# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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# What's News

## Business & Finance

Companies world-wide have embarked on an unprecedented deal spree this year, with the wave of activity yielding a windfall in advisory fees for banks. Al

- \* Intel plans to build new chip-making facilities in Europe valued at up to \$95 billion, responding to a cross-border race to add manufacturing capacity. A1
- Deutsche Telekom is ◆ Deutsche Telekom is speeding up its efforts to re-take a majority stake in T-Mo-bile US through a complex transaction with SoftBank. B1
- ◆ Elliott Management has a more than \$1 billion stake in Citrix and wants the company to take action to boost its stock price. B1
- ◆ BlackRock raised roughly \$1 billion for the first mutual fund solely run by a foreign firm that is allowed to sell to Chinese individuals. B1
- ◆ Toyota said it would spend \$9 billion over the next decade to build factories for electric-car batteries. B1
- Ford wooed executive
  Doug Field away from Apple to bolster its own efforts to better integrate software in automobiles. B4
- ◆ The S&P 500 and Dow fell 0.3% and 0.8%, respec tively, while the Nasdaq rose 0.1% to a record. **B11**
- man's investor-services unit for \$3.5 billion. **B10**
- Chinese authorities ropped the case against a accused of sexually as-saulting a co-worker. **B3**

# World-Wide

- ◆ The Taliban declared the restoration of their Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and named a new government, excluding other political forces and giving control of internal security to a U.S.-designated terrorist. A1, A7
- designated terrorist. At, Ar

  El Salvador's move to
  become the first country in
  the world to adopt bitcoin
  as legal tender got off to a
  bumpy start, as the government took its bitcoin e-wallet
  offline for several hours. A1
- Iran is refusing to allow ◆ Iran is refusing to allow inspectors access to nu-clear-related sites and hin-dering a probe by the U.N. atomic agency while con-tinuing to expand its nuclear activities, the IAEA said in two confidential reports. A5
- ◆ Mexico's Supreme Court unanimously ruled that making abortion a crime was un-constitutional, paving the way for far greater access to legal abortions in the country. A6
- ◆ President Biden visited parts of the Northeast that were battered by the rem-nants of Hurricane Ida. A3
- ◆ Texas Gov. Abbott signed into law a Republican-backed bill tightening the state's voting rules. A3
- ◆ U.K. leader Johnson an-nounced tax increases to support the country's National Health Service. A7
- ◆ A 7.1-magnitude earth-quake struck near Acapulco, causing buildings to sway across central Mexico. A6
- Britney Spears's father moved in a court filing to end the court conservatorship he has overseen for 13 years. A2





A member of the Taliban points his gun at protesters demonstrating Tuesday in Kabul against Pakistan. Many Afghans accuse Pakistan of assisting the Taliban in their takeover of the country. Taliban fighters violently broke up the protest.

# Taliban Proclaim Sole Rule As New Afghan Regime Named

Women, rival political forces are omitted, U.S.designated terrorist tapped for security

By Yaroslav Trofimov

KABUL—Four days before the 20th anniversary of the Sept. II attacks that triggered the U.S. invasion of Afghani-stan, the Taliban declared the restoration of their Islamic Emirate and named a new gov-ernment, excluding other po-litical forces and giving con-trol of internal security to a

U.S.-designated terrorist.

Afghanistan's new administration was formed three weeks after the Taliban conquered Kabul and deposed the Afghan republic, prompting a massive exodus of foreigners and Afghans at risk. Its makeup, unveiled at a hastily called nighttime news conference, included no women or members of the Shilte minority, belying the Taliban's repeated assurances to foreign governments and fellow Afghans that their inclusive government would represent all parts of the Afghan society.

In an appointment that

would complicate any recognition of the new government by
Western nations, Sirajuddin
Haqqani, designated a global
terrorist by Washington because of close links between al
Qaeda and the Haqqani network that he heads, was
named minister of interior,
with oversight of Afghanistan's police and internal security. A Federal Bureau of Investigation reward offers as
much as \$\$\$ million for information leading to his arrest.

While Taliban supreme
leader Haibatullah Akhundzada retains overall oversight
of state affairs, the new prime

minister is Mullah Hassan Akhund, who served as foreign minister in the previous Islamic Emirate, which harbored Osama bin Laden and was ousted from power by the 2001 U.S. invasion.

"Our previous 20 years of struggle and Jihad had had two major goals. Firstly to end foreign occupation and aggression and to liberate the country, and secondly to establish a complete, independent, stable and central Islamic system in the Please turn to page A7

# Deals Set To Give Banks Busiest Year Ever

Tie-ups in U.S. valued at \$1.8 trillion so far, as businesses make up for pandemic setbacks

BY PETER RUDEGEAIR AND DAVID BENOIT

BY PETER RUPEGEAIR
AND DAVID BENOIT

Companies world-wide embarked on an unprecedented deal spree this year, emerging from the depths of the pandemic looking to bulk up and address the vulnerabilities it exposed. Simultaneously, buyout firms and blank-check companies have been deploying hundreds of billions of dollars at a feverish pace.

In the first eight months of 2021, companies have been deploying hundreds of billions of dollars at a feverish pace.

In the first eight months of 2021, companies have announced mergers and acquisitions worth more than \$1.8 trillion in the U.S. and more than \$3.6 trillion globally, according to data provider Dealogic. Both figures are the highest at this point in a year since at least 1995, when Dealogic started keeping records. Dealo are on track to surpass their record set in 2015.

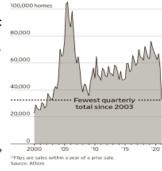
The merger wave is minting money for Wall Street. At big banks and boutique advisory revenue alked, deal-advisory revenue first half of the year. Goldman Sachs Group Inc., the top deal-making shop on Wall Street, brought in more than \$1 billion in fees in each of the three last quarters. It surpassed that level only once in the decade before the coronavirus pandemic.

Advisory revenue should continue to fuel banks through

virus pandemic.
Advisory revenue should continue to fuel banks through
Please turn to page A2

# House **Flippers Face Tight** Supply

Investors looking to buy houses to renovate and resell for a profit are finding fewer homes available. Rising costs and limited availability of labor and building materials. building materials, such as lumber, and also cutting into profits of house profits of house flipping and stretching the tim it takes to comple the renovation and repair work. B1



# Economy Pulls Back, Dashing Hopes for Fall Boost

Rise of Delta variant derails expectations; businesses readjust

By Eric Morath and Theo Francis

September, rather than the takeoff once hoped for.

