

BABELIA La Biblia sigue creciendo como inspiración literaria

SMODA Saltarse los códigos, nuevas reglas del juego



El confinamiento vuelve a la UE

Austria decide duras restricciones, y Alemania ya piensa en aplicarlas

Portugal impone de nuevo las mascarillas en los bares y pedirá certificados

En España, las autonomías se replantean prescindir de personal sanitario

El pasado regresa a Europa. Austria, con un 64,1% de inmunizados contra la covid, anuncia para el lunes una vuelta al confinamiento, y en febrero hará obligatoria la vacunación. Ese país registró ayer 48 fallecidos, con 8,9

millones de habitantes (España sufre unos 20 al día, con 47 millones), y 1.540 contagios por 100.000 habitantes en 14 días (en España son 111,9). Otras naciones con baja vacunación, como Alemania (67,5%) o Grecia (61,1%)

han limitado las actividades sociales de los no vacunados, y el Gobierno germano estudia un confinamiento como el de Austria. Incluso Portugal recupera medidas como la mascarilla obligatoria en locales cerrados y los certificados

de vacunación, pese a ser el Estado de la UE con mayor cobertura vacunal: el 86,5%. En España (79,2%), el repunte de contagios ha llevado a algunas autonomías a replantearse prescindir de personal sanitario. **PÁGINAS 20 A 23**

Arnaldo será el encargado de la sentencia del Constitucional sobre el aborto

El tribunal afronta su etapa más incierta, ya con Trevijano al frente

JOSÉ MARÍA BRUNET, Madrid
Pedro González-Trevijano fue elegido ayer presidente del Constitucional, y el polémico magistrado Enrique Arnaldo, nombrado a propuesta del PP, asumirá la sentencia sobre la ley del aborto aprobada en 2010 y contra la que ha escrito. González-Trevijano comienza su mandato sin saber cuánto durará. Todo depende de que dentro de seis meses se renueve o no otro tercio de los magistrados, que corresponde al Gobierno y al Poder Judicial (dos cada uno). Esa recomposición daría mayoría progresista al tribunal. **PÁGINAS 14 Y 15**

El portavoz de los obispos reduce la pederastia a "pequeños casos"

JUAN G. BEDOYA, Madrid
Luis Argüello, portavoz de los obispos españoles, resumió ayer de esta forma el problema al que se enfrenta la Iglesia católica por los abusos sexuales a menores (que suman al menos 945 víctimas): "Solo son pequeños casos". Y agregó: "¿Por qué se pone el foco solo en la Iglesia católica? Hay casos en las federaciones deportivas. ¿Se ha pedido una investigación general al COE o a la FIFA?". **PÁGINA 28**



'ALMACENADOS' EN LA FRONTERA. El presidente de Bielorrusia, Aleksandr Lukashenko, admitió ayer que sus tropas han ayudado a entrar en la Unión Europea a los migrantes agolpados en la linde con Polonia, pero negó que se trate de una maniobra orquestada. Cientos de migrantes permanecen en el centro de transporte y logística Bruzgi en el lado bielorruso de la frontera (en la imagen). / MAXIM GUCHEK (REUTERS) **PÁGINA 4**

La acción humana altera el cielo

Los gases de efecto invernadero afectan a las capas atmosféricas más cercanas

MIGUEL ÁNGEL CRIADO, Madrid
La acción humana está cambiando el cielo, según ha publicado la revista *Science Advances*. Los límites entre las capas de la atmósfera más cercanas a la Tierra (la troposfera y la estratosfera) se vienen alterando en las últimas décadas a causa de los gases de

efecto invernadero: mientras la troposfera se expande por el calentamiento global, la estratosfera se encoge por un enfriamiento paralelo en las alturas. Según los expertos, esos cambios pueden afectar a la circulación atmosférica planetaria, clave para el clima global. **PÁGINA 26**



Los funcionarios podrán teletrabajar tres días a la semana

MATTEO ALLIEVI, Madrid
Los empleados públicos cuya función les permita teletrabajar podrán hacerlo hasta tres días a la semana el año que viene, según anunció ayer en el Congreso la responsable de Hacienda y Función Pública, María Jesús Montero. La ministra añadió que el decreto sobre el trabajo a distancia de los funcionarios estará listo a comienzos de 2022. **PÁGINA 42**

Le retour du plein-emploi, nouvel enjeu politique

► La vigueur de la reprise après la crise sanitaire a convaincu Emmanuel Macron que le retour au plein-emploi est devenu un objectif atteignable

► Le taux de chômage au troisième trimestre est stable, à 8,1 %, mais le taux d'emploi est au plus haut depuis 1975, et la situation des jeunes s'améliore

► Compte tenu de la structure du marché du travail, le plein-emploi impliquerait de descendre sous 7 % de chômage, du jamais-vu depuis 1982

► Promesse implicite du plan de relance France 2030, les créations d'emplois liées à ce programme de réindustrialisation restent bien incertaines

► Optimiste pour la croissance française, l'OCDE table sur une hausse du PIB plus forte que prévu en 2021, de l'ordre de 6,8 %

PAGES 12 ET 20

LE MAGAZINE

VINCENT BOLLORÉ OPA SUR LA PRÉSIDENTIELLE

► CNews, Canal+, le « JDD », « Paris Match », Europe 1... Le milliardaire breton a bâti en quelques mois un pôle réactionnaire qui s'étend jusqu'à l'édition

► Il mobilise son empire médiatique pour peser sur la campagne. Avec comme fer de lance Eric Zemmour et ses obsessions ultra-droitières et anti-islam



LA CROISADE DE VINCENT BOLLORÉ

UN QUOTIDIEN D'EXTRÊME DROITE, UN MAGAZINE ET UN JOURNAL

Le Drian : « Nos concurrents n'ont ni tabous ni limites »

DANS UN ENTRETIEN au Monde, le ministre des Affaires étrangères français, Jean-Yves Le Drian, analyse les tensions internationales, exacerbées par la pandémie. Mettant en cause le comportement de la Chine et de la Russie, M. Le Drian dénonce « la brutalisation des rapports, mais aussi une véritable course à la puissance, aggravée par une compétition des modèles ».

Pour le locataire du Quai d'Orsay, « l'enjeu pour l'Europe est d'écarter pour avoir la capacité d'être une puissance affirmée, de

fendre son modèle et promouvoir un multilatéralisme effaçant ».

M. Le Drian, critiquant les « populistes diplomatiques » en Europe, met en garde contre « ceux qui jugent que la politique migratoire est l'alpha et l'oméga de toute politique étrangère ».

Concernant la crise déclenchée par la Russie à la frontière polonaise, le ministre assure que « c'est d'abord une instrumentalisation de migrants par un dictateur pour essayer de déstabiliser l'Europe ».

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Football

Le Qatar à un an d'un Mondial très polémique

Impact environnemental, coût humain, soupçons de corruption : l'émirat achève ses stades sans faire taire les critiques

PAGES 26-27 ET 100

Alimentation

La flambée des prix pèse sur la faim dans le monde

Les denrées de base ont augmenté de 30 % en un an. Cette inflation se combine aux effets économiques de la crise sanitaire

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Chili Duel inédit pour une présidentielle historique

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Covid-19 L'Autriche vers un confinement généralisé et une obligation de vaccination

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Affaire Pegasus Comment le renseignement français a traqué le logiciel espion

PAGE 18

Exposition Les arts de l'islam dans dix-huit villes de France

SUPPLÉMENT

Musique Orelsan, chronique d'un succès annoncé



RETRAITÉ 2023 POUR L'ARTISTE

LE RAPPEUR Orelsan publie son quatrième album, *Crépuscule*. Un opus dans lequel il se montre moins cynique et politiquement plus engagé, sans renoncer à sa qualité d'écriture ou à prendre des risques. Le musicien originaire de Caen se montre aussi intime, parle

de son couple, de ses lâchetés. Éternel inquiet, Orelsan peut se rassurer : l'album est déjà certifié disque d'or, ses concerts affichent complet, et le documentaire réalisé par son frère à partir de leurs images d'archives est un succès.

PAGE 29

Société Gautier Arnaud-Melchiorre, au nom des enfants placés

Le jeune homme, pris en charge par l'aide sociale à l'enfance depuis sa naissance, a recueilli la parole de 1500 enfants placés et remettra, samedi, un cahier de doléances au secrétaire d'État Adrien Taquet, afin de dénoncer les failles de la protection de l'enfance

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ÉDITORIAL
LES MAIRES ET MACRON : SORTIR DES FAUX-SEMBLANTS

PAGE 37

46 avenue Montaigne, Paris

LOEWE

NOV 2021
Photographie par Tyler Mitchell

House Passes Biden's Social Safety Net Bill

Key Part of Agenda — Hurdles Await in Split Senate

By EMILY COCHRANE
and JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON — The House narrowly passed the centerpiece of President Biden's domestic agenda on Friday, approving \$2.2 trillion in spending over the next decade to battle climate change, expand health care and reweave the nation's social safety net, over the unanimous opposition of Republicans.

