

## What's News

### Business & Finance

U.S. retail sales rose in October by a seasonally adjusted 1.7% from the previous month as consumers continued their stepped-up spending despite Covid-19 fears and concerns about inflation. **A1**

◆ **Walmart reported** another quarter of higher sales, as it raised prices for some products and consumers shopped early for the winter holidays. **B1**

◆ **Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac** are expected to back mortgages of nearly \$1 million for the first time, a reflection of the rapid appreciation in home prices. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the S&P 500, Dow Industrials and Nasdaq posting gains of 0.4%, 0.2% and 0.8%, respectively. **B12**

◆ **Netflix is changing** how it measures viewership of its content, a move that the company said will provide more clarity when it comes to judging the popularity of programming on its platform. **B1**

◆ **Peloton announced** a \$1 billion stock offering, just weeks after saying it didn't need additional capital to weather wider-than-expected losses and slowing growth. **B1**

◆ **German regulators** suspended certification proceedings for the Nord Stream 2 natural-gas pipeline, adding to concerns Europe will run low on fuel this winter. **B12**

◆ **Lucid became** the latest electric-vehicle startup to top Ford in market value, another example of intensifying investor enthusiasm for car companies that shun gasoline. **B3**

### World-Wide

◆ **Pfizer said** it asked the FDA to authorize its oral Covid-19 drug for use in high-risk patients, putting the pill on a path that could make it available for people to take at home by the end of the year. **A1**

◆ **Iran has resumed** production of equipment for advanced centrifuges at a site the U.N.'s atomic-energy agency has been unable to monitor for months, diplomats familiar with the activities said. **A1**

◆ **Biden and China's Xi** have agreed to explore talks on arms control, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said. **A8**

◆ **A conservative-leaning U.S. appeals court** in Cincinnati was randomly selected to decide challenges to the administration's vaccination rules for large employers. **A6**

◆ **The Senate confirmed** Jonathan Kanter as the Justice Department's top antitrust official. **A4**

◆ **The U.S. government** could run out of resources to meet the nation's obligations as soon as Dec. 15, the Treasury's Yellen said. **A4**

◆ **The FBI has set up** a process to track threats against school-board members and teachers, moving to implement a DOJ directive. **A3**

◆ **Biden hinted** to reporters that he could reveal his choice for Fed chief at the end of the week. **A2**

◆ **New York's ethics watchdog** revoked its approval of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's pandemic memoir. **A3**

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## Shiites Warily Accept Taliban Rule 20 Years After Killings



**SOMBER SITE:** Sayed Kazim stands by the graves of his relatives, who were killed by the Taliban in January 2001 in a mass execution of Hazara people in Yakawlang, Afghanistan. Today, Shiites have cautiously allied with the Taliban. **A11**

## Pfizer Seeks Approval of Virus Pill

FDA asked to authorize easy-to-use treatment as U.S. secures supply, licenses are granted

By JARED S. HOPKINS

Pfizer Inc. said it asked U.S. health regulators to authorize its oral Covid-19 drug for use in high-risk patients, putting the pill on a path that could make it available for people to take at home by the end of the year.

Clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration would give patients and doctors an easy-to-use treatment to keep people out of the hospital early in the course of the disease.

"There is an urgent need for lifesaving treatment options," Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla said. "We are moving as quickly as possible in our effort to get this potential treatment into the hands of patients."

Health authorities and doctors have struggled with only

a handful of options for treating Covid-19 patients, especially shortly after infection. A Gilead Sciences Inc. antiviral, remdesivir, is mostly used to treat hospitalized patients, while monoclonal antibody treatments have proven effective but are costly and typically given in doctor offices or hospitals.

Initial supplies of Pfizer's pill would be limited. Pfizer projects it will manufacture more than 180,000 courses of treatment this year, and plans to increase production to at

least 50 million courses next year.

President Biden has said the U.S. has secured supply of the Pfizer drug, called Paxlovid. A person familiar with the matter said the U.S. was working on a contract for 10 million courses of treatment.

Pfizer also said Tuesday that it was licensing out Paxlovid to the Medicines Patent Pool, a United Nations-backed

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◆ **Booster-shot eligibility** widens..... **A6**

## Fannie, Freddie Set to Back Mortgages Near \$1 Million

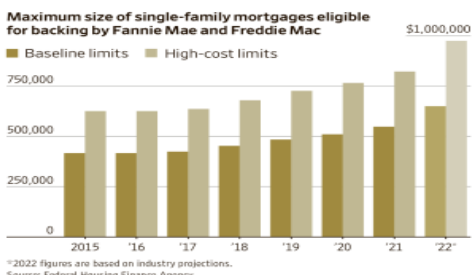
By ANDREW ACKERMAN

WASHINGTON—The federal government is about to back mortgages of nearly \$1 million for the first time.

The maximum size of home-mortgage loans eligible for backing by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are expected to jump sharply in 2022, a reflection of the rapid appreciation in home prices nationally over the past year.

The increase might make it easier and cheaper for some borrowers to buy a home, particularly in more expensive areas of the country, but the higher limits are also likely to elevate debate about how big of a mortgage is too big to be backed by the government.

"Housing prices are expensive," said Steve Walsh, president of Scout Mortgage in



\*2022 figures are based on industry projections. Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency

Scottsdale, Ariz., adding that some of his clients are unable to qualify for loans for modest-sized homes under the current limits.

"I don't believe these people are looking for a castle, just a three-bedroom house with a backyard," Mr. Walsh said.

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## Iran Boosts Nuclear Effort, Diplomats Say

By LAURENCE NORMAN

Iran has resumed production of equipment for advanced centrifuges at a site the United Nations' atomic-energy agency has been unable to monitor or gain access to for months, diplomats familiar with the activities said, presenting a new challenge for the Biden administration as it

prepares for nuclear talks.

The renewed work has raised fresh concerns among Western diplomats who have said it could allow Iran to start secretly diverting centrifuge parts if Tehran chose to build a covert nuclear-weapons program, although they said there is no evidence at this point that it has done so. Iran resumed work on a

limited scale in late August at an assembly plant in Karaj, a city west of Tehran, and has since accelerated its production, allowing it to manufacture an unknown number of rotors and bellows for more-advanced centrifuges, diplomats said.

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◆ **Biden, Xi open to nuclear** talks..... **A8**



**BUSINESS & FINANCE**  
Netflix changes how it ranks its popular shows to better reflect viewer satisfaction. **B1**

## Mayor's Plan to Build Giant Topyary Chicken Lays an Egg

City leader's dream cost him his job, now locals debate future of 16-ton bird

By CAMERON McWHIRTER

FITZGERALD, Ga.—Mayor Jim Puckett hatched a plan three years ago to build the world's tallest topiary, in the shape of a chicken, which he hoped would draw tourists to his struggling South Georgia city.

Now the project may never fly. Mayor Puckett was soundly ousted in elections earlier this month with the bird and its cost a major campaign issue.

"The chicken is obviously polarizing," he says.

The giant structure was

Please turn to page A6

## Shoppers Increase Spending, Despite Inflation

Retail sales rose by 1.7% in October as consumers bucked the pandemic, higher prices

By GABRIEL T. RUBIN

U.S. consumers withstood rising inflation to power a burst of shopping ahead of the holiday season, with big retailers reporting higher sales and expectations for a solid finish to the year.

Sales at U.S. retail stores, online sellers, and restaurants rose in October by a seasonally adjusted 1.7% from the previous month, the Commerce Department said. Consumers continued their stepped-up spending despite continued Covid-19 fears and inflation concerns.

The elevated spending level suggests solid holiday sales this season, lifting the economy as a whole. J.P. Morgan said it was upgrading its growth expectations, raising its forecast for fourth-quarter U.S. gross domestic product to 5% from 4%. U.S. stocks rose after the report, with the S&P 500 gaining 0.4%, reversing Monday's declines, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average adding nearly 0.2%, or 54.77 points.

