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What's News

Business & Finance

The Delta variant of Covid-19 appeared to temper economic growth this summer, but economists expect the recovery from the pandemic to reaccelerate as the virus's toll eases. **A1**

China's manufacturing activity contracted in September for the first time since the coronavirus exploded in central China early last year. **A8**

Large college endowments have notched their biggest investment gains in decades, with portfolios propelled by huge venture-capital returns and soaring stock markets. **A1**

The S&P 500 and Dow gained 0.2% and 0.3%, respectively, after Tuesday's rout, while the Nasdaq fell 0.2%. Closely watched bond yields continued to rise. **B1, B11**

Dollar Tree said it would start selling products at prices slightly above \$1 in some of its stores. **B1**

Google said it is updating the look and format of its product search pages as it competes for billions in e-commerce ad dollars. **B1**

Fanatics' new trading-card venture received \$350 million in Series A funding that values the firm at \$10.4 billion. **B1**

The SEC proposed a rule that would require money managers to disclose more information on proxy voting. **B1**

World-Wide

Democrats hurried toward a deadline for passing a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure plan in the House, with the bill's fate in jeopardy as they struggled to mend intraparty rifts threatening to derail Biden's domestic agenda. **A1, A4**

Doctors and pharmacies are rapidly signing up patients for Covid-19 booster shots, many without requiring proof of eligibility under standards that federal officials set last week. **A1**

A House Select Committee has issued 11 subpoenas for documents and testimony from people allegedly involved in planning the Jan. 6 rally at Washington's Ellipse before Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol. **A4**

The FTC is considering strengthening online privacy protections, including for children, in an effort to bypass legislative logjams in Congress. **A7**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said 23 species ranging from fish to birds are now extinct and proposed delisting them from the Endangered Species Act. **A3**

Britney Spears's father was suspended as conservator of her estate, as a court moves toward unwinding a legal arrangement the pop star has called abusive. **A3**

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In Japan, Missile Defense Advocate Set to Be Prime Minister



ON STAGE: Fumio Kishida, right, a former foreign minister who has called for Japan's missile defenses to be beefed up, was elected ruling-party leader on Wednesday, assuring him of succeeding Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, left. **A8**

U.S. Economic Rally Forecast After Delta-Driven Downturn

By SARAH CHANEY CAMBON

The Delta variant of Covid-19 appeared to temper economic growth this summer, but economists expect the recovery from the pandemic to reaccelerate as the virus's toll eases.

In recent weeks, many economists lowered their forecasts for third-quarter economic growth in large part because consumers slowed spending on meals out, hotels and airline tickets amid the spread of the

highly contagious Delta variant. The Covid-19 surge also complicated office and school reopenings, turning what had been expected to be a September boom into a downturn.

One wild card is continued supply constraints—including product and worker shortages—that have been more severe than many analysts anticipated, contributing to inflation and downgrades in growth expectations.

While constraints such as

backups at U.S. ports and overseas manufacturing disruptions have persisted, the Federal Reserve and economists expect them to eventually ease.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said on Wednesday that a recent spell of higher inflation might last longer than central bank officials had anticipated, but he repeated his expectation that the price surge should eventually fade.

"The current inflation spike is really a consequence of sup-

ply constraints meeting very strong demand. And that is all associated with the reopening of the economy, which is a process that will have a beginning, middle and an end," Mr. Powell

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China Setback

Beijing says manufacturing sector contracted for first time since virus struck..... **A8**

University Endowments Soar Amid Venture-Capital Boom

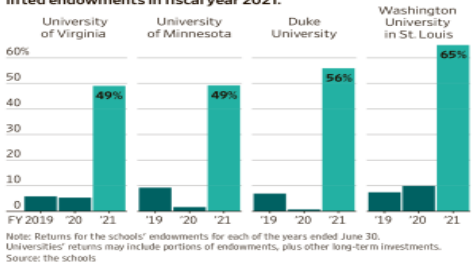
By JULIET CHUNG
AND ELIOT BROWN

Large college endowments have notched their biggest investment gains in decades, thanks to portfolios boosted by huge venture-capital returns and soaring stock markets.

The University of Minnesota's endowment gained 49.2% for the year ending June 30, while Brown University's endowment notched a return of more than 50%, said people familiar with their returns, which aren't yet public.

Meanwhile, Duke University said over the weekend that its endowment had gained 55.9%. Washington University in St. Louis reported last week a 65% return, the school's biggest gain ever, swelling the size of its managed-endowment pool to \$15.3 billion. The University of Virginia's endowment re-

Huge venture returns and soaring stock markets lifted endowments in fiscal year 2021.



ported a 49% gain. Universities' returns may include parts of endowments, plus other long-term investments.

The string of blockbuster

returns is likely to continue when other endowments with significant venture exposure report their performance.

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Texas Judge Leads Tally of Cases With Financial Conflicts

Gilstrap didn't recuse in 138 suits involving firms in which he or his wife had an interest

No federal judge in America has heard more patent-infringement lawsuits in the past decade than Rodney Gilstrap, who presides over a

By Joe Palazzolo,
James V. Grimaldi
and Coulter Jones

small courthouse in Marshall, Texas.

He also holds another record: Judge Gilstrap has taken on 138 cases since 2011 that involved companies in which he or a family member had a financial interest, more than any other federal

judge, a Wall Street Journal investigation shows.

The companies included Microsoft Corp. (53 cases), Walmart Inc. (36 cases), Target Corp. (25 cases) and International Business Machines Corp. (9 cases).

A 1974 federal law requires judges to disqualify themselves from cases if they, their spouse or minor children hold a financial interest in a plaintiff or defendant, including the interest of a beneficiary in assets held by a trust.

The Journal investigation, Please turn to page A10

Rules Bend With Booster Demand

By ROBBIE WHELAN

Doctors and pharmacies are rapidly signing up patients for Covid-19 booster shots, many without requiring proof of eligibility under standards that federal officials set last week.