Earlier this summer, many economists saw the week of Labor Day as the moment when the economic recovery would kick into high gear. Their expectation was that wide-spread vaccination would ease labor short-ages. Schools and offices would reopen, which would mean a comeback for local businesses reliant on office workers. Travel would rebound. Stevie Nicks would be back on tour.

on tour. Instead, the rise of Covid's Delta variant

has the nation tapping the brakes.

mas the nation tapping the brakes.
Businesses and consumers are reworking
plans to adjust to renewed mask mandates,
travel restrictions, event cancellations and
delayed office reopenings. Consumers are
pulling back on purchases and employers
have slowed hiring. Economists are downgrading their forecasts. Stevie Nicks canceled.

Economists don't expect the variant to Economists don't expect the variant to push the U.S. back into recession. But the loss of steam could prolong the recovery of the millions of jobs lost during the pandemic, leave many on the labor market's sidelines and continue to hobble businesses \*\*Please turn to page A8\*\*

# Intel Tabs \$95 Billion For New Chip Plants

Intel Corp. plans to build mew chip-making facilities in Europe valued at up to \$95 billion, responding to a cross-border race to add manufacturing capacity at a time of a global chip-supply crunch.

Intel Chief Executive Officer Pat Gelsinger on Tuesday said the company was planning two chip factories at a new site in Europe and carther, with the increases raising the total investment over about a decade to the equivalent of as much as 680 billion, the equivalent of about \$95 billion. The facilities would cater to meteoric demand for semiconductors as computers, cars and gadgets become more chip-hungry. "This new era of sustained demand for semiconductors needs bold, big thinking," he said at an auto-industry event in Munich.

Taiwan Semiconductor

Manufacturing Co., the world largest contract chip maker, this year said it would spend a record \$100 billion over the next three years to increase production capacity. South Korean rival Samsung Electronics Co. last month said it plans to boost investments by one-third to more than \$205 billion over the next three years, in part to pursue leadership in chip manufacturing.

The global chip shortage has hit auto makers particularly hard. Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co. last week said they were curtailing production because of a dearth of chips. Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. last month said it would cut production by 40% worldwide in September.

Intel said it plans to commit manufacturing capacity at a factory in Ireland to the auto-chip sector. And it is establishing a chip-design team to help others adapt designs so they can use Intel's manu-Please turn topage A4

# INSIDE



U.S. NEWS Some schools turn to frequent Covid-19 testing to keep classes open. A3



# JASON GAY

Prepare your snack drawer: NFL teams will each play 17 regular-season games. A12

# Bitcoin's First Try As Legal Tender Has a Rough Start

By Santiago Pérez And Caitlin Ostroff

AND CAITLIN OSTROPF

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador—Tiny and impoverished El Salvador's move to become the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender got off to a bumpy start, as the government took its bitcoin e-wallet offline for several hours after tens of thousands of people trying to download the app overloaded servers.

The administration of President Nayib Bukele, 40 years old, plans to spend more than \$225 million on the rollout, including a \$30 credit in bitcoin to those who take up Chivo—local slang for "cool"—the government-run e-wallet that can be used to buy a cup of coffee, get a haircut or even pay taxes and home loans in bitcoin or U.S. dollars. But the Chivo wallet didn't show up on

major app stores early Tuesday. Some users said on social media that they weren't able to sign up with their phone numbers or official IDs.

Bitcoin enthusiasts around the world showed their support for El Salvador by each buying \$30 of bitcoin. Still, bitcoin was at \$46,776,65 as of 5 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday, down 9.9%.

The crypto asset has proved to be much more volatile than traditional currencies, as it lacks economic fundamentals to support its value and trades entirely on seentiment.

Mr. Bukele said the government took advantage of the drop to buy 150 bitcoin. El Salvador now holds 550 bitcoin, Mr. Bukele wrote on Twitter, most of it bought since Monday. Crypto enthusiasts called Tuesday B-Day, or Bitcoin Day, Please turnto page 48

# FINANCIAL TIMES

# Short circuit

Faulty batteries are slowing electric car rollouts - Inside Business, Page 5

# Digital dictatorship

How China's immense data haul has disrupted Big Tech - FT SERIES, PAGE



# Fountain of youth

Silicon Valley's search for an elixir is growing up – anjana ahuja, page 17

# Taliban unveils government of hardliners and terrorist suspects

Founder's adviser is PM → Minister on FBI's most wanted list → No role for opposition

The Taliban formed its first caretaker government in Afghanistan since it swept to power last month, featuring several members who have been sanctioned by the UN for terrorism and an interior minister on the FBI's most wanted list.

Mohammad Hassan Akhund, a clo adviser to the late Taliban founder Mohammad Omar, will be acting prime Mohammad Omar, will be acting prime minister, said Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid. Political chief Abdul Ghani Baradar, who led the Taliban's negotiations with the US, has been made deputy.

Mohammad Yaqoob, Taliban founder Omar's son, has been appointed acting defence minister.

The Taliban revealed the line-up as it grapples with a growing humanitarian and economic crisis.

The appointments highlighted the strong role in the movement of the Haqqani network, a group the US has designated a terrorist organisation.

Strajuddin Haqqani, a senior leader of

designated a terrorist organisation. Strajuddin Haqqani, a senior leader of the Haqqani network who is wanted by the FBI for "cross-border attacks against the United States" and has a \$5m bounty on his head, will be interior minister. The new regime is under increasing pressure to provide government serv-ices after weeks of uncertainty and a chaotic mass evacuation of Afghans who worked with the US and its interna-tional allies. Analysts said that the Taliban's new

tional allies.

Analysts said that the Taliban's new government was dominated by its core leadership, with few representatives from Afghanistan's different ethnic groups or women. "It is a government dominated by

hardliners, many of whom were associ-ated with Taliban founder Mullah Omar," said Husain Haqqani, a former Pakistan ambassador to the US and now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "Their appointments should remove any doubt that there will be much difClass divide Male and female students separated at a Kabul university



Students attend a class bifurcated by a curtain separating the men from the women at a private university in Kabul yesterday, as they abide by the Taliban's ruling on mixed education

Line-up 'should remove any doubt' group will rule much differently

power

ference in how the Taliban might govern from the last time they were in power," said Haqqani, who is not related to the new interior minister. The Taliban waited to announce the government until declaring victory over the resistance in Panjshir, Afghanistan's last opposition stronghold, led by Ahmad Massoud, son of a legendary anti-Taliban fighter. Massoud has anti-Taliban fighter. Massoud has denied that the Taliban control the to last time region and vowed to continue the fight.