The bill's passage, 220 to 213, came after weeks of cajoling, arm-twisting and legislative legerdemain by Democrats. It was capped off by an exhausting, circuitous and record-breaking speech of more than eight hours by the House Republican leader, Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, that pushed a lengthy Thursday vote past midnight, then delayed it to Friday morning — but did nothing to dent Democratic unity.

Groggry lawmakers reassembled at 8 a.m., three hours after Mr. McCarthy finally abandoned the floor, to begin the final series of votes to send one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in half a century to the Senate.

"Under this dome, for centuries, members of Congress have stood exactly where we stand to pass legislation of extraordinary consequence in our nation's history and for our nation's future," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, adding that the act "will be the pillar of health and financial security in America."

The bill still has a long and difficult road ahead. Democratic leaders must coax it through the 50-50 Senate and navigate a tortuous budget process that is almost certain to reshape the measure and force it back to the House — if it passes at all.

But even pared back from the \$3.5 trillion plan that Mr. Biden originally sought, the legislation could prove as transformative as any since the Great Society and War on Poverty in the 1960s, especially for young families and older Americans. The Congressional Budget Office published an official cost estimate on Thursday afternoon that found the package would increase the federal budget deficit by \$160 billion over 10 years.

"It puts us on the path to build our economy back better than before by rebuilding the backbone of America: working people and the middle class," Mr. Biden said in a statement. He urged the Senate to swiftly pass the measure.

The assessment indicated that the package overall would cost slightly more than Mr. Biden's latest proposal — \$2.2 trillion rather than \$1.85 trillion.

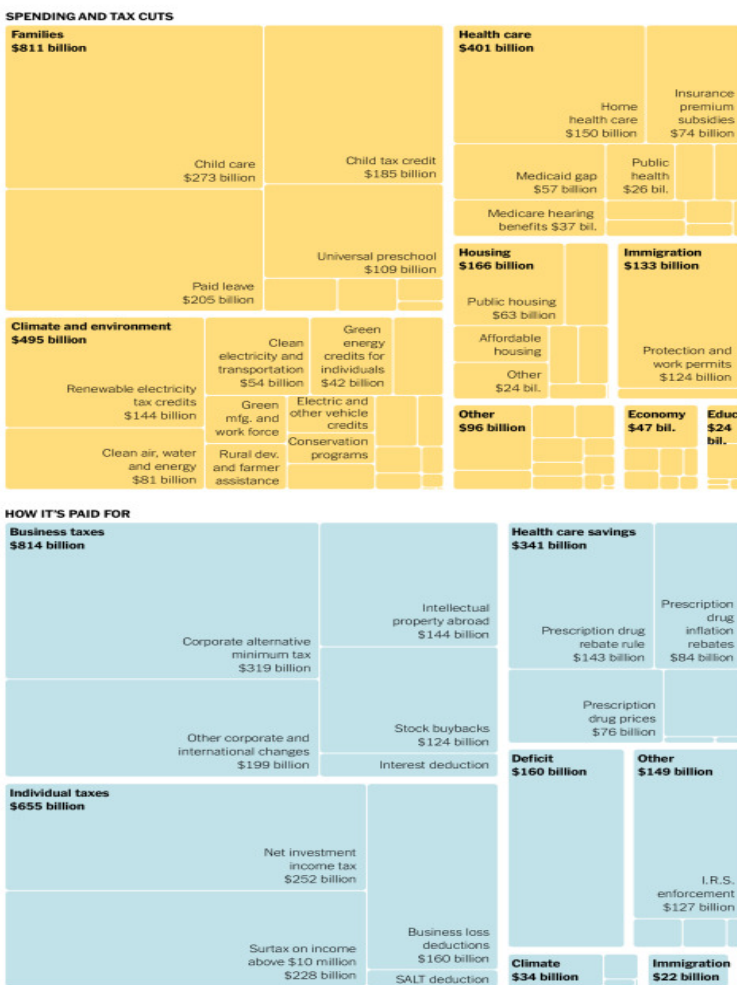
Republicans, who have rallied for months against the measure as a costly initiative that would steer the nation toward socialism, wasted little time in promising to try to weaponize it against Democrats in next year's midterm elections.

"This bill would worsen inflation by pumping trillions of dollars in wasteful spending into the economy, give tax cuts to the wealthy," they said.

Continued on Page A12

CLIMATE BOOST The bill would make the biggest federal outlay ever to slow warming, PAGE A12

Where the \$2.2 Trillion Would Go, and How It Would Be Funded



Sources: House Rules Committee (bill summary); Joint Committee on Taxation and Congressional Budget Office (cost estimates). Note: Numbers are 10-year totals, rounded to the nearest billion. QUOTING: BILAL ALKHAJILAH/ALICIA PARLAPANO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

NOT GUILTY RULING ON ALL 5 CHARGES FOR RITTENHOUSE

Claim He Was Afraid Prevails in Case That Spotlights Divide in U.S.

By JULIE BOSMAN

KENOSHA, Wis. — Kyle Rittenhouse, who fatally shot two men and wounded another amid protests and rioting over police conduct in Kenosha, Wis., was found not guilty of homicide and other charges on Friday, in a deeply divisive case that ignited a national debate over vigilantism, gun rights and the definition of self-defense.

After about 26 hours of deliberation, a jury appeared to accept Mr. Rittenhouse's explanation that he had acted reasonably to defend himself in an unruly and turbulent scene in August 2020, days after a white police officer shot Jacob Blake, a Black resident, during a summer of unrest following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

Mr. Rittenhouse sobbed and was held by his lawyers after a clerk read the jury's verdict, acquitting him of all charges.

After the shootings, Mr. Rittenhouse was transformed from an unknown 17-year-old from rural Illinois into a national symbol. Some Americans were horrified by the images of a teenager toting a powerful semiautomatic rifle on a city street during racial justice demonstrations, a reminder of the extent of open carry laws in the United States. Others saw a well-



Kyle Rittenhouse. POOL PHOTO BY SEAN KRAJAC

Continued on Page A18

Self-Defense Is Difficult To Disprove, Experts Say

By SHAILA DEWAN
and MITCH SMITH

For many Americans, the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse on all charges on Friday was a vindication of an innocent, if not heroic, teenager with good intentions. For others, it was a brutal disappointment, further evidence that the courts give white men a pass for their actions.

But for legal scholars, it was not a surprise. Once Mr. Rittenhouse claimed that he had acted in self-defense when he shot three men, killing two, during unrest following the police shooting of a Black man in Kenosha, Wis., the onus was on the prosecution to prove otherwise.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"When people look at this, and they're feeling frustrated, they're not recognizing just how high the prosecutors' burden is here," said Cecilia Klingele, a University of Wisconsin law professor. "It was a real uphill battle to get out from under self-defense."

The acquittal points to the wide berth the legal system gives to defendants who say they acted out of fear, even if others around them were also afraid.

Wisconsin's rules for self-defense are well within the national mainstream. If people reasonably believe they are at

Continued on Page A19

Mounting Crises Provided Tailwind for Passage

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON — In March 2010, with Tea Party activists protesting loudly in the hallways of Capitol Hill and the political wind in their faces, 34 House Democrats — including Representative Stephen F. Lynch of Massachusetts — broke with their president to support passage of the Affordable Care Act.

It was not enough to kill the bill, but more than enough to register deep concerns about its

NEWS ANALYSIS

reach in American society — and its potential impact on the midterm elections.

On Friday, Mr. Lynch and every other Democrat but one cast votes for about \$2 trillion in spending on social welfare and climate change programs that perhaps go much further than the health law — further, in fact, than any government intervention in half a century. And the concerns that peeled so many Democrats away from the health

measure more than a decade ago were hardly in evidence — at least on their side of the aisle.

"I've served a couple of times in the minority, a couple of times in the majority," said Mr. Lynch, the last remaining House Democrat who voted against Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement. "I've got a better sense of time and how these moments are rare when you can seize on something and make real change."

The political and economic

Continued on Page A13

Putin Nurtures Destabilization, Keeping U.S. and West on Edge

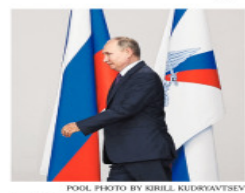
By ANTON TROIANOVSKI

VILNIUS, Lithuania — An ominous buildup of Russian troops near Ukraine. A migration crisis in Belarus that Western leaders call a "hybrid war" by a Kremlin client state. Escalating fears over natural gas that have Europe dreading a cold winter.

