

## Money changers

Emerging markets are fertile ground for cryptocurrencies — BIG READ, PAGE 15

## Natural defences

The biometric start-ups striving to kill off passwords — COMPANIES, PAGE 7



## Follow the leader

Why staff are unwilling to step up to management — WORK & CAREERS, PAGE 12

## Flying finish Triumphant end to Games

Japan's Misato Michishita crosses the finishing line with her guide to win the women's T12 marathon on the final day of the Tokyo Paralympics yesterday.

The visually-impaired long-distance runner, who previously won silver at the Rio games in 2016, completed the race in 3 hours and 50 seconds.

"It's like I am still dreaming and I hope that when I wake up at the Paralympic village tomorrow, it will be still real," the 44-year-old said.

The host nation finished 11th in the overall medal table, with Michishita's gold taking Japan's total haul to 51. China dominated the rankings, with 207 medals, including 96 gold.

The UK came second with 41 gold medals, followed by the US with 57.



Kazuo Noguchi/FP

# M&A on track to break records after \$4tn of deals so far this year

◆ Almost 40,000 tie-ups agreed ◆ Frenzied summer of activity ◆ Tech sector leads way

JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — NEW YORK

A frantic summer of dealmaking has put 2021 on track to break records, with almost \$4tn of mergers and acquisitions agreed since the start of the year, as companies rush to exploit cheap financing and bumper profits.

There were \$500bn of transactions globally in the usually quiet month of August, up from \$289bn in the same month last year and \$275bn in 2019. The surge has been fuelled by a mix of low borrowing costs, trillions of dollars in the coffers of private equity groups and the return of animal spirits to corporate boardrooms.

The summer boom has helped push global mergers and acquisitions to a record \$3.9tn so far this year, according

to data from Refinitiv, more than double the amount from the same period last year and up from \$2.6tn in 2019.

At this pace, M&A activity this year is set to overtake the all-time high hit before the financial crisis in 2007, when deals worth \$4.3tn were announced.

Many of the almost 40,000 deals announced since January have been large — running into tens of billions of dollars — and include a record number of cross-border tie-ups, such as General Electric's decision to sell its aircraft-leasing unit to Irish rival AerCap for more than \$50bn and the battle between Canada's largest railway groups to buy Kansas City Southern for more than \$31bn.

"With most businesses generating record profits, having access to inexpen-

sive debt and experiencing high share prices, it is difficult to see M&A activity slowing over the next six to 12 months," said Frank Aquila, global head of M&A at law firm Sullivan & Cromwell.

The deal flurry has boosted revenues on Wall Street. In the most recent quarter, JPMorgan reported record global investment banking fees of \$3.6bn, while Goldman Sachs's fees rose more than a third. Big international law firms have also prospered, with many reporting record profits, while partners have enjoyed bumper pay days.

This year's deal frenzy has sparked a battle for talent on both sides of the Atlantic, pushing up salaries for junior lawyers and bankers.

M&A activity has also been broad-based, as most sectors have enjoyed



**Deals on wheels:** the board of the Kansas City Southern railway is reconsidering an offer from Canadian Pacific. Full story, page 7

double-digit or triple-digit percentage increases compared with last year.

The tech sector has led the way, representing 21 per cent of all M&A activity, up from 16 per cent last year, marking the strongest proportion since the tech boom year of 2000. So far this year, tech companies have struck 8,742 transactions worth \$832bn, up from \$301bn of deals agreed in the same period last year and \$291bn in 2019.

Some of the largest tech transactions included Dell's \$52bn spin-off of VMware and Grab's \$40bn merger with a special purpose acquisition company.

"High valuations of public tech companies are providing them with real currency to afford certain acquisitions," said Atif Azher, a corporate partner at Simpson Thacher.

### Briefing

► **TotalEnergies secures \$27bn Iraq deals** French group TotalEnergies has signed energy deals with Iraq worth \$27bn, with a first-stage investment of \$10bn, the biggest investment by a western company in the country. — PAGE 6

► **Humanitarian crisis in Afghan holdout** Resistance fighters continued to hold out against the Taliban in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley yesterday, as the country's former vice-president warned of an "overwhelming humanitarian crisis". — PAGE 2

► **Guinea troops claim coup against Conde** Guinean soldiers appeared on state TV yesterday to claim they had overthrown President Alpha Conde in a military coup, less than a year after he won a disputed third term in office. — PAGE 4

► **BrewDog seals Asahi joint venture** BrewDog, the UK craft beer maker, has set up a marketing and distribution joint venture with Asahi of Japan to boost sales in the country before a planned London IPO. — PAGE 8

► **Democrats split on Biden spending plan** The White House is seeking to calm fears that President Joe Biden's \$3.5tn social spending plan will be derailed by a split between centrists and progressives within the Democratic party. — PAGE 4

► **Chipmakers face lingering Covid threat** Semiconductor makers must adjust their supply chains and work practices to a world in which new Covid-19 outbreaks seriously affect business, according to a leading industry boss. — PAGE 6

► **Marriott forced into 'fight for talent'** An acute shortage of workers has pitched Marriott into a "fight for talent" as it tries to recruit 10,000 staff for its US hotels after a rebound in bookings, its chief executive has warned. — PAGE 8

### Datwatch

#### Off beam

Incidents of lasers pointed at aircraft in US, 12-month moving average



The number of incidents of laser strikes on aircraft is increasing in the US, with 856 reported cases in July this year. Multiple incidents in New South Wales, Australia, led to the state laying restrictions on the sale of laser pointers.

## Top British schools with links to China squeezed by Beijing's tightening grip

SUN YU — BEIJING  
ANDREW JACK — LONDON

British schools' ambitions to expand in China are coming under pressure, as Beijing tightens restrictions on foreign influence in the education system and seeks to cut the number of children educated privately.

Restrictions on visas for foreign teachers are also contributing to a slowdown in the expansion of private schools for Chinese nationals, dozens of which have links to well-known British institutions — including Harrow, Wellington, Dulwich College and Charterhouse.

The changes are part of a Chinese government attempt to equalise educational opportunity in the wake of rapid growth in private schools, including those offering international exams and teaching in English as more students

seek to apply to foreign universities. The reforms follow recent draconian curbs on private tutoring services.

ISC Research, an educational consultancy, has identified 66 schools in China with an affiliation to 29 UK schools. These include 12 for Chinese citizens who also hold foreign passports, and 52 bilingual private schools open to other Chinese citizens. It said it was aware of a further 28 schools being planned.

Schools with foreign links are usually owned and operated by Chinese investors but pay fees to the affiliated British school, which often lends its brand name and provides some staff, materials and advice on teaching methods.

In May, Beijing stopped approving new private schools for the compulsory, or first nine of 12, years of education and last month at least four provinces said there was a goal to cut the proportion of

children who attend such schools from more than 10 per cent to less than 5 per cent by the end of the year.