Former Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai and veteran politician Abdullah Abdullah did not secure roles in the new

government, despite holding extensive talks with the Taliban leadership. The formation of the new govern-ment, which took place without cere-mony, comes after Taliban forces broke up a demonstration in Kabul against Pakistan's support of the regime, detain-ing journalists filming the march before releasing them.

rereasing them. The Taliban has suggested in recent press conferences that efforts would be made in the future to include political opponents. The US and other regional powers have said that an inclusive gov-ernment was one precondition for rec-

ognising the Taliban government, but analysts said it was unlikely that the Islamists would meet that criterion. "In our region of the world, every time someone says caretaker or interim it never necessarily means a temporary set-up," said Obaidullah Baheer, a lec-turer of the American University in turer at the American University in Kabul. "They wouldn't bring top brass leadership in a temporary role."

Baheer added that the Taliban's

"indifference to international recognition is alarming". Additional reporting by Fazelminallah Qazizai in Kabul

# Briefing

- ► EU seeks to fine Poland over judges spat The Puropean Commission has requested that the The European Commission has requested that the European Court of Justice fine Poland for ignoring rulings over judicial reforms that Brussels says damage the independence of Polish judges. - PAGE 2
- Merkel tries to boost Laschet in polls Outgoing German chancellor Angela Merkel used her final speech in parliament to urge voters to back Armin Laschet, leader of her centre-right CDU party, which trails in polls for elections this month.— PAGE 2
- ► US jobless to lose Covid benefits More than 7.5m people in the US will lose pandemic-era jobless benefits this week just as a spike in coronavirus infections has slowed employment growth.—PAGE 3
- ▶ Bolsonaro rallies put Brazil on edge risen in Brazil after tens of thousands of President Jair Bolsonaro backers protested in support of his attacks on the Supreme Court.— PAGE 4
- Toyota bets big on battery development Japanese carmaker Toyota is to invest \$13.66n in battery development and supply for electric cars during the next decade as it attempts to build on its dominance in hybrid vehicles.—PAGE 5
- ➤ Bidder drops out of race for Meggitt US aircraft parts maker TransDigm has quit a potential bidding war for UK aerospace and defence group Meggitt, clearing the way for rival Parker Hannifin to seal a £6.3bn takeover.— PAGE 6
- Missing China entrepreneur reappears Duan Weihong, who was close to some of China's most powerful officials, has briefly resurfaced after a four-year disappearance, according to her former husband.— PAGE 4

# Datawatch

# Informal sector accounts

Value of informal work
by country group (% of GDP)

1991-99 2010-17

## Global logistics woes add fuel to eurozone Inflation

Logistics bottlenecks across the globe and soaring shipping costs are threatening the post-pandemic recovery and have combined with a surge in consumer demand to stoke eurozone inflation to a decade high. While manufacturers of products from furniture to cars struggle with delays to supplies of parts and raw materials, the European Central Bank may scale down its <1.85tn pandemic stimulus programme this week to curb prices. programme this week to curb prices. Supply chain squeeze > PAGE 3

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# El Salvador's tech problems take shine off debut to make bitcoin legal tender

CHRISTINE MURRAY MONTERREY, MEXICO

El Salvador's pioneering adoption of bitcoin as legal tender hit snags within hours of launching yesterday after the government took its digital wallet app offline and the global price of the volatile currency slumped.

President Nayib Bukele said on Twitter early yesterday that the app, which stores digital assets, would stop working while server capacity was increased.

The app, called "chivo" — salvadoran citizens \$50 of free bitcoin when they download it. Chivo returned online later yesterday, with Bukele appearing to personally supervise the testing process via Twitter.

via Twitter.

The price of bitcoin wobbled, falling as much as 17 per cent to \$43,119 before

Nasda Dow -FTSEs Euro S FTSE : CAC 4 Xetro Nikke

recovering to trade 10 per cent lower.

recovering to trade 10 per cent lower. Coinbase, the US crypto exchange, encountered technical problems that delayed or cancelled some transactions. Bukele took to Twitter to urge citizens to buy the dip. He said El Salvador now held about 550 bitcoins.

The small Central American nation became the first in the world to make bitcoin legal tender. Economists and the international financial community have criticised the decision, which is also unpopular with Salvadorans.

Rating agency Moody's downgraded its debt rating in part because of the law, while the IMF — In talks with the government over a new loan — said such a

ernment over a new loan — said such plan could destabilise the \$25bn eco my. Under the law, all businesses in El Salvador have to accept bitcoin as pay-ment for goods and services, though cit-izens can still choose to use the US dollar, which has been the national cur-

rency since 2001. Siobhan Morden, head of Latin Amer-Shohan Morden, head of Latin America fixed income at Amherst Pierpont,
noted that Bukele's bitcoin gambit coincided with a court ruling to allow consecutive re-election — a move that has
been sharply criticised by the US.
Crypto fans have fawned over Salvador's move, with some launching a campaign to persuade people to buy \$50 of
bitcoin to show support.
Bukele said he made the decision to
help bring investment to the country
and improve access to financial services.
But yesterday he said his team was still
working to increase server capacity to

But yesterday he said his team was still working to increase server capacity to scan images. "It's a relatively simple problem, but you can't fix it with the system connected," he told his Twitter followers. "A little bit of patience." Lex page 18

# World Markets

CK HANNETS	COMMENCIES						mer cares			
	Sep 7	prev	%chg		Sep 7	prev		Sep 7	prev	
500	4518.16	4535.43	-0.38	\$ per €	1.185	1.186	£ per \$	0.725	0.723	US Gov 10
faq Composite	15370.47	15363.52	0.05	\$ per £	1.379	1.383	€ per £	1.164	1.166	UK Gov 10
Jones Ind	35097.15	35369.09	-0.77	£ per €	0.859	0.858	¥ per €	130.562	130.305	Ger Gov 10
urofirst 300	1821.56	1829.93	-0.46	¥ per \$	110.220	109.855	£ index	81,686	81.825	Jpn Gov 10
Stoox 50	4226.05	4246.13	-0.47	¥ per £	151.944	151.891	SFr per £	1.266	1.267	US Gov 30
100	7149.37	7187.18	-0.53	SFr per €	1.088	1.087				Ger Gov 2
All-Share	4122.43	4144.51	-0.53	€ per \$	0.844	0.843				
40	6726.07	6743.50	-0.26							
n Dax	15843.09	15932.12	-0.56	COMMODITIES						
ei	29916.14	29659.89	0.86							Fed Funds
Seng	26353.63	26163.63	0.73			S	Sep 7	prev	%chg	US 3m Billi
1 Williadd &	2100.64	2182.00	0.10	COLMATINE		-	10.14	66.02	-1.15	Euro Libor



VOL. CLXX .... No. 59,175

In Afghan Exit, Qatar Emerges As Go-Between

Using Its Strengths as a Tiny but Rich Nation

By BEN HUBBARD

By BEN HUBBARD
DOHA, Qatar — As chaos took
over the United States' lastminute efforts to evacuate more
than 120,000 of its citizens and
partners from Afghanistan last
month, a tiny, wealthy country
that many Americans would
that many Americans would
found itself uniquely placed to
help out.

ound itself uniquely placed to help out. Qatar, a sandy, sun-baked peninsula in the Persian Gulf, received about 60,000 Americans and Afghans, more than any other country. And with its ties to both the United States — it hosts the the Middle East — and the Taliban, it is in position to play a strong role as an intermediary between the new Taliban-run Afghanistan and the West. The gas-rich country, which has long used its tremendous wealth to punch above its weight, is having a moment in the world spotling.

to punch above its weight, is having a moment in the world spotlight.

