutor that he had gone to the president's home and delivered a rolled-up carpet stuffed with cash.

It brought the prosecutor, Juan Francisco Sandoval, one step closer to a head-on collision with Guatemala's president.

Mr. Sandoval's anticorruption unit had already searched a home linked to the president's former secretary, looking for information about \$16 million his team had found jammed into suitcases. And in May, a witness told him that the president had negotiated a \$2.6 million campaign contribution in exchange for maintaining government contracts, documents show.

The president attacked Mr. Sandoval publicly. Top American officials, including Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, expressed alarm over efforts to undermine the anticorruption unit — but the pressure didn't work.

In July, Mr. Sandoval was abruptly fired and, fearing the investigation would be snuffed out, fled the country with the evidence he had gathered.

"The Guatemalan justice system has been overtaken by the mafias in power," Mr. Sandoval said in an interview from the United States. "I was the last visible holdout in the fight against corruption."

This is the stark reality facing the Biden administration as it grapples with the migration crisis on its southern border. Most of the

Continued on Page A10



Kathleen Hochul, left, with her husband at a ceremonial swearing-in by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore.

Hochul Breaks a Barrier and Pledges a New Era

By LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ

ALBANY, N.Y. — Kathleen C. Hochul became the first woman to ascend to New York's highest office on Tuesday, vowing to usher in an era of civility and consensus in government after the decade-long reign of her disgraced predecessor, Andrew M. Cuomo.

In her first address as the state's 57th governor, Ms. Hochul spoke broadly of confronting New York's most pressing needs. She portrayed herself as an executive leader who has been grounded by her upbringing in Buffalo, and in-

Pandemic a Priority for First Woman to Run New York State

fluenced by her interactions with New Yorkers affected by a weak economy, the opioid crisis and the coronavirus pandemic.

"I've been in the trenches with local health leaders and officials battling the pandemic day after day," Ms. Hochul, a former congresswoman, said in an

11-minute speech. "Your priorities are my priorities, and right now, that means fighting the Delta variant."

The new governor was sworn in at the State Capitol at 10 a.m., a ceremonial event that followed an official swearing-in at a private ceremony just after midnight. Her ascension capped a whirlwind chain of events that followed a series of sexual harassment allegations that culminated with Mr. Cuomo's resignation.

Ms. Hochul said that her immediate goal was to ensure a safe

Continued on Page A16

REBUFFING ALLIES, BIDEN IS STICKING TO EXIT DEADLINE

Resistance to Taliban Gets a New Face

By CARLOTTA GALL
and ADAM NOSSITER

The first signs of armed resistance to the Taliban have come from a narrow valley with a history of repelling invaders.

Just days after the Taliban swept into the capital and toppled the government in a lightning offensive, a group of former mujahideen fighters and Afghan commanders said they had regrouped and begun a war of resistance in the last area in Afghanistan not under Taliban control.

The man leading them is Ahmad Massoud, the 32-year-old son of the storied mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, stepping into his father's footsteps 20 years after his death to pick up his dogged fight against the Taliban.

But their struggle faces long odds. Strategic as their redoubt is, the resistance fighters are cut off and surrounded by the Taliban, have supplies that will soon start dwindling, and have no visible outside support.

For now the resistance has merely two assets: the Panjshir Valley, 70 miles north of Kabul, which has a history of repelling invaders, and the legendary Massoud name.

Spokesmen for Ahmad Massoud insist he has already attracted thousands of soldiers to the valley, including remnants of the Afghan Army's special forces and some of his father's experienced guerrilla commanders, as well as activists and others who reject the Taliban's Islamic Emirate.

The spokesmen, some of whom were with him in the Panjshir Valley and some who were outside the country drumming up support, said that Mr. Massoud has stocks of weapons and matériel, including American helicopters, but needs more.

"We're waiting for some opportunity, some support," said Hamid Safi, a former colonel in the Afghan National Army, and now a commander in Mr. Massoud's resistance, who was reached in the Panjshir Valley by telephone on Sunday. "After some countries will be ready for this great work. So far, all countries we talked to

Continued on Page A6

Says 70,000 Ferried Out of Afghanistan

By MARK LANDLER
and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

President Biden said Tuesday that the United States intended to withdraw completely from Afghanistan at the end of the month as planned, rebuffing pleas from Britain, France and other NATO allies to keep troops in Kabul and hastening the end of a frantic evacuation that has become a grim coda to two decades of war.

Even as Mr. Biden spoke from the White House, officials said the United States had already begun to reduce its military presence at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, sending about 300 of the 5,800 Marines and soldiers home in anticipation of the conclusion of their rescue mission within a week.

"The sooner we can finish, the better," the president said, hours after informing world leaders of his intentions during an emergency virtual meeting. Citing the threat from an Islamic State affiliate known as ISIS-K and operations in Afghanistan, he said that "every day we're on the ground is another day we know that ISIS-K is seeking to target the airport, attack both U.S. and allied forces and innocent civilians."

But Mr. Biden did not close the door to extending what has become an immense evacuation effort. He said that he had asked the Pentagon and the State Department for contingency plans in case it became necessary to stay longer.

"I'm determined to ensure that we complete our mission," he said.

The president said that more than 70,000 people had been ferried out of the country since Aug. 14, the day before the Taliban swept into power in Kabul; on Tuesday, the Pentagon reported its biggest number of daily evacuations from the Kabul airport so far, saying it had airlifted 21,600 people out of the country over 24 hours.

The fast-approaching American withdrawal coincided with a threat by the Taliban to stop Afghans from traveling to the airport, which crowds have mobbed for days, under pitiless rule and at risk of brutal attacks by militants. It was an ominous sign that for the

Continued on Page A8

WHO NEEDS TO GET OUT? The Biden administration offers a stream of updates but won't estimate the one number that matters most. PAGE A5
EXIT EFFORT The United States is focusing on the historical airlift narrative as a way to shift attention from the chaos. PAGE A7

A Fixture of Right-Wing Radio Could Soon Govern California

By SHAWN HUBLER

SACRAMENTO — For a generation, Larry Elder has been an AM radio fixture for millions of Californians, the voice they could count on when they were fed up with liberal Democratic politics. Undocumented immigrants? Deport them. Affirmative action? End it. Equal pay? The glass ceiling does not exist.