Shanghai now requires bilingual primary and middle schools to use the same textbooks as state schools when teaching Chinese literature, politics, history and geography; to teach "Xi Jinping thought" from the third grade; and to seek approval for foreign texts.

The government policy does not explicitly target the schools for dual nationals or bilingual establishments, which comprise about one-fifth of China's 15,000 private primary and secondary schools, but some have been caught up in the clampdown.

"The days of China's runaway growth of bilingual schools are gone even though demand for western-style education remains strong," said a principal at a Shanghai-based bilingual school.

World Markets											
STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	3 Sep	2 Aug 27	%Week		3 Sep	2 Aug 27			price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4535.42	4509.37	0.58	\$ per £	1.188	1.179	£ per \$	0.721	0.729		
Nasdaq Composite	15363.52	15129.50	1.55	\$ per €	1.367	1.354	€ per \$	1.368	1.198		
Dow Jones Ind	35389.58	35456.80	-0.24	€ per £	0.857	0.858	¥ per \$	136.293	129.817		
FTSE 100	7138.35	7148.01	-0.14	¥ per \$	109.685	109.975	Indices	81.697	81.888		
Euro Stoxx 50	4201.98	4190.98	0.26	₩ per \$	152.127	151.144	Sfr per \$	1.287	1.259		
FTSE All-Share	7138.35	7148.01	-0.14	Sfr per \$	1.085	1.077					
CAC 40	6689.99	6681.92	0.12	€ per \$	0.842	0.848					
Nikkei	29128.11	27742.29	5.00	COMMODITIES							
Hong Kong	25801.99	25415.69	1.91		3 Sep	2 Aug 27	%Week		price	prev	chg
MSCI World \$	3161.46	-	-	Oil WTI \$	68.23	68.68	-0.79	Fed Funds Eff	0.10	0.08	0.02
MSCI EM \$	1311.91	-	-	Oil Brent \$	72.57	72.61	-0.06	US 3m Billis	0.05	0.05	0.00
MSCI ACWI \$	745.67	-	-	Gold \$	1912.55	1796.60	1.45	Euro Libor 3m	-0.56	-0.57	0.00
								UK 3m	0.06	0.07	0.00
								Prices are latest for addition		Data provided by Morningstar	
A Nikkei Company											



### Japan leadership vote is battle of the generations

The fight to succeed Japan's prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, will pit a frustrated younger generation of politicians against the old guard. Taro Kono, 58, and Fumio Kishida, 64, are tipped to battle for leadership of the Liberal Democratic party, with Kono likely to bring in younger leaders, while Kishida is the continuity candidate.

Whoever wins must face a general election by November 30.

Reshaping Japan's politics ► PAGE 3

FT View and Notebook ► PAGE 16

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## Behind a Drive In Texas to Halt Most Abortions

### Law Reflects Cultural and Judicial Shifts

By RUTH GRAHAM  
RICHARDSON, Texas — A steady stream of women trickled into Prestonwood Pregnancy Center late last week, alone and with partners, with appointments and without. One couple held hands and whispered cheerfully; a young woman scrolled through her phone until her name was called. A wall-mounted screen in a corner cycled through a carousel of inspirational messages. "You are strong." "Hope is stronger than fear." "There are options."

Abortion clinics emptied out last week after a Texas law enacting a near-complete ban on abortion went into effect. But Prestonwood is not one of those clinics. It is instead among the state's more than 200 "crisis pregnancy centers," facilities aligned with anti-abortion organizations that offer free medical tests and counseling in hopes of dissuading women from terminating their pregnancies.

These centers are sometimes located within sight of abortion clinics, and there are nearly 10 times as many of them, a sign of the extraordinary success of the state's anti-abortion movement that led to the passage of the country's most restrictive law.

This moment in Texas is the culmination of years of Republican control, conservative judicial appointments and rising passion around abortion issues by many Christians in the state. Polls show Texans almost evenly divided on abortion access and the state's cities have grown more Democratic, but it was the conservative abortion opponents who established a powerful political, cultural and even physical presence across the state's vast terrain.

In the race among conservative states to undo the constitutional right to an abortion, as established in 1973 by the landmark case, Roe v. Wade — Texas "feels an obligation to lead and be bold," said John Seago, legislative director for Texas Right to Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group.

Continued on Page A15



Medics transported a patient in Houston last month as cases there surged. About 100,000 Covid patients are hospitalized in the U.S.

## The Welcome Mat Is Out for Afghan Refugees

By MIRIAM JORDAN  
and JENNIFER STEINHAEUER

PHOENIX — The hundreds of parishioners at Desert Springs Bible Church, a sprawling megachurch in the northern suburbs of Phoenix, are divided over mask mandates, the presidential election and what to do about migrants on the border. But they are unified on one issue: the need for the United States to take in thousands of Afghan evacuees, and they are passing the plate to make it happen.

"Even the most right-leaning isolationists within our sphere recognize the level of responsibility that America has to people who sacrificed for the nation's interest," said Caleb Campbell, the evangelical church's lead pastor.

Last weekend, the church inaugurated a campaign to raise money for the dozens of Afghan families who are expected to start

### Thousands Offer Aid From Both Sides of Political Spectrum

streaming into greater Phoenix in the next several weeks. Already, thousands of dollars have flowed into the church's "benevolence fund."

"This is a galvanizing moment," said Pastor Campbell, 39.

Throughout the United States, Americans across the political spectrum are stepping forward to welcome Afghans who aided the U.S. war effort in one of the largest mass mobilizations of volunteers since the end of the Vietnam War.

In rural Minnesota, an agricultural specialist has been working on visa applications and providing temporary housing for the newcomers, and she has set up an area

for halal meat processing on her farm. In California, a group of veterans has sent a welcoming committee to the Sacramento airport to greet every arriving family. In Arkansas, volunteers are signing up to buy groceries, do airport pickups and host families in their homes.

"Thousands of people just fled their homeland with maybe one set of spare clothes," said Jessica Ginger, 39, of Bentonville, Ark. "They need housing and support, and I can offer both."

Donations are pouring in to nonprofits that assist refugees, even though in most places few Afghans have arrived yet. At Mission Community Church in the conservative bedroom community of Gilbert outside Phoenix, pa-

Continued on Page A10

## Athletes Meet Fiercest Rival: Potent Storms

By JÉRÉ LONGMAN

GRAND ISLE, La. — Ida was not yet a hurricane when high school coaches across southern Louisiana began preparing for what had become all too familiar, even inevitable.

Coach Denny Wright of tiny Grand Isle School texted his cross-country runners and basketball players about the mandatory evacuation on Louisiana's only inhabited barrier island: "No school. No practice. I'll let you know when."