Even as it delivers tons of food
and medical aid to Afghanistan
and hosts the American secretaries of detense and state, who flew
to Qatar this week, it has made at
the control of the control of the control
world of cocce, where it recently
signed one of the sport's greatest
players, Lionel Messi, to the Paris
St.-Germain team it owns. The
country is also set to host the soccer World Cup next year.

"Qatar has always wanted to be
a global player, whether that is
hosting huge sports events or
signing major players, or
presenting itself as a regional
linchpin for both post of the control
story of the control
of Defense Lloyd I. Austin III arrived in the Qatari capital, Doha,
on Monday, where they dined with
the country's 41-year-old monarch, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad alThani.

"Many countries have stepped
up to help the evacuation and relo-

arch, Sheikh Tamini on Francis withani.

"Many countries have stepped up to help the evacuation and relocation efforts in Afghanistan, but of the step of the step

# TALIBAN OFFICIALS FROM OLD REGIME ASSUME KEY POSTS

CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Some Listed as Terrorists A Theocratic Core Seems Unchanged

By MATTHIEU AIKINS and JIM HUYLEBROEK

By MATTHIEU AIKINS and JIM HUYLEBROEK
KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban announced a caretaker government on Tuesday, taking a major step in re-establishing their Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and empowering many of the movement's stalwarts from their regime in the 1990s.
After weeks of assurances from Taliban leaders that the movement would offer a more moderate and inclusive style of governing, most of the acting appointments on Tuesday were of senior figures who served in similar tool of the stale of the served of the served

challege. An weet men, and sureral are listed by the United States
and United Nations as global ter
eral are listed Nations as global ter
eral are listed Nations as global ter
eral assure all our countrymen
that these officials will work hard
to uphold Islamic rules and Shariah law," Sheikh Haibatullah
Akhundzada, the movement's supreme leader, said in a written
statement handed out at a news
conference in Kabul. "The Islamic
Emirate needs the continued support of its people to rebuild the ruined country together."

The Taliban made ear that
has already stretched for weeks
since the group suddenly seized
national control last month.
The most senior role announced
on Tuesday went to Mullah Muhammad Hassan, who was named
as acting prime minister, making
him head of government. Mr. Hassan is a hard-liner who filled a simillar role within the insurgency's
leadership council in recent years,
and was a deputy prime minister.

Some analysts had thought that
Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who
had led the Taliban's negotiations
with the United States, would take
that role, but instead he was
named as deputy, along with
Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, a
prominent Uzbek member of the
negotiating team.
The top security posts, however,
went to relative newcomers
from a younger generation of Talstranded to the response of the response of the response of the
littery deputies.

Sirajuddin Hagqani, 48, appointed as acting minister of the

military deputies.
Sirajuddin Haqqani, 48, appointed as acting minister of the interior, presided over the insurior, presided over the i Continued on Page A6

# In New York City, 800,000 Lose Federal Aid, Imperiling Rebound

By MATTHEW HAAC
From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. New York
City has been pummeled economically unlike any other large American city, as a sustained recovery
has failed to take root and hundreds of thousands of workers
have yet to find full-time jobs.

On Sunday, the city, like other
communities nationwide, was hit
with another blow: The package
of pandemic-related federal unemployment benefits, which has
kept families afloat for 17 months,
expired.

sepi rammes anoat for 17 months, expired.

In short order, roughly \$463 mil-lion in weekly unemployment as-sistance for New York City resi-dents is ending, threatening to up-end the city's fledgling economic rebound and slashing the only

sand NICOLE HONG
source of income for some to pay rent and buy groceries in a city rife with inequality.
About 10 percent of the city's population, or about 800,000 people, will have federal aid eliminated, though many will continue receiving state benefits.
The benefits were the sole income for the many self-employed workers and contract employees whose jobs are central to the city's economy and wibrancy — taxi drivers, artists and hairdressers, and the contract employees whose jobs are central to the city's economy and wibrancy — taxi drivers, artists and hairdressers, and the contract employees whose jobs are central to the city's economy and wibrancy — taxi drivers, artists and hairdressers, and the contract of the contr



Afghans fleeing Taliban fighters during a protest in Kabul. Qatar is seen as having influence with both the West and Afghanistan.

# Mexican Court Rules Abortion Is Not a Crime

By NATALIE KITROEFF and OSCAR LOPEZ

By NATALLE KITROEFF and OSCAR LOPEZ

MEXICO CITY — Criminalizing abortion is unconstitutional, Mexico's surpost in the control of the procedure across this conservative Catholic country of about 130 million people.

The unanimous ruling from the nation's top court follows years of efforts by a growing women's movement in Mexico that has repeatedly taken to the streets of major cities to demand greater rights and protections.

The decision, which opens the door for Mexico to become the most populous Latin American country to allow abortion, was met with elation by feminist activists and dismay by conservative point of the control of the control

olic Church.

"Today is a historic day for the rights of all Mexican women," Chief Justice Arturo Zaldivar said after the judges' votes were cast. "It is a watershed in the history of the rights of all women, especially the most vulnerable."

The decision does not automatically make abortion legal across Mexico, experts said, but it does set a binding precedent for judges across the country. Abortion right and advantes and advantes and advantable proceeding to challenge laws in the vast majority of Mexican states that mandate jail time or other criminal penalties for women who have the procedure.

For now, analysts said, women arrested for having an abortion can sue state authorities to have the charges dropped. Activists Continued on Page A7

# Big Business Mobilizing to Battle Tax Proposals

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats always knew their battle plan for raising taxes on corporations, large inheritances and the superwealthy would not survive initial contact with the enemy.

enemy.
They just did not realize that enemy would be North Dakota-nice
Heidl Heitkamp.
The Democratic former senator
has emerged as the smiling face of
a well-financed effort to defeat a
proposed tax increase that is crucial to funding the \$3.5 trillion social spending the \$3.5 trillion so-

Democrats' Ambitions for Social Spending Are on the Line

President Biden's agenda. Her ef-fort is indicative of the difficult slog ahead as the business lobby nobilizes to chip away at Demo-crats' tax-raising ambitions, which some lawmakers say will have to be scaled back to maintain party unity, an assessment the White House has disputed. On Thursday, the House Ways and Means Committee is set to be-gin formally drafting its volumi-

nous piece of the 10-year measure to combat climate change and re-weave the nation's social safety net, with paid family and medical leave, expanded public education, new Medicare benefits and more.

leave, expanded public education, new Medicare benefits and more. The committee's purview includes much of that social policy, but also the tax increases needed to pay for it.

