

What's News

Business & Finance

Delta Air Lines said employees who aren't vaccinated against Covid-19 will have to pay a \$200 monthly health-insurance surcharge and could lose pay protection for missing work due to the disease. **A1**

◆ **Western Digital** is in advanced talks to merge with Japan's Kioxia in a deal that could be valued at more than \$20 billion and further reorder the global chip industry. **A1**

◆ **U.S. authorities** are investigating Deutsche Bank's DWS arm after the firm's former head of sustainability said it overstated how much it used sustainable investing criteria to manage its assets. **B2**

◆ **OnlyFans** suspended its plan to prohibit content featuring sexually explicit conduct, a policy about-face for the social-media platform. **B1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq gaining 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively, to close at records. The Dow added 0.1%. **B9**

◆ **Robinhood's stock** giveaways to customers have saddled some companies with larger bills for delivering proxy statements, and the practice is now sparking a backlash. **B1**

◆ **An ABC News staffer** filed a lawsuit against Michael Corn, the former top producer of "Good Morning America," alleging he sexually assaulted her. **B1**

◆ **Chinese ride-hailing giant** Didi has delayed plans to expand to Britain and Europe, partly due to political and regulatory challenges. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Facing an Aug. 31 deadline** to leave Afghanistan, the U.S. must shift in a few days from evacuating thousands of Afghans and up to 1,500 Americans still in the country to the job of loading the remaining U.S. military personnel and essential equipment onto the final departing planes. **A1, A7, A8, A9**

◆ **Federal regulators** are likely to approve a Covid-19 booster shot for vaccinated adults starting at least six months after the previous dose in advance of the White House plan to start boosters in eight months. **A1**

◆ **J&J said** a second dose of its Covid-19 vaccine was found in a study to generate a strong immune response, justifying a booster shot. **A6**

◆ **The U.S. program** to help tenants and landlords struggling with the impact of the pandemic has delivered just a fraction of the promised aid, data from the Treasury Department show. **A2**

◆ **Biden hosted** executives from major technology, financial and energy companies for a summit on national cybersecurity, calling the issue "the core national security challenge we are facing." **A4**

◆ **A federal judge** ordered sanctions against attorneys who sued Michigan officials alleging that widespread fraud denied Trump the election there in 2020. **A4**

◆ **A Michigan militia** member was sentenced to six years and three months in prison after he pleaded guilty to taking part in a plot to kidnap Gov. Whitmer. **A3**

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Hundreds of people gathered near a checkpoint outside the airport in Kabul on Wednesday in hopes of fleeing Afghanistan.

U.S. Hunting for Americans As Afghan Deadline Closes In

Facing an Aug. 31 deadline to leave Afghanistan, the U.S. must shift in a few days from evacuating thousands of Af-

By Nancy A. Youssef, Saeed Shah and Courtney McBride

ghans and up to 1,500 Americans still in the country to the job of loading the remaining U.S. military personnel and essential equipment onto the final departing planes.

The evacuation operation in Kabul is taking place under increasingly perilous conditions. The U.S. Embassy, citing terror threats, issued a security alert late Wednesday to tell Americans not to travel to Hamid Karzai International Airport and said those already there should leave.

"U.S. citizens who are at the Abbey Gate, East Gate, or North Gate now should leave immediately," the alert said. Officials have been warning that

members of the Afghan branch of the Islamic State extremist group were trying to mount an attack on military personnel or civilians at the airport.

The Biden administration on Wednesday provided its first count of American civilians in Afghanistan, saying up to 1,500 U.S. citizens remained in the country.

U.S. officials are trying to evacuate 500 of the Americans, and are in contact with them, Secretary of State Antony

Blinken said at the State Department. The status of another 1,000 civilian Americans is unclear, said Mr. Blinken, adding that U.S. officials were trying to contact them.

He said some may not be U.S. citizens, others may have left the country already and some may be planning to stay. Approximately 4,500 American citizens are in Afghanistan.

◆ Private rescue efforts grow desperate... **A7**

Chip Makers in Talks For \$20 Billion Merger

By CARA LOMBARDO AND DANA CIMILUCA

Western Digital Corp. is in advanced talks to merge with Japan's Kioxia Holdings Corp., according to people familiar with the matter, in a deal that could be valued at more than \$20 billion and further reorder the global chip industry.

Long-running discussions between the companies have heated up in the past few weeks and they could reach agreement on a deal as early as mid-September, the people said. Western Digital would pay for the deal with stock and the combined company would likely be run by its Chief Executive, David Goeckeler, the people said.

There is no guarantee West-

ern Digital, which had a market value of around \$19 billion Wednesday afternoon, will seal an agreement, and Kioxia could still opt for an initial public offering if it had been planning or another combination.

The Wall Street Journal reported in March that Western Digital and Micron Technology Inc. were examining potential deals with Kioxia, which makes NAND flash-memory chips used in smartphones, computer servers and other devices. Micron's interest has since cooled, and Kioxia has been focused on discussions with Western Digital, which has deep existing ties with the Japanese company.

Any transaction would re-

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Tech Stocks Gain in China

After big selloffs this summer, China's internet stocks are climbing back. **B4**



Booster Shots Likely After Six Months

By STEPHANIE ARMOUR AND JARED S. HOPKINS

Federal regulators are likely to approve a Covid-19 booster shot for vaccinated adults starting at least six months after the previous dose in advance of the White House plan to start boosters in eight months, a person familiar with the plans said, as the Biden administration steps up preparations for delivering boosters to the public.

Data from vaccine manufacturers and other countries under review by the Food and Drug Administration is based on boosters being given at six months, the person said. Approval for Pfizer Inc. and part-

ner BioNTech SE could come in mid-September.

The Biden administration and companies have said there should be enough supply for boosters that they plan to begin distributing more widely on Sept. 20. The U.S. has purchased a combined one billion doses from Pfizer and Moderna Inc. A White House spokesman declined to comment. An FDA spokeswoman declined to comment on interactions with vaccine makers.

Pfizer and BioNTech said Wednesday they had asked U.S. health regulators to au-

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◆ Virus-origin sleuths say time is short... **A6**

Your Toddler Demands Sanitizer

By KRYSTAL HUR

Like many toddlers, 1-year-old Asher Subramanyam is capable of bending the household to his routines and rituals.

The Connecticut tot demands that all visitors wash their hands before leaning down for a hug. There are no exceptions, as his grandparents found out on a recent visit.

"He would motion for them to wash their hands or he would come over and pretend to give them hand sanitizer," says Asher's father, Dr. Venkat Subramanyam.

Covid-19 has created a sub-

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Israel's New Leader Fights Its Old One

Can Bennett hold on to his government?