Lyle Fitte, the football coach at South Plaquemines High School in Buras, La., evacuated on what became an eight-hour trip to Houston. Buras is 50 miles southeast of New Orleans on a thin, vulnerable peninsula where the Mississippi runs to the Gulf. Mr. Fitte's high school coach rode out Hurricane Katrina in a gym in 2005 when the storm poured 20 feet of water into lower Plaquemines Parish. Mr. Fitte, 30, would not make the same reckless decision.

"I've got kids," he said.

Along the Texas border in Cameron Parish, which was devastated last year by the one-two punch

Continued on Page A12

## Nicaraguans Are Living in Fear As Ortega Comes for Opponents

This article is by Yubelba Mendoza, Anatoly Kurmanav and Alfonso Flores Bermúdez.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The nights were the hardest.

From the moment Medardo Mairena decided to run for president, in direct challenge to Nicaragua's authoritarian leader, he was certain the security apparatus would eventually come for him.

Over the summer, he watched as other opposition leaders disappeared. One by one, they were dragged from their homes amid a nationwide crackdown on dissent by the president, Daniel Ortega, whose quest to secure a fourth term had plunged the Central American nation into a state of pervasive fear.

Since June, the police have jailed or put under house arrest

## AS VIRUS SURGES, AMERICANS DREAD GOING BACKWARD

### 1,500 DEATHS MOST DAYS

### Millions Refuse Vaccines, Driving Cases to Rise Sixfold in Summer

By MITCH SMITH  
and JULIE BOSMAN

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — A summer that began with plunging caseloads and real hope that the worst of Covid-19 had passed is ending with soaring death counts, full hospitals and a bitter realization that the coronavirus is going to remain a fact of American life for the foreseeable future.

Vaccination rates are ticking upward, and reports of new infections are starting to fall in some hard-hit Southern states. But Labor Day weekend bears little resemblance to Memorial Day, when the country was averaging fewer than 25,000 cases daily, or to the fourth of July, when President Biden spoke about nearing independence from the virus.

Instead, with more than 160,000 new cases a day and about 100,000 Covid patients hospitalized nationwide, this holiday feels more like a flashback to 2020. In Kansas, many state employees were sent home to work remotely again. In Arizona, where school mask mandates are banned, thousands of students and teachers have had to go into quarantine. In Hawaii, the governor has issued a plea to tourists: Don't visit.

"The irony is that things got so good in May and most of June that all of us, including me, were talking about the end game," said Dr. John Swartzberg, an infectious disease specialist at the University of California, Berkeley. "We started to enjoy life again. Within a very few weeks, it all came crashing down."

The resurgence has left the country exhausted, nervous and less certain than ever about when normalcy might return.

More than 1,500 Americans are dying most days, worse than when cases surged last summer but far lower than the winter peak. Though the rate of case growth nationally has slowed in recent days and incremental progress has been made in Southern states, other regions are in the midst of growing outbreaks. And with millions of schoolchildren now returning to classrooms — some for the first time since March 2020 — public health experts say that more coronavirus clusters in schools are inevitable.

"No one's wanting to go back to fight-Covid mode," said Andrew

Continued on Page A11

## Napoleonic General Fails to Help France and Russia Make Peace

By CONSTANT MÉHEUT

LE BOURGET, France — The plan, to repatriate the skeleton of a Napoleonic general who died on a Russian battlefield two centuries ago, was supposed to bring together the leaders of two nations long at odds.

The remains of Gen. Charles Étienne Gudin, who was killed in action in 1812 during Napoleon's invasion of Russia, would be flown home with official pomp, and President Emmanuel Macron of France would host his Russian counterpart, Vladimir V. Putin, for a funeral that would serve as a symbolic burying of the hatchet.

Instead, General Gudin's return to French soil on July 13 was far more low-key. His coffin was flown in on a private plane chartered by a Russian oligarch and was welcomed with a small ceremony in a grain hangar at Le Bourget airport, near Paris, next to a decommissioned Concorde jet. The presidents were nowhere in sight.

"It was not the repatriation that was originally conceived," said Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, a French historian of Russia.

Once seen as an opportunity to leverage history for diplomatic purposes, the plan was eventually sunk by France's unwillingness to countenance Russia's increasingly tough domestic and foreign policies. The unraveling of the project also spoke to France and Russia's peculiar relationship,



A Moscow ceremony for transferring Gen. Charles Étienne Gudin's remains to France from Russia.

shaped by a complicated shared history filled with shadowy intermediaries and backdoor diplomacy.

General Gudin's case, Ms. Carrère d'Encausse said, "reveals the complexity, the difficulty for France in this French-Russian relationship."

A favorite of Napoleon, General Gudin distinguished himself in

battle before being hit by a cannonball on Aug. 19, 1812, as the French Army marched on Smolensk, in western Russia. His left leg was amputated, and he died of gangrene three days later.

The whereabouts of his grave remained a mystery until 2019, when Pierre Malinowski, an amateur history buff, mounted a search with a team of Russian and

French archaeologists — and the Kremlin's explicit support.

Mr. Malinowski, 34, a former French Army corporal and a former aide to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the longtime French far-right leader, had ingratiated himself with the Russian authorities through a series of archaeological projects connecting France and

Continued on Page A5



NATIONAL A9-15

### Blood on Blair Mountain

In 1921, oppressed coal miners clashed with sheriff's deputies in the largest uprising since the Civil War. PAGE A9

**Where a Flood Spared No One**  
The record rainfall from Hurricane Ida appeared to damage every home on one tight-knit block in Queens. PAGE A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

### Thai Protests Are Daily Event

With more than 12,000 dead, few vaccinated and the economy in shambles, demonstrations against the authorities have gotten angrier. PAGE A4

### Rhodes Scholar's Mission

Summa Tora used her connections to get her father and an uncle out of Kabul. Helping other Afghan refugees, she said, may be her calling. PAGE A6

### Questions Swirl Around Strike

The preliminary analysis of a U.S. drone strike on a car in Afghanistan offers less conclusive evidence of explosives than officials had initially claimed. PAGE A7



SPORTS D1-8

### Reclaiming Their Waves

A new generation of Black surfers is building on the achievements of those who came before. PAGE D4

### Underdog Among Giants

Ukraine challenges the medal counts of much bigger nations in the Paralympics despite daunting obstacles. PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-4

### The Black Box of Hollywood

With box office numbers way down in the pandemic and streaming numbers hard to come by, the film industry is once again unable to determine whether a movie is a hit or a miss. PAGE B1

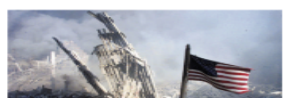
### Please Don't Quit

The pandemic exacerbated many of the issues that fuel employee burnout. Now, companies are trying to combat the effects of working remotely by offering more time off and other perks. PAGE B1

OPINION A16-17

### Farhad Manjoo

PAGE A16



ARTS C1-6

### Revisiting 9/11 Differently

After 20 years, it's time for TV to treat Sept. 11 as serious, even divisive history, not just dutiful remembrance, James Poniewozik writes. PAGE C1



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## Echoes of 2020 in recall election

Trump's loss, mail-in ballots, urban liberals: All are targets of rural Republicans' anger.