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◆ **Consumers plow through** rising prices..... **A2**

◆ **Bullish Walmart raises** forecast..... **B1**

◆ **Heard on the Street:** Holiday sales gloom looks inflated. **B13**

## Activision CEO Knew For Years of Sexual Misconduct Claims

Bobby Kotick didn't inform board of some reports, including alleged rapes

Bobby Kotick, the longtime chief executive of videogame giant Activision Blizzard Inc., received a troubling email in July 2018.

By Kirsten Grind, Ben Fritz and Sarah E. Needleman

A lawyer for a former employee at Sledgehammer Games, an Activision-owned studio, alleged in the email that her client had been raped in 2016 and 2017 by her male supervisor after she had been pressured to consume too much alcohol in the office

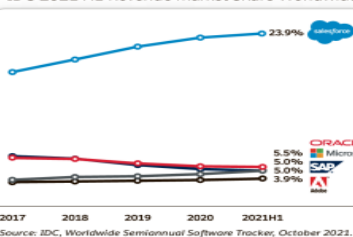
and at work events. The female employee reported the incidents to Sledgehammer's human-resources department and other supervisors, but nothing happened, according to the email, which threatened a lawsuit against the company.

Within months of receiving the email, said people familiar with the situation, Activision reached an out-of-court settlement with the woman, who also had reported one of the incidents to the police. Mr. Kotick didn't inform the company's board of directors

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## Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2021 H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



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

salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following: PC, software, hardware, services, and consulting. Sales force productivity and management, marketing campaign management, customer service, contact center, advertising, and digital commerce applications. © 2021 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., as are other names and marks.



## Inflation denial

Fed needs new bosses who can face looming danger — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 17

## A passage to India

Tech investors flee China, but is their destination too hot? — BIG READ, PAGE 15



## Escape from Isis

Iraqi women find new freedom after fleeing jihadists — CHLOE CORNISH, PAGE 16

## Cold case

## Greece renews sculpture plea

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, has called for the return of the Elgin Marbles to their homeland, telling Boris Johnson during a visit to London that the move would be a "fantastic" coup for public diplomacy.

Greece has repeatedly requested the repatriation of the ancient sculptures, which were removed by art collector Lord Thomas Elgin more than 200 years ago and sold to the British Museum.

Downing Street said who possessed the marbles was an issue "purely" for the museum and not the UK government.

Mitsotakis pointed out that Johnson was a passionate supporter of returning the artefacts when he was president of the Oxford Union in 1986.

Report page 4



Tony French/Alamy Stock Photo

## Washington and Beijing agree to hold talks on nuclear arsenals

● Pledge from Biden-Xi call ● US wary of China build-up ● First easing of security tensions

DEMETRI SEVASTOPOULOS — WASHINGTON  
TOM MITCHELL — SINGAPORE

Joe Biden and Xi Jinping have agreed to hold talks aimed at reducing tensions, as US anxiety grows at China's expanding nuclear arsenal and its recent test of a hypersonic weapon.

Jake Sullivan, US national security adviser, said the presidents had discussed the need for nuclear "strategic stability" talks, in a virtual meeting on Monday. China has previously refused to hold nuclear talks, partly because the US has a much bigger arsenal.

"The two leaders agreed that we would look to begin to carry forward discussions on strategic stability," Sullivan told an audience at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

There was no decision on a format for

the discussions and the US wants to see if China will follow through on the pledge from Xi.

The development is the first sign that the two sides have reached any kind of agreement on easing tensions over serious security issues. It comes against a backdrop of the worst relations between the US and China since they normalised diplomatic ties in 1979. In their more than three-hour meeting, Biden stressed that the two countries needed to create "guardrails" to ensure that their competition "does not veer into conflict". Xi said they needed to avoid derailing US-China relations.

The Pentagon this month said China planned to more than quadruple its nuclear stockpile to 1,000 warheads by 2030. The US has about 3,800. The US

said China was building hundreds of silos for intercontinental missiles and had a nascent "nuclear triad" — the ability to launch from land, sea and air — after deploying a nuclear bomber.

The US defence department also said China was changing its nuclear posture in ways that suggested it was shifting away from "minimum deterrence" — a policy intended to ensure it had just enough weapons to retaliate against an enemy strike — after five decades.

The Financial Times reported last month that China in July tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic weapon that can orbit the earth.

Asked about China's rapid nuclear expansion, which has become more apparent over the past year, and the hypersonic test, Sullivan said the issues



Joe Biden and Xi Jinping had discussed the need for nuclear 'strategic stability' talks in a virtual meeting on Monday, the US said

"matter profoundly for America's national security".

The national security adviser added that the talks with China would not be at the same level as the "strategic stability dialogue" that the US holds with Russia, which has the world's largest nuclear arsenal, and with which the US has held decades of arms-control negotiations.

However, there was no sign of easing tensions over Taiwan. Biden said he backed the "one China" policy, in which Washington recognises Beijing as the sole state of government of China, but voiced concern about military activity near the island. Xi warned him that anyone who supported advocates of Taiwanese independence was "playing with fire" and would "burn themselves".

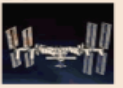
Constance Stelzenmüller page 17

## Briefing

► **British security probe into Nvidia swoop**  
London has launched an investigation on national security grounds into the US chipmaker's takeover plan for UK technology group Arm, putting another hurdle in the path of the \$54bn deal. — PAGE 6

► **Shell threatened with Dutch exit charge**  
The oil major has been threatened with an exit penalty after the decision to end its dual share structure and move its tax base to the UK triggered a backlash in the Netherlands. — PAGE 8

► **Russia denies endangering space station**  
Moscow has said its shooting down of an obsolete satellite posed no threat to the safety of crew on the International Space Station after the US said debris posed a danger. — PAGE 2



► **JP Morgan sues Tesla over go-private bid**  
The US bank has sued for \$162m, saying the electric carmaker failed to make a payment triggered after founder Elon Musk's 2018 tweet saying he planned to take the company private. — PAGE 6 & LEX, PAGE 18

► **Kampala police blame blast on jihadists**  
Twin blasts have rocked the centre of the Ugandan capital, killing three and injuring more than 30, in what police described as co-ordinated attacks by a "radicalised" group linked to Isis jihadists. — PAGE 4

► **BMW shrinks buyer choices as costs bite**  
The German carmaker has said it will cut down on the available varieties of everything from colour to wheel rims to engine types, as the shift to electric power forces it to cut costs and complexity. — PAGE 8

► **Whole cuts of 3D-printed meat served up**  
Israeli start-up Redefine Meat has launched a 3D-printed plant-based meat, making whole "cuts" available for the first time in restaurants in Europe and Israel. It can "print" 10kg an hour. — PAGE 8

## Datawatch

Credit where it's due

€ per tonne of CO2 equivalent



Source: Refinitiv

European carbon prices jumped to an all-time high above €57 a tonne following the COP26 gathering. It ended with agreements that traders believe will encourage investment in the credits from public and private sectors. — PAGE 10



## Troops gather as Putin reopens his Ukraine file

Western intelligence that suggests Moscow is planning an invasion of Ukraine reflects the fact, according to one Kremlin watcher, that the country represents "unfinished business" for Vladimir Putin. The Russian president last spring ordered troops he had massed near the border to stand down. But as Moscow fears Kyiv might be looking at retaking the Donbas region held by Russian-backed separatists, the seven-year conflict is far from over.

Ukraine deployment — PAGE 2

## Gas prices climb as Germany defers approval of Nord Stream 2 pipeline

ERIKA SOLOMON — BERLIN  
DAVID SHEPPARD — LONDON

Germany has suspended certification of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, dealing a blow to the Kremlin-backed project and sparking a rise in gas prices.

The suspension was announced yesterday at a critical time for European gas supplies. Russia's state-backed gas group Gazprom, which is leading Nord Stream 2, has been accused by some nations of restricting exports to Europe to accelerate approval of the pipeline.