By DOV LIEBER AND RORY JONES

TEL AVIV—Since taking over in June as Israel's prime minister, Naftali Bennett has tried to construct a new political order. The biggest obstacle might be the man he displaced, his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Bennett, a right-wing politician who will be in Washington this week to meet President Joe Biden, heads an unstable coalition of leftist, right-wing and Arab parties and by necessity must govern from the center.

He has tried to call every minister each week to ask how they are, according to coalition members. His tweets add the handles of other ministers to congratulate them on the government's work, which is

studiously avoiding tackling contentious issues head on. He's turned to private sector experts on the coronavirus and other issues, asking for ideas via WhatsApp.

In a video published on Twitter this month, Mr. Bennett and members of each coalition party urged people to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, regardless of political affiliation.

Mr. Bennett's coalition accomplished what no other opponent of Mr. Netanyahu could over the past 12 years—it drove him from power. The political survival of the 49-year-old prime minister depends on winning enough votes beyond his traditional constituency to continue to lead. At stake is moving the country past a divisive and

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Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2020 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.

Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, April 2021.

salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following IDC-defined functional markets: Sales Force Productivity and Management, Marketing Campaign Management, Customer Service, Contact Center, Advertising, and Digital Commerce Applications. © 2021 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., as are other names and marks.

Sci-fi vision for solar panels in space shows promise — [INSIDE BUSINESS, PAGE 6](#)

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A cleared lot in Surfside, Fla., where the Champlain Towers South condominium once stood. Ninety-eight people died in its collapse.

NAVALNY IS GIVEN PROPAGANDA DIET

First Interview From Jail
With Critic of Putin

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

MOSCOW — Russia's most famous prisoner, the opposition leader Alexei A. Navalny, spends much of his time tidying his cellblock, reading letters and visiting the mess for meals, with porridge often on the menu.

But perhaps the most maddening thing, he suggested, is being forced to watch Russian state TV and selected propaganda films for more than eight hours a day in what the authorities call an "awareness raising" program that has replaced hard labor for political prisoners.

"Reading, writing or doing anything else" is prohibited, Mr. Navalny said of the forced screen time. "You have to sit in a chair and watch TV." And if an inmate nods off, he said, the guards shout, "Don't sleep, watch!"

In an interview with The New York Times, his first with a news organization since his arrest in January, Mr. Navalny talked about his life in prison, about why Russia has cracked down so hard on the opposition and dissidents, and about his conviction that "Putin's regime," as he calls it, is doomed to collapse.

Mr. Navalny started a major opposition movement to expose high-level corruption and challenge President Vladimir V. Putin at the polls. He was imprisoned in March after he returned to Russia from Germany knowing he was facing a parole violation for a conviction in a case seen as politically motivated. As was well chronicled at the time, he was out of the country to receive medical treatment after being poisoned by Russian agents with the chemical weapon Novichok, according to Western governments.

Mr. Navalny has not been entirely mute since his incarceration in Penal Colony No. 2, just east of Moscow. Through his lawyers, who visit him regularly, he has sent out occasional social media posts.

Nor is he being actively muzzled by the Kremlin. When asked about Mr. Navalny's social media presence on Tuesday, Mr. Putin's spokesman, Dmitri S. Peskov, said that it was "not our business" if Mr. Navalny spoke out.

But the written exchange of

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Collapsed Condo Was Troubled From the Start

By MIKE BAKER
and MICHAEL LAFORGIA

It was in the middle of summer in 1980 when developers raising a pair of luxury condominium towers in Surfside, Fla., went to town officials with an unusual request: They wanted to add an extra floor to each building.

The application to go higher was almost unheard-of for an ambitious development whose construction was already well underway. The builders had not mentioned the added stories in their original plans. It was not clear how much consideration they had given to how the extra floors would affect the structures overall. And, most galling for town officials, the added penthouses would violate height limits designed to prevent laid-back Surfside from becoming another Miami Beach.

At one point, the town building department issued a terse stop-work order. But records show that

A Financially Strapped Town Felt Bullied by Developers

In the face of an intense campaign that saw lawyers for the developers threaten lawsuits and argue with officials deep into the night, the opposition folded — and the developers got their way.

Frank Filiaberto, who was on the Town Commission at the time, recalled feeling as if the developers regarded him and the other officials as "local yokels."

"They were bullies," Mr. Filiaberto said. "There was a lot of anger."

Although there is no indication that the catastrophic collapse of the Champlain Towers South building in June was related to the tacked-on penthouse, the alteration was just one of many con-

tentious parts of a project that was pushed through by aggressive developers at a time when the local government seemed wholly unprepared for a new era of soaring condo projects.

Surfside had only a part-time building inspector, George Desharnais, who worked at the same time for Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands and North Bay Village. Records show that the Surfside building department delegated inspections of the towers back to the Champlain Towers builders, who tapped their own engineer to sign off on construction work. The town manager was unable to resolve the penthouse issue because, just as the issue came before the city, he was arrested on charges — later dismissed — of peeping into the window of a 13-year-old girl and abruptly resigned.

The development team itself had a dubious record. The archi-

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A State So Dry, Ranchers Are Selling Cows Before They Starve

By HENRY FOUNTAIN

TOWNER, N.D. — Darrell Rice stood in a field of corn he'd planted in early June, to be harvested in the fall and chopped up to feed the hundreds of cows and calves he raises in central North Dakota.

"It should be six, seven, eight foot tall," he said, looking down at the stunted plants at his feet, their normally floppy leaves rolled tight against their stalks to conserve water in the summer heat.

Like ranchers across the state, Mr. Rice is suffering through an epic drought as bad or worse than anywhere else in this season of extreme weather in the Western half of the country.

A lack of snow last winter and almost no spring rain have created the driest conditions in generations. Ranchers are being forced to sell off portions of herds they have built up for years, often at fire-sale prices, to stay in business.

Some won't make it. "It's a really bad situation," said Randy Weigel, a cattle buyer, who said this drought may force some older ranchers to retire. "They've worked all their lives to get their cow herd to where they want, and now they don't have enough feed to feed them."

Since December, in the weekly maps produced by the United States Drought Monitor, all of North Dakota has been colored in



A parched ranch in McHenry County, N.D., where months of drought have decimated cattle feed.

shades of yellow, orange and red, symbolizing various degrees of drought. And since mid-May, McHenry County, where Mr. Rice ranches and farms, has been squarely in the middle of a swath

of the darkest red, denoting the most extreme conditions.