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

**SUTTER CREEK, Calif.** — Looking to oust the governor? Ed Brown has just the right merch for you.

Camouflage Recall Newsom hats and Recall Newsom masks. He's got Recall Newsom yard signs. A stack of Recall Newsom pamphlets.

But just days before voters decide whether to push Democrat Gavin Newsom from office, the trailer off Golden Chain Highway was mostly a shrine to former President Trump.

"As far as I'm concerned, Trump is the president," said Brown, 67.

And as for the recall election?

"They'll probably do something to cheat," he said of Newsom's supporters, adding that he will vote for Larry Elder because "he's more like Trump; he's for the people."

The Republican-backed recall election could not be more consequential for California. Set amid a deadly wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with record-breaking wildfires and a relentless drought drying fields and faucets, it gives the GOP its best shot in over a decade at governing the nation's most populous state.

And if there's a symbolic heart of recall mania, it may be here in Amador County in the Sierra foothills, where about 1 in 5 registered voters [See Recall, A7]

### Numbers don't add up for GOP

Newsom likely to survive election, George Skelton writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



PAUL RATJE AP/GETTY IMAGES

**MIGRANTS** line up for supplies at a camp in Reynosa, Mexico. "We all thought this would get better when Biden got the presidency," said camp worker Brendon Tucker, who noted that conditions only deteriorated.

## From bad to worse on border

Biden cleared squalid migrant camp in Mexico and it was razed. Soon a new one went up — on cartel land.

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

**REYNOSA, Mexico** — When Joe Biden was running for president, he promised to close a squalid border tent camp in Mexico where thousands of migrants had been left to await the outcome of their immigration cases by the Trump administration.

Last spring, Biden emptied the camp, allowing most of the migrants to claim asylum and enter the U.S. even as his administration continued enforcing a Trump pandemic policy that in effect barred most other asylum seekers.

Soon after the Matamoros camp was bulldozed in March, a new camp formed about 50 miles west in the more dangerous, Gulf crime cartel stronghold of Reynosa. Now that camp and another in Tijuana are home to thousands of asylum seekers, many with spouses and children in the U.S. The numbers are expected to grow after federal courts reinstated [See Migrants, A4]



MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"**THERE** are some days we don't eat," says Honduran asylum seeker Abel Garcia, with daughters Andrea, 11, and Ashley, 7, in Reynosa.



FRANCINE ORR LOS ANGELES TIMES

**AVANTI DALAL** and her nephew, Sebastian, on La Costa Beach in early August. As a child, Times reporter James Rainey knew the beach as the Cove.

### COLUMN ONE

## 'Cove' is a secret no more

Decades later, a reporter revisits a childhood haunt: a Malibu beach that's finally open to all

BY JAMES RAINEY

**T**he signs went up about a half-century ago, but they spring to memory like yesterday. On a white background, in vivid red lettering: "Danger" and "KEEP OUT."

An unseen hand mounted the warnings around the top and sides of the wide concrete tunnel, an underpass built to allow tiny Coal Creek to flow under Pacific Coast Highway and into Santa Monica Bay. The subtext couldn't have been clearer: "Stay

off our beach."

That's not the kind of message anyone wants to read. It was especially unwelcome to us, kids lucky enough to grow up in the sunbaked hills on the other side of the coast highway, in Malibu.

Half a dozen years before the California Coastal Act of 1976 made it official, something primal already assured us that access to the beach should be welcomed, not off-limits like some tycoon's yacht. So, with a wicked old chain-link fence blocking direct access to the shore, we ignored the signs and plunged under PCH.

It was dark in there. [See Cove, A12]

## A tale of two cities, one school district and, of course, taxes

BY MARIA L. LA GANGA

The accusations are ugly and public. The differences, textbook irreconcilable.

The two cities that make up the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District want a divorce — and the points of contention are similar to those that plague most messy breakups: money, power, fairness. And most volatile of all: what is in the best interests of the children.

These sun-kissed cities

don't share a boundary, or much of anything else, but for nearly 70 years they have been joined by their school system. For more than half that time, Malibu has been trying to leave.

"It has come to the point where everybody feels it is best to be separate, because there is just so much history," said Santa Monica-Malibu Supt. Ben Drati. "The marriage is not working well. We just need to be able to divide the funding so no one's harmed. ... But [See School district, A8]

### College financial aid scam prompts federal warning

The alert comes after California schools are hit by a scheme involving 65,000 fake applications. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Guinea soldiers say leader is out

An army colonel in the West African nation declares that his forces have dissolved the government. **WORLD, A3**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 88/66. **B6**



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

### DODGERS DROP SERIES

Steven Duggar and the Giants win 6-4, and L.A. falls out of a first-place tie in NL West. **SPORTS, D1**

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Decreasing clouds 85/65 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 86/70 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 • B2

## In Kabul, 'longtime partners' left behind

Embassy workers, visa applicants and students among stranded Afghans

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE

KABUL — The day Afghanistan's capital fell, a contractor who had worked at the U.S. Embassy for six years was dismissed from work early.

Embassy staffers had collected his family's information weeks before in preparation for a possible evacuation. But after he was told on Aug. 15 to leave the embassy's grounds, "nobody called, nobody emailed."

"Everyone knows where I worked, that I worked with the Americans," said the contractor, who ran a shop at the embassy and who, like others in this report, spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisals. He eventually fled to the home of a relative in a neighboring province. "I gave my mother my embassy badges and told her to put them in a box and bury it in the garden."

Roughly 2,500 U.S. Embassy employees were among the 120,000 people the United States evacuated by air from Afghanistan, according to President Biden. But the operation left "many of our longtime partners" behind, according to a State Department spokesperson. One person familiar with the matter said they included about 2,000 U.S. Embassy contractors and immediate family members, some of whom had worked at the embassy for more than a decade. The State Department declined to comment on that number.

For those who were not evacuated, Undersecretary of State SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A8

## Moments of prayer amid the plight in Louisiana



MATT SLOOM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worshippers attend a Sunday Mass in the gymnasium of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in LaPlace, La., a town where Hurricane Ida destroyed many homes and power outages persist. Around the state, families have scrambled to find information on loved ones evacuated from nursing homes to a warehouse in Independence, La. **Story, A3**

## Millions losing jobless benefits

PANDEMIC-RELATED AID SET TO EXPIRE

Worry rises over possible poverty, economic drag

BY YEGANEH TORRATI, ANDREW VAN DAM AND ALYSSA FOWERS

More than 7 million out-of-work people across the United States are set to lose all of their jobless benefits this week as three federal programs expire on Monday, in what several experts described as one of the largest and most abrupt ends to government aid in U.S. history.

In addition to the more than 7 million people who will lose all their benefits, nearly 3 million more people will lose a \$300 weekly boost to their state unemployment benefits.