The Food and Drug Administration and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have authorized a third shot of the vaccine made by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE for a wide swath of the U.S. population. Anyone over age

65 is eligible for a booster shot, as is anyone over 18 with a pre-existing condition predisposing the person toward a severe case of Covid-19. Also eligible are those with a job or living situation that poses a higher risk of contracting Covid-19. Boosters for all patients must be given at least six months after an initial Pfizer vaccine course.

Patients who received initial doses of the vaccines made by Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson aren't eligible yet.

Approval of a booster regimen for those patients is expected in the coming months. The FDA did amend its emergency-use authorization in August, however, to allow a third Moderna dose for immunocompromised people.

Debbie Hirsch, a 67-year-old retired special-education

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◆ YouTube to pull videos with vaccine falsehoods..... **A7**

◆ The Middle Seat: Insights on Covid-19 risks on planes..... **A11**

Goldman in China

Shifting sands leave Wall Street powerhouse adrift — PAGE 7

Huawei's reboot

Sanctions-hit group looks for new ways to grow — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Unspent youth

Drinks groups brace for the teetotal generation — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 17

Eurozone consumer activity returns to pre-pandemic levels

Recovery takes hold • Leisure rebound suggests confidence • Energy prices pose threat

VALENTINA ROMEO — LONDON

Europeans are shopping, eating out, travelling and visiting cinemas as much as they did before the pandemic in a sign of returning consumer confidence across the eurozone.

Data on economic activity in September suggest that consumers feel emboldened by high vaccination rates, despite worrying economic news, including higher energy bills, supply chain disruptions and fears of a slowdown in China. "For now, data remain consistent with a decent pace of recovery," said Davide Oneglia, an economist at TS Lombard, a research and macroeconomic forecasting consultancy.

Some of the rebound is because schools have reopened and workers are returning to offices. This is reflected in the use of airports and domestic public transport in the eurozone, which both reached their highest levels since the pandemic began, according to mobility data from Google and Apple.

But an increase in leisure activities also "suggests consumers are now more confident", said Marlon Amiot, senior economist at rating agency S&P.

Cinema revenues have already returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from Box Office Mojo. Policymakers increasingly monitor non-standard economic measures, such as mobility indicators, for a timely but less comprehensive snapshot of economic activity than official data.

The rise in consumer confidence comes amid a fall in Covid-19 infections and a doubling over the past three months in the number of those fully vaccinated. As of mid-September, nearly two-thirds of the region's population had received two jabs.

"Our recovery tracker posted a strong gain in the first half of September, rising by a cumulative 2.5 points to a new pandemic high," said economist Nicola Nobile, at consultant Oxford Economics.

As consumption accounted for



Tourists at the Arc de Triomphe, Paris. Figures on economic activity in September suggest people feel emboldened by high Covid-19 job rates

1.9 percentage points of the eurozone's 2.2 per cent growth in the second quarter, Chiara Zangarelli of Nomura forecast that the bloc's economic recovery would continue and predicted a 2.3 per cent expansion in the third quarter.

An OECD weekly tracker of economic activity, which uses real-time high-frequency indicators, rose above 2019 levels at the beginning of September in most eurozone countries.

The labour market also remains strong, with job vacancies continuing to rise, say data from job site Indeed.

The positive momentum might give the European Central Bank confidence that it can scale back its emergency

economic programme of asset purchases next year, said Machel Alexandrovich, an economist at investment bank Jefferies.

He forecast that the eurozone economy would return to its pre-pandemic level over the next two quarters.

However, eurozone growth might slow over the coming months, China's

economic slowdown could hit exporters, international travel is still about 50 per cent below pre-pandemic levels and supply-chain snags have hit manufacturers hard.

The eurozone's recovery lags behind that of the US and China, whose economies have already reached pre-pandemic levels.

Christine Lagarde, ECB president, said yesterday that the eurozone economy was "back from the brink, but not completely out of the woods", and that supply bottlenecks "seem to be accelerating in some areas" such as container shipping and semiconductors.

Central banks warn on delays page 4

[The economy was] back from the brink, but not completely out of the woods'

Christine Lagarde, ECB president

Briefing

► **Ailing Evergrande sells off bank stake**
Evergrande has raised Rmb10bn (\$1.5bn) by selling part of its stake in a bank to a state-run investment group, as the heavily indebted Chinese property developer battles for survival. — PAGE 5

► **Russia arrests cyber security expert**
Ilya Sachkov, founder of one of Russia's largest cyber security companies, has been arrested on suspicion of state treason and will be held in a notorious prison run by the security services for two months. — PAGE 2

► **Business fear for global supply chains**
Supply chains are at risk unless governments restore freedom of movement to transport workers and give them priority on vaccines, a coalition of international business leaders has warned. — PAGE 5

► **Nissan ex-legal head faces jail-term call**
Japanese prosecutors called for a two-year sentence for Greg Kelly, Nissan's ex-legal affairs head, for the part allegedly played in a "conspiracy" to conceal the pay of ex-chair Carlos Ghosn. — PAGE 6

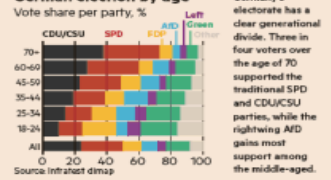
► **Andersson vows to fight Sweden's gangs**
Magdalena Andersson, on course to be Sweden's first female prime minister after being nominated as leader of the Social Democrats, has vowed to leave "no stone unturned" in fighting gang crime. — PAGE 3

► **Europe's lenders close in on Basel III**
Europe's banks have closed the gap on reaching new global capital standards that come fully into force in 2023, after pandemic curbs on dividend payouts boosted balance sheets. — PAGE 4

► **Japan's GPIF set to shun China bonds**
The world's largest pension fund will shun renminbi-denominated Chinese sovereign bonds from its \$1.73tn portfolio, citing liquidity concerns and other risks in the world's second-largest economy. — PAGE 10

Datawatch

German election by age



Germany's electorate has a clear generational divide. Three in four voters over the age of 70 supported the traditional SPD and CDU/CSU parties, while the rightwing AfD gains most support among the middle-aged.