The period from January 2020 to this June has been the driest 18 months in McHenry and 11 other counties in the state since modern

record keeping began 126 years ago, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"I've been ranching for 47 years

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Biden in Sprint To Lift Economy And Presidency

By JIM TANKERSLEY
and EMILY COCHRANE

WASHINGTON — President Biden, his aides and his allies in Congress face a September sprint to secure a legislative victory that could define his early presidency.

Democrats are racing the clock after party leaders in the House struck a deal this week to advance the two-track approach that Mr. Biden hopes will deliver a \$4 trillion overhaul of the federal government's role in the economy. That agreement sets up a potentially perilous vote on one part of the agenda by Sept. 27: a bipartisan deal on roads, broadband, water pipes and other physical infrastructure. It also spurred House and Senate leaders to intensify efforts to complete a larger, Democrats-only bill to fight climate change, expand educational access and invest heavily in workers and families, inside that same window.

If the party's factions can bridge their differences in time, they could deliver a signature legislative achievement for Mr.

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1,500 Citizens Remain In Afghanistan as U.S. Intensifies Rush to Exit

Pakistan Has Future Riding on Taliban

By JANE PERLEZ

Just days after the Taliban took Kabul, their flag was flying high above a central mosque in Pakistan's capital. It was an in-your-face gesture intended to spite the defeated Americans. But it was also a sign of the real victors in the 20-year Afghan war.

Pakistan was ostensibly America's partner in the war against Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Its military won tens of billions in American aid over the last two decades, even as Washington acknowledged that much of the money disappeared into unaccounted sinkholes.

But it was a relationship riven by duplicity and divided interests from its very start after 9/11. Not least, the Afghan Taliban the Americans were fighting are, in large part, a creation of Pakistan's intelligence service, the I.S.I., which through the course of the war nurtured and protected Taliban assets inside Pakistan.

In the last three months as the Taliban swept across Afghanistan, the Pakistani military waved a surge of new fighters across the border from sanctuaries inside Pakistan, tribal leaders have said. It was a fine coup de grace to the American-trained Afghan security forces.

"The Pakistanis and the I.S.I. think they have won in Afghanistan," said Robert L. Grenier, a former C.I.A. station chief in Pakistan. But, he warned, the Pakistanis should watch what they wish for. "If the Afghan Taliban become leaders of a pariah state, which is likely, Pakistan will find itself tethered

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Fears for the Afghan Allies Left Behind

By LARA JAKES
and MICHAEL LEVENSON

WASHINGTON — At least 1,500 American citizens remain in Afghanistan with just days left before the scheduled U.S. withdrawal from the country, but officials on Wednesday acknowledged the reality that tens of thousands of Afghan allies and others at high risk of Taliban reprisals would be left behind.

The sound of gunfire, and clouds of tear gas and black smoke, filled the air around the international airport in Kabul, the capital, as thousands of Afghans massed at the gates on Wednesday, desperate to escape ahead of the American military's final departure on Aug. 31, after 20 years of war.

The U.S. Embassy warned Americans later in the day to stay away from the airport and told anyone outside the perimeter to "leave immediately." The British and Australian governments issued similar warnings.

A senior U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe confidential assessments, confirmed that the United States was tracking a "specific" and "credible" threat at the airport from the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which has carried out dozens of attacks in recent years and is a rival of the Taliban.

As military and government charter flights took off every 45 minutes as part of an airlift, Biden administration officials said they had evacuated about 82,300 people since Aug. 14, the day before Kabul fell to the Taliban. Around 4,500 of them were American citizens, with 500 more expected to depart soon.

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G.O.P. DIVIDE The resettlement of Afghan allies in the U.S. is revealing a schism between the party's anti-immigrant wing and others. PAGE A9

SNEAK PEEK Two members of Congress went to Kabul to see the evacuation process for themselves. They got bipartisan rebukes. PAGE A9



NATIONAL A11-19

Hochul Chooses Her No. 2

Gov. Kathy C. Hochul selected Brian A. Benjamin, a state senator from Harlem, as lieutenant governor. PAGE A18

Returning Home to Flames

A beloved ranching community in Northern California faces destruction by America's largest wildfire. PAGE A11

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Seeking Help on Spy Missions

Despite their opposing views on Iran, Israel's prime minister, Naftali Bennett, wants President Biden to support covert Israeli operations against Tehran's nuclear program. PAGE A10

China Floats Covid Falsehoods

Trying to fend off investigations into the pandemic's origins in China, Beijing is promoting baseless theories that the United States may be the true source of the coronavirus. PAGE A4

OPINION A22-23

Farhad Manjoo

PAGE A23



SPORTS B7-10

An Archer Finds 'My People'

Lia Coryell often questioned if life with a debilitating disease was worth living. She found the answer. PAGE B8

Williams Will Miss U.S. Open

A nagging hamstring injury is still too tender for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion. PAGE B7

BUSINESS B1-6

How Mexico Aided Journalists

The country's foreign minister led an effort to take in Afghans who worked for The New York Times, and their families, Ben Smith writes. PAGE B1

A Thorny Vaccination Tactic

Delta Air Lines will charge unvaccinated workers more for health insurance, a move mired in legal doubts. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

She Had All the Answers

Reporting from the author of a book about "Jeopardy!" thrust the game show into a period of uncertainty. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

A New Line on Cotton Totes

You can get those fashionable little bags pretty much everywhere. So how did a supposed environmental solution become part of the problem? PAGE D4



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BRITISH AND U.S. security forces watch over Afghans waiting at the Kabul airport. The U.S. promised to rescue vulnerable Afghans.

BLINKEN VOWS TO GET OUT ALL U.S. CITIZENS

Secretary of State assures an estimated 1,500 Americans still in Afghanistan.

By TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — With despair growing over who will be left behind in Afghanistan, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on Wednesday promised that all American citizens who want to leave will be able to do so, even after next Tuesday's deadline for withdrawal of Western troops from the country.

Blinken also vowed to use "every available tool" to eventually rescue vulnerable Afghans whose lives under Taliban rule would be especially perilous but whose transport from the country is vastly more complicated, particularly those who worked with the U.S. over the last two decades.

"Let me be crystal clear about this: There is no deadline on our work to help any remaining American citizens who decide they want to leave to do so," he said. "That effort will continue every day past Aug. 31."

Blinken made an identical assurance to "the many Afghans who have stood by us over these many years, want to leave and have not been able."

That rang hollow, though, for thousands of Afghans desperate to leave and swamping the airport in Kabul. Also left behind so far are several hundred core staff members from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and related State Department programs who say they were [See Evacuation, A4]

ANALYSIS

Recall backers blame crime on Newsom

Murders have surged amid the pandemic, but experts say the reasons are complex.