The cessation of this jobless aid, first put in place by Congress nearly 18 months ago, could upend the lives of millions of Americans still struggling to find work at a time when the delta variant of the coronavirus is wreaking fresh havoc across some states. It could also lead to a sharp pullback in spending, particularly in certain areas of the country, affecting restaurants and many other businesses that rely on consumer dollars.

"I don't understand how anyone in Washington cannot see normal people — their friends, families, cousins — who are going through this," said Kathleen Fox, a producer in New York whose work has been recognized with a Peabody Award but who has SEE UNEMPLOYMENT ON A11

## Recall vote is latest battle for California governor

BY SCOTT WILSON

OAKLAND, CALIF. — The applause is light as Gov. Gavin Newsom makes his way through the chain-link fence, into a commuter parking lot transformed on this late-summer day into a pop-up vaccination clinic in this city's Fruitvale neighborhood.

It is light not because Newsom, a Democrat with national ambitions in his third year in office, is unpopular. Many politicians would envy his right-around-50-percent approval rating, especially after the state has endured wave after wave of coronavirus surges and is watching, nearly helpless, as one of its most popu-

lar and culturally important mountain tourist towns faces down an advancing wall of wildfire flames.

There just aren't that many people here. Because the neighborhood is heavily Latino, with a high proportion of undocumented residents, most in the audience are not even registered to vote.

They don't mind Newsom — tall, fit, groomed and dressed in that tieless casual way California politicians do when on the road — but their main goal is to get vaccinated in the sparse spare time they have before work.

On a normal day at the end of August, this would appear to be SEE NEWSOM ON A4

## A summer of heated feuds, rising covid deaths in Fla.

BY SAUNDRA AMRIHEIN, FENIT NIRAPPIL, JARED LEONE AND JACQUELINE DUPREE

THE VILLAGES, FLA. — They trickled into a theater resembling a barn and refashioned as a site administering antibodies to treat covid-19: retired couples holding gloved hands, an elderly man stumbling as a woman held his arm, paramedics donning oxygen masks.

Other retirees zipped past the theater on bicycles and in golf carts, whizzing through the busy shopping and entertainment plaza in the nation's largest retirement community.

Sara Branscome, 61, marveled at how life goes on amid crisis as she sat masked in her home's screened patio several miles away. SEE FLORIDA ON A5

## For women at work, pandemic widened a gap

The crisis cost 54 million their jobs, erasing decades of gains, and recovery may take a generation

BY EMILY RAUHALA, ANU NARAYANSWAMY, YOUNG SHIN AND JULIA LEDUR

The first year of the pandemic knocked 54 million women around the world out of work, widening the gender gap in employment. It could take years for that gap to narrow again.

Of the women who lost jobs in 2020, almost 90 percent exited the labor force completely, compared with around 70 percent of men.

How did this happen? Country-level data offers clues. The Washington Post analyzed available data and focused on three countries that offered revealing case studies: Peru, Thailand and France.

Even more than men, many women work in precarious conditions without job security, regular hours or benefits. In Peru, for example, the pandemic has pushed more women than men out of formal employment. A year and a half in, Claudia Huapaya, 46, and many others are still struggling to care for children and elders while earning far less than before.

Women in many countries were disproportionately represented in the type of SEE WORK ON A12



DANIELA RIVERA/ANTARA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Claudia Huapaya, 46, became one of 54 million women worldwide who lost their jobs in the first year of the pandemic. After losing her business, she found work as a nanny and house cleaner and sold meals she cooked. "You do whatever you have to," she said.

## GOP forces a game of catch-up for Democrats

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

New laws took effect last week in Texas that make it easier to openly carry a handgun and nearly impossible to seek an abortion procedure after six weeks of pregnancy. On the governor's desk is a measure that would dramatically limit options for voting. All of them are Republican wins that cap off a banner 2021 for down-ballot conservatives.

This year alone, 12 states have passed income tax reductions, 17 states have increased voting restrictions that are expected to hit Democratic constituencies more critically, and 18 states have enacted new or expanded school choice programs, according to the tallies kept by interest groups.

Republican governors in several states have also had success SEE CONSERVATIVES ON A2

## IN THE NEWS



POOL/EPA-EFE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

**Coup in Guinea** After hours of shooting, military leaders in the West African nation said they detained President Alpha Condé. **A9**

**Shooting part of D.C.'s rising violence** After a burst of gunfire killed three and injured three, police sought the killers — and solutions. **B1**

**THE NATION** The president of the Human Rights Campaign refused to resign amid criticism of his role advising the office of then-New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo as it responded to sexual harassment allegations. **A3**  
**A onetime Marine** sharpshooter is accused of shooting and killing four people, including a 3-month-old, in two homes near Lakeland, Fla., before he was taken into custody. **A3**

**THE WORLD** After a summer of horrific discoveries, Indig-

enous issues receive little attention on the campaign trail in Canada. **A6**

**THE ECONOMY** A tech guide to staying in touch, finding help and being safe during a natural disaster. **A10**  
**Researchers** are looking beyond burying power lines as they seek to more efficiently weatherproof utility systems. **A10**

**THE REGION** Standardized test scores fell across Virginia this past academic year, reflecting the pandemic's impact. **B1**  
**The first week of school**

is over in D.C., but parents and elected officials are still ramping up calls for the mayor to allow more families to opt in to virtual learning. **B1**  
**Montgomery County** police did not adequately collect and record data on "an unknown number" of traffic stops for 14 years, potentially violating state law, an oversight report found. **B1**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**  
**MONDAY** D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser celebrates the opening of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.

**TUESDAY** The House and the

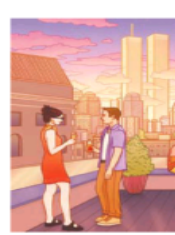
Senate meet for pro forma sessions.

**WEDNESDAY** Job openings for July are projected at 10 million. **The National Baseball Hall of Fame** holds its induction ceremony.

**THURSDAY** Jobless claims for the week that ended Sept. 4 are projected at 344,000. **The Biden administration** hosts an economic summit with Mexico.