German regulators said they could not yet approve the project, which plans to send 55bn cubic metres of gas a year under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Europe, because its owners had created a subsidiary not in accordance with German law.

The suspension came as one of the

world's biggest commodity traders warned that Europe could suffer rolling power cuts this winter if there were a prolonged period of cold weather.

Jeremy Weir, chief executive of Trafigura, told a Financial Times conference that there was still insufficient natural gas in the region, despite the promise of increased flows from Russia.

"We haven't got enough gas at the moment, quite frankly. We're not storing for the winter period," he said. "So hence there is a real concern that... If we have a cold winter that we could have rolling blackouts in Europe."

President Vladimir Putin last month ordered Gazprom to fill the storage facilities it controls in Germany and Austria, boosting hopes that exports to Europe would rise. But there have been only limited increases in supply from Russia over the past week.

UK gas contracts for delivery in December rose 17 per cent to £2.40 a therm yesterday, while the European benchmark gained 15 per cent to €94 per megawatt hour. Having eased slightly in October on hopes of higher Russian supplies, gas prices have now gained more than 40 per cent in the past week.

The Nord Stream 2 project is creating a subsidiary to own and operate the German section of the pipeline in response to EU "unbundling" regulations, which require that companies producing, transporting and distributing gas within the bloc are separate entities. "Our company undertakes this step to ensure compliance with applicable rules and regulations," Nord Stream 2 told the FT.

German regulators said certification would be suspended until assets and staff were transferred to the subsidiary. Russia denies missile claims page 2

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## World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Nov 16	prev	%chg		Nov 16	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4787.03	4692.89	0.52	\$ per €	1.135	1.142	-0.245	US Gov 10 yr	149.87	1.62	0.00
Nasdaq Composite	15946.33	15553.85	0.58	\$ per £	1.342	1.343	-0.001	UK Gov 10 yr	0.91	0.03	0.00
Dow Jones Ind	36273.85	35807.45	0.52	€ per €	0.846	0.850	-0.004	Ger Gov 10 yr	-0.24	-0.02	0.00
FTSEurofirst 300	1893.44	1889.69	0.20	¥ per \$	114.575	113.975	0.005	Japan Gov 10 yr	115.26	0.07	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4492.04	4399.19	0.36	£ per \$	153.785	153.081	0.007	US Gov 30 yr	123.46	2.00	-0.01
FTSE 100	7328.97	7301.88	-0.34	Sfr per €	1.054	1.063	-0.009	Ger Gov 2 yr	104.95	-0.24	-0.04
FTSE All Share	4184.29	4159.12	-0.34	€ per \$	0.881	0.876	0.005				
CAC 40	7152.80	7152.69	0.00								
Xuon Dai	16247.85	16140.54	0.61								
Nikkei	29808.12	29770.89	0.11								
Hong Kong	25713.76	25390.91	1.22								
MSCI World \$	3276.45	3223.82	0.08	Oil WTI \$	81.25	80.88	0.58	Food Funds Eff	0.00	0.00	0.00
MSCI EM \$	1286.82	1295.48	-0.10	Oil Brent \$	82.89	82.05	1.02	US 3m Bills	0.05	0.05	0.00
MSCI ACWI \$	757.47	756.83	0.08	Gold \$	1779.30	1778.00	0.07	US 10m T-bills	-0.57	-0.57	0.00
								UK 3m	0.10	0.11	-0.01

Prices are latest for edition Data provided by Bloomberg

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Migrants on the Belarus-Polish border set fires as they camped for the night after a day of clashes with Polish security forces.

## Can Biden Law Reverse Legacy Of Racial Bias?

### Goal for Infrastructure Relies on the States

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS  
and MADELEINE NGO

WASHINGTON — President Biden's \$1 trillion plan to rebuild America's infrastructure comes with a built-in promise: No longer will roads, bridges and railways be instruments of bias or racism. Communities that ended up divided along racial lines will be made whole.

But the decision about how to spend the money falls largely to the states, not all of which are likely to put as high a priority on that promise as Mr. Biden does, raising questions about whether the legislation will deliver on his goal.

"It's hard to have a national approach when the decisions are made state by state," said Beth Osborne, who was an acting assistant secretary in the Transportation Department during the Obama administration. "A fundamental part of this program has always been to have the feds raise money, hand it over to the states and cross our fingers."

The administration has said it aims to repair the damage from the United States' history of racial disparities in how the government builds, repairs and locates physical infrastructure. In the 1950s and 1960s, highway projects often targeted Black neighborhoods, destroying cultural and economic centers and bringing decades of environmental harm. State and local officials often steered roads through Black communities, isolating them from parks or economic gains.

The task is complicated by a tangle of competing priorities. Some state and local governments might not share the Biden administration's vision for racial equity; others might be aligned with the president politically, but would choose to spend the money differently. And the sheer size of the bill — it is the largest infusion of federal investment into infrastructure projects in more than a decade, touching nearly every facet of the American economy — makes it difficult to track every penny.

About \$660 billion will be provided to the Transportation Department, the bulk of which will be directly distributed to states, who will have broad latitude in how to

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## AMERICANS DREAD RISING INFLATION, BUT SPEND FREELY

### USING PANDEMIC SAVINGS

#### Record Orders for Goods Are Snarling Global Supply Chains

This article is by Ben Casselman,  
Sapna Maheshwari and Coral Murphy  
Marcos.

American consumers are down about the economy, worried about inflation and pessimistic about the direction of the country in general. But none of that is keeping them from spending.

Retail sales set a record in October, before adjusting for inflation, as shoppers splurged on electronics and home-improvement projects. Major retailers like Walmart are posting strong profits. And Wall Street forecasters are predicting a holiday season that looks less like pandemic-constrained 2020 than like 2019, when a strong labor market powered robust sales.

The continued strength of consumer spending reflects the resilience of the U.S. economy after a year and a half of disruptions, and the success of the government's economic response in insulating many families from the damage. Households in the aggregate have trillions of dollars more in accumulated savings than before the crisis.

But the heavy spending, particularly on goods rather than services, is also contributing to the economy's problems, intensifying supply-chain snarls and shipping delays. That, in turn, is pushing up prices: Inflation in October hit its highest annual rate in more than three decades.

"It's the demand in the first place that's causing prices to move higher," said Aneta Markowska, chief financial economist for JEFFERIES, an investment bank. "There is a supply shortage, but it's not because of bottlenecks. It's because we've had this big shock to aggregate demand and supply can't respond quickly enough."

Those issues are doing little to dampen the fortunes of the country's largest retailers, including Walmart and Home Depot, both of which reported quarterly earnings on Tuesday that topped Wall

Continued on Page A14

## Angry and Out of Options, Migrants Rush Border

By ANDREW HIGGINS  
and MARC SANTORA

BRUZGI, Belarus — He has spent 28 nights, each colder than the one before, choking on campfire smoke and despair on Europe's doorstep. He made it across the razor wire into Poland three times, only to be grabbed in the forest and forced back into Belarus. His visa for Belarus expired 12 days ago, leaving him at the mercy of a repressive police state.

On Tuesday, Rawand Akram, a 23-year-old Kurd from Iraq, snapped.

He and hundreds of other desperate and increasingly angry migrants, marooned at the border — and egged on, he said, by Belarusian security officials — stampeded toward a frontier checkpoint, hurling stones and debris at Polish security forces massed just a few yards away. What began around noon as just another attempt to breach the border fence spiraled into a dangerous melee, and Polish officers responded with volleys from water cannons and blasts of tear gas.

"I am angry. Everyone is angry," Mr. Akram said. "This is the last thing we could do. There is no other solution if we ever want to get to Europe."

Hours later, Belarusian border guards began moving hundreds of migrants from their frozen encampment to the shelter of a nearby warehouse. It was not immediately clear what plans the authorities had for those they were moving, but many feared that the relocation was a prelude to deportation, not just a humane gesture.