By MELODY GUTIERREZ

SACRAMENTO — An image of crime tape flashes across the screen. A woman says, "we don't feel safe anymore," adding that "crime is surging" in California. The solution, the ad paid for by a Republican group argues, is to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Republicans looking to replace Newsom in next month's election say the governor is "soft on crime" and to blame for the state's increase in violent crime, pointing to a rise in homicides as a reason voters should approve the recall.

But researchers who study crime rates say the surge is much more complicated than the attack ads suggest, and that the causes for it probably extend well beyond the policies of one governor or even one state.

"Most cities across the United States saw increases," said Aaron Chalfin, a professor of criminology at the University of Pennsylvania.

In California, homicides rose 31% from 2019 to 2020, with firearms used in three-quarters of those deaths, according to the state's Homicide Report published by the Department of Justice. That report notes that the COVID-19 pandemic had unknown impacts on crime data that warrant further analysis. Chalfin said the United States experienced a [See Crime, A7]

Newsom, Elder help each other

George Skelton says the governor and his top rival are rising together. CALIFORNIA, B1

Democrat joins recall debate

YouTube star Kevin Paffrath brings some partisan heat to the skirmish. CALIFORNIA, B1

Trailblazing women now trapped

Afghan activists, professionals say their work may doom them

By MARCUS YAM

KABUL, Afghanistan — Her voice is steady and calm, but at times, talking of days just passed, she has the look of a person in the grip of vertigo. Or simple disbelief.

"This is a very horrible moment," she said. "All of a sudden you feel trapped. And there's no way out."

Before Kabul fell to the Taliban on Aug. 15, this 30-year-old Afghan woman was something of a pioneer. She managed a company in an industry that developed swiftly over the last 20 years, one in which women played a small but significant role.

That characterization of her professional life is deliberately vague, as is disclosure of her first name only —



SHOPPERS out in Kabul this week. Some women fear the Taliban's wrath and are staying out of sight.

Pleas for those stuck in Afghanistan

Members of Congress deluged with constituent requests say they can do only so much. NATION, A6

Sahar — or any description of her appearance beyond her reflective eyes, her black hair, her way of clasping her hands together as she speaks. Even basic details of her personal life are being withheld.

Because she is afraid. Taliban fighters have yet to come knocking on her door. But ever since the city and country changed hands, Sahar has largely stayed out of sight, wondering whether the accomplishments in which she previously took such pride will now be her undoing.

"I don't have a voice right now," she said. "You have to stay low-profile. You have to protect yourself. You have [See Women, A4]



ASHANIQUE Nelson-Cavil with baby Indigo and husband William Iman Cavil at Kindred Space in Hyde Park in May. "I wanted to be in a space with people I trust," the new mom said.

COLUMN ONE

Black midwives deliver comfort and care in a Kindred Space

COLUMN BY SANDY BANKS | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIA MAXWELL

A liegra Hill knew she wanted to be a midwife long before she knew exactly what the term meant.

Her mother had delivered her with the help of a midwife, and "every birthday I would hear my birth story ... and how giving birth was the best day of her life," Hill said.

But as Hill moved through college, the path to becoming a midwife wasn't clear. So she settled for a job in advertising — until another family birth rekindled her dream.

She was visiting her pregnant sister in the Bay Area when her niece entered the world unexpectedly. The unplanned home birth "was really crazy,

but really special," Hill recalled.

Her sister was soaking in a backyard hot tub, to ease the pain of labor, when she suddenly felt the urge to push. The infant's head appeared as she was climbing out of the tub. "Her husband caught the baby," Hill said. "I was fascinated by how natural the whole process was."

A few years later, Hill decided to ditch her job and follow her calling, pursuing the education she needed to care for and support women during pregnancy, labor and birth.

Becoming a licensed midwife in California is a formidable process, requiring at least three years of classes, an apprenticeship [See Midwives, A8]

Bills take on threat of rising sea level

By ROSANNA XIA

In a year marked by record-breaking wildfires, extreme heat and unprecedented water shortages, California lawmakers say there's another — seemingly distant, but just as urgent — climate catastrophe the state cannot afford to ignore: sea level rise.

This oft-overlooked threat is the focus of more than a dozen new bills and resolutions this year — a remarkable political awakening mobilized by years of research and piecemeal efforts across the state to keep the California coast above water.

There's Senate Bill 1 — the very first measure introduced in this legislative session — which confronts sea level rise adaptation head-on. Another bill proposes an innovative buyout program that sets the stage for a different, more proactive approach to the difficult choices that have long paralyzed coastal communities from taking necessary action.

[See Sea Level, A11]



BUSINESS INSIDE: New owner has big plans to update Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza. A10

Targeted online ads aid push for vaccination

Groups' messages use politics, religion, hobbies to persuade holdouts

BY JEREMY B. MERRILL
AND DREW HARWELL

In an ad shown to people Facebook thinks are college-educated conservatives in Oklahoma, coronavirus vaccination is touted as "trusted by the U.S. military . . . and by our Greatest Generation."

In another, Facebook users interested in the Catholic Church are told that Pope Francis says getting vaccinated is the "moral choice." Still another tells fans of beer and country music, "It's okay to question. Now get the facts on coronavirus vaccines."

At least 35 government agencies, nonprofit entities, corporations and public figures have purchased ads with different pro-vaccination messages, each set to reach — and hopefully persuade — Americans based on characteristics such as political affiliation, cultural identity and hobbies, a Washington Post analysis of Facebook ad data has found.

The practice, known as micro-targeted advertising, is one of the Internet's biggest boogymen and has long been criticized as invasive, discriminatory and divisive. But the ad technique —

SEE INFORMATION ON A4

Virus's origin: Lawmakers and scientists call for more probes. A6

Unconvinced: FDA approval is still not swaying some skeptics. A7

Lone holdout: One unvaccinated pal can cause a lot of problems. C1

Survey finds American teens weary but optimistic

BY SYDNEY TRENT
AND EMILY GUSKIN

Sophia Grigsby watched with horrified amazement as insurrectionists stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, defying the halls of power in a violent attempt to prevent Joe Biden from becoming president.

The 16-year-old from rural Minnesota wondered, fleetingly, if she had been naïve in believing that the protests last summer following the murder of George Floyd had truly marked a turning point. Yet even as the televised spectacle confirmed her belief in the rising dangers of white supremacy — some of the rioters were carrying Confederate flags — Grigsby's optimism won out.

"Even with the murder of George Floyd, I'm finding people have become so much more aware," said Grigsby, who starts her junior year of high school in St. Peter, Minn., this month.

SEE TEENS ON A8

U.S., allies speed evacuations



Armed men associated with the Afghan resistance against the Taliban check cars Wednesday traveling in Panjshir province, the northeastern region of Afghanistan that is home to a budding movement opposing the militant group now in control in Kabul.