Now Mr. Elder, a Los Angeles Republican who bills himself as "the sage from South Central," could end up as the next governor of the nation's most populous state. As the campaign to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom has become a dead heat among likely voters, Mr. Elder has emerged almost overnight as the front-runner in the campaign to replace him.

Fueled by a combination of ar-

cane racial rules, name recognition and partisan desperation, his rise to the top of a pack of some four dozen challengers has stunned and unnerved many in both parties.

Democrats call him the agent of a far-right power grab. Republican rivals say he is an inexperienced, debate-dodging opportunist. Orrin Hatfield, the retired sheriff's sergeant who is the recall's lead proponent, said he and his fellow activists were voting for someone else.

This month, The Sacramento Bee and two Republican candidates — Kevin Faulconer, a former San Diego mayor, and Caitlyn Jenner, a television personality and former Olympian — de-

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A Sheriff's Unwelcome Duty
Oscar E. Carrillo is haunted by what he finds in the Texas desert as the number of migrant deaths has soared. PAGE A11

Budget Blueprint Squeaks By
By one vote, the House passed a \$3.5 trillion plan to expand the safety net, after haggling by Democrats. PAGE A12

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

In Italy, a 1944 Flashback

The daughter of a World War II veteran tracked down three children her father was photographed with 77 years ago, after almost firing on them. PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-5

Wedding Business Is Booming
After a year of postponements, couples are racing to the aisle, giving a much-needed lift to an industry. PAGE B1

Goldman Sachs Requires Shots
The mandate follows the F.D.A.'s first full approval of a vaccine, a step many companies had been awaiting. PAGE B1



OBITUARIES A20-21

Heartbeat of the Rolling Stones
Charlie Watts, a dignified and dapper drummer alongside flamboyant bandmates, powered the group's sound for over 50 years. He was 80. PAGE A20

OPINION A22-23

Tom Coughlin

PAGE A23

ARTS C1-6

Deal Reached at Met Opera

A labor agreement with the orchestra means that the company is on track to reopen next month after Covid-19 kept it closed for more than a year. PAGE C1

The Song She Loved First

As a child, our writer adored Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire." The singer wasn't so wild about it, though. PAGE C1

FOOD D1-8

Giving Scallops a Lift

Large-scale aquafarms can cause ecological havoc, but there are some small-scale, sustainable exceptions. PAGE D1



SPORTS B6-8

Hoping the Games Soar
With the upbeat theme "We Have Wings," the Paralympics began in Tokyo with no spectators in the stadium and sparse crowds outside it. PAGE B8



0 354 613 9



LESLEY PLANCARTE of USC uses an iPad on Monday, the first day of in-person classes, to check QR codes on the phones of students, faculty and visitors. The codes are required in order to access the campus.

Campus life is back, but with less togetherness

State universities are test cases for virus protocols

By **TERESA WATANABE**
and **COLLEEN SHALBY**

Tens of thousands of students are converging in concentrated locations from all over the state, nation and even the world. They are moving into tight dorm rooms and setting up apartments with new roommates. They're sitting in classrooms, eating cafeteria-style, socializing and studying in the library.

Many California college campuses appear to be havens from the coronavirus, with strict safety practices that include mandatory vaccinations for students and staff, weekly testing and required masking for all indoor and some outdoor activities. Positive cases will prompt quarantines and contact tracing.

But amid the surge of the highly contagious Delta variant, it's unclear

whether "almost back to normal" will last this fall, as students redefine the centerpiece of college life: togetherness.

"It's a pain to get tested every week and wear a mask, but we need to do these things to mitigate the spread," said Dr. Sarah Van Orman, chief health officer for USC Student Health. "The tension we're feeling is how much do we get back to normal and how much do we pull back?"

Three of Los Angeles County's largest universities began in-person classes Monday: USC, Cal State Los Angeles and Cal State Long Beach. UCLA starts Sept. 23. Officials hope the strict safety protocols will be a strong enough shield against the campus outbreaks that three universities into crisis mode a year ago — even with sparsely populated dorms and online classes.

Delta thins classrooms

LAUSD says 6,500 students missed school the first week due to COVID cases. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

These early weeks will be a test case for the new rules — some of the strictest in the country. USC was one of the first California universities to require vaccinations even before full federal approval, announcing the decision in June; the University of California and California State University followed suit in July.

At USC, the rules were visible Monday morning, as students, faculty and staff lined up at campus entry gates to flash a QR code on their cellphones showing that they had been vaccinated, tested negative for COVID-19. [See Universities, A12]

Biden insists U.S. 'on pace' for pullout

Lawmakers, foreign allies push for more time in Afghanistan. The president asks for contingency plans.

By **ELI STOKOLS**
and **TRACY WILKINSON**

WASHINGTON — President Biden appeared unwilling Tuesday to bend to pressure, including from European allies, to extend a massive Afghanistan evacuation effort, planning — for now — to stick to his deadline for troop withdrawal.

"We are currently on a pace to finish by Aug. 31. The sooner we can finish, the better," Biden said from the White House, noting the accelerating evacuations that had airlifted 21,600 people out of Kabul in 24 hours. But he left himself room to adjust, stating that completion by the deadline "depends on

the Taliban continuing to cooperate and allowing access to the airport."

On a chaotic day at the White House, Biden's scheduled remarks on Afghanistan were delayed for five hours as aides huddled to assess the fast-moving situation.

When he finally spoke, Biden said he has asked the Pentagon and State Department to develop contingency plans "to adjust the timetable should that be necessary." The president said, however, that he was mindful of "increasing risks" to troops the longer the U.S. keeps forces on the ground, mentioning the terrorist group "ISIS-K," or Islamic State in Khorasan. Khorasan is the historical name for a region encompassing parts of modern-day Afghanistan.

Leaders of the Taliban, the Islamist militant group that has seized most of the country including the capital [See Afghanistan, A4]



FAMILIES board a U.S. C-17 at the Kabul airport, where the backdrop is heart-wrenching. **WORLD, A3**

Trump's 'Remain in Mexico' stands

Supreme Court rejects Biden lawyers' appeal to reverse migrant asylum policy.