UK set to force sale of China-owned stake in £20bn nuclear power station

JIM PICKARD — BRIGHTON
NATHALIE THOMAS — EDINBURGH

A minority stake in a new £20bn nuclear power station on England's east coast will be sold to institutional investors or floated on the stock market under UK government plans to oust China's CGN from the project.

The British government is nearing a deal which would force state-owned CGN to give up its 20 per cent stake in the proposed Sizewell C nuclear plant in Suffolk.

Under the plans, the government would hold the stake until it could be sold on to institutional investors, according to people briefed on the situation. Another option to float the stake on the stock market through an initial public offering is also being examined, said these people. The Financial Times

reported in July that ministers were exploring ways to remove CGN from future nuclear projects, including the Sizewell plant, following a cooling in relations between London and Beijing. CGN's involvement in Britain's nuclear programme has come under scrutiny since Chinese telecoms equipment maker Huawei was banned from its 5G mobile phone network last year.

Relations between London and Beijing have become increasingly tense over issues including China's clampdown on dissent in Hong Kong.

This has led to a fresh appraisal of Chinese involvement in the UK, with increased sensitivity around investment in critical infrastructure.

The US put CGN on an export black list in 2019, alleging that it had stolen US technology for military purposes. Under an agreement dating back to

2015, CGN would pay 20 per cent of the development costs for the Sizewell plant, with an option to participate in construction once investment decisions had been finalised. The UK's business department said talks were under way with EDF, the French energy group that holds the remaining 80 per cent of the project, about the CGN stake.

"CGN is currently a shareholder in Sizewell C up until the point of the government's final investment decision," it said. "Negotiations are ongoing and no final decision has been taken." EDF and CGN declined to comment.

Britain's civil nuclear programme, which has been dogged by years of delays, is in the spotlight following a recent spike in wholesale gas prices that have raised questions over the country's future energy security.

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World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES			
	Sep 29	prev	%chg	Sep 29	prev	Sep 29	prev	price	yield
S&P 500	4372.41	4352.53	0.45	\$ per £	1.162	1.160	0.738	146.17	1.52
Nasdaq Composite	14593.58	14548.88	0.31	£ per \$	1.243	1.254	1.180		
Dow Jones Ind	34495.18	34289.99	0.57	€ per \$	0.866	0.863	0.738		
FTSE 100	1760.25	1747.96	0.70	¥ per \$	111.910	111.435	0.425		
Euro Stoxx 50	4031.69	4018.82	0.32	₹ per \$	150.239	150.826	0.391		
FTSE 250	7108.16	7028.10	1.14	SFR per £	1.084	1.084	1.253		
FTSE All-Share	4072.84	4035.41	0.93	₹ per £	0.061	0.057			
CAC 40	6960.80	6908.50	0.83						
Nikkei 225	15365.27	15248.56	0.77						
Hang Seng	29544.29	30183.96	-2.12						
MSCI World	24953.58	24946.39	0.03						
MSCI EM	3032.74	3018.98	0.46						
MSCI ACWI	2280.89	2287.35	-0.31						
MSCI ADWI	715.48	728.96	-1.85						



Kishida wins leadership race to become Japan's PM

Fumio Kishida, Japan's former foreign minister, will be the country's next prime minister after he won a tightly contested leadership race in which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party staged its future on stability rather than gambling on a new generation of leaders. Kishida is expected to bring predictability, meaning close US ties; a steady increase in defence spending to counter China; and aggressive near-term monetary and fiscal stimulus.

Party opts for status quo — PAGE 4

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A blocked street last week in downtown Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The country has a crucial role in outfitting American consumers.

After E.U. Exit, Loss of Drivers Hits U.K. Hard

By ESHE NELSON
and MEGAN SPECIA

LONDON — For more than three decades, David Carden drove across England's Midlands, transporting tens of thousands of liters of fuel from holding tanks to service stations. The flammable liquid made it a dangerous job requiring skill and caution, but when he started the pay and the benefits were good, enabling him to support his young family.

Gradually the conditions worsened for drivers. The hours got longer, roadside facilities deteriorated and the benefits were cut.

"Eventually," Mr. Carden said, "we lost an awful lot of what made the job worth doing."

In 2017, he quit.

Now, as a critical shortage of truck drivers has caused gas pumps to run dry across the country and disrupted the lives of thousands, Britons and their leaders in Parliament are delivering a plaintive message: We need you.

The government is sending out a letter to nearly 1 million people who hold a license to drive a heavy goods vehicle, urging them back onto the road. And it is relaxing



Parking at a truck stop in Retford, England, on Tuesday.

visa restrictions for thousands of foreign workers, in the hope of luring them into temporary work in Britain.

But the government might find few people taking them up on the offers. Mr. Carden, 57, was firm in his resolve: "There is no chance I would go back into that industry."

His disenchantment underscores the steep challenges facing the industry. Tens of thousands of drivers from the European Union have left the country — in large part because Brexit made it clear

Continued on Page A8

Lockdowns in Vietnam Ripple Across the World

By SAPNA MAHESHWARI
and PATRICIA COHEN

After a bruising 18 months of the pandemic, this fall represented a fresh start for the apparel company Everlane. It was preparing to release a slew of new products, with September marking the beginning of an ambitious marketing campaign around its denim.

Instead, Everlane has spent this month scrambling just to get jeans — along with other products like bags and shoes — out of Vietnam, where a surge in coronavirus cases has forced factories to either close or operate at severely reduced capacity with staff living in on-site bubbles.

"At this point, we have factories in 100 percent lockdown," Michael Preysman, Everlane's chief executive, said in an interview. "Do we

Virus's Surge Shuttles Makers of Apparel and Footwear

fly things over? Do we move these things? Do we adjust in the factory? It's a nonstop game of Tetris."

Vietnam has grown in recent years to become the second-biggest supplier of apparel and footwear to the United States after China. Vietnam made it through the first part of the pandemic relatively unscathed, but now the Delta variant of the coronavirus is on a rampage, highlighting the uneven distribution of vaccines globally and the perils that new outbreaks pose to the world's economy.