**FRIDAY** Producer prices for August are expected to increase 0.6 percent. **A Eurogroup meeting** is held in Brussels.

## INSIDE



**STYLE** Summer gone sour In the months leading up to 9/11, Pax Americana was only just beginning to yield a hangover. The mood was leery and languid. **C1**

**A sensitive touch** Abortion has always been a tough subject for Hollywood. "Parenthood" got it right in 1989. **C1**

**BUSINESS NEWS** .....A10  
**COMICS** .....C6  
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**LOTTERIES** .....B3  
**OBITUARIES** .....B6  
**TELEVISION** .....C4  
**WORLD NEWS** .....A6

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0 70628 21100 3

## Competencia oficial, la estrella argentina en Venecia

Se presentó la comedia dirigida por Mariano Cohn y Gastón y Andrés Duprat; la protagonizan Penélope Cruz, Antonio Banderas y Oscar Martínez. Espectáculos



## MAR DEL PLATA YA SUEÑA CON EL VERANO POSPANDEMIA

—sociedad

Con recaudos para la seguridad sanitaria, los distintos sectores se unen para planificar una temporada que reviva el turismo. Página 18

## LA VIDA EN KABUL, BAJO EL IMPERIO DEL TERROR

—el mundo

Noches en vela, ejecuciones y problemas para encontrar efectivo: cómo pasan sus días los afganos desde el triunfo de los talibanes. Página 4

# LA NACION

LUNES 6 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR



Entre la sorpresa y la incredulidad, Messi y Neymar hablan con los inspectores sanitarios tras la suspensión del partido. SEBASTIAO MOREIRA/EPF

## Escándalo y controversia por la suspensión del partido Argentina-Brasil

**PAPELÓN INTERNACIONAL.** Irrumpieron inspectores sanitarios apenas iniciado el clásico en San Pablo; acusaron a cuatro jugadores de incumplir el protocolo; la FIFA analiza cómo sigue

Solo cinco minutos se jugaban del clásico entre Brasil y la Argentina, por las eliminatorias rumbo a Qatar, cuando inspectores sanitarios invadieron el campo de juego y se determinó la suspensión del partido. Ante los ojos del mundo se desató un papelón internacional, con derivaciones políticas y diplomáticas. Anvisa, el organismo sanitario brasileño, qui-

sorretirar de la cancha a los futbolistas argentinos que militan en la Premier League inglesa (Emiliano Martínez, Emiliano Buendía, Cristian Romero y Giovanni Lo Celso), esgrimiendo el incumplimiento de una reglamentación, ya que por servirajeros provenientes de Inglaterra debían cumplir una cuarentena de 14 días.

Imágenes de confusión y tensión in-

vadieron el estadio Arena Corinthians, en San Pablo. Antes del partido, la situación parecía haber quedado resuelta con una negociación entre las autoridades locales, la Conmebol, la AFA y la Confederación Brasileña de Fútbol. Sin embargo, el organismo sanitario irrumpió en pleno partido y provocó la suspensión. La FIFA ahora analiza culpas y responsabilidades. Deportes

**El señor de jeans, las falsas verdades y dos derrotas**

Andrés Elieche. Página 3

**Brasil justificó la invasión por la rebeldía argentina**

Marcelo Silva de Sousa. Página 5

## Por el Covid, necesitarán un ejército de fiscales electorales

**PASO.** El aumento de los centros de votación por la pandemia complica el control de los comicios

Los partidos políticos deberán redoblar sus esfuerzos para controlar sus boletas en las elecciones del próximo domingo como consecuencia de las medidas tomadas por la pandemia. En efecto, la Justicia Electoral dispuso aumentar entre un 25 y un 30% la cantidad de centros de votación en todo el país para evitar aglomeraciones. Por lo tanto, en cada distrito los partidos deberán garantizarse un verdadero ejército de fiscales a la hora de supervisar todo el proceso. Solo en la provincia de Buenos Aires, cada fuerza política necesitará por lo menos una legión de 42.000 personas, entre fiscales generales y fiscales de mesa, para controlar la votación. Página 6

### EL ESCENARIO

Políticos a ciegas y con miedo a perder

Claudio Jacquelin

—LA NACION—

Página 9

## Varados: se amplía el cupo con otro aeropuerto

**MENDOZA.** El Gobierno se apresura a habilitar el aeropuerto Francisco Gabrielli, en la capital de Mendoza, como "corredor aéreo seguro", algo que, de acuerdo con la última normativa oficial, permitirá aumentar el cupo de pasajeros aéreos permitido para ingresar desde el exterior de los actuales 1700 a 2300 diarios. La novedad fue comunicada a los representantes de las compañías aéreas. Página 16

## Cada vez más tarjetas con "saldo insuficiente"

**COMPRA.** Los bancos no actualizan los topes disponibles por temor a la morosidad. Página 12

### EL PULSO DEL CONSUMO

## Los mitos que se están resquebrajando

Guillermo Oliveto

—PARA LA NACION—

Casi como si fuera una trágica ironía del destino que se puso a jugar con los números, para muchos argentinos el período 2020/2021 vino a cerrar un ciclo que comenzó en 2001/2002. Detectan un hilo invisible que une las dos peores crisis que

soportó este país. De orígenes y configuraciones muy diferentes, ambas instancias comparten las caídas económicas más violentas de nuestra historia. En 2002, la contracción fue del 11% y en 2020, del 10%. Prácticamente iguales. Más allá del mi-

nucioso análisis que podría hacerse sobre las diferencias entre uno y otro momento, que las hay y muchas, soslayar este gran factor que tienen en común implica una de las cosas más peligrosas que hay: obviar lo obvio. Continúa en la página 13

**Total da população vacinada**

	ao menos uma dose*	totalmente vacinada**
<b>Brasil</b>	<b>64,9 %</b>	<b>31,5 %</b>
MS	73,3%	46,5%
SP	76,5%	40,1%
RS	69,9%	38,1%



**Números da pandemia**

	Casos	Óbitos
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,9 mil</b>	<b>583,6 mil</b>
Méd. móvel	20,4 mil	606
Variação***	-30,8%	-20,8%
Em 24 h	9,1 mil	257

Dados das 20h de 5.set  
\* Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose  
\*\* Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose  
\*\*\* Em relação a 14 dias

## Anvisa interrompe jogo para expulsar argentinos do país

O jogo entre Brasil e Argentina, no estádio corintiano, foi interrompido com apenas 7 minutos após a entrada de agentes da Anvisa (Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária) e da Polícia Federal no campo. A Anvisa afirma que quatro atletas argentinos, que estiveram no Reino Unido, descumpriram as regras de quarentena contra a Covid-19. **Esporte B5**

## Economista João Sayad morre de câncer aos 75 anos

Colunista da Folha nos anos 90, o economista e professor universitário João Sayad, 75, ocupou vários cargos públicos. Foi ministro do Planejamento durante o governo Sarney, secretário de Finanças na prefeitura petista de Marta Suplicy em São Paulo e secretário estadual de Cultura na gestão de José Serra. **Mercado A14**

# STF e centrão avisam que tom golpista prejudicará governo

Ação de Bolsonaro em atos amanhã pode custar apoio parlamentar e solução para Auxílio Brasil

O tom que o presidente Jair Bolsonaro adotou nas manifestações marcadas para amanhã em São Paulo e em Brasília pode determinar o futuro de suas relações com os demais Poderes e, por conseguinte, sua perspectiva para as eleições de 2022.

Ministros do Supremo Tribunal Federal alertaram Bolsonaro que a negociação da saída para o rombo dos precatórios, que viabilizaria a substituição do Bolsa Família pelo Auxílio Brasil, vitrine de campanha, depende de o Executivo cessar os ataques.