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has, increasingly, put his cards on the table: He is willing to take ever-greater risks to force the West to listen to Russian demands. And America and its allies are sensing an unusually volatile moment, one in which Mr. Putin is playing a role in multiple destabilizing crises at once.

In the stretch of Europe from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, where Moscow and the West have competed for influence for decades, the threat of a new military conflict is growing.

This month, Russian long-range nuclear bombers flew repeated patrols near the European



Vladimir V. Putin in August. POOL PHOTO BY KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV

Union's border with Poland, and an unexplained and stealthy military buildup in southwestern Russia has American and European intelligence officials warning that the Kremlin could be laying the groundwork for a new invasion of Ukraine.

During a speech Thursday to Russian diplomats, Mr. Putin signaled more openly than before

Continued on Page A5

As Cases Again Rise, C.D.C. Backs Booster Shots for All Adults

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

Faced with rising infections and an anticipated surge in holiday travel, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday endorsed booster shots of the coronavirus vaccines for all Ameri-

cans over 18.

The recommendation fulfills President Biden's pledge in August to make the extra doses available to all adults, and caps months of scientific debate over whether most people really needed boosters. The shots are already available at many drug-

stores, doctors' offices and vaccination centers.

The C.D.C. said that Americans over age 50, as well as those 18 and older living in long-term care facilities, "should" get booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. All other adults over age 18 "may" get booster doses, the

agency decided.

Recipients of Johnson & Johnson's one-dose vaccine already were cleared to get a booster at least two months after the initial shot.

Earlier on Friday, the Food and Drug Administration authorized

Continued on Page A20



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Back on Ballot in Venezuela

After years of rejecting elections as illegitimate, opposition candidates are taking on Nicolás Maduro. PAGE A7

Modi Bows to India's Farmers

A bungled response to Covid and a struggling economy left the prime minister vulnerable to protests. PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-7

Theranos Founder Takes Stand

Elizabeth Holmes, the former C.E.O. of a failed blood testing start-up, testified in her defense after the prosecution rested its case in her fraud trial. PAGE B1

How Youth See the Future

A global survey showed that young people in poorer countries were more optimistic, and that Americans of all ages were mostly pessimistic. PAGE B1

A New Teamsters President

Sean O'Brien, once a foe of James R. Hoffa, scored a decisive victory among union members after calling the current leadership too timid. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A10-20

Bipartisan Panel Attacked

Led by Senator Ron Johnson, Republican officials in Wisconsin want to eliminate a bipartisan elections agency in the state — and maybe charge members with felonies. PAGE A10

Another First for Harris

Vice President Kamala Harris became the first woman named acting president. President Biden transferred power to her on Friday so he could undergo a medical procedure. PAGE A11

OPINION A22-23

Mara Gay

PAGE A23



ARTS C1-6

House Was Swinging Again

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra returned to indoor performances with the program "Wynton at 60." PAGE C1

A Reckoning at the Met

A new installation at the museum boldly grapples with one of New York's biggest racial traumas. PAGE C1

SPORTS B8-10

N.B.A.'s King of Twitter

Joshua Johnson, who calls himself a one-man social media company, can seemingly find humor in almost any sports or pop culture moment, earning him fans all over the league. PAGE B8

Anger Over Missing Player

The case of Peng Shuai has prompted the women's tennis tour to rethink its heavy focus in China, where it has threatened to pull events if it cannot verify that she is safe. PAGE B9





Books of the Year

FT writers and guests pick their best reads of 2021

LIFE & ARTS

How To Spend It
The new ingénue
SEPARATE MAGAZINE



Lucy Kellaway
Crypto craze hits the classroom
LIFE & ARTS



Lunch with the FT
'Tiger Mother' Amy Chua
LIFE & ARTS



Mountain living
Moving up in the world
HOUSE & HOME



Fed's door open to faster tapering

◆ Vice-chair eyes earlier end to bond buying ◆ Clarida says December decision possible

COLBY SMITH
AND ERIC PLATT — NEW YORK

The vice-chair of the US Federal Reserve has opened the door to a faster withdrawal of its massive bond-buying programme, suggesting the central bank could take action sooner than expected to tame inflation.

Richard Clarida said yesterday that the Federal Open Market Committee could consider discussing the pace of the planned "taper" at its forthcoming policy meeting in December.

The Fed began winding down its \$120bn-a-month purchases of Treasuries and agency mortgage-backed securities this month, saying it intended to

reduce them by \$15bn each month. That puts it on track to remove the stimulus entirely by the middle of next year.

At the time, the Fed said that it was "prepared to adjust the pace" of the tapering process "if warranted by changes in the economic outlook".

Clarida reiterated his view yesterday that he saw "upside risk" to inflation and expected "very strong" growth in the fourth quarter of 2021.

"I'll be looking closely at the data that we get between now and the December meeting, and it may well be appropriate at that meeting to have a discussion about increasing the pace at which we're reducing our balance sheet," he said

at a San Francisco Fed-hosted event. At an earlier event yesterday, Christopher Waller, a Fed governor, said he would be open to discussing a faster tapering pace next month, making the case that it would give the Fed more policy flexibility.

An earlier end to the asset purchase programme could pave the way for earlier interest rate increases, given that Jay Powell, the Fed chair, has said the central bank would probably avoid adjusting its policy rate while it is still buying government bonds.

The price of shorter-dated government debt has hung on policymakers' every word and Clarida's comments



Jay Powell has said the Fed would probably avoid adjusting the interest rate while still buying bonds

sent reverberations through the \$22tn Treasury bond market.

The yield on the two-year note, which is the most responsive to Fed policy shifts, jumped 0.05 percentage points from a low hit earlier in the trading session when Treasuries had been rallying. Yields rise when a bond's price declines. At 0.49 per cent, it remained just below a 20-month high hit earlier this week.

Implied rates on federal funds futures also rose after the comments from Clarida, while US equities also weakened.

Weidmann and Lagarde at odds page 2

Big Read page 6

FT View page 8

Markets pages 13 & 14

Centre stage Biden's \$1.8tn bill progresses

US House speaker Nancy Pelosi celebrates the passage of Joe Biden's Build Back Better bill yesterday, which progressed despite an intervention from minority leader Kevin McCarthy, who spoke for hours to hold up the vote.

The president's \$1.75tn package, on the heels of the Democrats' \$1.2tn infrastructure plan, aims to make big investments in improving education for young children, healthcare for the elderly and efforts to battle climate change.

However, the bill faces a difficult path through the Senate. The final House vote was 220-213, with every Republican opposing it.

Social spending bill page 4



J Scott Applewhite/AP



EA runs risk of own goal in rush to rename 'Fifa' game

Electronic Arts' football video game *Fifa* has become a multibillion-dollar business, with 100m players. But despite a long and fruitful association, the sport's governing body and the US group are in bitter dispute over the name, with EA looking at dropping 'Fifa' from the brand. For EA, cutting ties is a risk. *Fifa* helped transform it from a small video-games publisher into a Fortune 500 company with a market capitalisation of about \$39bn.

Union under threat — PAGE 10

Austria to make jabs mandatory for all as Covid surge triggers new lockdown

SAM JONES — ZURICH
RICHARD MILNE — OSLO
OLIVER BARNES — LONDON

Austria plans to become the first European country to make coronavirus vaccinations mandatory in an effort to curb infection rates that are surging across the continent.

Vaccines will be required for all Austrians from February 1, with the country also reimposing a strict lockdown. The plans are the most far-reaching of new measures taken by European nations to stem the surge and ease pressure on hospitals, with Belgium, Germany and Norway among the countries beefing up controls.

The Austrian mandate was announced as the EU's medicines regulator said member states were cleared to use Merck's antiviral pill to treat Covid-19.

Alexander Schallenberg, Austria's chancellor, said it was time "to face reality" as he announced a three-week lockdown and said a "general obligation" would apply for all Austrians — where rates of vaccination are among the lowest in western Europe — to have a jab under laws that could be approved within months.

Austria offers jabs to anyone over the age of 12 but about a quarter of adults are yet to be fully inoculated. Only Indonesia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have made vaccinations compulsory.

Schallenberg's government is likely to face a political battle as it traces to get the necessary legislation in force, despite broad support from the leading opposition Social Democratic party.

The mandate is likely to be fiercely resisted by the populist rightwing Free-

dom party, which has become more outspoken against pandemic-related restrictions in recent months.

"The government is crossing a dark red line, throwing the basis of our federal constitution overboard and leading the country coldbloodedly into a dictatorship," declared Herbert Kickl, the party leader, who is housebound after testing positive for coronavirus.