With the holiday season fast approaching, many American retailers are anticipating delays and shortages of goods, along with higher prices tied to labor and already skyrocketing shipping costs. Everlane said it was facing delays of four to eight weeks, depending on when factories it worked with in Vietnam had closed. Nike cut its sales forecast last week, citing the loss of 10 weeks of production in Vietnam since mid-July and reopenings set to start in phases in October.

"We weren't anticipating a full lockdown," said Jana Gold, a senior director with Alvarez & Marsal's consumer and retail group, who has been helping retailers with supply chain issues. "We're going to continue to see a high demand for goods from highly vaccinated countries or re-

Continued on Page A12

A Judge Frees Spears From Her Father's Control

This article is by Joe Coscarelli,
Julia Jacobs and Liz Day.

For more than a decade, Britney Spears bristled behind closed doors at the court-approved control her father, James P. Spears, held over her life and fortune.

Now, for the first time since 2008, Ms. Spears, 39, will be without her father's oversight, a Los Angeles judge has ruled, as the singer moves toward terminating her conservatorship altogether.

At a hearing on Wednesday, Judge Brenda Penny granted a petition by Ms. Spears's lawyer, suspending Mr. Spears, 69, from his position as overseer of his daughter's \$60 million estate — a move Ms. Spears was pleading for, her lawyer said.

"This man does not belong in her life, your honor, on another day," Matthew S. Rosengart, who took over as the singer's lawyer in July, argued in court. "Please hear the plea of my client." He said that it would be a "disaster" for Mr. Spears to remain in her life.

Lawyers for Mr. Spears said that the conservatorship should be ended instead, calling his record as conservator "impeccable." But after hearing from both sides, the judge agreed that suspending Mr. Spears was in his daughter's best interest. "The current situation is not tenable," Judge Penny said.

She named a California accountant, John Zabel, as the tem-



Britney Spears supporters near a Los Angeles court Wednesday.

porary conservator of the singer's finances, as Mr. Rosengart had requested.

The major decision in Los Angeles Superior Court — which was greeted with cheers from Ms. Spears's supporters outside — capped a whirlwind summer in the 13-year conservatorship, after the singer broke her public silence at a hearing in June, calling the ar-

rangement abusive and exploitative, and bringing even more attention to the unusual and closely watched case.

"I am traumatized," Ms. Spears said in court at the time, asking for those overseeing the conservatorship to be investigated and jailed, and singling out her father as "the one who approved all of it."

Continued on Page A16

Senate Centrist Angers the Left Back at Home

Sinema Holds Key Vote — Outcry in Arizona

By JACK HEALY
and EMILY COCHRANE

PHOENIX — Jade Duran once spent her weekends knocking on doors to campaign for Senator Kyrsten Sinema, the stubbornly centrist Democrat whose vote could seal the fate of a vast Democratic effort to remake America's social safety net. But no more.

When Ms. Sinema famously gave a thumbs down to a \$15 minimum wage and refused to eliminate the filibuster to pass new voting rights laws this year, Ms. Duran, a Democrat and biomedical engineer from Phoenix, decided she was fed up. She joined dozens of liberal voters and civil rights activists in a rolling series of protests outside Ms. Sinema's Phoenix offices, which have been taking place since the summer. Nearly 50 people have been arrested.

"It really feels like she does not care about her voters," said Ms. Duran, 33, who was arrested in July at a protest. "I will never vote for her again."

Ms. Sinema, a onetime school social worker and Green Party-aligned activist, vaulted through the ranks of Arizona politics by running as a zealous bipartisan ally to break with her fellow Democrats. She counts John McCain, the Republican senator who died in 2018, as a hero, and has found support from independent voters and moderate suburban women in a state where Maverick is practically its own party.

But now, Ms. Sinema is facing a growing political revolt at home from the voters who once counted themselves among her most devoted supporters. Many of the state's most fervent Democrats never she balked at the \$3.5 trillion price tag and some of the tax-raising provisions of the bill, which is opposed by all Republicans in Congress, Democrats in Washington and back home in Arizona have grown exasperated.

While the Senate Democrats' other high-profile holdout, Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, has publicly outlined his concerns with key elements of the Democratic agenda in statements to swarms of reporters, Ms. Sinema has been far more enigmatic and has largely declined to issue public comments.

Mr. Biden, White House official

Continued on Page A15

DEMOCRATS SEEK WAY TO PROTECT BIDEN'S AGENDA

PROGRESS ON SHUTDOWN

Social Spending Measure and Infrastructure Bill Imperiled

By EMILY COCHRANE
and JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — Democrats prepared legislation on Wednesday to avert a government shutdown this week, but they were desperately trying to salvage President Biden's domestic agenda as conservative-leaning holdouts dug in against an ambitious \$3.5 trillion social safety net and climate bill that carries many of the party's top priorities.

Congressional leaders moved to address the most immediate threat, working to complete a bill to prevent a government funding lapse at midnight on Thursday. Yet after days of intensive negotiations to bridge bitter differences in their party over Mr. Biden's two biggest legislative priorities, the



"One hour at a time." Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday.

president and top Democrats appeared as far as ever from an agreement on their marquee social policy package, which the White House calls the Build Back Better plan.

That, in turn, was imperiling a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that was scheduled for a House vote on Thursday.

The fate of the two measures could define the success of Mr. Biden's presidency, and the intense negotiations surrounding them have posed a test of his skills as a deal maker, which he highlighted as a calling card during his campaign for the White House. But after days of personal meetings with lawmakers in the Oval Office and phone calls to key players, Mr. Biden remained far short of a deal.

Dramatizing the challenge, Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, a leading holdout on the social policy bill, issued a lengthy and strongly worded statement on Wednesday evening reiterating

Continued on Page A15

As Hochul Fills a War Chest, Donors and Rivals Take Stock

By NICHOLAS FANDOS and KATIE GUECK

Even for the governor of one of the nation's largest states, it was a whirlwind few days. Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York greeted President Biden and back home in the prime minister of Ireland, shook hands with Jay-Z and escorted British royalty through the World Trade Center site.