By **DAVID G. SAVAGE**

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative majority on Tuesday upheld a Texas judge's order that would require the Biden administration to follow President Trump's so-called Remain in Mexico policy.

That program sought to deter Central American migrants from seeking asylum in the United States by requiring them to stay in Mexico until their cases were heard in the U.S.

The justices by a 6-3 vote rejected an appeal from Biden's lawyers who said the Texas ruling conflicted with the principle that the executive branch has leeway on

how best to enforce the immigration laws.

The case was seen as an early test of whether the court's conservatives — including three appointed by Trump — would allow a lower court judge to challenge the president's authority on a matter that the Supreme Court has historically given the executive branch wide latitude to control.

In a brief order, the justices said the Biden administration "failed to show a likelihood of success on the claim that the memorandum rescinding the Migrant Protection Protocols [Remain in Mexico] was not arbitrary and capricious."

The order cited last year's 5-4 decision that blocked Trump from repealing the Obama-era immigration program that shielded immigrants who were brought to this country [See Court, A9]

CALIFORNIA RECALL ELECTION

To many, question No. 2 is a puzzler

With no prominent Democrat on the list of replacements, some voters struggle.

By **JULIA WICK**

Lauren Wilmore, 23, an actress, dance teacher and master's student, has largely built her TikTok following with content referencing the "Avatar: The Last Airbender" franchise.

But sometimes inspiration strikes when it's least expected, such as when she opened the official voter information guide for California's gubernatorial recall election.

Wilmore had intended to pick a "backup candidate" to go along with her "no" vote on the effort to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom. But with no prominent Democrats to choose from, the task proved harder than expected — and far more chaotic.

In a 66-second TikTok video that taps into the confused id of many a California Democrat, Wilmore goes through the 32-page guide. [See Question, A12]



A HOME in Grizzly Flats that was destroyed by the Caldor fire, which grew exponentially. The fire spread so quickly at times that officials couldn't map it.

A summer of fire terror

Longtime residents describe living under siege

By **ALEX WIGGLESWORTH**

POLLOCK PINES, Calif. — Gordon "Oly" Olson sat on his porch, unfazed, as a light rain of ash fell over his weathered recliner.

At age 82, the Pollock Pines resident is no stranger to wildfire. Seven years ago, he beat flames back from his property, staying up for two days straight and drinking water that had been left out for his pets. Before that, in 1978, the wildfire won a round, burning his forehead and arm and torching the bulldozer he'd been using to fight it.

Pentagon extends satellite access

The Fire Guard program allows crews to use data from military surveillance. **NATION, A7**

Caldor pollution breaks records

The blaze pushes closer to South Lake Tahoe and resort communities. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

"Fires are about like the weather," Olson said, in between spitting plugs of Grizzly fine cut chew and batting at his arm with a plastic fly

swatter. "You get what's given to you."

But as the Caldor fire bore down on this winding forested community some 50 miles east of Sacramento, Olson admitted that something seemed different this time around.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it," he said as he eyed the ominous yellow skies.

Still, he had no plans to evacuate, even after a sheriff's deputy came by and told him he'd been ordered to do so.

"I'm at the dropping off point," Olson said. "I don't" [See Terror, A7]

'Secret essence' of the Rolling Stones' sound

Charlie Watts, the quiet and dapper drummer who gave the World's Greatest Rock & Roll Band its swing, has died. **CALIFORNIA, B5**

APPRECIATION: He "made the music jump in a sexy, slightly dangerous way," Mikael Wood writes. **CALENDAR, E1**

Social spending bill advances

The House approves a resolution clearing the way for a \$5.5-trillion package. **NATION, A6**

Weather Sunshine

L.A. Basin: 89/69. **B5**



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Hot, humid 95/76 • Tomorrow: Hot, humid 95/76 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021 • B2

Trump's asylum policy is upheld

Justices rule against Biden, order resumption of 'Remain in Mexico'

BY ROBERT BARNES

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Biden administration must comply with a lower court's ruling to reinstate President Donald Trump's policy that required many asylum seekers to wait outside the United States for their cases to be decided.

The administration had asked the court to put on hold a federal judge's order that the "Remain in Mexico" policy known as Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) had to be immediately reimplemented. U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ruled earlier this month that the Biden administration did not provide an adequate reason for getting rid of the policy and that its procedures regarding asylum seekers who enter the country were unlawful.

Over the objections of the three liberal justices, the court's conservative majority agreed that the administration had not done enough to justify changing the policy.

SEE COURT ON A3

House approves \$3.5 trillion budget plan

Democrats come together on deal, teeing up Sept. vote on infrastructure bill

BY TONY ROMM

House Democrats on Tuesday approved a roughly \$3.5 trillion budget that could enable sweeping changes to the nation's health care, education and tax laws, overcoming their own internal divisions to take the next step toward enacting President Biden's broader economic agenda.

The 220-to-212 party-line vote came after days of delays as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) scrambled to stave off a revolt from her party's moderate-leaning lawmakers. With the frenzy resolved, the chamber averted what would have been a political embarrassment for the White House and its allies — even as the debacle foreshadowed much tougher fights among Democrats still on the horizon.

The outcome immediately set in motion a laborious effort on Capitol Hill to transform the \$3.5 trillion blueprint into a fuller legislative product. Much like the proposal the Senate adopted this month, the House budget is essentially an outline that does not

SEE BUDGET ON A14

Biden reaffirms Aug. 31 exit from Afghanistan



An Afghan evacuee waits for diapers at a hangar at the U.S. air base at Ramstein, Germany, on Tuesday. In Kabul, the pace of evacuations gained speed, with more than 21,000 people flown out on Monday alone, Army Maj. Gen. Hank Taylor told reporters at the Pentagon.

He took his family on a final trip to Kabul. Now he can't get them out.

BY WILLIAM WAN

PHILADELPHIA — The video arrived with a ding on Mohammad Sadeed's phone as he sat waiting in his small home on the edge of this city.

His wife and five children had sent it from the outskirts of Kabul's airport, where they'd been standing for hours amid a teeming mass of Afghans struggling to enter the airport gates.