In Germany the air force is preparing planes in case they are needed to transport Covid-19 patients from the worst-affected areas to regions with more hospital beds, media said.

Norway said it would tighten requirements to enter the country and all citizens aged over 65 would receive a third vaccine dose before Christmas. Denmark said it would require vaccine passports in public sector workplaces.

AstraZeneca runs out of road page 12

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				
	Nov 19	prev	%chg	
S&P 500	4708.62	4704.54	0.09	
Nasdaq Composite	16096.97	15983.71	0.66	
Dow Jones Ind	35682.04	35670.95	-0.03	
FTSEurofirst 300	1881.74	1887.71	-0.32	
Euro Stoxx 50	4381.27	4383.76	-0.06	
FTSE 100	7223.57	7255.96	-0.45	
FTSE All-Share	4135.12	4152.80	-0.43	
CAC 40	7112.29	7141.98	-0.42	
Xetra Dax	16158.97	16221.73	-0.38	
Nikkei	29745.87	29688.86	0.20	
Hang Seng	25048.97	25319.72	-1.07	
MSCI World	3228.37	3221.03	0.17	
MSCI EM	1273.87	1288.87	-1.01	
MSCI ACWI	756.58	755.35	0.03	

CURRENCIES				
	Nov 19	prev	%chg	
\$ per £	1.132	1.135	-0.27	
€ per £	1.346	1.348	-0.15	
¥ per £	0.841	0.842	-0.12	
¥ per \$	113.865	114.235	-0.33	
¥ per €	163.290	164.027	-0.45	
Sfr per €	1.040	1.051	-1.05	
€ per \$	0.884	0.881	0.34	

COMMODITIES				
	Nov 19	prev	%chg	
Oil WTI \$	75.99	78.41	-3.08	
Oil Brent \$	78.54	81.24	-3.32	
Gold \$	1881.1	1880.0	0.01	

INTEREST RATES				
	price	yield	chg	
US Gov 10 yr	148.38	1.53	-0.05	
UK Gov 10 yr	0.80	0.80	-0.05	
Ger Gov 10 yr	0.35	0.35	-0.07	
Jpn Gov 10 yr	115.16	0.07	0.00	
US Gov 30 yr	119.96	1.99	-0.06	
Ger Gov 2 yr	104.96	-0.78	-0.04	

Fed Funds Eff				
	price	yield	chg	
US 3m Bills	0.06	0.06	0.00	
Euro Libor 3m	0.57	0.57	0.00	
UK 3m	0.11	0.11	0.00	

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Companies & Markets

FINANCIAL TIMES



Needled AstraZeneca chief Soriot stung by criticism of vaccine-maker’s approach — ANALYSIS

Art imitates life Warhol bidders reflect a stock market hedging its bets — ON WALL STREET

Bidders for Unilever’s tea unit withdrew over plantation fears

◆ Rivals had ESG jitters ◆ Focus on Kenya sites ◆ Buyer CVC made sole offer



East African tea plantations, such as Kericho in Kenya, face tough questions over human rights and fair pay — Tuul and Bruno Morandi/Alamy

KAYE WIGGINS AND JUDITH EVANS
LONDON
ANDRES SCHIPANI — KERICHO

Two of three final bidders for Unilever’s tea business balked at taking on its plantations because of concerns about working conditions, according to people familiar with the matter.

The tea unit, which includes the PG Tips and Lipton brands, was sold this week to CVC Capital Partners for €4.5bn.

The Luxembourg-based buyout group was left as the only bidder willing to buy the whole division after Carlyle and Advent International decided they could not take on tea plantations in east Africa, which face difficult questions over human rights and fair pay.

Their decision underscored heightened sensitivity of investors towards assets that have substantial environmental, social or governance risks.

Advent excluded the tea estates from its final offer, two people with knowledge of the issue said. Carlyle dropped out before this week’s bid deadline.

Advent had grown concerned about

accepting responsibility for the health, welfare and security of thousands of plantation workers, one person said.

Bosses on the plantations have power not only over workers’ jobs but also their housing and medical care, as the sites are often in remote areas and rely on workers brought in from elsewhere.

The buyout group was worried that violence could flare on its Kericho plantation in Kenya after the general election set for August next year. Seven people were killed, 56 women raped and many injured in an assault on the plantation after disputed elections in 2007, according to a complaint filed by 218 Kenyans to two UN bodies last year.

A report on the plantations, produced for Advent, “didn’t make for pretty reading”, said one of the people familiar with the situation. That led the buyout group to exclude the plantations from its offer, bidding instead for the brands.

Unilever’s Kenyan business is reviewing claims that it failed adequately to help workers affected by an attack on its Kericho plantation amid ethnic violence in 2007. It has more recently come into

conflict with Kenyan workers as it automates picking, leading to job cuts.

The plantation has also been the scene of sexual harassment of women workers by some managers. Unilever has responded with measures including more female leaders, training and an ethics hotline.

Pay in the tea industry is low. PG Tips says it pays workers at Kericho approximately two and a half times the statutory minimum agricultural income in Kenya, which was raised to the equivalent of just over £53 a month in 2018.

Francis Atwoli, secretary-general of the Central Organisation of Trade Unions of Kenya, said that there remained outstanding claims for compensation from workers, which could mean “the potential buyer would have a lot of problems”.

Around 8,500 people are permanently employed on the Unilever plantations in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, and this rises to about 16,000 when temporary workers are added in the peak season, Unilever said.

Carlyle dropped out because of con-

cerns about “ESG considerations”, one person familiar with its thinking said, relating to concerns about plantation conditions.

Blackstone decided early on not to bid for the tea division, in part because of concerns about the treatment of workers, another person added. They described it as “a massive ESG issue”.

CVC declined to comment. It decided that Unilever had been a good steward of the business, a person with knowledge of the matter said. Its dealmakers also took comfort from Unilever’s reputation for being proactive on ESG issues and from the business’s membership of the Ethical Tea Partnership, which aims to make the tea industry fairer and more environmentally sustainable, the person said.

Unilever said that it had programmes to tackle tea’s “social challenges”. Working conditions were fully in line with global company health and safety standards and met living-wage commitments, it said.

Additional reporting by Arash Massoudi and Antoine Gara

Ryanair drops UK listing to meet EU’s Brexit rules

PHILIP GEORGIADIS

Ryanair yesterday confirmed it would quit the London Stock Exchange next month to comply with EU ownership rules that have hit the airline industry since the UK has left the bloc.

The move will end the Irish carrier’s 20-year listing on the LSE in one of the clearest examples of how the UK’s exit from the EU has affected London’s capital markets.

Ryanair warned earlier this month that it was considering leaving the LSE because of EU rules requiring airlines to be owned and controlled by nationals from within the bloc, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

The airline has barred non-EU individuals from buying shares for nearly 20 years, and in January extended this to institutions and individuals in the UK after the country left the bloc.

Ryanair expects the last day of trading in its London-listed shares to be December 17. Its primary listing is on Euronext in Dublin, but London has long been a more liquid market for the stock.

However, the volume of its shares traded on the LSE has tumbled and now comprises just 10 per cent of the total, according to calculations by Mark Simpson, an aviation analyst at Goodbody.

“The volume of trading of the shares on the London Stock Exchange does not justify the costs,” the airline said. UK

shareholders who held Ryanair shares before January have been able to keep their holdings but are barred from attending or voting at annual meetings. But the carrier has struggled to keep new UK investors out. It had to eject some UK shareholders in September through the forced sale of 1m shares.

“UK [shareholders] can continue to hold if they want, but will have to now sell through Euronext should they want to do so,” Simpson said of those who owned the shares before Britain left the

Ryanair is among several airlines that have changed share ownership rules to meet EU regulations



EU. Ryanair is one of several airlines forced to change its corporate structure to comply with airline ownership rules in order to protect their ability to fly freely within the EU after Brexit.

Wizz Air has also taken away the voting rights of UK shareholders, while easyJet has set up a Vienna-based airline to carry out its European operations.

British Airways owner International Airlines Group, an Anglo-Spanish company, has not recently disclosed a breakdown of its ownership, but the Spanish and Irish regulators have declared that it complies with EU rules.

Consulting

McKinsey fund fined \$18m by SEC for lapses in compliance

ANDREW EDGECLIFFE-JOHNSON
NEW YORK

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has imposed an \$18m fine on an internal fund that invests the wealth of McKinsey’s partners, alleging that it had inadequate controls to stop them from misusing inside information.

The affiliate, MIO Partners, was investing hundreds of millions of dollars in companies that McKinsey was advising, the SEC said. Some of the partners who oversaw its investments “also had access to material nonpublic information as a result of their McKinsey consulting work,” said the regulator.