But perhaps the meeting with the highest stakes for the governor's political future took place inside an imposing limestone mansion near Central Park after business hours last Wednesday.

Assembled inside were nearly two dozen of New York's best-connected real estate developers, businessmen and lobbyists — the kind of deep-pocketed donors

whose support is crucial to winning statewide campaigns.

There was John Catsimatidis, the Republican grocery store and oil refining magnate; Scott Reicher, whose company owns iconic New York skyscrapers; Alfonso M. D'Amato, a former Republican senator turned lobbyist; and Dennis Melhiel, a cardboard baron who played host for the evening.

Mr. Catsimatidis described the dinner, where Ms. Hochul raised some \$200,000, as a "high-end business get-together to discuss not losing any more people from New York."

But for the new governor and the attendees paying between

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INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Out of Step With the Public

In picking a stalwart as prime minister, Japan's governing party ignored many voters' preference for a candidate with bold solutions. News Analysis. PAGE A6

Rebuilding Amid the Rubble

A small Afghan village outside Ghazni found itself on a critical supply artery as the Taliban swiftly advanced. It paid a heavy price. PAGE A4

False Arrest Preceded Murder

The details of the abduction, rape and murder of a woman in London by a police officer in March were laid out publicly for the first time. PAGE A8



NATIONAL A13-20, 24

Debating Congestion Pricing

At a series of hearings, New Yorkers argued over who should be exempt and who should help decide. PAGE A18

Haitians Helping Haitians

Members of a Philadelphia church pitched in to sponsor a migrant family. Then came a lot more. PAGE A13

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Warding Off 'Stalkerware'

Spyware can record your conversations, location and everything you type, all while camouflaged as an innocent app. Here's what you can do. PAGE B1

Battling Misinformation

YouTube is banning accounts of anti-vaccine activists, joining its social media cohorts in fighting falsehoods. PAGE B1

Sports B8-10

Diversifying 'March Madness'

The lucrative branding of the N.C.A.A. men's basketball tournament will be shared with the women's event. PAGE B9

ARTS C1-8

A Historic Night at the Opera

With Terence Blanchard's "Fire Shut Up in My Bones," the Met came back from its long shutdown more determined to draw new and more diverse audiences, Javier C. Hernández writes. PAGE C1

Bringing Out the Long Knives

Horses, puppets and a paradoxical frog: These are the ways that Tracy Letts talks about morally bereft men in three heartbreaking, brutally short plays. Jesse Green has the review. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

Ross Douthat

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

For Those Meltable Moments

Of the 37 new emojis approved this year by something called the Unicode Consortium, one has stood out as a visual proxy for our collective malaise in the pandemic era. PAGE D3



Boards reshaped by state's laws on diversity

Legally tenuous rules nevertheless unleash a wave of change in corporate America.

By EVAN HALPER

WASHINGTON — When Dr. Maria Rivas joined the board of a medical tech firm called Medidata a few years ago, she was a novelty: The company had never had a woman in that role.

Medidata was no outlier. Rivas, chief medical officer at Merck, had impressive credentials when she breached the rarefied world of boardrooms in 2018, but much of corporate America wasn't looking for candidates like her. "It is unfortunately comfortable for humans to go with people who look like they do," Rivas said.

For hundreds of public companies, that meant filling boards exclusively from their networks of familiar faces — typically white men. Then California outlawed the all-white-male boardroom.

The state's requirements that publicly traded corporations diversify their boardrooms were ridiculed as quixotic by conservative columnists and some corporate chieftains. The courts are still threatening to erase the quotas, the first of which were signed into law in 2019.

But California is having the last laugh. Even as the [See Boardroom, A7]

UNITED STATES OF CALIFORNIA

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



PARTIAL VICTORY FOR #FREEBRITNEY

A judge suspended Britney Spears' father as conservator of the pop star's estate and set a hearing for an end to the conservatorship. Supporter Jakeyone cries after the ruling in downtown L.A. CALIFORNIA, B1

A pandemic tale of two states

As Florida kept cases and deaths modest without restrictions, some favorably compared it with California. Then, Delta hit.

By RONG-GONG LIN II, MARISSA EVANS AND SEAN GREENE

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, California and Florida have stood as polar opposites in how governments have responded to the coronavirus.

Gov. Gavin Newsom last year backed sweeping stay-at-home orders in California, and this summer supported targeted vaccination requirements and indoor mask rules. In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis led efforts to quash health rules: He issued an order prohibiting mask requirements and signed a law banning so-called vaccine passports — mandates by businesses or government agencies to show proof of vaccination to gain services.

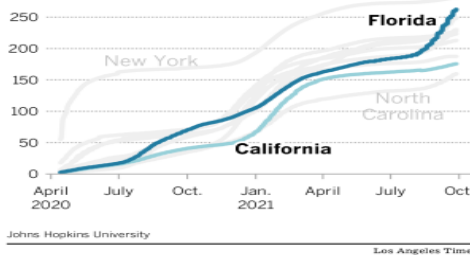
The divergent approaches have been the subject of endless partisan debate.

But with the Delta variant raging this summer, data show Florida has fallen significantly behind Califor-

COVID-19 deaths by state

Florida has the second-highest rate of COVID-19 deaths, and California the ninth, among the 10 most populous states.

Cumulative deaths per 100,000 residents



Johns Hopkins University

Los Angeles Times

L.A. puts off indoor vaccine mandate

Buscaino balks, delaying vote to require proof of inoculation at many indoor venues. CALIFORNIA, B3

nia in many key metrics. It marks a reversal for the Sunshine State, which last winter was hailed by some conservatives for keeping COVID-19 deaths and coronavirus cases relatively modest without major restrictions.

A Los Angeles Times analysis found that of the nation's 50 states, Florida had the worst COVID-19 death and coronavirus case rates for the summer.

California's summer death rate was about one-sixth of Florida's, and its coronavirus case rate was about two-thirds lower.

Florida recorded 14,334 COVID-19 deaths in the summer, or 70 fatalities per every 100,000 residents — the worst tally of any state. California saw 4,874 deaths during the same period, according to Johns Hopkins University, equalling 12 per every 100,000 residents.