Among the tens of thousands trying to flee Afghanistan, Mohammad's wife and children had a precious advantage: U.S. green cards in their passports.

But as he pressed play Thursday morning, Mohammad heard the rapid crack of gunshots from Taliban fighters. Some in the crowd yelled and scrambled for safety. Parents pulled their children to the ground for cover. Mohammad, 40, frantically

called his family. No one picked up. It was already late in the afternoon in Afghanistan, and he knew reception at the airport was bad. Finally, he reached his older brother, who was with his wife and children.

It was hard to hear over the crowd, and the connection didn't last long.

He urged his brother to take his family back to the basement where they had been hiding.

"The situation is out of control," Mohammad said. "I don't want them forced into a decision that could be the difference between life and death."

He never expected to face a crisis like this after all seven of them had moved to the United States in 2019. It had been Mohammad's reward for working five years for the U.S. Embassy.

Then, in July, they flew back to

SEE FAMILIES ON A10

CONTINGENCY PLANS ALSO ORDERED

Anger among U.S. allies, confusion among Afghans

BY SEAN SULLIVAN, ANNE GEARAN, DAN LAMOTHE AND JOHN HUDSON

President Biden on Tuesday reaffirmed his intent to complete the U.S. evacuation mission in Afghanistan by Aug. 31, but he also ordered contingency plans if that cannot be accomplished — a position that stoked a new round of outrage and confusion about the United States' exit from a two-decade war.

The result was looming uncertainty over whether the United States would finalize its exit within a week, as Biden wants, as well as intensifying anger from would-be Afghan refugees. U.S. allies worried about getting their own personnel out of the country, and veterans concerned about the fate of those who helped the war effort.

Speaking at the White House after meeting virtually with leaders of the Group of Seven large industrialized democracies, Biden said that the United States was on pace to wrap up its efforts in Afghanistan by Aug. 31 and that any extension risked terrorist attacks.

"The sooner we can finish, the better," Biden said. "Each day of operations brings added risk to our troops."

But the president also said that meeting that deadline would require avoiding unforeseen disruptions and that it "depends upon the Taliban continuing to cooperate and allow access to the airport for those who we're transporting out." He said that he asked the Pentagon and the State Department to draft contingency plans and that the U.S. government have to shift its timeline.

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A8

Evacuees: Thousands wait with hope and worry at a U.S. base. A6

Two lawmakers visit Kabul: The unauthorized trip irks officials. A7



Rolling Stones drummer dies at 80

Charlie Watts, seen behind the drums at a 1978 performance in Oakland, Calif., died at a London hospital on Tuesday. Watts served as the rhythmic backbone and grounded center of the legendary rock group for decades, beginning in 1963. **Obituary, B6. Appreciation, C1**

The Miss. clinic at the center of the fight to end abortion

A high court case could curb access for millions of largely poor women

BY EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX AND ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

JACKSON, MISS. — The battle plays out in dueling soundtracks.

On one part of the sidewalk, longtime antiabortion demonstrator Coleman Boyd belts out a steady stream of Christian music, with lyrics about Jesus's love for the unborn. "Your precious baby is going to be murdered in this place," Boyd, a physician, preaches between songs.

Nearby, supporters of the Jackson Women's Health Organization, the last abortion clinic in Mississippi, turn up their own playlist of "Jagged Little Pill," by

Alanis Morissette, and other female empowerment anthems.

The struggle on the sidewalk will soon play out at the Supreme Court, where the Jackson clinic — known as the "Pink House" for its bubble-gum color — is at the center of the most consequential women's reproductive rights case in decades.

Later this year, the court will hear arguments about a Mississippi law that if adopted to take effect would ban nearly all abortions after 15 weeks. If the court's conservative majority permits the law to stand, it could deal a major blow to abortion rights.

Such a ruling could give states greater latitude to limit how and when abortions are performed. And if the court goes further and accedes to Mississippi's request to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the decision giving women a constitutional right to an abortion,

SEE MISSISSIPPI ON A16

IN THE NEWS



PATRICK J. FALLON/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

No 'green recovery' CO2 emissions from the global electricity sector have rebounded to above pre-pandemic levels, a study found. A3

The Critique Tiffany & Co. enlists Beyoncé and Jay-Z in a campaign that slathers culture on top of capitalism, Robin Givhan writes. A2

THE NATION Republican lawmakers in Pennsylvania are planning hearings this week in their continued investigation of the state's 2020 presidential election results. A2

The unvaccinated are 29 times as likely to be hospitalized with covid-19 as the fully vaccinated, data from California showed. A4

Covid's latest wave has deluged the nation's safety-net hospitals, places that provide care to people regardless of their ability to pay. A4

President Biden received a classified report

from the nation's intelligence community that was inconclusive about the origin of the novel coronavirus. A5

A University of Kansas professor accused of not disclosing ties to the Chinese government alleged the FBI misled a federal judge in the case. A18

THE WORLD Iran's prison authority leader apologized after footage showed guards attacking inmates at notorious Evin Prison. A9

Australia was divided as the country plotted a path to live with the coronavirus instead of

squashing it. A11

North Korea, yet to begin a coronavirus inoculation drive, has been offered the Sinovac vaccine after it said no to AstraZeneca's. A12

THE ECONOMY Federal aviation regulators said they will open a new Boeing safety review after employees warned about conflicts of interest. A13

A growing number of companies, including CVS and Disney, are adding or expanding vaccination mandates after full FDA approval of the Pfizer shot. A13

After short-lived "Jeopardy!" host Mike Richards resigned, the

saga offered a lesson in hiring biases, Michelle Singletary writes. A17

THE REGION Inaccurate ethics reports about the school board in Prince George's County have created infighting among Democratic lawmakers. B1

Climate activists in D.C. this week protesting a pipeline project fear time is running out for President Biden and Democrats to take serious climate action. B1

Two Virginia state senators say Gov. Ralph Northam's mask mandate in schools was based on a misrepresentation of a law they sponsored. B1

INSIDE



FOOD Biodiversity is the answer to the threat facing the ubiquitous Cavendish variety. It's time to embrace other flavors, textures and colors.