The fine is the latest blow to the reputation of the world’s largest management consultancy, which has paid more than \$600m to settle claims relating to its work for US opioid manufacturers.

McKinsey had previously paid \$15m to the US Department of Justice to settle claims that it failed to disclose conflicts of interest in bankruptcy cases, while MIO Partners paid \$39.5m last year to settle a class-action lawsuit over the handling of its pension fund.

This month, US prosecutors charged a McKinsey partner with securities fraud, alleging that he had “exploited his access to material non-public information” to make a \$450,000 profit from trading ahead of a \$2.2bn acquisition by his client, Goldman Sachs. McKinsey said it had sacked the partner.

The SEC fine follows revelations made by the Financial Times in 2016 that McKinsey was operating a secretive internal investment fund. MIO said at the time that it had a rigorous policy to avoid conflicts of interest.

The SEC’s order, released yesterday, said that McKinsey partners who oversaw MIO’s investment choices routinely had access to confidential information on their clients. The SEC said MIO “did not have reasonably designed policies and procedures to address the dual roles for McKinsey consultants . . .”

MIO did not admit or deny the SEC’s findings but agreed to a cease-and-desist order as well as the \$18m penalty.

MIO said it was “pleased to have resolved this matter” and that its board was now composed of independent directors and retired McKinsey partners.

Travel & leisure. Naming rights

Electronic Arts’ 30-year video-game union with Fifa under threat

Tensions rise as football clubs and players seek greater share from franchise’s global success

MURAD AHMED — SPORTS EDITOR

For millions of football fans, “Fifa” refers not to the sport’s international governing body, but to their favourite video game.

The connection was formed 30 years ago, when California-based Electronic Arts licensed the name of Fifa which has headquarters in Zurich. The game is now played by 100m people worldwide, has become a multibillion-dollar business and is a cultural phenomenon.

Despite the long and profitable association, the two sides are in a bitter dispute over the value of the *Fifa* name.

“We are not certain that we will move forward with Fifa as a naming rights partner,” David Jackson, a senior executive who runs EA’s football brand, told the Financial Times.

Jackson said “the name *Fifa* lives in the minds of many young players around the world”, but that it had “lots and lots of players . . . we don’t see

a reason why that would change in the future”.

In preparation, the company has trademarked the name “EA Sports F.C.” across Europe and plans to make a final decision on what to call its football franchise by the end of the year.

The battle highlights tension as some within the sport seek a greater share from the game’s enormous success.

Mino Raiola, the super-agent who represents footballers including Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba, has said that hundreds of players want to sue EA over the use of their identities within *Fifa*. In recent years, Juventus has pulled out of the game, alongside other Italian clubs such as Roma and Lazio.

EA said that it had contractual rights to include the likeness of all players currently in its game.

Console owners pay up to \$70 to buy each new iteration of *Fifa* released every year. At the end of September, it had 36m unique “entitlements”, meaning people who have signed into *Fifa 21*, the version of the game released in October last year. This compares with 35.3m at the end of September for *Fifa 20*.

EA said that 27 per cent of *Fifa 21* players have made “in-game” purchases,

such as through Ultimate Team, where gamers spend money to improve their squads to compete with others online.

Analysts suggest that Ultimate Team is worth about \$1.5bn a year for EA.

Fifa has tried to leverage this to demand a significant increase from the roughly \$150m it receives from EA each year, say people familiar with the talks, after the video-game group’s 10-year deal to use the name expires at the end of the men’s World Cup in Qatar in 2022.

The first sign of contention was an

open letter released last month by Cam Weber, the executive president and general manager of EA Sports, which said that it was “exploring” a rename.

EA’s Jackson said Weber’s provocative statement had been issued to show “the future was in our hands”.

The video-game company and Fifa held further meetings in Zurich last week, according to people familiar with the discussions, and a renewed naming-rights deal remains a possibility.

But sticking points persist. Fifa would

prefer to grant narrow exclusivity over its name, relating mainly to the video game. EA wants broader rights around the franchise, such as selling digital memorabilia as non-fungible tokens and running esports tournaments.

EA was irritated that it was not consulted on issues such as the push to launch a biennial men’s World Cup, a project led by Fifa president Gianni Infantino that is designed to secure more revenues for his organisation.

Internal research also led EA executives to determine that the company could be better off without Fifa. It already has 300 naming-licence agreements to ensure that the biggest teams, players and leagues will stay within the game for years to come.

This includes deals with Uefa, European football’s governing body, which runs the Champions League, many top domestic football leagues, and Fifpro, the player’s union, which holds the rights to hundreds of top players.

Facing the likelihood of losing its biggest commercial contract outside of staging the men’s World Cup, Fifa said that it is “bullish and excited about the future in gaming and esports for football, and it is clear that this needs to be a

space that is occupied by more than one party controlling all rights”.

For EA, cutting ties is a risk. *Fifa* helped to transform it from small video-games publisher into a Fortune 500 company with a market capitalisation of about \$39bn. The group has spent billions of dollars developing its game, with 1,500 staff dedicated to it.

The US, which for decades has proved resistant to football’s charms, is *Fifa*’s second-biggest market — after the UK.

EA has calculated that it can go without some deals with important football groups, believing most gamers are unlikely to abandon the franchise.

The company next wants to invest in “volumetric capture”, a system that can take hundreds of hours of footage from past matches to create even more realistic action. The aim is to replicate how ex-Brazilian star Pelé dribbled or how David Beckham struck free kicks. However, such technology will require a new and costly round of licensing deals.

“We’re not naive, things can change,” said Jackson. “But we don’t foresee major risks so long as we continue to meet players’ expectations in terms of the value of the entertainment they receive from the products we build.”



‘Fifa’ is played by about 100m people worldwide — Rafael Henrique/SOPA/Zuma/Alamy

Petrobras deixa energia renovável fora de novo plano

Apesar das pressões pela redução da produção de combustíveis fósseis, a Petrobras manterá em seu novo plano estratégico para os próximos cinco anos a decisão de não investir em projetos de geração de energia renovável. A ação é questionada por especialistas diante da maior resistência global ao petróleo, sinalizada pela COP26. Mercado A25

A pandemia em 19.nov

Dados das 20h

População vacinada no Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)

76,0%

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)

60,1%

Dose de reforço

6,4%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

Média móvel

211

↓ -8,2%*

Casos

Casos nos estados

Média móvel (variação 7)

Ritmo

SP 1.253 (+145,4%) desacelerado

GO 1.076 (+76,3%) estável

MG 741 (-16,0%) desacelerado

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Em 24 h

234

Total

612.411

Bolsonaro pediu 'revolução de 64' no Enem, dizem servidores

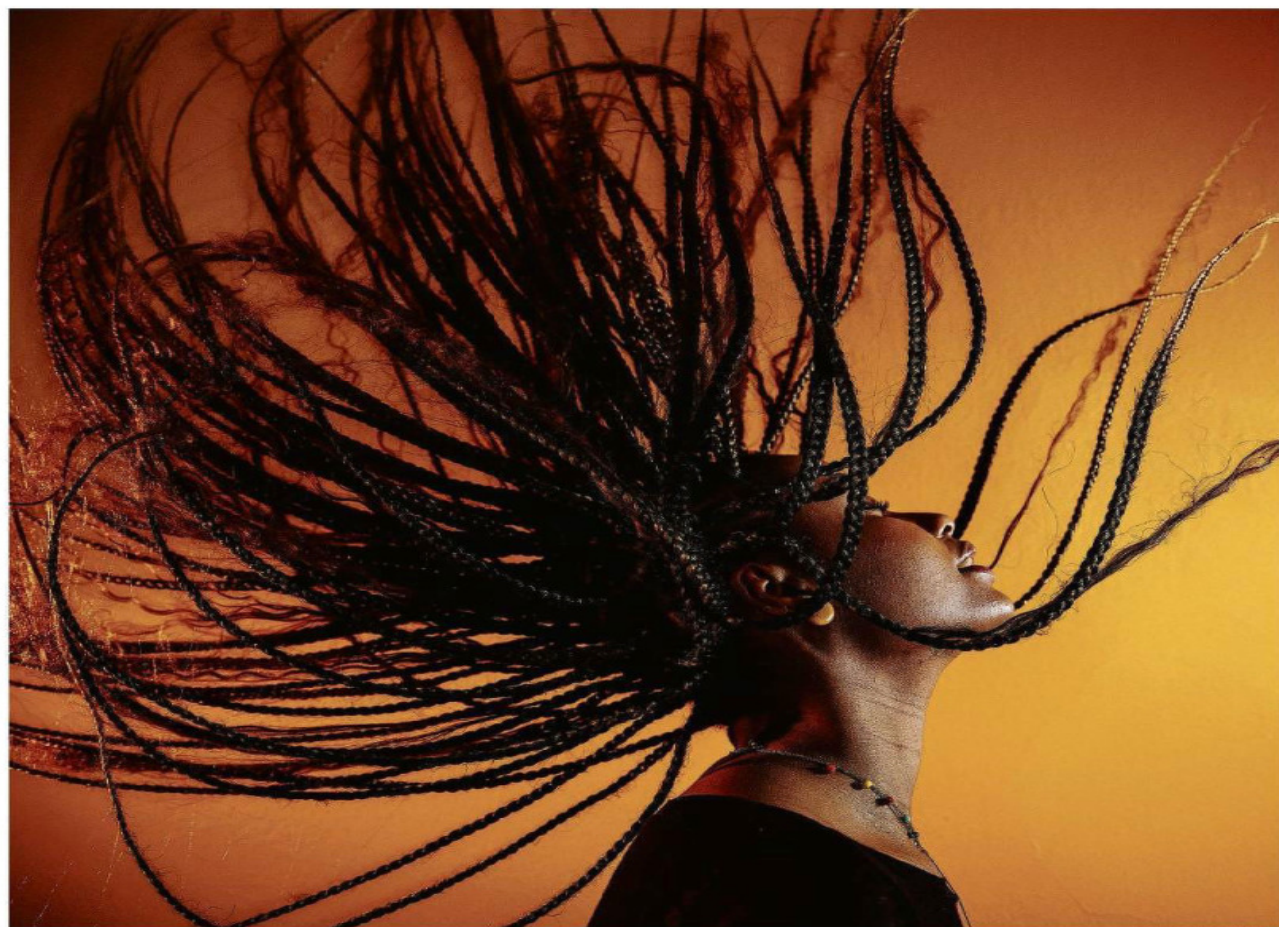
Presidente sugeriu que prova citasse golpe militar usando seu termo preferido