California and Florida have followed differing paths during this 19-month pandemic: Through the fall of 2020, Florida's death rate

[See Florida, A6]

Council districts may get a major redraw

Raman and Kerkorian, who would see big changes, call the remap unfair.

By DAVID ZAHNISER

When Los Angeles Councilwoman Nithya Raman won her campaign for city office last year, her victory was historic on multiple levels. Raman ousted an incumbent — a rare event at City Hall — and delivered an enormous win to some of the city's most politically progressive activists. She also received more votes than any council candidate in city history, in part because the contest coincided with the presidential election.

Now, after less than a year in office, Raman could see much of her Hollywood Hills district disappear — redesigned dramatically as part of the city's once-a-decade redistricting process following the release of U.S. Census data.

The Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission, a group of political appointees that's redrawing the 15 district boundaries, is weighing a proposal that would slice off many of the neighborhoods that made up Raman's district: Sherman Oaks, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, Park La Brea and portions of Silver Lake, where she resides. The redrawn district, if approved, would push north into the San Fernando Valley, reaching the semi-rural horse country of Shadow Hills.

In recent days, Raman has begun arguing that the proposal, known as Draft Map K2, would silence the voices of the tens of thousands of people who elected her last year.

"This map erases the results of an election and denies Angelenos the representation they voted for less than a year ago," she said in a statement.

The future of Raman's 4th Council District is just one of several contentious issues before the commission, which must submit a final draft map to the council by the end of October.

Activists in Watts have been pushing for their neighborhood to be moved out of Councilman Joe Buscaino's district and into the one represented by Councilman Curren Price Jr. in another section of South Los Angeles. [See Districts, A12]

23 more species now extinct

U.S. wildlife officials declare the ivory-billed woodpecker among the latest to disappear. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Citizenship plan suffers a blow

The Senate parliamentarian rejects proposal in the Democratic presidential spending bill. NATION, A5

Keller's guilty plea in riot case

Olympic swimming medalist was among those who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. SPORTS, B10

Weather

Sunny and warmer. L.A. Basin: 87°/63°. B6

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PHILIPPINE coast guard dinghies patrol near Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef in the South China Sea, where China has violated others' maritime boundaries.

'Angels of the Sea' keeping watch over Philippine waters

By DAVID PIERSON AND AIE BALAGTAS SEE

MANILA — The foreign fishing boats were deep in Philippine waters near a speck of coral reef known as Sabina Shoal. They bore no official markings, but their blue hulls of reinforced steel — used to ram other vessels — were the telltale signs of

Chinese maritime militia. They had not come to fish, but to stake a claim to the sea.

A white patrol ship approached. A woman's voice lifted through the crackle of a radio: "This is Philippine coast guard. You are within Philippine exclusive economic zone. You are requested to provide the following: name of vessel, intention,

last and next port of call."

The standoff quietly ended as all seven Chinese boats pulled up anchor and sailed to other waters. The radio operator, Ensign Gretch Mary Acuario, was hailed a hero on social media and lauded in local news reports as "the woman who made the Chinese ships go away."

[See Philippines, A4]

It's legal now, and dogs gobble it up

More pet owners are reporting their animals eating cannabis edibles — and having bad trips

By SUSANNE RUST

MENLO PARK, Calif. — Bentley seemed to be in a haze. Normally this 12-pound Chihuahua-terrier mix would never refuse hot, fresh French fries from a drive-through fast food joint. But on a recent warm afternoon, he turned his head away at his owner's offer.

"He wouldn't take them, so I knew something was wrong. He was just out of it," said Dana Long, a resident of Tiburon. Long eventually took his dog to the veterinarian, who informed him that his typically sprightly and voracious Bentley was stoned. He had likely picked up a chocolate edible on the fields of a nearby middle school, where Long's daughter was playing softball.

While excess cannabis consumption by canines is not new, cases are growing as more and more states legalize the drug, and its use becomes more widespread, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The group's poison hotline suggests that as more and more states have legalized recreational marijuana, reports of marijuana toxicity in dogs have also grown.

Between 2017 and 2020, national call volume for cannabis ingestion rose from 1,436 to 3,923 cases, said Tina Wismer, a veterinarian and senior director of the New York-based ASPCA Poison Control Center.

Those numbers are likely just a fraction of the true incidence of marijuana poisonings — reporting to the control center is voluntary — but the trend is clear. In California, where recre-

[See Edibles, A12]

BUSINESS INSIDE: Should airlines share their lists of banned fliers with one another? A8

Seis pumas retenidos en Australia por romper la burbuja

Los acusan de haber violado las restricciones sanitarias en una salida recreativa; sin esos jugadores, enfrentarán el sábado a la selección local. Deportes, página 8



JAMES BOND ESTÁ DE REGRESO, ESTA VEZ PARA DESPEDIRSE

—espectáculos

Se estrena *Sin tiempo para morir*, la película en la que Daniel Craig interpreta por última vez al mítico espía británico; llega el final de la saga. Página 4

MÁS ARGENTINOS SE APURAN PARA VIAJAR A ESTADOS UNIDOS

—coronavirus

Hay una fuerte demanda para volar antes del 1º de noviembre; desde esa fecha no podrán entrar los que estén vacunados con Sputnik. Página 21

LA NACION

JUEVES 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

El dólar tocó los máximos del año y caen las reservas

NERVIOSISMO. El blue siguió en \$187 y sube \$5,50 en lo que va del mes; los financieros continuaron en alza; el BCRA vendió US\$60 millones y retrocede su tenencia neta

Javier Blanco
LA NACION

Aunque el Gobierno parece subestimarlo, el clima de nerviosismo que fue ganando al mercado tras las PASO se refleja en un dato: todos los precios del dólar —en sus distintas versiones— alcanzaron en los últimos días nuevos

máximos en el año. Fue el caso de los financieros ayer, aunque luego fueron contenidos por la intervención oficial. El blue, en tanto, se mantuvo en \$187.