AHMAD SAHEL/ANMA/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

FEARS RISE FOR AT-RISK AFGHANS

Nations transition toward exit by Aug. 31

BY MISSY RYAN,
KAROUN DEMIRIAN,
JOHN HUDSON
AND DAN LAMOTHE

The United States and European allies accelerated their efforts to evacuate Western and local nationals from Afghanistan on Wednesday, with less than a week remaining before President Biden's departure deadline, as the military prepared to hand control of the Kabul airport to Taliban forces.

European countries including France and Germany signaled that they would wrap up their evacuation missions within days, possibly as early as Thursday, despite the crush of desperate Afghans who fear Taliban reprisal but have not been able to get out.

The Pentagon acknowledged that its ability to airlift evacuees could decrease in coming days as it turns to pulling out weaponry, equipment and troops ahead of the Aug. 31 deadline, which Biden affirmed this week was likely to be a coda to the United States' two decades in Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the focus in coming days would be on assisting remaining American citizens, who are believed to number up to 1,500, and certain Afghans who have worked with the U.S. government. He said at least 4,500 U.S. citizens have been evacuated from the country since Aug. 14.

Blinken sought to telegraph continued support for Afghans despite the hurried American exit and a recognition of the United States' limited leverage following the Taliban's return to power.

"We know that lives and futures, starting with our fellow citizens, including the lives of children, hang in the balance during

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A12

Taliban: Militants display U.S. weapons to project authority. A12

Congress: Leaders discourage further trips to Kabul. A13

Refugees: Biden enters divisive debate on resettlement. A14

Perilous departure revives heartache for Gold Star families

BY DAN LAMOTHE

As Jennie Taylor watched from Utah while the Taliban seized Kabul, the mother of seven was overcome with white-hot anger. Not only was a "devastation of humanity" unfolding in Afghanistan three years after her husband, Maj. Brent Taylor, was killed there, but military families were declaring the war was not worth it.

"To me, that's nails on a chalkboard," she said. "It's so counter to how I feel at my very core."

Two thousand miles away in Florida, Elena Gutierrez's initial reaction was different, at least at first. Watching the chaos play out, the mother of four cried while mourning anew the February 2020 death of her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Javier J. Gutierrez. He was one of the last two U.S. soldiers killed before the Trump administration signed a withdrawal deal with the Taliban.

SEE GOLD STAR ON A14



Deanna Sartor holds a portrait of her late husband, Sgt. Maj. James G. "Ryan" Sartor.

RACHEL WOLF FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Cash-strapped Taliban seeks political deal to legitimize government

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE

KABUL — The Taliban is scrambling to reach a deal with former Afghan officials to establish a government that could gain international recognition, keep aid money flowing into the country and restore access to billions of dollars in international reserves.

Taliban leaders have shuttled between more than a dozen meetings over the past week with the few former Afghan officials who remain in Kabul, including former president Hamid Karzai; Abdullah Abdullah, former leader of national reconciliation council; and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former warlord-turned-politician. The meetings have been held in the presidential palace, former government offices and private compounds.

For the Taliban, a political agreement could help the group avoid again becoming an international pariah, which would push

SEE TALIBAN ON A13

Corporate America's \$50 billion vow

Pledges to racial justice causes reveal limits of firms' power to effect change

BY TRACY JAN,
JENA MCGREGOR
AND MEGHAN HOYER

After the murder of George Floyd ignited nationwide protests, corporate America acknowledged it could no longer stay silent and promised to take an active role in confronting systemic racism.

From Silicon Valley to Wall Street, companies proclaimed "Black lives matter." JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon adopted the posture of former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's protests against police brutality and took a knee with bank employees. McDonald's declared Floyd and

other slain Black Americans "one of us."

Now, more than a year after America's leading businesses assured employees and consumers they would rise to the moment, a Washington Post analysis of unprecedented corporate commitments to racial justice causes reveals the limits of companies' power to remedy structural problems.

Apple and AbbVie, Facebook and Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Procter & Gamble, and other top corporations made broad claims about what they would do, pledging to be a force for societal change and to fight racism and injustice, including violence

against Black Americans.

Where and how they dedicated their money became the most visible signs of their priorities.

Since Floyd's murder in May 2020, America's 50 biggest public companies and their foundations have collectively committed at least \$49.5 billion to addressing racial inequality — an amount that appears unequaled in sheer scale.

Looking deeper, more than 90 percent of that amount — \$45.2 billion — is allocated as loans or investments they could stand to profit from, more than half in the form of mortgages. Two banks — JPMorgan Chase and

SEE PROMISES ON A18

IN THE NEWS



GREG NASH/POOL/REUTERS

Crypto skeptic Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen's stance on digital currencies drew scrutiny amid her push for regulation. A16

House Jan. 6 panel seeks records Requests for materials from eight agencies signaled that a wide-ranging investigation is underway. A4

THE NATION

The amount of emergency rental aid distributed in July barely surpassed June's figures, according to Treasury Department data. A2
A court upheld Dylann Roof's conviction and death sentence for the 2015 massacre in Charleston, S.C. A2
Sirhan B. Sirhan, who was convicted of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, will face a parole board for the 16th time, with no opposition. A3

THE WORLD

The Taliban's takeover

in Afghanistan could prompt a coronavirus crisis as vaccinations plummet, the United Nations warned. A15
The former commander of the Colombian army has been charged with murder for allegedly overseeing the killings of 104 civilians during its long civil war. A15
A delay in Vice President Harris's Vietnam route allowed Beijing to undercut a planned U.S. announcement on virus aid. A15

THE ECONOMY

Delta Air Lines will make employees get cor-

onavirus vaccinations or face weekly testing and a \$200 monthly surcharge for health insurance. A16
More than 1,000 Nabisco workers in five states are going on strike. A20

Ten federal agencies plan to expand their use of facial recognition technology despite concerns, a GAO report showed. A20

THE REGION

Former offenders competed for D.C. grants to launch their firms in a "Shark Tank" style event. B1
Thousands are expected to descend on the National Mall this

weekend to demand passage of legislation on federal voting rights. B1
D.C. police fatally shot an armed motorist who was awakened by officers after falling asleep behind the wheel, in the city's second police shooting in nine hours. B1

PJ Evans, an 8-year-old who was struck by a stray bullet Tuesday, was remembered for his big heart and NFL ambitions. B1
Several vaccinated members of Larry Hogan's staff have tested positive for the coronavirus, alarming leaders of a conference that the Maryland governor had recently attended. B4

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING

A 'greener' clean Many household products claim to be environmentally friendly. But do they work? C1

STYLE

Kidman's career She's one of the most unpredictable actors on the big screen. So, why aren't Nicole Kidman's television roles more interesting? C1

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Italia se suma al boicot a la FIFA y la Argentina sufre más que nadie

Por el *lockout* de las ligas europeas, la selección de Scaloni perdería hasta 21 jugadores para la triple fecha rumbo a Qatar 2022. Deportes



LA DINASTÍA PALOMINO, LA PULSIÓN Y EL DESEO DE SER ARTISTAS

—espectáculos

Juan; su papá, José, y sus hijos Sofía y Aarón son requeridos por el cine, el teatro y la TV; tres generaciones de actores que exploran el origen del oficio que apareció sin querer.