STYLE A must-read debut "The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois" will alter your understanding of America. C1

BUSINESS NEWS...A12
COMICS...C6
OPINION PAGES...A9
LOTTERIES...B3
OBITUARIES...B1
TELEVISION...C4
WORLD NEWS...A6

CONTENT © 2021
The Washington Post / Year 144, No. 253



1941-2021
Charlie WattsEl dueño
del pulso que
consagró a
los StonesDesde sus inicios, en 1962, la
superbanda británica se apoyó en
el talentoso baterista. Espectáculos**EL MÉTODO BORGES,
CLAVES Y SECRETOS
DEL GRAN ESCRITOR**

—cultura

Daniel Balderston, especialista en sus
manuscritos, elogia sus procedimientos
de trabajo; "era un lector con una
curiosidad inmensa", dice. Página 24**LA UBA ESTÁ ENTRE LAS 10
MEJORES UNIVERSIDADES
DE LA REGIÓN**

—sociedad

Ocupa el 8º puesto en el ranking QS, entre 416
casas de altos estudios de América Latina; su
baja productividad en investigación le impide
seguir escalando. Página 25

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 25 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Tres días antes de las PASO volverá el público al fútbol

COVID. Será el 9 de septiembre en el Monumental, en el partido Argentina-Bolivia por las eliminatorias de Qatar 2022; tendrá un aforo del 30%; después seguirían con el torneo localEl Gobierno anunció ayer un primer
paso para el regreso del público a
los estadios de fútbol, después de
18 meses con las tribunas vacías. Se
dará el 9 de septiembre en la cancha
de River, tres días antes de las elec-
ciones primarias, previstas para el
domingo 12.

El partido para el cual se habilitará

el acceso al público será el que dis-
putarán Argentina y Bolivia por las
eliminatorias del Mundial de Qatar
2022. Se permitirá un aforo del 30% de
la capacidad del Monumental (unos
23.000 espectadores).El anuncio lo hicieron ayer la mi-
nistra de Salud, Carla Vizzotti, y su par
de Turismo y Deporte, Matías Lam-mens, quienes afirmaron que "es un
evento que amerita la excepcionalidad".
Destacaron que se tomará como
una prueba piloto para avanzar con la
misma medida en el torneo local. "La
idea es que a fines de septiembre ten-
gamos público en todos los estadios",
dijo Lammens. Será con distanciamien-
to y aforo limitado. Deportes**DELTA**En siete días se registraron
72 contagios con la variante
delta de Covid-19; diez per-
sonas la adquirieron en for-
ma comunitaria. Página 20

D'Elía desafió a la Justicia y se cortó la tobillera

—política

El dirigente kirchnerista
celebró su libertad con
un acto en La Matanza,
tras cumplir una condena
por tomar una comisaría.
Hubo fuertes críticas a la
Justicia y D'Elía se cortó
en público la tobillera,
pese a que lo debía hacer
el Servicio Penitenciario.

Página 9



Extenderán el cepo a la exportación de carne

PRECIOS. El Gobierno exten-
derá el cepo a la exportación de
carne, que dispuso por un decreto
que vence el próximo martes 31.
El objetivo de fijar un cupo de 50%
en las ventas al exterior es frenar
la suba de los precios. Página 15

Proponen la reelección de Fernández

GOBIERNO. Un ministro lo
dijo en medio de la crisis
por el Olivosgate. Página 10

Juntos producimos mejor

Descubrí la nueva Tarjeta de Santander Agronegocios
y accedé a los mejores convenios para la compra de insumos,
hacienda y repuestos de maquinaria agrícola.Conocé más en santander.com.ar/agro

CARTERA COMERCIAL. OTORGAMIENTO SUJETO A CALIFICACIÓN CREDITICIA. LOS ACCIONISTAS DE BANCO SANTANDER (BIO) S.A. NO RESPONDEN EN DECESO DE SU INTEGRACIÓN ACCIONARIA.

Cenário é de Bolsa instável com política, tributo e Covid

O impasse no cenário político e fiscal do Brasil tem gerado maior volatilidade para o Ibovespa, principal índice acionário do país.

Investidor pessoa física retirou R\$ 1,2 bilhão da Bolsa só na semana passada, quando o Ibovespa acumulou queda de 2,59%. O quadro, somado a juros mais altos, medo com variante delta e noticiário internacional, traz oscilações na Bolsa nacional, dizem analistas. Mercado A17

Antonio Delfim Netto Fim de feira na reforma tributária

Em um dos temas que mais têm poder de afetar a organização do sistema econômico, o Executivo deixa transparecer a posição de passageiro e falha, até agora, em conduzir e traçar limite ao que é possível e aceitável em termos de economia. Opinião A2

Incêndios no Pantanal não igualam recorde

Reportagem reproduziu dado errado de sistema de monitoramento de áreas queimadas no bioma. B5

Biden acelera saída de Cabul após ameaça do Talibã

Pressionado, o presidente dos Estados Unidos decidiu manter até 31 de agosto a presença de forças americanas no Afeganistão. Países do G7, grupo das democracias mais ricas, concordam em negociar com os talibãs, que tomaram Cabul no dia 15. Mundo A14

'Bolsonaro da África' é recebido no Planalto

Presidente da Guiné-Bissau participou de cerimônia e foi chamado de irmão por Jair Bolsonaro. A15

Total da população vacinada

	ao menos uma dose*	totalmente vacinada**
Brasil	61,1%	26,8%
MS	71,9%	41,3%
SP	74,4%	33,7%
RS	66,6%	32,9%

Totalmente vacinada



Total de doses aplicadas	1ª	2ª	única
Brasil	125,3 mi	52,7 mi	4,3 mi
1ª SP	33,3 mi	14,5 mi	1,1 mi
2ª RJ	12,4 mi	5 mi	474,8 mil
3ª MG	9,7 mi	4,2 mi	319,9 mil

Dados das 20h de 24 ago.
* Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose
** Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose
*** Em relação a 14 dias



Charlie Watts se apresenta em Hamburgo, Alemanha, na turnê "Stones - No Filter" Carsten Rehder-9.set.17/DPA/AFP

Ilustrada C1

So long, Charlie

Charles Robert Watts, o baterista elegante que usou jazz e blues para imprimir em gerações o ritmo das 373 canções dos Rolling Stones, morreu ontem, em Londres, aos 80.