El impulso que le faltaba al billete surgió de la decisión de la administración Fernández de acelerar el gasto en un intento de tratar de dar vuelta la elección. Eso obliga a tra-

bajar a destajo a una "maquinista" de imprimir billetes que funciona sin pausa desde hace dos años, aunque la demanda de pesos no reacciona. Y en un momento sensible: cuando las reservas propias del BCRA vuelven a estar en franca declinación. Ayer, la entidad tuvo que vender US\$60 millones más. Continúa en la página 14

EL ESCENARIO

La mano de Dios y el bolsillo del mercado

Luis Cortina

Página 15

Dolor y reclamo de más seguridad en Mar del Plata

seguridad— MAR DEL PLATA. Familiares, vecinos y colegas del asesinado DJ Leandro Gatti se manifestaron ayer en reclamo de justicia ante ese crimen cometido por motochorros y pidieron mayor presencia policial en las zonas de diversión nocturna. Página 26



Familiares del asesinado DJ Leandro Gatti encabezaron la manifestación en reclamo de justicia y más presencia policial

MARA SOSTI

Si gana, la oposición pedirá la presidencia de Diputados

CONGRESO. Lo aseguró María Eugenia Vidal, de Juntos por el Cambio

La candidata a diputada por la ciudad de Buenos Aires de Juntos por el Cambio María Eugenia Vidal aseguró ayer que la coalición opositora tendrá la "oportunidad" de reclamar la presidencia de la Cámara de Diputados si alcanza la primera minoría en las próximas elecciones. Para apuntar al lugar que ocupa el diputado Sergio Massa, Juntos por el Cambio debe pasar del 40% que logró en las primarias a nivel nacional al 45% en las elecciones generales del próximo 14 de noviembre. Página 11

EL ESCENARIO

La encrucijada: quién gobierna el día después

Carlos Pagni

LA NACION

Página 10

La jubilación anticipada, para unos 30.000 beneficiarios

Página 15



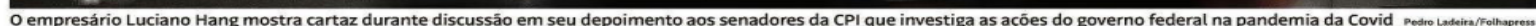
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RECETAS COCINA
VEGETARIANA

G. 40.000

Indígenas usaron piedras, palos y flechas para confrontar con los policías

Sancionan controvertida ley en medio de tensión y violencia

- Aprueban hasta 10 años de cárcel para invasores
- Choques y quemas en varios puntos del país

PÁGINA 6 a la 10



Incidentes. En medio de los enfrentamientos, vándalos de la Chacarita aprovecharon para saquear vehículos y asaltar.

39.600 dosis de Sinopharm
Mecanismo Covax
se hace sentir con
un minúsculo
lote de vacunas

PÁGINA 2

Estrellas de tervé a la Justicia
Contadores y SET
disputan sobre la
responsabilidad
en las evasiones

PÁGINAS 15 y 50

No corrió maniobra oficialista
Abortan suba de
salarios en Comuna
capitalina que
tenía tufo electoral

PÁGINA 23

11.000 niños ni silla tienen
Asunción ejecutó
solo el 1% del
Fonacide para las
obras escolares

PÁGINA 24

Entes llaman al uso racional del
agua debido a la bajante del río

PÁGINA 14

Giuzzio relaciona el crimen del
alto jefe naval con narcotráfico

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LE FIGARO

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



ENQUÊTE
LES GRATTE-CIEL
EN BOIS FLEURISSENT
EN SCANDINAVIE PAGE 16

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE
MODIANO, ROMANCIER
ET PERSONNAGE DE ROMANS
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



MAJORITÉ
Entre Bayrou
et Philippe,
une inamicale
concurrence

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Les principaux
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Biden sur le retrait
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Une femme
chargée de former
le gouvernement
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Âge limite,
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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de mercredi :**
Croyez-vous à un risque
de conflit militaire entre
les États-Unis et la Chine ?

OUI 44% NON 56%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 55 318

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**

Pensez-vous
que la restriction
sur les visas réduira
l'immigration clandestine
en provenance
du Maghreb ?

SARA KULTURHUS

Éolien ou nucléaire : l'énergie dans la bataille présidentielle

Selon notre sondage Odoxa-Backbone Consulting, l'image de l'éolien se dégrade fortement dans l'opinion alors que celle du nucléaire s'améliore. Le débat s'invite dans la campagne.

Au lendemain du second tour de la primaire des écologistes, à la veille de la présidence française de l'Union européenne et à l'aube de l'élection de 2022, les questions envi-

ronnementales s'invitent dans le débat public. Notamment celles qui ont trait au nucléaire - sujet clivant s'il en est -, sur lequel la classe politique peine à adopter un discours nuancé.

La question des éoliennes, elle aussi, prend toute sa place dans la campagne. Xavier Bertrand mais aussi Marine Le Pen ont dit très tôt leur vive hostilité à cette énergie

qu'ils jugent à la fois insuffisamment performante et destructrice du paysage. À l'autre bout de l'échiquier politique, Yannick Jadot, désormais candidat à la présidentielle, tient

un discours inverse. Comme la socialiste Anne Hidalgo. Du côté de l'exécutif, on tente comme toujours de miser sur un « en même temps » qui ne convainc guère.