Bubbling under the surface, though, was acrimony that could prove difficult to resolve.

Continued on Page A5

### Marooned in a Police State and Pushed Back by Poland

Tuesday's clash, the worst in a month-long impasse on the European Union's eastern flank, underscored the perils of a standoff between Belarus, a close ally of Russia, and Poland, a member of NATO and the European Union, each determined not to bend. At least 11 people have died at the border in recent weeks.

"We are just a stick that they are beating each other with," said Mr. Akram. "We are in the middle of their fight."

He said Belarusian security officers had instigated the melee by telling migrants stranded in a fetid, frozen encampment just yards from Poland that Warsaw's hardline nationalist government would never let them enter unless forced to do so.

But he also blamed Poland for putting its determination to resist pressure from Belarus' authoritarian leader, Aleksandr G. Lukashenko, ahead of the lives of desperate people.

"Nobody wants to look weak," he said. "We have become a ball kicked about in their big political game."

E.U. officials have called the crisis a "hybrid war" engineered by Mr. Lukashenko to punish Poland for sheltering some of his most outspoken opponents and pressure the bloc into lifting sanctions on his country. Belarus insists, for its part, that it is a humanitarian catastrophe created by Europe's refusal to abide by international law and give people fleeing war and despair the right to at least apply for asylum.

To give some credence to its own version of events, Belarus has allowed a few foreign news organizations, including The New York Times, to visit the border and witness the squalor and desperation. Poland, eager to keep despair out of the public eye, has sealed off its own side of the border, barring aid workers, journalists and even doctors from getting within miles of the scene of Tuesday's troubles.

Continued on Page A10

## When Some Are Back in the Office, and the Rest Are Still in PJs

By EMMA GOLDBERG

For months, the putt-putt course sat unused. The beanbag chairs lay empty. The kitchen whiteboard, above where the kept used to live, displayed in fading marker "Beers on Tap" from a happy hour in March 2020.

But on a recent weekday, over in the common area was a sign of life — fresh bagels.

As employees at the financial technology start-up CommonBond got Covid vaccines, and grew stir-crazy in their apartments, they started trickling back into the office.

"We call it Work From Work Wednesday," said Keryn Koch, who runs human resources at the company, which has 15,000 square feet of sunlit SoHo real estate.

At one point, autumn had been billed across corporate America as the Great Office Reopening. The Delta variant intervened, and mandatory return-to-office plans turned optional. Still, many people chose to report back to their desks: The share of employed people who worked remotely at some point during the month because of Covid, which had peaked in May 2020 at 35 percent, dropped in October to 11 percent,



REMIAN MOON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Our center of gravity is the Zoomisphere," said David Klein, right, C.E.O. of CommonBond.

the lowest point since the pandemic began, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A closer look at the New York work force, from a November survey of 188 major employers,

showed that 8 percent of Manhattan office workers are back in the office full time, 54 percent are fully remote and everyone else — nearly 40 percent — is hybrid.

Few are finding it a smooth

transition period. Some companies used their tentative R.T.O. dates as an unwitting excuse to avoid questions about how to balance the needs of their remote and

Continued on Page A14

## In Times Square on New Year's? Plan to Be Cold and Vaccinated.

By ASHLEY WONG and DANA RUBINSTEIN

As the clock runs out on 2021, New York City will ring in the new year with festivities meant to signal its post-pandemic rebirth: Once again, an untold number of hardy souls will descend on Times Square, braving the cold, the crowds and the police cordons to watch the ball drop at midnight on New Year's Eve.

After a scaled-down celebration last year, the famously frigid event will return at "full strength," Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Tuesday. It will be Mr. de Blasio's final act running New York City, after eight years in office, and serve as

a prelude to his possible bid for governor next year.

"We want to welcome all those hundreds of thousands of folks, but everyone needs to be vaccinated," Mr. de Blasio said. "Join the crowd, join the joy, join a historic moment as New York City provides further evidence to the world that we are 100 percent back."

The New Year's celebration will come four months after lightning cut short a star-studded "homecoming concert" that was also designed to signify the city's coming

Continued on Page A15



NATIONAL A12-19

**Sold for a Record \$34.9 Million**  
Frida Kahlo's "Diego and I" became the most valuable work of Latin American art ever sold at auction. PAGE A19

### Aiming to Include All Adults

The F.D.A. is set to clear booster doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine by the end of the week. PAGE A16

BUSINESS B1-6

### Caught Up in a Space Race

Indonesia's quest to build a launch site to lure the SpaceX founder Elon Musk has an Indigenous island clan worried it may lose its place in the world. PAGE B1

### Good Fixes, Wrong Crisis

A focus on the challenges of the Great Recession has fueled new ones amid the coronavirus pandemic. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

### Finding Empathy in Verse

On social media, Refaat Alareer rages against Israel. In the lecture hall, he praises some of its top writers. PAGE A4



ARTS C1-6

### A Broadway Princess, Take 2

"Diana, the Musical" landed with a thud on Netflix, but Jeanna de Waal is staying positive for opening night. PAGE C1

### Women of an Uncertain Age

The stars of the comedy "The Sex Lives of College Girls" discuss the mortification and messiness of intimacy. PAGE C1

SPORTS B7-9

### A Runner Embraces a Legacy

Inspired by an ancestor's escapes from an Indigenous boarding school, Stevens retraced the route, then set his sights on winning a state title. PAGE B7

OBITUARIES B10-11

### A Master of the Visual Pun

Bob Gill was a groundbreaking designer who was part of a generation for whom the aesthetic was in service to the idea. He was 90. PAGE B11

OPINION A20-21

**Michael J. O'Loughlin** PAGE A20



FOOD D1-12

### A Tasty Slice of Thanksgiving

Melissa Clark has spent months perfecting techniques for three holiday classics — the absolute best pumpkin, apple and pecan pies. PAGES D4-5



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## 3 states nearing new deal on water

California, Arizona and Nevada are set to further cut back use of Colorado River.

BY IAN JAMES

Two and a half years after signing a deal aimed at averting a damaging crisis along the Colorado River, water officials from California, Arizona and Nevada are discussing plans to take even less water from the shrinking river and leave it in Lake Mead in an effort to prevent the reservoir from falling to dangerously low levels.

Representatives of water agencies from the three states said they are firming up the details of a deal that would leave an additional 500,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoir next year, and the same amount again in 2023 — about double the quantity of water used annually by Las Vegas and the rest of southern Nevada.

For California, the deal would mean participating in water reductions prior to Lake Mead reaching levels that would otherwise trigger mandatory cuts.

The talks took on urgency this summer after federal projections showed growing risks of Lake Mead falling to critically low levels, despite plans for mandatory cutbacks throughout the Southwest that the states agreed to in 2019.

With the reservoir in a first-ever shortage and those cuts still insufficient, water management officials settled on a goal of together leaving half a million acre-feet of additional water in the reservoir instead of sending it flowing to farms, cities and tribal lands. The stored water would be roughly as much as 1.5 million average single-family households use in a year.

"We've got to stabilize the lake with this plan," said Tom Buschatske, director of the Arizona Department of [See Water, A8]



TANKS and performers dressed in military uniforms are part of the mass gala marking the 100th anniversary of China's Communist Party at Olympic National Stadium in Beijing over the summer.

## China's nuclear weapons buildup raises the stakes

The rivalry with the U.S. was already dangerous, but with more warheads, risks are growing exponentially

BY ALICE SU

**BEIJING** — It was already a dangerous race: China versus the United States, each pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into missiles, submarines, warplanes and ships, vying to dominate the Indo-Pacific.

That race may now go nuclear. A Pentagon report released this month estimated that China may have 700 nuclear warheads by 2027 and 1,000 by 2030 — a dramatic increase from last year's assessment that China's 200 or so warheads would only double over the next decade.

The Pentagon noted that China's nuclear delivery platforms and supporting infrastructure indicate it may already possess a "nuclear triad" capable of launching missiles from the air, ground and sea. China may also be moving toward a "launch-on-



DF-41 nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles are seen during a military parade at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 2019.