Bolsonaro é instruído a ignorar reunião com governadores

Círculo do presidente avalia que encontro, em meio a acirramento de tensões, daria holofotes a adversários

AMEAÇA AUTORITÁRIA

Assessores do presidente Jair Bolsonaro o aconselham a recusar o pedido dos governadores estaduais por um encontro na próxima semana e a abertura de diálogo.

Embora defendam a moderação do chefe do Executivo, esses ministros avaliam que a reunião colocaria demasiada evidência em possíveis rivais do titular na campanha presidencial — casos de João Doria (PSDB-SP) e Eduardo Leite (PSDB-RS).

Uma conversa entre Doria e Bolsonaro, que frequentemente se atacam, é considerada contraproducente.

A relação entre o Planalto e os gestores estaduais tem piorado rapidamente ante a má gestão da pandemia — com constantes trocas de ataques — e embates acerca do ICMS. Ainda assim, uma parte dos governadores diz crer que a reunião seja possível e conta com o ministro da Casa Civil, Ciro Nogueira (PP-Pt), para concretizá-la.

Os governadores temem as manifestações convocadas por entusiastas bolsonaristas para o 7 de Setembro e insufladas pelo próprio presidente com o acirramento contra as instituições, sobretudo em sua campanha contra o sistema eleitoral, que mira as eleições do próximo ano. Poder A4

Oposição antibolsonaro pressiona Doria para realizar ato na av. Paulista no 7 de Setembro A7

EDITORIAIS A2

O fracasso Bolsonaro

Decorridos dois terços do governo Jair Bolsonaro, o saldo é um fracasso negável e, tudo indica, irreversível. Não se vê agenda que permita ao país encerrar 2022 em condições melhores que as herdadas pelo mandatário.

Retrocessos predominam nas diversas pastas do Executivo, notadamente em Educação, Saúde e Meio Ambiente. Se a área econômica preserva o que resta de racionalidade na administração, sua credibilidade desabou.

O malogro se deve ao despreparo e à indolência, não a sabotagens imaginárias. A perspectiva de derrota nas urnas, que desencadeou toda a gritaria golpista, decorre não somente da constatação do óbvio pelo eleitorado.

Senado confirma recondução de Aras à PGR por mais 2 anos

O plenário do Senado aprovou, por 55 votos a 10, a recondução do procurador-geral da República, Augusto Aras, para mais dois anos à frente da PGR. Ele foi sabatinado na Comissão de Constituição e Justiça, que também votou a seu favor, e não enfrentou dificuldades.

Aras teceu duras críticas à Operação Lava Jato e atacou diversas vezes a imprensa. Reconheceu ainda que houve "ameaças reais" a ministros do STF. Poder A10

Análise Igor Gielow
Sabatina lembra como as coisas são em Brasília A10

MEC deixa de usar R\$ 220 mi para conectar escolas

Em plena pandemia, quando a internet se tornou crucial no ensino remoto, o Ministério da Educação não gastou nenhum centavo do orçamento de 2021 de programa que leva internet a escolas públicas do país. Procurada, a pasta não respondeu. Cotidiano B1

tóquio 2020

Cerimônia com metáforas aéreas marca início das Paraolimpíadas B6

Filipe Oliveira
Como seria tabela de Neymar e Messi de olhos vendados? B6

Comissão da CBF descarta assédio de Caboclo e abre brecha para volta

Esporte B6

Variante lambda ganha espaço na América do Sul
Enquanto a delta avança no mundo, uma cepa detectada no Peru parece mais resistente a vacinas. B3

Após Alemanha e França, Espanha recebe brasileiros 100% vacinados
Mundo A15

EDITORIAIS A2

Demarcações em xeque
Sobre julgamento do STF relativo a terras indígenas.

folha.com/porqueiraoespaco

semináriosfolha

Por que ir ao espaço?

WEBINAR

Abertura

Charles Duke
astronauta da Apollo 16

Como a nova corrida espacial promovida por vários países pode afetar na vida de quem está aqui na Terra.

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15h às 17h

Saiba mais na página A9

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EEUU acusa a autoridades paraguayas de favorecer a esquemas de lavado

Departamento del Tesoro sancionó a 3 personas y 5 empresas. Detuvieron a uno de los sancionados. Se da en medio del examen de Gafilat.

PÁGINAS 12, 42 y 43

Justificó abrazo con Friedmann
HC afirmó que es mejor acordar en el poder que estando en la llanura

PÁGINA 6

Benefició al Gral. (SR) Ramón Benítez
Confeccionistas y UIC cuestionan fallo que favorece el contrabando

PÁGINA 13

CON ESTA EDICIÓN	COMPRA OPCIONAL 1	COMPRA OPCIONAL 2
COMO APRENDER A DIBUJAR COMICS Y MANGA 13	COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA 7	LIBRO PSYCHE PAPA ELENA
		
	G. 50.000	G. 40.000



Lago Ypacaraí habilitado para el baño recreativo



Auspicioso. Estudios de la calidad del agua demuestran que responde a la categoría de excelente. No se detectaron coliformes fecales en los muestreos.

PÁGINA 19

Las paradas están colmadas y los buses viajan repletos
Exigen a Viceministerio de Transporte que se tomen medidas contra reguladas

PÁGINA 4

El 70% de sus recursos depende de los cánones de Conajzar
Juegos de azar clandestinos afectan los ingresos que recibe la Dibén

PÁGINA 3

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LE FIGARO

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



CHARLIE WATTS
LE BATTEUR DES ROLLING
STONES ÉTAIT LA PIERRE
ANGULAIRE DU GROUPE **PAGE 13**

ROUX DE BÉZIEUX
« ON N'EST PAS ENTREPRENEUR
POUR VIVRE AVEC LES AIDES
DE L'ÉTAT » **PAGES 22 ET 23**



L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO

**CES ÉCRIVAINS QUI
AIMENT LA FRANCE**
ERIK ORSENNA
ET BRÉHAT
PAGE 20

**LES GRANDES
ERREURS
ÉCONOMIQUES**
LE TSAR
NICOLAS 1^{ER}
FREINE
L'INDUSTRIALISATION
PAGE 25

JEUX D'ÉTÉ **PAGE 16**

GOVERNEMENT
La rentrée marquée
par le régalien et
la relance **PAGES 6 ET 7**

MAGHREB
L'Algérie coupe
les ponts
avec le Maroc **PAGE 9**

VARIANT DELTA
Ce que l'on sait
de l'efficacité
des vaccins **PAGE 10**

CHAMPS LIBRES
• Recherche
médicale:
il y a loin
de la souris
à l'homme
• Les tribunes
de Bernard
Frahi et de
Valérie
Pécresse
PAGES 18 ET 19

**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de mardi :**
Faut-il accélérer
le retour des salariés
dans les entreprises ?