Integrantes do governo relatam que Jair Bolsonaro pediu ao ministro Milton Ribeiro (Educação) para incluir questões chamando o golpe de 1964 de "revolução" no Enem, informa Paulo Saldaña. Às vésperas do exame, o governo lida com uma crise e denúncias de interferência.

O Tribunal de Contas da União abriu processo para investigar supostas irregularidades na organização da prova deste ano, que começa a ser aplicada amanhã, e ingerência no Inep, órgão do Ministério da Educação responsável pelo exame que sofreu debandada neste mês.

O pedido do presidente, defensor frequente da ditadura militar (1964-1985), teria ocorrido no primeiro semestre. Ribeiro comentou a solicitação com equipes do ministério, mas não levou a sugestão adiante. As perguntas são elaboradas em um longo processo técnico.

Nesta semana, Bolsonaro, que afirma haver teor político no teste e faz disso bandeira de longa data, declarou que as questões da prova usada por faculdades na admissão de alunos começam a ter "a cara do governo". Negou, porém, ter tido acesso ao conteúdo. Cotidiano B3



Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

Docente é intimada após queixa sobre aula 'esquerdista'

Cotidiano B3

Desigualdade no ensino superior para de cair

A desigualdade entre brancos e negros com ensino superior completo ficou estagnada em 2020, depois de sete anos consecutivos de queda. A interrupção da tendência se deve a uma reversão na maior inclusão educacional no Sudeste. Cotidiano B1 e B2

Arma de fogo mata crianças negras 3,6 vezes mais

Estudo do Instituto Sou da Paz mostra que crianças e adolescentes negros de até 14 anos morrem 3,6 vezes mais por violência armada do que os de outras raças. Dados indicam ainda que, em 2019, 78% das vítimas por agressão com arma eram negras. Cotidiano B4

Desemprego e fome têm cor, apontam pesquisas

Mercado A29

Negras buscam reduzir fosso da tecnologia

Iniciativas de formação de mulheres negras buscam ampliar acesso ao setor de tecnologia, dominado por homens brancos. A29

UNIVERSIDADES AMPLIAM PROGRAMAS DE BOLSAS DEPOIS DO ENCOLHIMENTO DO FIES

Stella Ferreira dos Santos, 22, bolsista integral na Fundação Getúlio Vargas; iniciativas beneficiam mais alunos negros do que brancos, revela estudo Cotidiano B2

Demétrio Magnoli

Lula veste fantasia de unificador do antibolsonarismo

Poder A5

Doria e Leite usam disparos e Alckmin como estratégia

João Doria e Eduardo Leite intensificaram estratégias de buscar votos por meio de disparos de mensagens e costuras com tucanos da ala histórica. O paulista investiu em tecnologia e pesquisas, e o gaúcho tem como trunfo Geraldo Alckmin. Poder A4 e A5

Esporte B6

Futebol antirracista

Para conscientizar jovens atletas, clubes brasileiros promovem ações e trabalham temática do racismo nas categorias de base

Ilustrada C1

Fundo de Quintal, 45, estabeleceu a estética do samba contemporâneo

Petrobras leva terminal no porto de Santos

Mercado A27

Folhinha C8

Cantores Hilda Maria e Chico César falam de seus sonhos e contam da infância

Áustria retoma lockdown geral contra Covid

Mundo A22

Marinha resiste a considerar João Cândido como herói

Um projeto de lei para inserir João Cândido, líder da Revolta da Chibata (1910), no Livro dos Heróis e Heroínas da Pátria sofre há anos resistência da Marinha.

A Força não vê "ato de bravura" no movimento contra os castigos físicos e aponta quebra de hierarquia do "Almirante Negro", como ele ficou conhecido. Poder A14

Racismo ambiental explicita disparidade em metrópoles B2

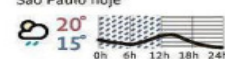
EDITORIAIS A2

Desmarte pedalado Sobre dado escondido da devastação da Amazônia.

Choque de mortalidade Acerca de alta do número total de óbitos em 2020.

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President sets out vision for BRI's future

He calls for comprehensive measures to give initiative a more effective role

By XU WEI

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President Xi Jinping set out on Friday a new vision for the Belt and Road Initiative, highlighting the need to make it high-standard, sustainable and beneficial to public well-being and support developing nations in going green and low-carbon in their energy sectors.

Inside

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China will consolidate the foundation for BRI cooperation on interconnectivity and create new opportunities for international cooperation, Xi said at the third symposium on the development of the initiative in Beijing.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, stressed the importance of striving to attain a higher level of cooperation, higher investment efficiency, higher quality of supply and greater resilience in the growth of the initiative.

China has signed cooperation documents on jointly building the Belt and Road with 140 countries and 32 international organizations since the BRI was proposed by Xi in 2013.

Xi pointed out that, with the new

round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial revolution bringing about unprecedentedly fierce competition, and climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic exerting an unprecedented influence on humanity, the international environment for the BRI is becoming increasingly complex.

Xi highlighted the significance of harnessing the foundation of growth, deepening political mutual trust and giving play to the guiding and catalyzing role of policy dialogue.

It is also important to explore the establishment of more cooperation mechanisms, translate political consensus into concrete actions and turn the recognition of concepts into pragmatic outcomes, he said.

He urged steps to bolster land, maritime, air transport and internet interconnectivity, with steps to deepen cooperation in both traditional and new types of infrastructure programs and to lift the level of alignment in rules and standards.

In promoting unimpeded trade flows, he called for measures to expand trade with neighboring countries, encourage imports of more high-quality products and improve the level of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the third symposium on the development of the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing on Friday. SHEN HONG / XINHUA

The president underscored the necessity to continue expanding cooperation in three-party or multi-party markets and conduct more cooperation on production capacity, adding that participation by multilateral development agencies and financial institutions from developed nations should be encouraged.

To expand the cooperation areas of the BRI, Xi urged steady steps to conduct cooperation in new areas such as health, green development, digitalization and innovation, adding that China will continue to do its best to help nations participating in the BRI to fight the pandemic.

In supporting the green transition of developing nations, it is important to promote information sharing and capacity building in green and low-carbon development and to

deepen ecology, environment and climate governance cooperation, he said.

Xi highlighted the need to deepen digital cooperation, develop Silk Road e-commerce and formulate a pattern for digital cooperation, adding that international cooperation in intellectual property rights protection must be scaled up.

The president expounded on the role of the initiative in serving China's efforts to foster a new development paradigm, which he said should be planned in coordination with the BRI.

He called for heightened efforts to ensure stable industry and supply chains and promote the diversification of sources.

It is important to strengthen risk prevention and control across the board, including steps

to carry out risk management mechanisms, he said.

The nation must explore the establishment of an all-weather early warning and evaluation service platform for risks faced by its overseas programs to enable timely risk warning and evaluation on a regular basis, he said.