### COLUMN ONE

## Blowing a whistle or throwing a grenade on medical board?

Regulator says colleagues have let bad doctors off easy

BY MELODY GUTIERREZ  
REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

**T**he pleas for help find him. They arrive by email or seep into his social media account. One showed up in a tightly sealed letter to his home. After years of feeling ignored by the Medical Board of California, the writers hope he'll finally be the one who hears them.

Eserick "TJ" Watkins can guess the types of allegations that could be waiting

inside: the stories of a doctor's misconduct that left an overprescribed teen addicted, a father missing a limb, a daughter dead. He has heard hundreds of these cases as a member of the medical board, which oversees the discipline of doctors in the state.

Watkins used to forward the pleas to board staff, but now he finds it pointless. California's medical board, Watkins said, is designed to silence aggrieved patients, a doctor-led panel that protects fellow doctors.

For decades,

[See Board, A10]



### ROUGH GOING

Clippers' Paul George is fouled by Derrick White of the Spurs, right, in L.A.'s 106-92 win. **SPORTS, B8**

### A split poll on abortion, limits

Most respondents back Roe, but some of them also favor a 15-week ban. **NATION, A8**

### Rep. Jackie Speier to retire

Bay Area lawmaker is latest House Democrat to forgo a reelection bid. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Early clouds and fog. L.A. Basin: 72/52. **B6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



REP. PRAMILA JAYAPAL (D-Wash.), right, chair of the Progressive Caucus, with Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), center, after a compromise was struck.

### ANALYSIS

## Progressive Democrats test-drive hardball tactics

Was fight over Biden legislative agenda just the beginning?

BY NOLAN D. MCCASKILL

**WASHINGTON** — Progressive Democrats have never been shy about fighting for what they want.

But their aggressive tactics in the recent fight over a massive social safety-net package surprised many in their own party, raising

questions about whether the tougher stance was an anomaly or a sign of battles to come.

Emboldened by Democrats' narrow control of the House and Senate, the 95-member Congressional Progressive Caucus for nearly two months delayed passage of a bipartisan \$1-trillion infrastructure bill

— not because they opposed it, but to use as leverage in negotiations with moderates over a separate, larger spending package to address healthcare, child care and climate change.

In the process, they repeatedly stalled President Biden's legislative agenda and defied House Speaker [See Progressives, A7]



# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Mostly sunny 65/44 • Tomorrow: Shower 72/39 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021 • B2

## Economic fear isn't scaring off shoppers

Despite rising prices for food and gas, retail sales in U.S. spiked last month

BY ABHA BHATTARAI  
AND AARON GREGG

Americans might say they're upset about rising prices and losing confidence in the economy, but that hasn't stopped them from snapping up cars, electronics, fitness equipment and other big-ticket items.

Retail sales jumped 1.7 percent in October, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday — a significant acceleration from September levels even as new data put consumer confidence at a 10-year low. Walmart and Home Depot clearly benefited from the surge, with both retail behemoths reporting robust third-quarter sales and profits.

The data highlights a unique economic moment where the country is still in the grip of a pandemic, but the coronavirus and fears surrounding it have receded enough for economic activity to maintain a brisk pace. Even so, the composition of spending remains heavily weighted toward goods instead of services in the run-up to the holidays.

And though consumers are grumbling about the rising cost of gas, groceries and other everyday goods, they have so far been willing to accept them, said Mark Cohen, director of retail sales at Columbia Business School. "The fact is, the world shut down for the better part of 2020 and people have savings because

SEE RETAIL ON A28



D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser arrives for a news conference where she said the city would end its mask requirement in most indoor settings starting Monday. Some residents and businesses had criticized the mandate and the city's lack of clear metrics for lifting it.

## D.C. dropping its mask mandate

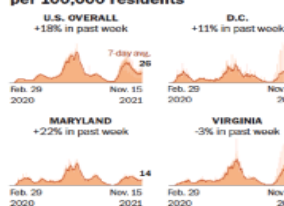
Bowser cites low hospitalization rate even as case numbers remain well above CDC target

BY JULIE ZAUZMER WEIL  
AND JENNA PORTNOY

Washington's local mask mandate, one of the strictest in the nation since late July, will relax greatly beginning Monday, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) announced Tuesday.

The District had required residents to wear masks in most indoor settings since the delta variant caused coronavirus case counts to rise over the summer. On Tuesday, though, Bowser said coronavirus vaccinations are working: While case rates remain far above the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended target of 50 new cases per week for every 100,000 residents, Bowser noted that vaccines are

New daily reported cases per 100,000 residents



preventing most people who catch the virus from needing hospitalization.

That means it's time to let residents choose whether to wear masks in their office buildings, retail stores, gyms and many other settings, Bowser said. Businesses can still require masks, but it will not be legally mandated — and some hope the change will help retailers struggling in a downtown that still resembles a ghost town most days.

In recent weeks, some residents and business owners had questioned the District's reasoning for maintaining a strict

SEE MASKS ON A4

Learning loss: D.C. students continued to fall behind in some subjects in the pandemic. B4

## A maternity ranch is born

How evangelical women in Texas are mobilizing for a future without abortion

BY STEPHANIE MCCRUMMEN

ARGYLE, TEX. — The vision had come as she was driving home from the Kroger, and it was so sudden and fully formed that Aubrey Schlackman began to tell people that "it was like God placed it in my head."

This was last year, a time when abortion was still widely available in Texas and Aubrey was one more young mother joining the midmorning traffic along Farm to Market 407 in the growing suburbs north of Dallas. She passed the Starbucks. She passed the AT&T store. She was thinking about getting her two young boys down for a nap when she reached a pleasant stretch of land bordered by a long split-rail fence, and this is when the idea came.

"A maternity ranch," she thought, and she could practically see it through her windshield.

SEE RANCH ON A22



IANA FRANCH-LINSMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Aubrey Schlackman drives to a friend's property at the edges of Argyle, Tex., where she goes to visualize the future of Blue Haven Ranch, her program for struggling pregnant mothers.

## India's homegrown Koo lures users from Twitter

Government-friendly network's growth seen as challenge to Silicon Valley

BY GERRY SHIH

BANGALORE, INDIA — Earlier this year, Twitter and the Indian government were locked in a bitter showdown.

The government, incensed by Twitter's refusal to take down posts by farmers agitating against agricultural reforms, accused the company of supporting violent protesters — and threatened to jail Twitter employees. The company's executives hit back, arguing they were defending the right to free speech, a stance they have largely adhered to for a decade.

The winner of the dispute? A little-known Indian social media app called Koo.

In the months since Twitter's feud with the government, a parade of Indian cabinet ministers,

government agencies and right-wing celebrities have opened accounts on Koo to support a homegrown competitor, bringing millions of Indian followers with them. The sudden spike in visibility has brought Koo a \$30 million investment round from Tiger Global and Accel, two U.S. venture capital funds that once bet on another young social media start-up: Facebook. Koo grew from 40 employees at the beginning of the year to more than 200; its app has been downloaded 9 million times, mostly in India but increasingly in Nigeria as well.

With its bird logo and scrolling feeds of 400-character posts called "Kooos," the social network takes obvious cues from its established rival. But Aprameya Radhakrishna, Koo's co-founder, has positioned his start-up as something decidedly more nationalist and populist — an anti-Twitter.