Democrats had hoped that the tax side would be more than notations on an accounting ledger. They regard it as an opportunity to fundamentally change policies to address growing income inequality, reduce incentives for corporations to move jobs and profits overseas, and slow the Continued on Page A18



# Delivering Comfort, and a Warning

east, called climate change a "code red." Page A18.

# Newsom, Facing Recall, Struggles to Connect With Latino Voters

By JENNIFER MEDINA and JILL COWAN

and JILL COWAN

LOS ANGELES — The political
power of Latinos has never been
stronger in California.

They are the largest ethnic
group in the state and make up
roughly 30 percent of registered
voters. They have propelled Democratic victories in California for
decades, helping the party win su-

permajorities in both houses of the State Legislature, where Lati-no senators and Assembly mem-bers hold powerful positions and pass some of the most immigrant-friendly legislation in the country. But as Gow. Gavin Newsom tries to prevail in a recall election in a matter of days, the very Lati-no voters he is relying on appear about the prospect of his being ousted from office.

Apathy Is a Warning for California Democrats

In 2018, exit polls showed Mr. Newsom with support from roughly two-thirds of all Latinos. Now, polling suggests Latinos are almost evenly split on the recall. And so far, just 17 percent of all nailed in their ballots, compared rith 31 percent of white voters, ac-ording to Political Data Inc., a acramento-based research

group.

For many Latino voters, the mixed feelings stem from a conmued struggle with the pan-emic, as they face higher infec-on and death rates, as well as un-nployment. For others, there is a Continued on Page A19

NATIONAL A10-20

Hanging On After the Flames Daniela Rocha's family managed to save her quinceañera dress, but little else, from an Oregon wildfire. PAGE A12

Texas Election Law Signed

Gov. Greg Abbott called the measure, which curtails access to the ballot, a "paradigm" for other states. PAGE A20

The Dutch Avert Disaster

Extreme rainfall is causing deadly and destructive floods globally. The Nether lands avoided rising waters this sum-mer by creating flood plains. PAGE A

Still Free After Rare Escape

A Hall of Fame Shortstop



ARTS C1-8

The Wizards of Wardrobes

Speaking Up, Again

Andrea Constand reacts to the ruling that overturned Bill Cosby's conviction on sexual assault charges. PAGE CI

Global Inflation Could Fade

Inflation has surged from Sydney to San Francisco, worrying consumers and policymakers. But financial experts say it is most likely temporary and warn against overreaction. PAGE B1

# A Job That's Easier to Quit

As the pandemic drags on, more people are starting and leaving positions without ever seeing their colleagues in person, leading to an easy-come, easy-go attitude toward workplaces. PAGE B1

Thomas L. Friedman PAGE A22



FOOD D1-10

Fall Restaurant Preview





HOSHANG HASHIMI AFF/GEITY Imag

A TALIBAN fighter stands guard during an anti-Pakistan rally in Kabul. The militant group allowed a
march to proceed but then interceded with violence, beating protesters and firing weapons into the air.

# Taliban's Cabinet lineup fuels fears of harsh rule

Group cracks down on protests, says they won't be tolerated

By Nabih Bulos and Tracy Wilkinson

Tale of 2

states in

California

virus data

Coronavirus cases are showing new signs of slowing across many parts of the sign scross many large many scross man

Central Valley ICUs crowded Some patients are being sent more than 100 miles away. CALIFORNIA, BI

Cases are falling in major urban areas, while other regions struggle with a surge. By Rong-Gong Lin II and Luke Money

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban on Tuesday named an all-male caretaker government in Afghanistan dominated by hard-line figures from its old guard, and cracked down on some of the largest street protests since the group seized control of the country last month. The developments reignited fears that the Taliban will revert to its harsh ways of controlling Afghan life despite promises of moderation. The interim Cabinet announced by the group is dominated by veteran

of the previous government and includes few members of ethic minorities. In addition, a senior spokesman declared that protests such as those which once again included women calling for their rights to be respected, would not be tolerated.

Calling the demonstrations "ilegal," Taliban spokesman Zabihulah Mujahid warned Afghans against trying to "use the current situation to cause trouble."

Taken together, the actions signaled that the Taliban movement faces an uphill fight to convince a skeptical world it is prepared to leave

behind the core attributes of its last rule a generation ago, marked by the subjugation of women and deady reprisals against those who dared oppose it. At the same time, the country of the control of t

# CALIFORNIA RECALL ELECTION

# Democrats glad that the topic is Elder

The front-runner's controversial remarks past and present give Newsom backers a lift.

As the recall effort charges into its final days, Democrats' midsummer panic has given way to cautious confidence that Gov. Gov. The confidence in money and the emergence of an ideal foil: Larry Elder.

A spate of polls showing a tightening race in July worked to Democrats' advantage, as they marshaled their considerable institutional might in this deephus state on udge their voters to the ballot box. But with seven days of voting to go. Newsom's allies are wond gigns for the governor do not lead to last-minute voter complacency.

"Even though the polling looks better, we're still very clear that you can't take anything for granted," said Sieve Smith, spokesman for the California Labor Federation, among Newsom's allies opposing the recall. "This

# Ballot collecting in spotlight again

Though it is legal, neither side in the recall election wants to talk about it. CALIFORNIA, BI

last ... push is where the cam-paign is won or lost. Abso-lutely we can't take our foot off the pedal." Recall proponents,

Recall proponents, meanwhile, are projecting an air of underdog scrappiness, noting that their effort, underestimated from the start, managed to give Newsom some serious heartburn. The fact that Newsom continues to seek help from national Democrats, they said, is a sign that his worries have not abated.

[See Democrats, A8]

# They're running against all odds

A shaman, a rapper, a surgeon.... Meet some of the lesser-known names on the ballot.

By Julia Wick

Holly Baade's "pilgrim-age for the people" began on the steps of the state Capi-tol, with the Marin County yoga teacher launching her gubernatorial recall bid by praying to the spirits of Cali-fornia.

praying to the spirits of California.

"Behold me," the self-described shaman said, "and
see if I am worthy or not to
enter the building as the
leader of our state."