No Congresso, líderes dos partidos do centrão, base governista no Legislativo, passaram a considerar seriamente o desembarque em ano eleitoral caso não haja moderação do presidente, cujos ataques à democracia tornaram-se frequentes.

O cálculo das siglas é pragmático: Bolsonaro perde popularidade nas pesquisas e, com o cenário econômico desfavorável, como apontam dados recentes, e a agenda para o tema travada pelo acirramento contra o Judiciário, a recuperação é difícil.

Sair já significaria abrir mão de cargos e maior acesso a emendas. Logo, o rompimento, se houver, virá mais perto da eleição. **Poder A4**

**Sobrevida política e anseio de apoiadores norteiam manifestações A6**



Neymar e Messi em discussão após a interrupção do jogo em São Paulo **Rubens Cavallari/Folhapress**

## ENTREVISTA DA 2ª André Lara Resende Inflação vem da perda de legitimidade do Estado

A instabilidade causada pela ofensiva do presidente Jair Bolsonaro contra as instituições democráticas é o principal fator para a deterioração econômica do país, afirma André Lara Resende, um dos formuladores do Plano Real. O economista defende endividamento para financiar investimentos. **A12**

## AMEAÇA AUTORITÁRIA

**Ex-presidentes e intelectuais de 26 países criticam atos**

**Mônica Bergamo C2**

**Pedidos do STF para investigar Bolsonaro esperam aval da PGR**

**Poder A8**

## C. Rochamonte

**Contra o charco atual, a volta ao pântano petista**

**Opinião A2**

## Distribuir os investimentos ajuda a enfrentar turbulência

Com inflação e desemprego em alta, atividade econômica retraída e descrença na capacidade do governo em administrar crises, investidores buscam opções para se proteger das turbulências até a eleição de 2022.

Analistas sugerem não "colocar todos os ovos numa cesta", distribuir o capital em diferentes aplicações que, em conjunto, sejam capazes de evitar as perdas e gerem um rendimento acima da inflação. **Folhainvest A13**



**Bruno Santos/Folhapress**

## SEGUNDO DIA DO FERIADO TEM LENTIDÃO NAS ESTRADAS E PRAIAS CHEIAS

Mesmo com o tempo nublado, paulistanos viajaram ontem, provocando congestionamento em pontos da Anchieta-Imigrantes e lotando as praias, como a Enseada, no Guarujá **Cotidiano B3**

## EDITORIAIS A2

**Impasse indígena**  
Sobre julgamento do marco temporal no Supremo.

**Estudo da injustiça**  
Acerca de trabalho para reduzir prisões de inocentes.

## tóquio 2020

Brasil se consolida entre as principais forças paralímpicas do mundo **B6 e B7**

## Ilustrada C1

Chega ao Masp a Amazônia erótica de Maria Martins, amante de Duchamp

## Área de extração na Amazônia é a de 3 cidades de SP

Pela primeira vez, institutos de pesquisa calcularam em 464.759 hectares a área total da Amazônia onde houve exploração de madeira, entre agosto de 2019 e julho de 2020. A extensão representa cerca de três vezes o da cidade de São Paulo. **Ambiente B4**

## Justiça impediu fechar contas de 'faraó do bitcoin'

Glaudson dos Santos, o "faraó dos bitcoins", preso por esquema de pirâmide financeira, obteve liminares para evitar o fechamento de contas no Banco do Brasil e Santander no ano passado, diante de suspeita de movimentação injustificada. **Mercado A16**

## Pfizer aposta em vacinação contra Covid frequente

A Pfizer entregou mais de 1 bilhão de vacinas contra o coronavírus e espera produzir mais 2 bilhões neste ano. Para dar conta da demanda, a produção está sendo espalhada por vários países. A empresa fez parceria com a brasileira Eurofarma. **Cotidiano B1**

## Zezé Motta

**Enfrento com arte e otimismo o que estamos vivendo**

Nunca imaginei que, depois da ditadura, passaríamos por um momento assim. A Fundação Palmares nasceu em defesa da cultura negra. Mas hoje o que ela mais faz é deletar parte da nossa história. **Opinião A2**



El mantenimiento del funcionariado consumirá casi 30% del presupuesto

## PGN 2022: USD 10,5 millones al día devorarán los salarios

El Estado planea erogar USD 3.876 millones para cubrir las remuneraciones del personal público. Se incrementa 5,6% respecto al presente año. Es para sostener 312.150 puestos.

PÁGINA 12

## Calvario de pasajeros en zona de Tres Bocas

PÁGINA 19



**Maltrato.** En las obras del paso a desnivel el MOPC no previó paradas de buses. No hay indicaciones claras y los usuarios deben caminar varias cuadras.

Generosidad con plata ajena  
**Gerente financiera de Dinac tiene a la parentela en ente**

PÁGINA 8

Stiglitz pide que sea de 25%  
**El impuesto a las multinacionales gana adeptos**

PÁGINA 41

USD 100.000 al mes a Calé  
**Fiscalía hace oídos sordos a denuncias de soborno en PL**

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Destacan valor de eventos  
**Ferias de compras masivas ayudan a la economía local**

PÁGINA 14

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



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**JACQUES JULLIARD**  
LE CRÉPUSCULE  
DE L'OCCIDENT  
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**FIGARO SANTÉ**  
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L'ANHÉDONIE  
OU REDONNER  
DU PLAISIR  
À LA VIE  
NOTRE CAHIER  
SPÉCIAL



**ALLEMAGNE**  
La poussive  
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• L'analyse  
de Baptiste  
Desprez  
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**FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question  
de samedi :**  
Les directeurs  
d'établissement scolaire  
doivent-ils pouvoir  
choisir les enseignants ?

**OUI 70% NON 30%**  
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 69 945

**Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr**  
Faut-il contrôler  
l'utilisation de l'allocation  
de rentrée scolaire ?

FABIEN CLAIREFOND-  
DENIS DUPOUY/LE FIGARO

# 2022 : Macron et Le Pen restent toujours favoris

Un sondage Ifop-Fiducial pour « Le Figaro » et LCI place les deux finalistes de l'élection de 2017 en tête des intentions de vote au premier tour. Au second, le chef de l'État serait largement réélu.

Les positions semblent à première vue figées. À moins de huit mois de l'élection présidentielle, le duel entre Emmanuel Macron et Marine Le Pen demeure le scénario privilégié.

Selon les différentes hypothèses testées dans notre enquête Ifop-Fiducial réalisée pour « Le Figaro » et LCI, le chef de l'État conserve le leadership avec entre 24 et 29 % d'inten-

tions de vote. Son adversaire le plus dangereux, la candidate du Rassemblement national, se situe entre 24 et 27 %. À droite, Xavier Bertrand (ex-LR) garde l'ascendant sur les

autres prétendants, dont Valérie Pécresse, qui grignote cependant l'avance du président des Hauts-de-France. À gauche, Mélenchon, Hidalgo et le candidat écologiste sont dans

un mouchoir de poche. Dans l'hypothèse d'une candidature d'Éric Zemmour, celui-ci recueillerait entre 6 et 7 % des voix et ferait baisser de façon équivalente le RN et la droite.