Koo's appeal, Radhakrishna says, lies in its distinct feeds catering to vernacular languages

SEE INDIA ON A20

## IN THE NEWS



CARLOS GUSTAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Power struggle** The private company hired to fix Puerto Rico's electrical grid faces scrutiny after mass outages and rate hikes. A21

**Metro inspections** The agency demonstrated procedures designed to address problems that have idled 60 percent of its rail cars. B1

### THE NATION

**A medical examiner** testified that Ahmaud Arbery was first shot at very close range, offering insight into the struggle at the heart of the shooter's claim of self-defense. A3

**Jimmy's Corner** was his father's bar for decades, but Adam Glenn is working to keep the Times Square fixture going strong. A6  
**Americans broadly** support the Supreme Court upholding its landmark abortion decision in *Roe v. Wade*, a Washington Post-ABC News poll found. A10

**Jurors in the homicide trial** of Kyle Rittenhouse ended their first day of deliberations without a verdict. A11  
**House Democrats** expect a final vote on President Biden's \$2 trillion spending bill this week as they scramble to meet a mid-December funding deadline. A28

**THE WORLD**  
**After accords** with Arab countries, dozens of Israeli companies are teaming up with once-hostile neighbors to fight climate change. A18  
**Over the past two** years, doctors and nurses

have been fleeing Lebanon in droves amid its cascading crises. A16  
**British police** said they are investigating a taxi explosion in Liverpool in which the suspected bomber died as a "terrorist incident." A17  
**A leaked report** says Nigerian security forces opened fire on a demonstration in Lagos last year, killing at least 15 unarmed protesters. A18

**THE ECONOMY**  
**John Deere workers'** first strike since 1986 reflects a new militancy that has unsettled the labor market during the pandemic. A25  
**The attorney general** of Ohio sued Meta, alleging the company formerly known as Facebook exploited its users to drive profits. A26

### THE REGION

**The school board** in Virginia's Spotsylvania County rescinded its decision to remove "sexually explicit" texts from libraries. B1  
**Users of "Dave Thomas Circle"** will see lower speed limits and other changes as the District begins a \$35 million remake of the treacherous roundabout. B1  
**Gov. Ralph Northam** urged cadets at Virginia Military Institute to embrace the transformation toward inclusion and greater equity. B1

## INSIDE



**FOOD**  
**Thanksgiving 2021** Luxury or leisurely? However you plan to feast, we have a menu for you. (And yes, you can mix and match.) E1

**STYLE**  
**Beyond Britney** A Spears fan joined the #FreeBritney movement while also fighting a conservatorship battle over his own mother. C1

BUSINESS NEWS A21  
COMICS C6  
OPINION PAGES A29  
LOTTERIES B3  
OBITUARIES B6  
TELEVISION C4  
WORLD NEWS A12

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706282110013



## Frida Kahlo batió el récord de su marido y rival, Diego Rivera

Su obra *Diego y yo* fue vendida en Sotheby's por US\$34,8 millones, el precio más alto para una pintura latinoamericana en un remate; desplazó a *Los rivales*, del pintor mexicano. Cultura, página 24



## LANGE, A LOS 60, CON UN NUEVO DESAFÍO Y FLAMANTE COMPAÑERA

—deportes

Campeón en Río 2016, el regatista no se retira y tratará de llegar a sus octavos Juegos Olímpicos; competirá junto a Victoria Travascio. Página 7

## BAUTISMO ESCOLAR PARA LAS NUEVAS ISLAS DE SAN ISIDRO

—sociedad

Juncal, La Esperanza y La Esperada son los nombres elegidos por alumnos de escuelas del partido; albergan 150 especies de aves, carpinchos y peces. Página 23

# LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 17 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## La Argentina ya está en el Mundial



JUAN MABROMATA/AFP

**EL CIERRE DE 2021, CON PASAJE A QATAR.** Intenso, friccionado y sin goles. La Argentina y Brasil no se escaparon del cero en el clásico que jugaron en San Juan, pero por la combinación de otros resultados, la selección de Lionel Messi se aseguró anoche la clasificación al Mundial de Qatar, cuando todavía faltan cuatro fechas para el cierre de las eliminatorias. Deportes

# Antes de perder el control del Senado, el oficialismo busca ratificar 116 DNU

**CONGRESO.** Incluyen ampliaciones presupuestarias, y cambios financieros y de Ganancias

El oficialismo buscará ratificar mañana más de un centenar de decretos del presidente Alberto Fernández, en su mayoría dictados durante la pandemia, antes de perder el control del Senado y de la Comisión de Trámite Legislativo, que debe convalidarlos.

La maniobra enfrentó fuertes crí-

ticas de Juntos por el Cambio. "La inmensa mayoría de los DNU fueron firmados con el Congreso funcionando a pleno; muchos de ellos son ilegales y dictados sin necesidad y sin urgencia", enfatizó el diputado Omar De Marchi (Pro).

En el paquete de 116 decretos que pretende ratificar el oficial-

mo aparece una enorme variedad de medidas tomadas por el Ejecutivo sin pasar por el Congreso, como ampliaciones presupuestarias, cambios financieros —como amortización de las Letes—, aumentos jubilatorios parciales y la suba del mínimo no imponible del impuesto a las ganancias. Página 6

### DÓLARES EN ALZA

Los dólares financieros "regulados" por el Gobierno superaron ayer la barrera de los \$200. Página 16

### EL ANÁLISIS

## ¿Qué le pasa al Presidente?

Joaquín Morales Solá

—LA NACION—

**A**lgo funciona mal cuando no se pueden comprender las sumas y las restas más elementales. ¿Qué le pasa al Presidente? ¿Cómo un experto en campañas electorales (dictó cursos en la Universidad de Salamanca sobre esa materia) puede confundir una derrota con un triunfo? Peor: se prepara para celebrar hoy una victoria que no existió en un acto en la Plaza de Mayo. Continúa en la página 11

## Sin barbijo hasta tercer grado en las aulas porteñas

**COVID.** Rige desde el nivel inicial para todos los establecimientos. Página 20

## Acampar por una vacante. La penosa odisea para conseguir lugar en un jardín de infantes

Alejandro Horvat  
LA NACION

La vereda del Jardín de Infantes N° 908 Natalio Salvatori, en José C. Paz, se convirtió en un acampe. Los padres de la zona que aspiran a que

sus hijos tengan un lugar allí el año próximo se prepararon para pasar horas a la intemperie. Se instalaron con reposerías, frazadas y comida. Como los turnos se entregan por orden de llegada y los cupos son limitados, según afirman, no les queda

otra opción más que sentarse, tener paciencia y saber administrar el agua para el mate. No es un caso aislado ni nuevo. Desde hace años, en varios puntos del país, persisten las esperas para conseguir vacantes. Continúa en la página 22

## Procesan a sindicalistas de Moyano por un bloqueo

**COACCIÓN.** Impidieron la actividad en una empresa con un piquete. Página 15



**A pandemia em 16.nov**  
Dados das 20h

## POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

### No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose) **75,7%**

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **58,8%**

Dose de reforço **5,7%**

## ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

### Óbitos

Média móvel **244** Em 24 h 140

**244** -6,4%\*

Total 611.524

Casos -3,3%\* (desacelerado)

\*Variação em relação a 14 dias

# Saúde indicará terceira dose contra Covid a todos os adultos

Intervalo de reforço será reduzido para 5 meses, e vacina da Janssen também terá três aplicações

O Ministério da Saúde anunciou que deve liberar a dose de reforço da vacina contra Covid a todas as pessoas com 18 anos ou mais e que vai reduzir o intervalo para a aplicação dessa terceira dose de seis para cinco meses.

O governo decidiu ainda que quem tomou a dose única do imunizante da Janssen receberá uma segunda dose dois meses após a inicial, e, como nos demais casos, a terceira —surpreendendo gestores, reguladores e o fabricante.

Pessoas acima de 60 anos ou com imunidade afetada (como soropositivos, imunodeprimidos ou pacientes em quimioterapia) já tinham a indicação para receber a terceira dose, que reforça o ciclo vacinal básico.

Segundo o ministro Marcelo Queiroga, estudo da Universidade de Oxford sugere o reforço com uma vacina distinta daquela do esquema básico —preferencialmente, da Pfizer; na sua falta, AstraZeneca ou Janssen.