Green Party candidate
Dan Kapelovitz blasted his
message through the streets
of Los Angeles from a decommissioned police car he
bought on Craigslist, "Dan
Kapelovitz for governor," he
yelled over the car's public
address system as he
cruised down Larchmont
Boulevard, "Can yooooouu
dig it?"

When Jacqueline McGowan needs to calm down
wid-debate, the Demogratic

When Jacqueline McGowan needs to calm down
mid-debate, the Democratic
candidate has been known
to take a toke off a joint. Off
the campaign trail, she
makes her living as a cannabis consultant.

With the state careening
toward its second-ever gubernatorial recall election,
the spotlight has fixed on
five or six marquee candidates. But they are far from
[See Candidates, A9]

# Mexico court's historic ruling

Abortion is not a crime, justices decide in annulling parts of a Coahuila state law. world, as

# Outages persist in Louisiana

## LAUSD looks at vaccine mandate

A majority of board members is leaning toward requiring eligi-ble students to get shots. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 86/67. B8

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Mt. Shasta's slopes are bare, with consequences for local towns

SNOW-COVERED NO MORE

By Louis Sahagún

McCLOUD, Calif. — A brutal summer of record heat and punishing drought has claimed yet another California victim: the majestic, snow-covered slopes of Mt. Shasta. Just as the impacts of global warming have revealed themselves in extreme wildfire behavior and plunging reservoir levels, climate change is now altering the skyline of far Northern California and wreaking havoc on communities surrounding the dormant volcano.

The unseasonable disappearance of Mt. Shasta's postcard-perfect snowpack has not only turned the landmark's peak from turned the landmark's peak from the melting of mountain glaciers, unleashing thunderous torrents of mud, boulders and trees that have destroyed bridges, made roads impassable and threatened water infrastructure. Flows of volca-



ANDREW CALVERT U.S. Geological Survive DISAPPEARANCE of Mt. Shasta's snowpack has hastened the melting of glaciers, unleashing torrents of mud and debris.

TROJANS FORCE
Sam Cunningham, whose big game at Alabama helped turned the tide and integrate that team

SAM CUNNINGHAM, 1950 - 2021

# He ran through lines, broke down barriers

By David Wharton

ollege football still clung stubbornly to segregation in the early 1970s. There were still teams at major universities, in some parts of the country, that refused to put Black players on the field.

The powerhouse Alabama Crimson Tide were chief among the holdouts, which made their game

against USC in the fall of 1970 such a big deal. Not only did the Trojans bring an integrated roster to Birming rated roster to Birming be a such as a such

BUSINESS INSIDE: California and SoCalGas quietly settle a suit over climate policy. A10

-deportes

# La verdadera trama detrás del escándalo Brasil-Argentina

La AFA asumió que hubo una "omisión involuntaria" en la confección de las declaraciones juradas; alerta por un probable caso de Covid en la burbuja de la selección.



# DEL POTRO EN NUEVA YORK, CON LA ILUSIÓN DEL REGRESO

"Decidí venir para terminar de recargar energias y hacer la etapa final de mi recuperación", dijo, tras una exhibición con John McEnroe en el US Open.

# LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 8 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

# Tensión en la Justicia por el protocolo sanitario para las PASO

RECLAMO. La jueza Servini cuestionó las medidas de la Cámara Electoral y pidió que intervenga la Corte; De Pedro admitió que habrá demoras en el escrutinio

La jueza federal María Servini alertó ante la Corte Suprema sobre "graves circunstancias que afectan el normal desenvolvimiento de las elecciones", al cuestionar los protocolos sanitarios de la Cámara Nacional Electoral para las PASO del domingo próximo.

La jueza con competencia electoral en la Capital Federal dijo que hayuna "intromisión constante" de la Cámara y estableció restricciones sanitarias para lavotación en la ciudad que no coinciden con el protocolo dispuesto por aquel cuerpo. Por lo tanto, se abrió una disputa por la organización de los comicios entre la ciudad y el resto del país. En tanto, el ministro del Interior, Eduardo de Pedro, anunció que los primeros resultados se conocerán después de las 23, más tarde que la última elección. Página 8

Manes y Santilli, al final se verán tras las PASO

Matías Moreno Página 12

# **EL ANÁLISIS**

# Las crisis que nos esperan

Joaquín Morales Solá

-LA NACION-

ejemos la astrología para Victoria Tolosa Paz, especialista ya en provocaciones en la campaña electoral y también en alejara la política de la sociedad. ¿La astrología es la solución para los que perdieron el trabajo, cerraron sus empresas, temen tiempos peores o sobreviven a una inflación insoportable? ¿O es, acaso, la confesión implícita del oficialismo de que no tieneotra solución más que recurrir a una superstición? Continúa en la página 13

# Postergan el uso de las Pfizer para adolescentes sanos

COVID. A más de un año de que empezaran las negociaciones entre el Gobierno y el laboratorio norteamericano Pfizer, finalmente llegará hoy el primer lote de los 20 millones devacunas acordados. Según fuentes oficiales, este carga-

mento de 100.620 dosis se destinaría a suplir el faltante de segundos componentes de Sputnik V y a chicos con comorbilidades, pese a que se había anunciado que la prioridad la tendrían los adolescentes sin factores de riesgo. Página 20

# Con tono golpista, Bolsonaro redobló los ataques a la Corte

**BRASIL.** "Solo Dios me sacará" de la presidencia, dijo en un acto en San Pablo; amenazas a un juez



Masiva marcha en San Pablo en apoyo de Bolsonaro M. SCHINCARIOL/AFF

## Marcelo Silva de Sousa PARA LA NACION

RÍO DE JANEIRO.—En una apuesta política de tono golpista, el presidente brasileño, Jair Bolsonaro, redobló ayer los ataques al Supremo Tribunal Federal (STF) y elevó las

dente orasilento, ani boisarlo, redobló ayer los ataques al Supremo Tribunal Federal (STF) y elevó las amenazas de ruptura democrática con provocadores discursos en actos callejeros en Brasiliay en San Pablo, que coincidieron con los festejos por el Día de la Independencia. En la tensa jornada, Bolsonaro se dirigió a sus partidarios en la avenida Paulista de San Pablo y tildó de "canalla" al juez de la Corte Alexandre de Moraes, cuando dijo que no respetaria "cualquier decisión" de su autoría. Advirtió que Moraes, que investiga a aliados del jefe de Estado por promover fake news, "debe encuadrarse o salir" de su cargo, "Solo Dios me sacará" de la presidencia, desañó Bolsonaro. Continúa en la página 2

# Uruguay ya negocia con China y sacude al Mercosur

ACUERDO. Discute con ese país un tratado de libre comercio; sorpresa y dudas en el Gobierno