He also required greater coordination in mechanisms for the protection of overseas interests, international counterterrorism and security, saying that all-out efforts must be made to ensure the safety and mental health of staff stationed overseas.

Xi underlined the significance of accelerating the development of a sound system of laws and regulations targeting corruption overseas and enhancing efforts to investigate cross-border corruption.

Xi to mark 30 years of China's ties with ASEAN

By ZHOU JIN

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President Xi Jinping will attend and chair the special summit to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations on Monday via video link to review the ties and map out further development.

Xi will discuss with leaders from the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations how to summarize the achievements and experiences over the past 30 years and navigate their relationship in the future. Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a daily news conference on Friday.

Viewing ASEAN as a neighbor and important cooperation partner of China, Zhao said that the two sides have forged the largest trading partnership, the most substantial cooperation partnership and the most dynamic strategic partnership since they established the dialogue relationship in 1991.

The upcoming summit demonstrates the great importance China and ASEAN attach to their relationship, Zhao said.

China expects to continue to work together with ASEAN to upgrade their relations, build a closer community with a shared future and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

China and ASEAN have built the biggest free-trade zone among developing countries, and their bilateral trade volume has increased 85 fold over the past three decades.

Statistics showed that bilateral trade reached \$630.54 billion in the first three quarters of 2021, up 31.1 percent year-on-year.

China has also provided ASEAN member states with over 360 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and a great volume of emergency medical supplies.

In 2019, over 65 million mutual visits were recorded. So far, over 200 pairs of sister city relationships have been established.

Grassroots to get important say at 20th CPC Congress

By CUI JIA

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The guidelines for the election of delegates to the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will guarantee that Party members at the grassroots are more effectively represented when delegates make decisions on the Party's key issues, said an official of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The CPC Central Committee released a circular on Thursday on the election of delegates to the congress, while making comprehensive plans for related work.

In a statement released on Friday, the official of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee said the guidelines will ensure that the composition of the delegates is well structured and they come from a broad spectrum of society.

The department has made detailed arrangements for the election, which will be completed as of June 2022.

"Party members in the forefront of work and production from various fields must consist at least one-third of the total number of the delegates, while the number of Party officials and leaders should be limited to less

Naming newborn pandas



Chinese diver Zhang Jiaqi (second from left) and French soccer star Kylian Mbappe (second from right) attend a naming ceremony of newborn twin baby pandas, Huanlili and Yuandudu, at Beaulieu Zoo in Saint-Aignan, France, on Thursday. SARAH MEYSSONNIER / REUTERS

Putin hails excellent relations with Beijing

By REN QI in Moscow

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Relations between Russia and China have reached their highest level in history, and the two countries will step up cooperation further, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

Putin said at an expanded meeting of the Russian Foreign Ministry Board that the country will continue to strengthen its ties with China. The bilateral relations have served as a model for effective interstate cooperation in the 21st century, he stressed.

Putin further noted that some Western countries, however, are "openly trying to drive a wedge between Moscow and Beijing."

The Russian president stressed that the bilateral relations are at their historical height and characterized by an all-embracing strategic partnership.

"Together with our Chinese friends, we will continue to respond to such attempts by expanding our political, economic and other cooperation, and coordinating steps in the international arena," he said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Zhao Lijian said the positive statement by President Putin showed Russia pays high attention to developing relations with China, and demonstrated that both countries see each other as its diplomatic priority.

China and Russia are unbreakable good neighbors and partners, and the development of the high-level strategic partnership of coordination is a long-term strategic choice based on their own national conditions, Zhao said.

See Putin, page 2

Li: Nation on track to meet economic targets

By XU WEI

China will be able to attain its major targets for economic growth this year, and the government is considering a new portfolio of tax cuts and fee reductions on a phased basis to help manufacturers, smaller firms and self-employed individuals, Premier Li Keqiang said on Thursday.

Speaking at a symposium in Beijing with economists and business leaders on the performance of the economy, Li pledged continuous policy measures, including extra tax deductions from the research and development costs of businesses, to help enterprises overcome their difficulties and aid their innovation and upgrading.

The government had already reached its target of creating at least 11 million urban jobs this year, he said.

The premier noted that China's economy currently faces new downside pressure as well as multiple challenges in maintaining steady operations on the basis of a high growth base.

He called for unrelenting epidemic prevention and containment measures and heightened steps to protect jobs, public well-being and market players.

It is important to make the macro policies more forward-looking and targeted, move forward with reform and opening-up, step up cross-cyclical adjustment, and maintain major economic indicators within the proper range and ensure a stable job market, Li said.

He said China's macro policies will continue to center on the nation's over 150 million market players, which are the source of China's economic resilience and potential and which support the fundamentals of the job market.

Li highlighted the need to ensure the full implementation of various support policies for coal-powered plants to ensure a steady supply of electricity, adding that targeted measures must be adopted to alleviate the impact of the rise in bulk commodity prices on smaller firms.

The government will continue to offer a level playing field for businesses of various types of ownership to enable them to create more jobs and help workers increase their incomes, he said.

It is important to maintain the intensity of government investment and stimulate the investment enthusiasm of private capital with reforms, he added.

Li reiterated the need to keep the renminbi exchange rate generally stable at an adaptive, balanced level, saying that the nation will continue to support new models of foreign trade including cross-border e-commerce and overseas warehousing.

At the symposium, Li held exchanges with economists Wen Bin and He Jun, as well as executives from China Datang Co Ltd, one of China's major power generation companies, Wuxi Yimian Textile Group Co Ltd and Edge Medical Robotics Co Ltd, a designer and producer of high-end medical products.



KYLE RITTENHOUSE cries as the not-guilty verdicts are read in court in Kenosha, Wis. He shot three people, killing two, on Aug. 25, 2020, during a protest in Kenosha. He testified that his actions were self-defense.

Rittenhouse is acquitted

Jury clears him of all charges in the 2020 shooting of three people at a protest.

By KURTIS LEE AND JAWEED KALEEM

KENOSHA, Wis. — Kyle Rittenhouse, a teenager who shot and killed two men and wounded another as violent protests against police brutality engulfed Kenosha last year, was acquitted of all charges Friday in a closely watched case that has amplified bitter national debate over guns, vigilantism and law and order.

As the verdict was read for each count, the 18-year-old quivered, sobbed and — on the fifth and final “not guilty” — fell to his knees.

Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time of the killings, faced charges including intentional homicide and reckless endangerment.

It took the jurors — seven women and five men — 3 1/2 days to reach their decision inside a downtown Kenosha courthouse, a capstone to a two-week trial that reignited the charged politics of the Trump era.

The August 2020 shootings came amid the racial justice demonstrations that swept the nation following the killing of George Floyd [See Rittenhouse, A8]

New concern about vigilantes

Legal experts worry that the Rittenhouse acquittal could lead to more armed clashes. **NATION, A8**



LOVED ONES of the two men fatally shot by Rittenhouse — Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26 — comfort one another in court after the verdicts.

Fires take heavy toll on sequoias

In the last 14 months, three blazes claimed nearly 20% of the giants, officials say.

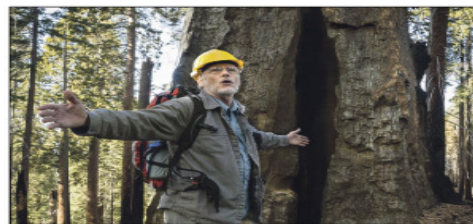
By LILA SEIDMAN

As many as 3,600 giant sequoias perished in the flames of the twin wildfires that ignited during a lightning storm in early September and rampaged through 27 groves of the behemoths in the southern Sierra Nevada, National Park Service officials said Friday.

More than two dozen groves of the towering trees were scorched as the KNP Complex and Windy fires exploded through parched vegetation, exacerbated at times by fierce winds and thunderstorms.

It's a stunning loss that equates to 3% to 5% of the world's giant sequoia population — arriving on the heels of even greater devastation. Last year's Castle fire killed up to 14% of the global population of giant sequoias.

Among the three fires, officials estimate nearly 20% of [See Trees, A6]



SCIENTIST NATHAN Stephenson tells of lost sequoias at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

'Build Back Better' bill in Senate hands

More hurdles await Biden's social safety net and climate plan after Democrats in House finally vote.

By JENNIFER HABERKORN

WASHINGTON — House Democrats approved a landmark measure Friday to strengthen the nation's social safety net and address the climate crisis, sending the bill to what will likely be a grueling battle in the closely divided Senate.

The bill, known as “Build Back Better,” passed 220 to 213, with support from all but one Democrat and no Republicans.

After months of tense negotiations among Democrats, President Biden called the vote “another giant step forward.” “Above all, it puts us on the path to build our economy back better,” he said in a statement.