Em São Paulo, a prefeitura anunciou que iniciará amanhã a aplicação da nova dose em todos os adultos. **Saúde B1**

**Brasil supera EUA em parcela da população com esquema vacinal básico** **B2**



Daniilo Verpa/Folhapress

## BOLSA DE VALORES INSTALA NO CENTRO DE SÃO PAULO RÉPLICA DO TOURO DE WALL STREET

Escultura em frente ao prédio da B3, na rua 15 de Novembro; o Touro de Ouro, semelhante ao 'Charging Bull' de NY, simboliza o mercado e a força do povo brasileiro, segundo a Bolsa **Mercado A16**

## Alemanha suspende gasoduto e acirra crise de Putin e Europa

Alemanha veta certificação da ligação de gás da Rússia a seu território, em meio a acusações de que Moscou fomenta uma crise de refugiados entre Belarus e Polônia. **A10**

## ANÁLISE Igor Gielow

### Xi quer manter fria guerra com Biden

Reunião virtual mostrou que, apesar das provocações recentes, talvez a conversa seja possível. Xi quer ser visto como igual no jogo de xadrez que propõe a Biden. **A11**

## Ilona Szabó

### As boas surpresas da COP26

Para investidores e empresas em Glasgow, ficou claro que limitar o aumento da temperatura em 1,5°C passa por proteger a Amazônia e outros biomas. Parte significativa de seu desmatamento viola a lei, e poucos grupos se beneficiam de uma visão ultrapassada e perigosa. **Cotidiano B4**

## 'Existe um novo colonialismo pintado de verde'

Para o historiador Douglas Belchior, que esteve na comitiva da Coalizão Negra por Direitos na COP, é preciso organizar a conferência do clima da ONU a partir do debate sobre racismo, pois "o impacto socioambiental é mais agressivo nas populações negras das periferias". **Ambiente B6**

## Guedes cede a Bolsonaro em reajuste para servidores

Sob pressão de Jair Bolsonaro, membros da equipe de Paulo Guedes aceitaram trabalhar pelo reajuste a servidores públicos em ano eleitoral. Técnicos da pasta alertam, porém, que a medida exigirá corte de despesas em outras áreas e apontam travas legais que devem limitar esse aumento salarial.

Integrantes do Congresso que elaboraram o Orçamento de 2022 também relataram que, em nenhum cenário traçado, houve a previsão de atender à demanda do funcionalismo. **Mercado A13**

**Vinicius Torres Freire**  
Governo não tem verba para o aumento **A16**

## Mercado A16

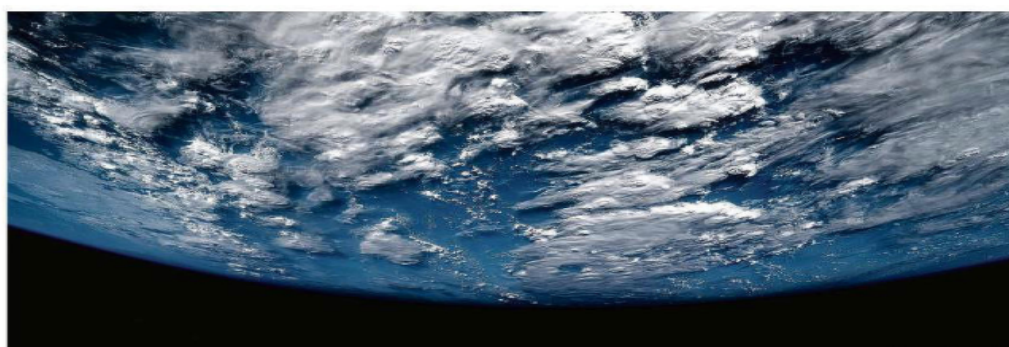
Pix, que completa 1 ano, lança medida de devolução em caso de fraude

## Esporte B6

Fora do UFC, Junior Cigano reaprende a bater para atuar agora na luta livre

## Ilustrada C1

Figura essencial da música afro-baiana, Lazzo faz 40 anos de carreira celebrado



Divulgação Inspiration4

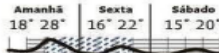
## TURISTAS DA SPACEX COMPARTILHAM IMAGENS DA TERRA

Foto divulgada por integrantes da Inspiration4; missão, que partiu em setembro, foi a 1ª a enviar ao espaço tripulação só de civis

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje

Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



## EDITORIAIS A2

**PEC para toda obra**  
Sobre intenção de conceder reajuste para servidor.

**Gênio fora da garrafa**  
A respeito de repressão a manifestações em Cuba.

**Após 1 ano, CEUs não abrem para eventos culturais**  
**Cotidiano B5**





**Presentan proyecto que retira cobertura médica a los que rechazan dosis**

## No vacunados ponen en grave riesgo a enfermos comunes

La mayoría de internados por Covid están sin inmunización.  
Un nuevo brote afectará atención de pacientes polivalentes.

Angustiante llamado: Comercios reclaman vacunación por 3ª ola

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 7

PÁGINA 13

Reunión de gremios con autoridades

**Itaipú: Plantean un acuerdo a 50 años y mantener la tarifa**

PÁGINA 12



**Bajante:**  
Astilleros  
están a full  
por daños  
en navíos

PÁGINA 16

Hoy debe habilitarse acceso a Posadas

**Transportistas hacen lobby para que abran frontera por Falcón**

PÁGINA 15

**CON ESTA EDICIÓN**  
LA TIERRA  
MI PROPIA HUERTA 9  
Dinero + Pasaporte

**COMPRA OPCIONAL**  
COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA 19  
G. 50.000

RODRIGO VILLAMAYOR RDA

**La informalidad no cede en el caótico Mercado 4**

**Drama sin solución.** Nueva administración comunal de Asunción quiere censar a permisionarios y cobrar deudas. En protesta (foto) cerraron Pettirossi.

PÁGINA 21

Giuzzio: No hay industria del secuestro  
**Firma tiene suerte con las adjudicaciones de Interior**

PÁGINAS 46 y 47

Senado estudiará recortes en PGN 2022  
**Obispos exigen respeto a fondos para la educación**

PÁGINA 22

**UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO INDESTRUCTIBLE**

**TOYOTOSH**  
HILUX



# LE FIGARO

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


**scope**

- **À la une** : Les nouvelles adresses en vue
- **Restaurants** : Les meilleurs plats du jour des bistrot gourmands