OUI 59% NON 41%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 140 504

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Faut-il « expulser
en urgence absolue »
les Afghans soupçonnés
de liens avec les talibans,
comme le demande
Xavier Bertrand ?

FRANÇOIS BOUCHON / LE FIGARO-
FABIEN CLAIREFOOND-URSULA
DUREN/PICTURE ALLIANCE / DPA

Nouvelle
donne
régionale,
menace de
mouvements
migratoires
incontrôlés,
évolution
des rapports
de force entre
Washington
et ses rivaux :
le monde
s'ajuste
à la victoire
des talibans.

**PAGES 2, 3, 4, 19
ET L'EDITORIAL**

L'onde de choc du chaos afghan



VICTOR MANCILLAS MARINES VIA REUTERS

**L'Iran et la Chine
jouent la carte
du nouveau régime**

À Téhéran et à Pékin, les adversaires des États-Unis se frottent les mains devant un retrait aux allures de déroute. Mais, tout en

étant prêts à donner leur chance aux talibans, les voisins de l'Afghanistan restent sur leurs gardes. **PAGE 3**

**L'Europe renvoyée
à son impuissance après
le retrait américain**

Les alliés des États-Unis, France, Allemagne et Royaume-Uni en tête, déplorent la décision et les modalités du désengagement américain. **PAGE 2**

Sourd à leurs critiques, Joe Biden a décidé de maintenir la fin des évacuations au 31 août. Les Européens ne cachent pas leur dépit. **PAGE 2**

**En France,
l'impossible expulsion
des réfugiés « à risques »**

Même liés aux talibans, les Afghans arrivés en France sont protégés par le droit d'asile. Au cœur d'un imbroglio diplomatique, ces réfugiés ont, de fait, la quasi-certitude d'être inexpulsables. « Preuve qu'il ne faut pas faire n'importe quoi », tance un magistrat. **PAGE 4**

giés ont, de fait, la quasi-certitude d'être inexpulsables. « Preuve qu'il ne faut pas faire n'importe quoi », tance un magistrat. **PAGE 4**

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Goodbye de Kaboul

Si d'aucuns, à 7 000 km du chaos afghan, croyaient échapper aux conséquences du tragique jeu de dominos qui s'y est déclenché, les premières alertes sécuritaires en provenance de Kaboul leur prouvent déjà le contraire. Au moment où un ministre britannique met publiquement en garde contre des passagers indésirables essayant d'embarquer vers l'Europe, c'est en France qu'un réfugié suspect d'acointances avec les talibans est placé en garde à vue. Preuve de l'efficacité de nos services de sécurité, se félicite le gouvernement. Mais sur le terrain, diplomates et militaires occidentaux font moins les fiers face aux risques d'attentat contre l'aéroport ou d'infiltrations par les djihadistes d'al-Qaïda, en compétition avec les talibans. Cette extraction douloureuse et à haute tension du guépier afghan n'est que la première ridicule d'une onde de choc qui va s'étendre au monde entier. Les Occidentaux doivent décider quelle attitude adopter envers le nouveau pouvoir taliban, internationalement désigné comme un groupe terroriste, mais dont dépend la permission d'évacuer nos ressortissants et affidés locaux. Faut-il maintenir les

sanctions qui le frappent et couper l'aide internationale, au risque d'une détérioration de la situation humanitaire susceptible d'alimenter un exode ? Doit-on envisager une reconnaissance politique, carotte sans bâton brandie par les pays du G7 pour amadouer les enturbannés de Kaboul ? Pékin et Moscou ont un coup d'avance : leur personnel diplomatique sera bientôt seul présent dans l'émirat taliban.

L'Europe ne peut plus s'en remettre à Washington pour sa sécurité

Les mieux intentionnés envers Washington se retrouvent les moins bien lotis. Les Européens, qui n'ont pas eu voix au chapitre du retrait, ont une fois pour toutes la preuve qu'ils ne peuvent s'en remettre à Washington pour leur sécurité. L'ère ouverte il y a vingt ans par les attentats du 11 Septembre se referme pour de bon à Kaboul. Joe Biden croit que son brutal « pivot » le mettra en position de force dans la grande compétition géopolitique du XXI^e siècle avec la Chine. Drôle de calcul pour balayer une défaite. Du tarmac de la capitale afghane, on l'entend nous lancer « Goodbye Europe ! » ■

Les mieux intentionnés envers Washington se retrouvent les moins bien lotis. Les Européens, qui n'ont pas eu voix au chapitre du retrait, ont une fois pour toutes la preuve qu'ils ne peuvent s'en remettre à Washington pour leur sécurité. L'ère ouverte il y a vingt ans par les attentats du 11 Septembre se referme pour de bon à Kaboul. Joe Biden croit que son brutal « pivot » le mettra en position de force dans la grande compétition géopolitique du XXI^e siècle avec la Chine. Drôle de calcul pour balayer une défaite. Du tarmac de la capitale afghane, on l'entend nous lancer « Goodbye Europe ! » ■

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UK troops to leave Kabul within '24 to 36 hours'

Exclusive
Dan Sabbagh
Peter Walker
Aubrey Allegretti

Britain's evacuation from Kabul is expected to end within "24 to 36 hours", potentially abandoning thousands of Afghans, defence sources said as the increasingly bullish Taliban moved to prevent them travelling to the airport to flee.