→ L'IMAGE DE L'ÉOLIEN SE DÉGRADE FORTEMENT EN FRANCE → À OLÉRON, UN « NON FERME ET DÉFINITIF » AU PARC OFFSHORE → LA CRISE ÉNERGÉTIQUE MET À MAL LA STRATÉGIE DU TOUT-RENOUVELABLE → EN ALLEMAGNE, LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE CHERCHE UN NOUVEAU SOUFFLE PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL



**L'hommage de la nation
au sergent Maxime Blasco**

Emmanuel Macron a rendu un hommage national, mercredi aux Invalides, au soldat du 7^e BCA mort au Mali lors d'un combat avec un groupe djihadiste. Le caporal-chef Blasco a été élevé au grade de sergent à titre posthume. PAGE 5

**Cinéma,
musique,
théâtre...
les prix
de la culture
s'envolent**

Alors que le public retrouve le plaisir des sorties culturelles après presque un an et demi de privations, il découvre que les prix ont souvent flambé. Concerts, théâtre, expositions sont tous concernés. Contre-productives, ces hausses n'aident pas à remplir les salles à l'heure où les trésoreries sont au plus bas. Seuls les artistes rares et les concepts luxueux au cinéma, les deux très chers, font le plein. PAGE 32

ÉDITORIAL par Gaëtan de Capèle gdecapelle@lefigaro.fr

Masochisme énergétique

Il y aurait mille raisons de s'inspirer du modèle allemand, sur lequel notre voisin a bâti sa puissance économique. Lui a su, par exemple, fortifier son industrie face à l'ogre asiatique, pendant que nous laissions nos entreprises et nos usines déperir. Lui encore est parvenu à gérer ses comptes publics au cordeau malgré les crises, tandis que nous nous noyions dans un océan de dettes et de déficits. De sa politique économique performante, nous n'avons rien retenu pour améliorer la nôtre. Mais, par un inexplicable mystère, nous avons en revanche décidé de le suivre - heureusement moins brutalement - dans son aventureuse politique énergétique consistant à se retirer du nucléaire pour se convertir au renouvelable. Le résultat est un fiasco. Dix ans après sa décision radicale de stopper ses réacteurs, l'Allemagne, couverte d'éoliennes, est contrainte de recourir massivement aux énergies fossiles (gaz, charbon...) pour s'éclairer, se chauffer et faire tourner ses usines. Le champion autoproclamé de l'écologie est devenu le plus grand pollueur d'Europe. Il se trouve par la même occasion l'otage de la

Russie, son principal fournisseur de gaz. Et, pour compléter le tableau, les Allemands paient leur facture d'énergie plus cher que partout ailleurs.

Nous n'en sommes heureusement pas encore là. Ici, le développement anarchique des éoliennes se heurte à une ferme opposition et devient un sujet politique. Sans même

**Est-il bien
raisonnable
de s'en
remettre
aux caprices
du vent ?**

parler de la défiguration des paysages et de leurs multiples nuisances, l'actuelle flambée des prix du gaz et de l'électricité invite sérieusement à la réflexion. Grâce à quelques dirigeants visionnaires, la France a la chance de bénéficier d'un parc nucléaire considérable, qui produit en abondance une énergie décarbonée et peu chère. Par idéologie - masochisme ? -, nous avons décidé de réduire fortement sa part dans le « mix énergétique », comme disent les spécialistes, pour nous en remettre aux caprices du soleil et du vent. Tout cela est-il bien raisonnable ? ■

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Couzens used police handcuffs and ID to kidnap Sarah Everard

Vikram Dodd
Haroon Siddique

Wayne Couzens used his police warrant card and handcuffs to lure Sarah Everard off the street before strangling her and burning her body, depriving her family of the chance to say a final goodbye, a court has heard.

Video footage released yesterday showed Couzens, then a serving

Metropolitan police officer, staging a false arrest of Everard as she returned from a friend's house in south London in March during a period of coronavirus lockdown measures.

He handcuffed her in the back seat of his car and "that was the start of her lengthy ordeal, including an 80-mile journey [to Kent] whilst detained which was to lead first to her rape and then her murder", Tom Little QC told the Old Bailey.

"At some point fairly soon after driving from the pavement on to the South Circular and having not gone to a police station, Sarah Everard must have realised her fate," he said.

Everard's mother, Susan, told the court she remained "tormented" at the thought of what her 33-year-old daughter endured.

The full details of Couzens' crimes were laid bare for the first time at a hearing to decide whether he should



▲ Sarah Everard, whose family said they were tormented by her suffering

be sentenced to die in jail. The prosecution said the crimes were so serious, involving the abuse of his position and trust as a police officer, they may merit him being sentenced to a whole life tariff.

Couzens kept his head bowed in court. Everard's father, Jeremy, and her sister, Katie, each asked that Couzens face them before they began addressing him directly. He lifted his head slightly



Starmer tells 'trivial' PM: get a grip or get out of the way

Heather Stewart
Political editor

Keir Starmer yesterday condemned Boris Johnson as a "trivial ... showman" as he brushed off hecklers to deliver a highly personal conference speech aimed at persuading voters Labour was ready for government.

The Labour leader received a string of standing ovations as he delivered his 90-minute speech to a packed hall in Brighton, closing a five-day conference in which his party's divisions have been on stark display.

He repeatedly pressed home the message that Labour's priority was now to win the next general election - and was applauded as he listed the achievements of the Blair and Brown governments.

Labour strategists believe the botched exit from Afghanistan and this week's fuel chaos have prompted fresh doubt in voters' minds about Johnson's competence. Starmer accused the government of "ignoring the problem, blaming someone else, then coming up with a half-baked solution". He ridiculed Johnson's "levelling up" slogan, saying: "Level up? You can't even fill up!"

"We have a fuel crisis, a pay crisis, a goods crisis and a cost of living crisis - all at the same time," Starmer said, urging the prime minister to "either get a grip or get out of the way and let us clear up this mess".



'We have a fuel crisis, a goods crisis and a cost of living crisis - all at the same time'

Keir Starmer
Labour leader

Starmer was introduced by Doreen Lawrence, mother of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence. He was joined in the audience by the parents of Jane Clough, who was killed by her partner, and contrasted his legal career campaigning against injustice in situations like theirs to Johnson's as a columnist and TV guest.

In stark contrast to Labour deputy leader Angela Rayner's controversial

▲ Keir Starmer, with his wife, Victoria, acknowledges the applause after his speech yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

branding of Johnson as "scum", Starmer sought to dismiss the prime minister as "a showman with nothing left to show" and "a trickster who has performed his one trick".

"It's easy to comfort yourself that

your opponents are bad people. But I don't think Boris Johnson is a bad man. I think he is a trivial man," he said.

Starmer was repeatedly heckled by a small number of individuals, some of whom shouted "£15!" in reference to calls for a £15 an hour minimum wage. He tackled them with a series of prepared put-downs, prompting applause from