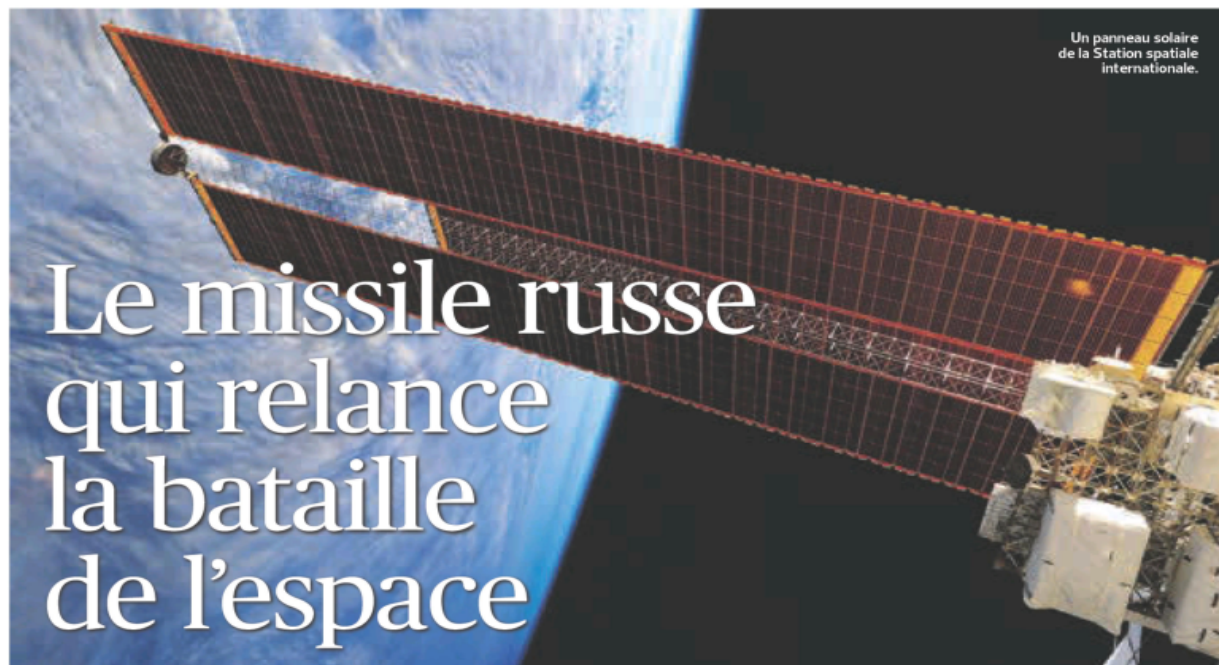
**BARI WEISS**

 « LE WOKISME VA CONSUMER  
LES INSTITUTIONS ÉLITAIRES  
D'OÙ IL EST PARTI » **PAGE 18**

**EXÉCUTIF**  
Macron tente la  
réconciliation avec  
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**OUI 49% NON 51%**
**TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 308 078**
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sur lefigaro.fr**

 La Pologne a-t-elle raison  
de vouloir ériger un mur  
face à l'afflux  
de migrants ?

 FABIEN CLAIREFOND - LIONEL URMAN/  
SIPA USA VIA REUTERS CONNECT

 Un panneau solaire  
de la Station spatiale  
internationale.

## Le missile russe qui relance la bataille de l'espace

 En détruisant un satellite par un tir direct, Moscou se place dans la compétition stratégique avec les États-Unis, au risque de mettre en danger les astronautes de la Station internationale. **PAGES 2, 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**

## Fiscalité des entreprises : malgré les baisses, la France a toujours la main lourde

Impôt sur les sociétés, CICE, dividendes, impôts de production... le gouvernement a sensiblement desserré l'étau fiscal sur les entreprises depuis le début du quinquennat. En

 dépit de ces allègements, la France, qui a fait de la réindustrialisation une priorité, reste parmi les pays qui taxent le plus les sociétés. **PAGES 24 ET 25**


## Le nouveau directeur de Sciences Po pourra-t-il redresser l'école ?

Énarque, passé par la mairie de Paris, la SNCF et le groupe Danone, Mathias Vicherat a été désigné le 10 novembre à la tête de l'école parisienne. Il a fort à faire pour restaurer

 une image largement écornée par l'affaire Duhamel, renflouer des caisses vides et gérer les tensions créées par la culture woke qui s'y développe. **PAGE 12**
**ÉDITORIAL** par Philippe Gélie [pgelie@lefigaro.fr](mailto:pgelie@lefigaro.fr)

## La course aux étoiles

Thomas Pesquet a eu chaud. Moins d'une semaine après son retour de la Station spatiale internationale (ISS), ses sept collègues astronautes (dont deux Russes) ont dû se mettre aux abris dans leur capsule amarrée à la plateforme, prêts à l'évacuer d'urgence. En cause : le tir par la Russie d'un missile direct sur un de ses satellites inactifs, qui a projeté quelque 1 500 débris traçables - et des centaines de milliers plus petits - à 27 400 km/h sur une orbite basse croisant celle de l'ISS. À ceux qui voyaient la « guerre des étoiles » comme une hypothèse de science-fiction, l'épisode montre que l'espace est devenu un enjeu stratégique majeur, à la fois champ de bataille et nouvelle frontière de conquête économique. Sans les 4 000 satellites en service, toutes sortes d'activités humaines seraient instantanément plongées dans le noir, d'une partie des télécoms au GPS pour les transports, des prévisions météo à la surveillance militaire et à l'espionnage. Dans le jeu des grandes puissances, chacun tient donc à afficher sa capacité de rendre aveugle l'adversaire avec des missiles antisatellites, en attendant les armes lasers.

Les Américains sont les plus exposés, car, derrière le paravent du tourisme spatial, SpaceX, Amazon et consorts s'apprennent à lancer des dizaines de milliers de satellites commerciaux. Cette course aux étoiles engendre une grande vulnérabilité, d'où la création de la Space Force. Mais le Pentagone est encore loin de pouvoir faire la police de l'espace - ou seulement le nettoyer des débris volants.

### Enjeu stratégique et nouvelle frontière économique

Faute de rivaliser, Vladimir Poutine montre une fois de plus sa capacité de nuisance. On le retrouve dans tous les mauvais coups du moment, massant 100 000 soldats aux frontières de l'Ukraine, tirant les ficelles de la Biélorussie dans la crise des migrants... Les tests de missile faisaient l'objet d'un moratoire de fait depuis une douzaine d'années, hormis un tir de l'Inde en 2019. Avec 30 000 objets flottants, l'espace devient une poubelle où les risques de collisions se multiplient de façon exponentielle. La Russie vient de mettre tout le monde en danger, y compris elle-même. ■

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# Gove drawn into 'cronyism' furore by backer's £164m Covid contracts

'VIP lane' gave £4.7bn to companies with political links, analysis reveals

David Conn  
Rowena Mason  
Rob Evans

A Conservative party donor who supported Michael Gove's Tory leadership bid won £164m in government Covid contracts after the minister

referred his firm to a "VIP lane" that awarded almost £5bn to companies with political connections, new analysis has revealed.

The disclosure draws Gove into a furore over alleged cronyism that has led critics to accuse the government of running a "chumocracy" where MPs' friends, contacts or acquaintances have won huge contracts without proper process or transparency.

Meller Designs, based in Bedford, was awarded six personal protective equipment (PPE) supply contracts

worth £164m from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) during the coronavirus pandemic.

Until January this year it was owned by David Meller, who has donated nearly £60,000 to the Tory party since 2009. This included £3,250 to support Gove's party leadership bid in 2016, a campaign on which Meller also worked as chair of finance.

When the contracts were awarded, Gove was minister at the Cabinet Office, which is responsible for government procurement, and in charge of the office of the chancellor of the

## PM's sleaze move

The prime minister, Boris Johnson, will today attempt to seize back momentum in the continuing, damaging row over MPs' second jobs by calling for a ban on consultancy roles and censure for politicians who fail to put their constituents first

Page 4 →

duchy of Lancaster, which referred Meller Designs for PPE supply.

The company was among 47 that were awarded contracts for PPE totalling £4.7bn after referrals from politicians and officials, according to a Guardian analysis. Several were linked to MPs, all of them Conservative. Because of the health emergency, many contracts were awarded without competitive tender.

The list of 47 companies awarded contracts via the VIP lane was published by the Politico website yesterday before its

6 →

## 'I don't want my son to go near it' - Rafiq hits out at cricket's institutional racism

Sean Ingle  
Chief sports reporter

Azeem Rafiq broke down in tears in front of MPs yesterday as he laid bare the racism, bullying and "inhuman" treatment he faced at Yorkshire County Cricket Club - which extended to a senior club official "ripping the shreds" off him just after he was told that his baby had no heartbeat.

Over nearly two hours of devastating and raw testimony to the digital, culture, media and sport committee, Rafiq delivered a damning verdict on the culture of English cricket.

He agreed that it was "institutionally racist" and said it needed to face up to an institutional racism problem "up and down the country", with players of Pakistani heritage still being called the P-word and British Asian representation in cricket dropping by 40% since 2010.

Rafiq said racism had seeped into the England dressing room, where it was an "open secret" that

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## Questions over Prince Andrew's £1.5m loan

Documents said to show that money owed by senior royal was paid off by companies linked to millionaire Tory donor.

News Page 2 →

## Police still trying to find motive for bombing

Investigators could conclude that Emad al-Swealmeen's attack in Liverpool was not an act of terrorism.

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