The US president, Joe Biden, rejected pleas from the UK for the humanitarian airlift to continue beyond 31 August at a virtual meeting of G7 leaders yesterday, triggering claims from Conservative MPs that the "special relationship" was over and US-UK relations were "about to enter their lowest point since Suez".

After the G7, UK defence sources told the Guardian the US military was believed to need two to three days to close down its operations at Kabul airport, and British troops want to be at least 24 hours ahead of that - leaving a small window for RAF flights evacuating those at risk from the Taliban's takeover. All western forces are to leave within days. A statement from

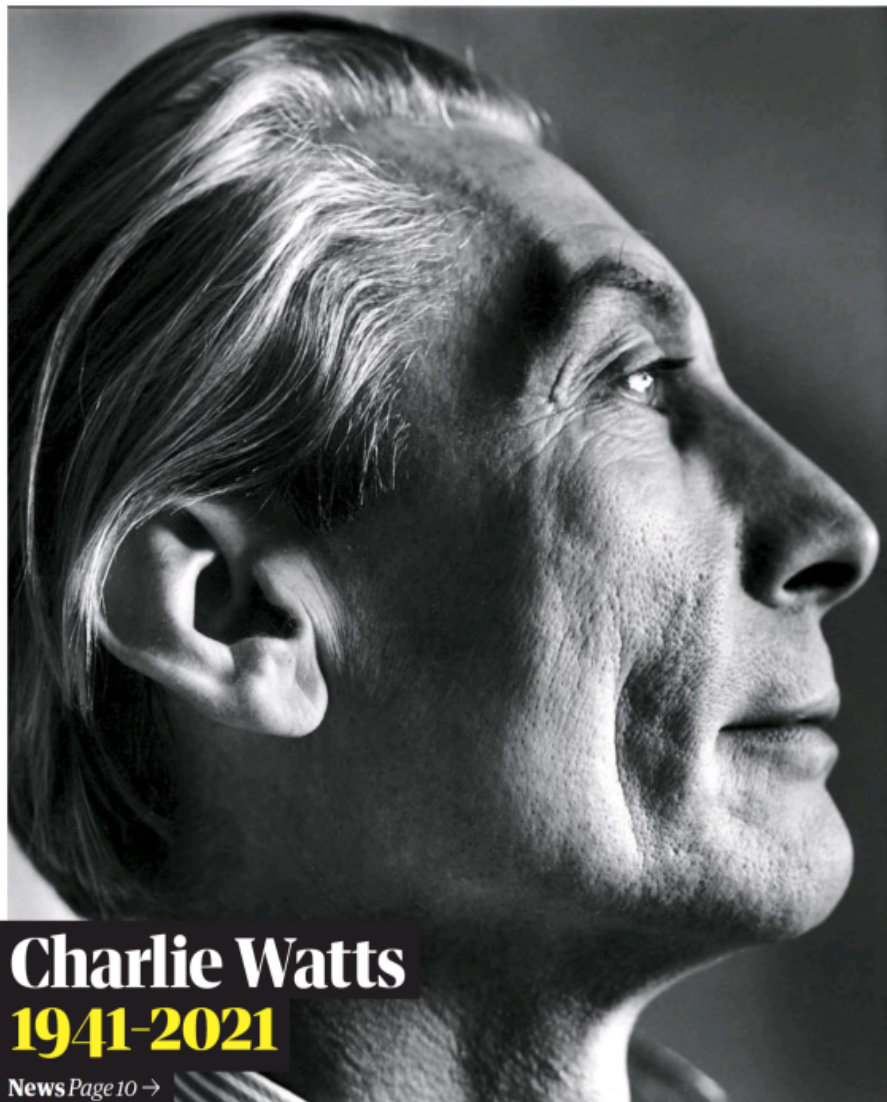
Boris Johnson following the virtual meeting of G7 leaders focused on what he called a "roadmap for future engagement with the Taliban" - a tacit acceptance world leaders are powerless in the face of the Taliban.

The prime minister did not mention sanctions, instead setting out conditions for unfreezing billions of dollars in aid, including the education of girls up to the age of 18.

"If those huge funds are going to be unfrozen eventually for use by the government and people of Afghanistan, then what we're saying is Afghanistan can't lurch back into being a breeding ground of terror, it can't become a narco state, girls will be educated up to the age of 18, and so on," Johnson said.

Last night, Biden said he wanted all US troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan as soon as possible ahead of the 31 August deadline. But he also said contingency plans were being drawn up to extend the withdrawal "should that become necessary".

Biden said his discussion with G7 leaders had been "productive" and told reporters: "There was strong agreement among the leaders both about the



Charlie Watts 1941-2021

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Charlie Watts, described as 'the engine' of the Rolling Stones and one of the greatest drummers of all time, died yesterday, aged 80. The Beatles drummer Ringo Starr led a stream of tributes PHOTOGRAPH: JILL FURMANOVSKY/ROCKARCHIVE.COM

Retail crisis as stock at lowest levels since 1983

Richard Partington
Joanna Partridge

Britain's economy has been plunged into a supply chain crisis with major retailers' stock levels at their lowest since 1983 as a result of worker shortages and transport disruption

caused by Covid and Brexit. In a development that suggests recovery from the pandemic could be at risk, the Confederation of British Industry said stock levels in relation to expected sales fell to their lowest in August since it began tracking retail industry trends four decades ago.

It blamed global supply chain

disruption triggered by the pandemic and worker shortages in several key industrial sectors, compounded by Brexit disruption as the UK emerges from lockdown.

Andrew Sentance, a former member of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, said shortages of workers and materials were the most acute in decades and painted a worrying picture for the British economy.

"It's quite striking, I don't think we can dismiss this as a flash in the pan," he said. "Now that lockdown has been eased we're seeing a truer reflection of the impact of Brexit and

issues building up before the pandemic. We could see this persisting for longer than people expect. Skills shortages could go on for a few years, the impact of Brexit on our ability to attract workers from the EU is not going to go away quickly and the process of training was quite significantly disrupted by the pandemic, when people were not working and furloughed."

Employers are scrambling to hire workers. The recruitment site Indeed said the number of job ads offering joining bonuses had increased 66% between

Cornwall Tourists told to stay away

People warned not to travel without booking after a surge in Covid cases in the county

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