LABERINTO DE LIBROS Y REVISTAS DE ARTE EN EL MODERNO

—cultura

La biblioteca del museo reabre con un diseño envolvente y una oferta de más de 7000 volúmenes y documentos; habrá salas de lectura y talleres. Página 25

LA NACION

JUEVES 26 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Imputarán al Presidente por el festejo en Olivos

PANDEMIA. Es por haber incumplido las restricciones por el coronavirus durante el cumpleaños de su pareja; el abogado de Fernández quiere apurar el cierre de la causa

El presidente Alberto Fernández quedará imputado en la causa judicial en la que se investiga la violación de la cuarentena cometida en la quinta presidencial de Olivos, donde se celebró el cumpleaños de la primera dama, Fabiola Yañez, mientras regían duras restricciones.

El fiscal Ramiro González prepa-

ra un escrito para notificarle en las próximas 48 horas que está formalmente imputado en la causa, dijeron a LA NACION altas fuentes judiciales.

La imputación es el paso que espera Gregorio Dalbón, el abogado del Presidente, para poner en marcha su estrategia judicial, destinada a acelerar el cierre de la causa. Su respuesta

será ofrecer una conciliación o reparación del daño, a través de la entrega de parte del sueldo de Fernández a cambio de extinguir la acción penal. El festejo del cumpleaños de Fabiola Yañez en la quinta presidencial fue el 14 de julio de 2020, cuando regía una prohibición para realizar reuniones sociales. Página 8

IRÁN

Cristina Kirchner volvió a pedir ayer su sobreseimiento en la causa por el pacto con Irán. Página 14

EL ESCENARIO

Las encuestas presagian un cisne negro

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

Quien examine el contexto de la actual disputa de poder, si no se deja sugestionar por los augurios dominantes sobre su resultado, tendrá la impresión de que es imposible que el oficialismo gane. Sin embargo, todos los pronósticos coinciden en que, si se la pudiera pensar como una competencia nacional, la carrera tendría un desenlace favorable para el Frente de Todos. Continúa en la página 10

Aceleran la salida de Kabul y Blinken promete ayuda

el mundo—KABUL (AP).— Con aviones que despegaban cada 39 minutos, la evacuación de civiles siguió ayer en el aeropuerto de Kabul, mientras miles permanecían cerca de esa estación (foto). Antony Blinken, secretario de Estado, dijo que no "hay fecha límite". Página 2



Demandan a la Argentina en EE.UU. por Aerolíneas

EXPROPIACIÓN. El fondo Titan Consortium presentó en un tribunal de Estados Unidos una demanda contra la Argentina por US\$327 millones. Ese era el monto que el país debería haber pagado tras perder el juicio en el Ciadi por la expropiación de Aerolíneas. Página 18

OPINIÓN

Cuatro futuros posibles para el país que viene

Daniel Montamat

—PARA LA NACION—

Página 29

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LOS ACCIONISTAS DE BANCO SANTANDER RÍO S.A. NO RESPONDEN EN EXCESO DE SU INTEGRACIÓN ACCIONARIA.

Pacheco refuta pedido de impeachment contra Moraes

O presidente do Senado, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), rejeitou ontem o pedido de impeachment contra o ministro Alexandre de Moraes, do Supremo Tribunal Federal, apresentado por Jair Bolsonaro.

O gesto do presidente, no momento em que ele acirra seus ataques às instituições e após decisão do STF de investigá-lo no inquérito das fake news, o deixou isolado. **Poder A4**

Total da população vacinada

30 menos uma dose* totalmente vacinada**

Brasil 61,7% 27,2%

MS 72,3% 42,1%

SP 74,5% 34,1%

RS 67,2% 33,3%

Totalmente vacinada

100% 80 60 40 20

Números da pandemia

Casos Óbitos

Total 20,6 mi 576,7 mil

Méd. móvel 26,7 mil 718

Variação*** -16,1% -20,2%

Em 24 h 30,0 mil 901

Dados das 20h de 25 ago | * Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose | ** Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose | *** Em relação a 14 dias

Brasil vai adotar dose extra contra Covid em setembro

Nova rodada começa dia 15 para maiores de 70 no país; Doria quer vacinar dia 6

O ministro Marcelo Queiroga (Saúde) anunciou que o Brasil aplicará uma dose adicional da vacina contra Covid em pessoas acima de 70 anos e imunossuprimidas. A nova fase começa em 15 de setembro com quem tem 80 anos ou mais, e é preciso esperar 180 dias após a segunda dose (ou dose de Janssen).

Para imunossuprimidos, esse intervalo é de 21 dias. Horas após o anúncio, o governador de São Paulo, João Doria (PSDB), prometeu antecipar a rodada para o dia 6 e incluir sexagenários. Além disso, afirmou que aplicará uma de três vacinas disponíveis — Pfizer, AstraZeneca ou Coronavac.

A decisão federal é usar nesse reforço exclusivamente o imunizante da Pfizer, importado (a Coronavac é feita no Instituto Butantan, ligado a Doria, e a AstraZeneca, na Fiocruz, fundação federal). Diante da manifestação do tucano, o ministro respondeu que faltará vacina se um estado burlar sua diretriz.

Mortes pela doença no país têm caído, mas a internação de idosos sobe. **Saúde B1**

Drauzio Varella
Falta de consenso guia debate sobre reforço **CS**

Estudo sem aval com proxalutamida em hospital militar no RS é apurado B2

Sérgio Rodrigues Paraolímpico ou paralímpico?