El gobierno de Uruguay anunció ayer que inició negociaciones con China para firma ru nacuerdo de libre comercio (TLC). Si bien invitó a sus socios del Mercosur -Argentina, Brasil y Paraguay- a sumarse al proyecto, aclaró que hacia fin de año, cuando prevéconcluir lanegociación, la concretaría en cualquier caso. Al anunciar anoche las tratativas, el presidente Luis Lacalle Pou también expresó su voluntad de hacer un TLC con el país que quiera hacerlo. "Uruguay pasa de las palabras a la acción porque queremos prosperidad para nuestros compatriotas", declaró Lacalle Pou. Si bien la cancillería argentina había sido informada por su par uruguayo, manifestó dudas sobre el final del proceso. Página 17

# Escala la violencia narco en Rosario

HOMICIDIOS. En menos de 24 horas hubo seis asesinatos

Germán de los Santos

ROSARIO.— La violencia recrudeció en Rosario, donde se produjeron seis crímenes en menos de 24 horas, con ataques que generaron comoción, como el que se cobró la vida del "arrepentido" Carlos Argüelles, en medio del juicio a la banda de Los Monos y pocos días antes de las elecciones primarias, algo que preocupa al gobierno provincial.

En los últimos diez días se produjeron 17 homicidios en la ciudad. Continúa en la página 26

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# Bolsonaro ameaça STF de golpe, e pressão por impeachment cresce

Presidente discursa a dezenas de milhares de apoiadores que só deixa o cargo morto e prega desobediência a Moraes

AMEAÇA AUTORITÁRIA O presidente Jair Bolsonaro ameaçou o Supremo Tribu-nal Federal de golpe, pregou a desobediência ao Judiciá-rio e afirmou a dezenas de milhares de seguidores que só deixará seu cargo morto.

Os atos do 7/9, insufla-dos por ele durante semanas com ataques às institu-ições, visavam exibir força num momento de isolamento. Em São Paulo, atraíram 125 mil, segundo a PM, menos do que previa a organização.

Congressistas avaliam que as ameacas autoritárias no palanque expõem um gover-nante acuado, e partidos de centro-direita indicam que vão se somar à oposição e apoiar a abertura de um processo de impeachment.

Em Brasília, o mandatário atacou o ministro Alexandre de Moraes, cujas deci-sões afetam bolsonaristas, e ameaçou o ministro Luiz Fux: "Ou o chefe desse Poder [Judiciário] enquadra o seu ou esse Poder pode sofrer".

Na plateia, faixas pediam o fechamento do Supremo. Àtarde, na av. Paulista, São Paulo, o presidente voltou a pedir a saída de Moraes e a criticar o sistema eleitoral. Apesar do tom, não houve registro de violência.

Na rua, conclamando multidoes ao golpe, Bolsonaro abre o flanco a ações do Ju-diciário e do Legislativo. Ro-drigo Pacheco, presidente do Senado, cancelou as sessões desta semana. Fux falará hoje sobre o ocorrido. Poder A4

# Medida sobre retirar publicações é alvo no Supremo

O PSB quer que o Supremo suste os efeitos de MP do governo que limita a remo-ção de contas e perfis das redes sociais. Ela foi assinada na segunda (6), véspera dos atos. Plataformas seriam impedidas de mo-derar conteúdo. Poder A20

Nova MP dificulta luta contra assédio e bullying virtuais Mercado 2 p. 1

# Exportação brasileira sofre pressão ambiental

A demanda ambiental de europeus, avalia o gover-no, vai afetar a exportação brasileira, em setores como ferro e aço. Mercado A23

Afastamento por Covid dispara, e hospital cria centro de reabilitação ві

Chile libera Coronavac para crianças maiores de seis anos B2

Lei Rouanet vive pico de lentidão sob Bolsonaro, mesmo com verba ci

# **EDITORIAIS A2**

O mito na caverna A respeito de atos bolsonaristas no 7 de Setembro.

Vírus da politização Sobre uso da Coronavac para 3ª dose em São Paulo.





66 Ou o chefe desse Poder Judiciário, ministro Luiz Fux] enquadra o seu [ministro] ou esse Poder pode sofrer aquilo que não queremos

## Nas ruas, militares e policiais ignoram aceno do Planalto

A presença de militares e A presença de mintares e policiais nas manifesta-ções do 7/9, monitorada pelos governos estaduais e vetada pelo Código Pe-nal Militar, foi tímida, li-mitando-se a integrantes da reserva ou restrita a se-surança dos atos. Bederatis gurança dos atos. Poder A15

Análise Fábio Zanini Sensação é a de que a montanha pariu um rato AIS

Análise Igor Gielow Bolsonaro escancara seu maior temor: ser preso A10

Análise Eloísa Machado Deve-se frear governo que joga país ladeira abaixo A12

66 Àqueles que pensam que podem me tirar da Presidência, digo [que] temos três alternativas: preso, morto ou com vitória

## Discursos em atos têm erros sobre eleições e tribunal

Em suas falas no 7 de Se-Em suas fanas no 7 de Se-tembro, o presidente Ja-ir Bolsonaro errou sobre composição do Conselho da República, segurança das eleições e regras de impeachment de minis-tros do STF, conforme che-cagem da Luna. Buder AM cagem da Lupa. Poder A14

Marcelo Coelho Sociedade não é tão corajosa quanto STF cs

# Helio Beltrão

Talvez novo Congresso possa mediar a crise A26

# Ilona Szabó

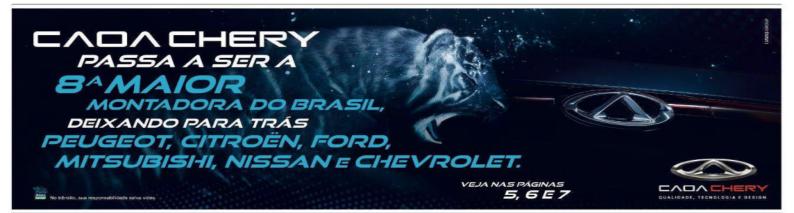
Estadistas, apresentemse, com urgência! B4

# Oposição promove protestos e debate abertura de processo

Várias cidades tiveram protestos menores contra Bolsona-ro. Em São Paulo, Fernando Haddad e Guilherme Boulos participaram. PSDB discutirá impeachment. Poder A12 e A19

Manifestantes desrespeitam regras sanitárias

Ex-assessor de Trump depõe na PF sobre redes



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El ministro Giuzzio y el comandante Arias se salvaron de la movida

# Purga en la Policía Nacional para dar respuesta a ola de inseguridad

La tapa de Última Hora reflejó ayer la angustia que se vive en las calles por culpa de la delincuencia. El Gobierno tuvo que salir a desmantelar el mando policial, comenzando por el subcomandante, para intentar calmar a la gente. PAGINAS 6,7, 50 y 51