→ LE FAUX PLAT DE XAVIER BERTRAND → VALÉRIE PÉCRESSÉ VEUT PASSER À LA VITESSE SUPÉRIEURE → ÉRIC CIOTTI SOUHAITE « RESTAURER L'AUTORITÉ » → ENTRETIEN AVEC CHRISTIAN ESTROSI → ARNAUD MONTEBOURG PROPOSE À LA FRANCE UNE « REMONTADA » → CASTANER, LE MACRONISTE QUI NE VEUT PAS ÊTRE OUBLIÉ PAGES 2 À 8 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



**À Kaboul,  
ces Afghanes  
qui tiennent tête  
aux talibans**

Des dizaines de femmes ont bravé, samedi, le nouveau pouvoir dans la capitale afghane, réclamant à visage découvert le droit à l'éducation, au travail et la liberté, avant que la manifestation ne soit dispersée. PAGE 9

**En Guinée,  
Alpha  
Condé aux  
mains des  
putschistes**

Les forces spéciales ont revendiqué, dimanche, la prise du pouvoir en Guinée-Conakry et l'arrestation du président, accusé de dérive autoritaire. Les auteurs du putsch ont annoncé la « suspension de la Constitution », « la dissolution du gouvernement et des institutions », remplacées par un « Comité national du rassemblement et du développement », le CNRD. De son côté, le ministère de la Défense continuait, dimanche soir, d'affirmer avoir repoussé la menace. PAGE 9

**ÉDITORIAL** par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

## Agueusie politique

En apparence, la situation, telle que l'indique notre sondage, est claire : le duel entre Emmanuel Macron et Marine Le Pen structure la vie politique française. Le premier l'emporte forcément sur la seconde ; les forces politiques anciennes (droite, gauche) assistent, au deuxième rang, à l'affrontement ; les possibles perturbateurs (Zemmour, Montebourg), pour le moment, ne perturbent rien. Cette écume électorale, pourtant, ne correspond pas aux courants profonds qui traversent la société française. Désaffiliation démocratique (abstention colossale), défiance sociale (« gilets jaunes », mouvements antipasse), partition culturelle (citoyens « côte à côte ou face à face ? »), affaissement moral et civique (droits individuels illimités), mimétisme plaintif (tous victimes !). Au premier plan, une composition politique figée, au second, un panorama tellement flou qu'il peut en quelques semaines changer du tout au tout. C'est l'énigme française. La cause immédiate de ce décalage est un des effets collatéraux du Covid. Comme si ce maudit virus avait pour symptôme collectif une immense agueusie politique. Débats

sans sel, discours sans piment... Plus rien, hors les décisions sanitaires, n'a de goût : à quoi bon s'attabler ?

La cause profonde ? Le divorce consommé entre représentants et représentés. Comment ne pas s'affliger (notamment à droite) de l'incapacité des prétendants à s'entendre clairement, franchement, rapidement sur une ligne, un programme, une personne ? Disons-le sans détour : quoi de plus décourageant que cet interminable concours des élégances ? Que les électeurs de droite tranchent et vite !

La médiocrité de la proposition politique ne suffit pas cependant à justifier le désintérêt des citoyens. La démocratie ne se réduit pas au vote, mais ce dernier en est l'instrument essentiel. Trois Français sur quatre ne veulent pas d'un duel Macron-Le Pen, mais l'installation d'élections nationales en enquêtes d'opinion. Résignation ? Indifférence ? Archipellisation ? Pour que les urnes l'emportent sur la rue, l'urgence est de retrouver notre vitalité démocratique. ■

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## Party time at close of the Paralympics

News



## Britain's youngest MP on battling PTSD - and critics

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## PM faces mutiny over plan to raise taxes for social care

Jessica Elgot

Chief political correspondent

Boris Johnson faces a battle with his cabinet and MPs as parliament returns today, with the prime minister poised to break two manifesto commitments on tax and pensions.

Plans to raise national insurance contributions to increase funding for

the NHS and to overhaul social care have been privately criticised by cabinet ministers - and MPs have told the chief whip they may oppose the measures in the Commons.

Johnson, along with the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, and the health secretary, Sajid Javid, will announce a three-year funding settlement for the NHS from next April, as well as extra cash to tackle the hospital backlog.

He is expected to announce an extra £5.5bn this year for the NHS today, the Guardian understands.

There is also a planned overhaul of the social care system that is likely to include a lifetime cap on care contributions.

Branded as the NHS and social care tax, it would see an increase in NICs of more than 1%, initially directed at shortening NHS waiting times. Critics

*'Just raising taxes doesn't fix anything - I think it would be a mistake'*

Tory backbencher

in the party and across the Commons have suggested the rise would be disproportionately loaded on to younger and lower-paid workers.

Senior No 10 and Treasury sources said discussions were continuing yesterday and that final figures had not been agreed. Officials are also thrashing out how the extra taxation can work with systems in the devolved nations such as Scotland, where care is already largely paid by the state. "No one seems to have an answer to this," one cabinet minister said.

The announcement expected tomorrow is slated to be made alongside another manifesto-breaking move to break the pensions triple lock link to earnings, after a higher than expected rise in wages that would have seen the Treasury spending an extra £5bn on pensions.

A number of cabinet

## Commons pledge to troops and Afghans

Jessica Elgot

Boris Johnson will tell British veterans of Afghanistan that he will "do right by" soldiers who served during the 20-year campaign, after criticism of the west's withdrawal by prominent military figures.

The prime minister is likely to come under more pressure from MPs to explain how the UK intends to help the thousands of Afghans who were potentially eligible to come to Britain but were not able to be airlifted out in time. He will tell MPs today that Britain will "use every economic, political and diplomatic lever to protect our country from harm and help the Afghan people" and commend the "courage and ingenuity" of all involved in the Kabul airlift.

Last week it was reported that some British troops were "a matter of metres" from the deadly bomb blast at Kabul airport, and that soldiers were taking part in decompression therapy to help deal with any trauma from the two-week evacuation.

The politicians and veterans Tobias Ellwood and Tom Tugendhat have been among the staunchest critics of the US and



**'A bright, shining star'**  
**Sarah Harding**  
**1981-2021**

## Tributes as Girls Aloud singer dies of cancer

Even in a girlband famed for its energy and vitality, she was seen as the feisty one. And yesterday, as Sarah Harding's death from breast cancer was announced, the pop singer and TV personality - who had 21 UK Top 10 singles as a member of Girls Aloud - was hailed for her stellar career but also for the very public way she faced up to her illness. Announcing her death on Instagram, her mother, Marie, described her as a "bright, shining star". It prompted a