Embora haja especulação sobre uma tentativa de fugir de "olímpico" como marca registrada, não é claro por que em 1989, ao ser criada, a entidade máxima do setor adotou a contração no nome — em inglês, "paralympic". O fato é que a impõe desde então às afiliadas. **Cotidiano B3**

Laerte VEM AÍ O 7 DE SETEMBRO



Esporte B6

Conduta de Caboclo

Advogados veem assédio sexual e discordam de comissão da CBF

Ciência B5

Fóssil de pterossauro confiscado é um dos mais bem preservados

Ilustrada C1

Livro 'Carcereiros', de Drauzio Varella, vira agora documentário

São Paulo pode ter recorde de calor, com refresco sexta

Cotidiano B3

Sequestro e roubo com Pix explodem no estado de SP

Cotidiano B4



Adriano Machado/Reuters

BOLSONARO OUVI SOBRE ESTABILIDADE EM DIA DO SOLDADO

O presidente e o vice Hamilton Mourão, em Brasília; em meio a crise institucional, o comandante do Exército, Paulo Sérgio Nogueira de Oliveira, citou "anseios de tranquilidade" **Poder A6**

Bolsonaro reedita em 7/9 coalizão que o levou ao poder

Os atos em defesa de Jair Bolsonaro, marcados para o feriado de 7 de Setembro, devem reeditar grande parte da coalizão de direita que o elegeu em 2018, apesar de interesses fragmentados.

Estarão presentes evangélicos, ruralistas, policiais, militares, caminhoneiros, monarquistas e ativistas.

Os grupos têm em comum apoio à reeleição do presidente e repúdio à volta da esquerda ao poder. Estão previstas concentrações em todas as capitais e principais cidades do interior. **Poder A8**

Congresso e STF cobram reforço na segurança para atos bolsonaristas A10

Presidente pede ao Exército que filha entre em colégio sem seleção

Jair Bolsonaro pediu ao comandante do Exército que dê tratamento especial à filha, Laura Bolsonaro, 10, para que ela seja matriculada no Colégio Militar de Brasília sem processo seletivo, informa Vinicius Sassine. **Poder A6**

Governo vai dar desconto na luz a quem economizar

O ministro de Minas e Energia, Bento Albuquerque, anunciou para setembro plano de desconto na conta de luz para clientes residenciais e empresariais que toquem poupar energia. A medida gerou críticas de que a economia pode ser pífia se não for compulsória. **Mercado A18**

Para economistas, inflação poderá chegar a 8% no ano

A crise hídrica prolongada, a maior demanda por serviços e os ruídos fiscais devem forçar novas revisões para cima nas estimativas de inflação do país. Com isso, o IPCA pode fechar o ano com variação próxima de 8% no acumulado de 12 meses, dizem economistas. **Mercado A19**

Justiça proíbe Piauí de publicar sobre Melhem

A Justiça do Rio de Janeiro proibiu a revista Piauí de publicar reportagem sobre os desdobramentos do caso de acusação de assédio envolvendo o humorista Marcio Melhem, ex-diretor da TV Globo. **Poder A11**

Parque alvo de fogo não tinha plano de manejo

Criado há 30 anos, o parque Estadual do Juqueri, na Grande SP, não possui documento técnico que norteie regras e gestão de recursos naturais. O fogo, no domingo, só foi extinto na terça (24). **Ciência B5**

EDITORIAIS A2

O fardo de Lula
Sobre processos na Justiça e campanha eleitoral.

Via para a normalidade
A respeito de passaporte da vacina em São Paulo.

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SUA EMPRESA NO PRÓXIMO NÍVEL.



Cuando se lo detuvo en 2004 tenía dinero oculto hasta en la ventanilla del baño

Kassem movía una montaña de dólares a la vista de todos

El Juzgado lo absolvió en el 2008 con el argumento de que no había suficientes elementos para sostener una condena. EEUU pide su extradición para procesarlo por lavado de dinero.

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Justicia defiende ante Gafilat su criticada actuación antilavado

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Israel dice que régimen iraní tendrá la bomba nuclear en dos meses

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**Baño de sangre en PJC:
5 muertos en 11 horas**



Acribillados. Rociaron a balazos una camioneta, que dejó dos muertos. En otro caso, ejecutaron a tiros a dos personas. También un hombre sufrió fatal atentado.

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Esperan nuevas partidas para reiniciar aplicación de primera dosis
Salud apunta vacunar a 4 millones de personas con dosis para fin de año

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LE FIGARO

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



RÉCIT
BRITNEY SPEARS :
GLOIRE, EXCÈS, CHUTE
ET RÉSURRECTION **PAGE 18**

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CHALANDON, DEL AMO, DUGAIN...
DES ROMANS À L'OMBRE DU PÈRE
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO

CES ÉCRIVAINS QUI AIMENT LA FRANCE

MURIEL BARBERY ET LA TOURAINE
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La campagne se lance à l'ombre de la crise sanitaire
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Éric Ciotti entre dans la danse de la primaire **PAGE 8**

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi :
Faut-il « expulser en urgence absolue » les Afghans soupçonnés de liens avec les talibans, comme le demande Xavier Bertrand ?

NON 9% OUI 91%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 239 137
Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Faut-il rendre obligatoire la vaccination des personnels éducatifs ?

MAGO IMAGES/FUTURE IMAGE VIA REUTERS CONNECT

Blanquer fait le pari d'une rentrée scolaire « normale »

Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale doit tenir, ce jeudi, sa conférence de rentrée. À une semaine de la reprise des classes, il s'efforce de maintenir le cap d'une école ouverte, malgré le Covid.

Dans une semaine, le jeudi 2 septembre, 12 millions d'élèves français retrouveront le chemin de l'école. Fidèle au cap qu'il s'est fixé depuis le

début de la pandémie, Jean-Michel Blanquer a prévu une rentrée « la plus normale possible », avec la mise en place de la vaccination pour les plus de

12 ans. C'est donc le niveau 2 du protocole, sur une échelle allant jusqu'à 4, qui va être appliqué dans toute la métropole. Ce choix de la souplesse

suscite, chez les syndicats d'enseignants, la crainte de « perturbations » que les plus pessimistes prédisent pour les semaines à venir : les regards

sont tournés vers les Antilles, où l'intensité de l'épidémie a contraint le gouvernement à reporter de deux semaines le retour à l'école.