Ex intendente de Lambaré Chicanero serial: Cárdenas traba nuevo juicio por corrupción

PÁGINA 10

Colapso por males no Covid **Hospital Nacional** está atestado de pacientes comunes y accidentados

PÁGINA S

Análisis de Fitch Solutions La inflación de este año puede superar la meta fijada por el BCP

Pese a reclamos al MEC Hace tres años dan clases bajo los árboles en Concepción

PÁGINA 25

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RUGBY ABIEN GALTHIÉ : LES FRANCAIS, C'EST LE FRENCH FLAIR » page 14



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LREM La majorité veut incarner le camp de la «raison» PAGE 4

BRÉSIL Les partisans de Bolsonaro dans la rue PAGE7

ARCHÉOLOGIE À Arles, une fresque antique retrouve sa splendeur PAGE 12

 Il y a 80 ans, Hitler faisait édifier le camp de Struthof Des entretiens

avec Thibault de Montbrial et Anne-Clémentine Larroque

- Une tribune de Thomas Morales
- · La chronique de Bertille Bayart

# FIGARO **OUI** FIGARO **NON**

Réponses à la question de mardi : Faut-il supprimer les régimes spéciaux avant la fin du quinquennat?

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# Candidats de droite : les militants voteront

ter les couleurs LR en 2022. Pour les départager, les militants devront décider si le parti organise une primaire ouverte aux sympathisants ou réservée aux militants. Verdict le 25 septembre. PAGES 2 ET 3



# Attentats du 13 Novembre : un procès pour l'histoire

Le procès des auteurs des attaques qui ont frappé la France en 2015 s'ouvre ce mercredi à Paris. Des mois durant, magistrats

et observateurs vont revivre ces événements ancrés dans des mémoires encore à vif. PAGES 10, 18 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

ÉDITORIAL par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@lefigaro.fr

# La barbarie en face

n est parti, on commence.» Par ces quelques mots glacants envoyés par SMS a été scellé, le 13 novembre 2015, le funeste dessein terroriste islamiste qui a fait 130 morts et des centaines de blessés et dont la France va revivre pendant plus de huit mois les terribles instants à travers le procès d'une ampleur inédite qui s'ouvre à Paris. Cette tragédie inextinguible, d'une violence inouïe,

est celle des victimes et de leurs familles, de tous ceux dont l'existence a été à jamais fracturée par la folie meurtrière islamiste; c'est aussi celle de l'ensemble des Français. À tous, la justice doit cette quête de vérité, cette mise à nu des faits tendue vers un cer-

tain aboutissement : le jugement. Un procès, fût-il historique, peut-il pourtant panser les plaies des familles endeuillées et de la nation frappée au cœur? Ni l'émotion qui nous étreint devant les témoignages ni le minu-

tieux travail d'enquête sur lequel s'appuie le tribunal ne suffiront à solder l'héritage de ces jours où la barba-rie a pris le pas sur la civilisation. Avons-nous réellement tiré toutes les leçons du 13 Novembre? Nos frontières sont-elles moins poreuses qu'elles ne l'ont été en 2015 lorsque Abaaoud et ses coreligionnaires empruntaient la route des Balkans pour commettre leur massacre? Quid des radicalisés qui demain vont sortir de prison? Les hasards du calendrier qui ont regroupé en quelques jours l'ouverture du procès des attentats de novembre 2015, les 20 ans du 11 Septembre et la chute de Kaboul aux mains des talibans se sont chargés de nous rappeler à quel point la lutte contre l'obscurantisme islamiste est une bataille de longue haleine, un front sans cesse reconstitué. Nos dirigeants politiques le savent : malgré les progrès du ren-seignement, la menace n'a pas dispa-ru. Et elle se nourrit chaque jour de nos petits et grands renoncements.



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# PM stakes reputation on £12bn health plan - but will it deliver?

- Johnson's bid to tackle crisis in social care will push UK tax burden to record level in peacetime
- Investment welcomed but charity raises doubts over whether cash will give long-term solution

## Heather Stewart Peter Walker

MPs are set to usher in a historic £12bn healthcare levy today, pushing the tax burden to a record peacetime level as Boris Johnson stakes his political reputation on attempting to fix the creaking health and care systems.

Setting out the radical plan for a carved-out healthcare tax, Johnson willingly conceded that the 1.25 percentage point increase in national insurance contributions (NICs) - to be rebadged a health and social care levy would break an explicit manifesto

But Downing Street is gambling that presenting the plan as a response to the Covid pandemic, with emphasis on tackling the NHS backlog, will convince voters it is necessary

"I'll be absolutely frank with you - this levy will break our manifesto commitment. But a global pandemic wasn't in our manifesto either," Johnson said. He declined to rule out further tax increases later in this parliament.

Under the proposals, patients entering the social care system from October 2023 would not have to pay more than £86,000 over their lifetime. More means-tested support will also be provided for those with assets of between £20,000 and £100,000.

Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, attacked the proposals as "a sticking plaster over a gaping wound", say ing the revenue raised was too little to solve longstanding challenges in the NHS and social care, and that



# Inside

What the government has announced, where the money will go-and who will pay Page 6

Plan met with confusion and dismay among small businesses and health sector Page 9 →

Boris Johnson's 'plan for social care' has no plan for social care Frances Rvan. Journal Page 1 →

Uncertainty and unfairness remain, despite financial boost Leader comment, Journal Page 2 → a national insurance increase was unfair on working families. But the prime minister taunted Labour for not putting forward its own proposals, saying that "plan beats no plan".

Paul Johnson, the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies thinktank, said the move would mean "taxes will reach their highest sustained level in the UK" in the coming years - underlining the extent to which the current government has ditched the Tories' traditional role as the party of low taxes and a small state. He added that creating a new levy, instead of increasing income tax, "will mean yet more quite unnecessary complexity".

The free-market Adam Smith Institute condemned the plans as "morally ▲ Boris Johnson with the chancellor. Rishi Sunak, centre, and the health secretary, Sajid Javid yesterday

This is a kick in the teeth for all the young working people who have already been hard done by the pandemic'

Adam Smith Institute

bankrupt", saying the government was asking "poorer workers to bail out millionaire property owners" and condemning "a kick in the teeth for all the young working people of this country who have already been hard done by the pandemic".

Social care providers and charities warned the extra resources would not be sufficient to improve the standard of care for the more than a million adults receiving social care, Richard Kramer, the chief executive of the disability charity Sense, said: "We welcome the immediate investment into social care but we don't have confidence that this is the long-term, sustainable and sufficient funding plan that