→ LES QUESTIONS QUI FÂCHENT → LA CINQUIÈME RENTRÉE D'UN MINISTRE À LA LONGÉVITÉ RECORD → LE CAPTEUR DE CO₂, UN OUTIL SIMPLE POUR SAVOIR QUAND AÉRER
→ ACCOMPAGNER LES ADOLESCENTS POUR ÉVITER LES FERMETURES DE CLASSES → LES PARENTS CIRCONSPÉCTS FACE AU VACCIN POUR LEURS ENFANTS **PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL**

Le bel été du tourisme en France



Malgré l'absence de visiteurs étrangers, la mauvaise météo et le passe sanitaire, les professionnels réalisent une bonne saison estivale grâce à un afflux massif des touristes français. **PAGES 22 ET 23**

À Kaboul, le compte à rebours du départ des Occidentaux est lancé

Le pont aérien s'accélère depuis que Joe Biden a écarté en principe une prolongation des évacuations au-delà du 31 août. La France a annoncé que ses opérations cesseraient dès jeudi soir, pour des raisons de repli logistique. La Maison-Blanche a estimé mercredi à 82 300 le nombre total d'évacués depuis le 15 août. Mais, comme l'a reconnu Dominic Raab, le chef de la diplomatie britannique, « tout le monde ne pourra pas partir ». **PAGE 9**

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thréard ythreard@lefigaro.fr

L'école, coûte que coûte

De tous les pays occidentaux, la France est celui qui a le moins fermé ses établissements scolaires depuis le début de l'épidémie. C'était le pari du ministre de l'Éducation nationale pour la rentrée 2020, et il fut tenu, à une semaine près, au printemps. C'est de nouveau le sien pour celle de 2021 alors que le coronavirus et son variant Delta rôdent toujours. Sauf dans certains territoires ultramarins, la réalité lui a donné raison jusqu'à maintenant. En dépit des critiques et mises en garde, cela n'a pas provoqué une explosion de Covid-19 dans la société plus inquiétante que chez nos voisins. Par ailleurs, une scolarisation suspendue ou à distance ne peut avoir des effets désastreux sur le niveau et la psychologie d'enfants déjà déstabilisés par la crise sanitaire que nous traversons.

Une évolution capitale permet d'être encore plus optimiste pour le retour en classe, jeudi prochain. La vaccination des élèves âgés de 12 à 17 ans, bien avancée, devrait limiter la contagiosité. Elle va se poursuivre dans les établissements. Tout comme celle des enseignants, dont on peut se demander, à l'instar

d'autres fonctionnaires qui sont aussi au contact du public, pourquoi elle n'a pas été rendue obligatoire. Jean-Michel Blanquer préfère miser sur la responsabilité des professeurs. Sans doute veut-il éviter une éternelle polémique avec les puissants syndicats de l'Éducation nationale, à quelques mois de la présidentielle.

Jusqu'ici le pari s'est révélé gagnant

Un protocole, somme toute léger, sera présenté ce jeudi pour rassurer les parents. Il ne fera pas l'unanimité, suscitera nombre d'interrogations. On regrettera surtout que les établissements n'aient pas été équipés, comme souvent à l'étranger, de capteurs de CO₂ ou de purificateurs d'air. L'opération, certes coûteuse, aurait été salutaire. Jean-Michel Blanquer battra-t-il le record de longévité de Christian Fouchet, établi dans les années 1960 au ministère de l'Éducation nationale ? N'était la barbe qui orne à présent son visage, l'homme n'a jamais changé face à la pandémie : sa volonté de maintenir l'école ouverte, non pas quoi qu'il en coûte mais coûte que coûte, peut être saluée. ■



PASSEZ L'ESPOIR

ET SAUVEZ LA VIE D'UN ENFANT

Les enfants ont tous le même langage pour dire « l'espoir ».

Depuis toujours, d'où qu'ils viennent, ils le dessinent, rond comme un soleil, ils savent le faire rayonner par-delà les frontières pour le partager avec ceux qui ont le plus besoin de soins. Oui, comme les enfants, nous pouvons tous passer l'espoir et c'est cette Chaîne de l'Espoir qui, chaque année, soigne, opère et sauve 235 000 enfants dans 27 pays.

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How to make hits

The maestro reveals all

→ G2



Can this woman change the way we work? → Page 14



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Head for the border, UK tells Afghans trying to flee

Dan Sabbagh
Aubrey Allegretti
Julian Borger

Afghans who want to flee to Britain may be better off "trying to get to the border" than awaiting RAF evacuation, the defence secretary said as UK troops made last-ditch attempts to airlift at least 1,500 remaining interpreters and others who have supported the UK.

In a briefing to MPs, Ben Wallace signalled there were few places left on British rescue flights, which have evacuated more than 11,000 people from Kabul since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan less than two weeks ago.

More than 80,000 people have been airlifted by western forces, with the US saying yesterday planes were taking off almost every half hour from Kabul airport. In 24 hours, 19,000 people were flown out on 90 planes as part of an operation that could surpass the 1975 evacuation of Saigon to become the biggest airlift in history.

It came as UK defence sources voiced concerns over the "high risk of a terrorist attack", particularly a

suicide bombing by the group known as Isis-K. Extra security measures, including concrete barriers, have been installed around the evacuation processing centre by the airport.

In a sometimes fraught online meeting with MPs, the defence secretary was questioned about what Afghans who have been offered student places or fellowships in the UK should do. "If they think they can make it to a third country, that may be a better option," Wallace said.

Pressed by the Conservative backbencher Julian Lewis, Wallace added: "I recommend that they try and make it to the border that way ... because it is higher profile going to the airport - that is where the Taliban will be focusing efforts at the moment." There was no suggestion Afghans told by western officials to travel to the airport for evacuation should alter that plan, however.

UK evacuation efforts are now concentrated on the Afghan interpreters and others who worked for the British government, who have the right to resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy (Arap). "The number of Arap people we still have to



Pedal power

Cyclist Storey starts the GB Paralympics medals haul

Sport Page 40 →

PHOTOGRAPH: KIYOSHI OTA/GETTY

'Nobody's coming' Britons trapped in Kabul's crowds

Amelia Gentleman
Lisa O'Carroll

For the past four days, Nangyalai, a 42-year-old minicab driver from south London, has been with his wife and 11-month-old baby outside the Baron hotel on the edge

of Kabul airport, trying to get close enough to the gate to show his British passport.

There is a sign by the gate saying "British passport holders only". Inside the hotel, officials are working to grant evacuation visas for thousands of UK nationals and Afghan

Black people 'likely to be Tasered for longer'

Vikram Dodd
Crime correspondent

The police use of Tasers faces harsh scrutiny after an official report found officers deployed Taser stun guns too often, with black people more likely to face prolonged use.

The study by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) warned of a loss of legitimacy after a review of 101 cases of Taser use it investigated from 2015-20, which the watchdog assessed to be the most serious cases.

They represent a fraction of uses of Taser by officers in that time, which

numbered more than 94,000, and of which the police watchdog said there were cases of officers using it well.

Police chiefs attacked the findings as vague and out of date. Community groups said officers misusing the weapon were getting away with it. Amnesty International said the alleged misuse of stun guns by British police was a human rights issue.

Before the report it was known that black people, who make up less than 4% of the UK population, faced greater Taser use, leading to claims of racial bias. The IOPC said of the 101 cases it studied, it

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