Leaving a military hospital after his annual checkup, which took place during the House vote, he said, “Great physical, and a great House of Representatives vote.”

The House vote was planned for Thursday night, but delayed until Friday's session by Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), who spoke on the House floor for eight hours and 32 minutes.

He critiqued Democrats, the bill and Biden's larger agenda, and riffed on topics as far-ranging as his friendship with Elon Musk, park-

ing in San Francisco, and the McDonald's dollar menu.

McCarthy spoke from 8:38 p.m. Thursday until 5:11 a.m. Friday, beating the record for the longest House floor speech, set by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) in 2018.

Shortly after midnight, with McCarthy showing no signs of wrapping up his speech, Democratic leaders rescheduled the vote for later Friday morning.

As the final roll call wound down on Friday, Democrats chanted, “Build Back Better!” and “Nancy!” They cheered as the vote closed.

Republicans were not pleased, but were buoyed by the thought that the package still faces tough battles.

“Good luck in the Senate,” Republican Rep. Kat Cammack of Florida told Democrats.

The disputes between Democratic moderates and centrists will take center stage in the Senate, where several policy differences need to be resolved.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D- [See Biden bill, A10]

COVERING KAMALA HARRIS

Party in bind as VP takes criticism

Democrats concerned over perceptions of her as Biden's potential successor.

By NOAH BIERMAN AND MELANIE MASON

When Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris as his running mate last year, some Democrats said they believed he was naming an eventual successor who could replace him as soon as 2024 and give better representation to the party's core constituencies: women and people of color.

Ten months into the new administration, the perception that Biden was anointing Harris has become a source of tension among Democrats, as growing worries over Harris' political stature collide with concerns that any move to sideline her would alienate the voters needed to win elections and undercut the party's promise of equity.

Biden, who turns 79 on Saturday, and Harris are slipping in public opinion polls, and the vice president is facing a new wave of criticism about public gaffes and internal dysfunction in her office, pushing the question into sharper focus.

“His nod to wanting to select a woman and ultimately selecting a Black woman was a nod to his creating a runway to a succession plan,” said Glynda Carr, president of Higher Height, a political nonprofit that seeks to elevate Black women to elected office.

Biden suggested as much when he introduced Harris [See Harris, A5]

President Harris — just temporarily

The vice president is commander in chief while Biden goes under anesthesia. **NATION, A4**

COLUMN ONE

Yes, The Play's still the thing

An alumnus (who was there!) digs deeper into the 1982 Cal-Stanford game, whose miracle ending continues to resonate 39 years later

By JAMES RAINEY

I looked up into the Big Man's eyes and screamed. I screamed. I screamed at close to the top of my lungs. Then I shouted some more.

I wanted to make sure the stranger heard me. So I hammered downward with both hands on the Big Man's shoulders. They loomed like twin mountains, strapped into a set of massive shoulder pads, wrapped in a uniform of deep blue.

So I pounded and belted. Pounded and belted. And the Big Man seemed to get it. Thank goodness, he seemed to get it. Because, at 6 feet 3 and 290 pounds, it was impossible [See ‘Play,’ A12]



CAL'S Kevin Moen after scoring the winning touchdown against Stanford. He was the first to touch the football on the five-lateral final play — and the last.

2nd ship named in oil spill probe

Federal investigators identify a container vessel that dragged its anchor in January. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Korean War memorial opens

Donations for the O.C. site came from Seoul to the Southland, honoring the fallen from the “forgotten war.” **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Austria orders new lockdown

The country will close for 10 days and plans to mandate vaccinations as coronavirus infections hit a record high. **WORLD, A5**

Weather Mostly cloudy.

L.A. Basin: 70/56. **B8**

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Alarma en Europa

Fuerte rebrote de Covid en Austria, Italia y Alemania.

P. 45

Austria. Vacunación masiva y vuelta de confinamientos.

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Jorge Lanata
Esto no es una pipa



N

El país de las últimas cosas
A 20 años del derrumbe



Uruguay
Telón para el ciclo Tabárez

P. 57

Clarín

Un toque de atención para la solución argentina de los problemas argentinos

Sábado 20.11.2021

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El ministro dijo que Cristina avala la negociación con el Fondo

Desconfianza en el plan de Guzmán: un viernes negro en los mercados

El riesgo país tocó el máximo desde el canje (1.761 puntos), aunque luego bajó levemente. Y las acciones argentinas en el Merval y en Wall Street se hundieron. Los analistas tienen dudas de que la Argentina y el Fondo Monetario In-

ternacional lleguen a un acuerdo rápido como sostiene el ministro. Según Guzmán, su diálogo con la vicepresidenta es "fluido y valioso" y anticipó que el acuerdo con el FMI se debatirá durante diciembre en el Congreso. P. 4

Inédito congelamiento

Lo acordaron para la carne, después de las subas, pero sólo por el fin de semana largo.

NICARAGUA

Cuestionada, la dictadura de Ortega anuncia que se va de la OEA

Las recientes elecciones, en las que el líder nicaragüense se hizo reelegir, fueron consideradas ilegítimas por la organización. Ortega está en el poder desde 2007 y había arrestado a los principales candidatos opositores. Su canciller comunicó que renuncian a la OEA, pero el trámite de salida puede llevar dos años. P. 32

DISPUTA INTERNA

Crece la pelea en la oposición: quieren correr a Negri y Ritondo en Diputados

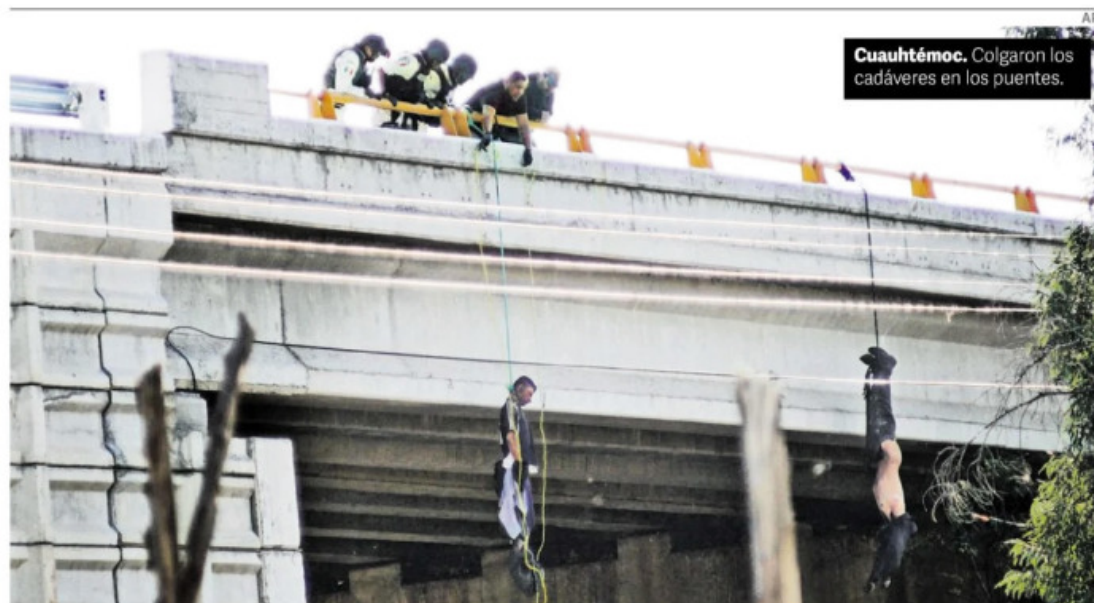
El porteño Yacobitti dice que quiere la jefatura del bloque radical y los duros del PRO reclaman un cambio de conducción en su bancada. También hay disputas en Juntos por el Cambio por la cercanía con los liberales y por la relación con el Gobierno. P. 16

Del Editor

Ricardo Roa

El Presidente puesto a dedo no quiere que haya más dedo

P. 3



Cuauhtémoc. Colgaron los cadáveres en los puentes.

Otro macabro mensaje narco

Fue en Zacatecas, México, donde dos carteles del narcotráfico se disputan el negocio de fentanilo a Estados Unidos. Es la droga más letal y lucrativa. Ayer aparecieron diez cuerpos colgando sobre una autopista, en la zona de mayor índice de homicidios. P. 33

What's News

World-Wide

The House passed a roughly \$2 trillion education, healthcare and climate package, bringing Democrats a step closer to shepherding the core of Biden's economic agenda through Congress with historically narrow majorities. **A1**

◆ **A jury in Kenosha, Wis.,** acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse, the teenager charged with killing two people during unrest last year, following 3½ days of deliberations in the closely watched case. **A1**

◆ **Covid-19 booster shots** from Pfizer and partner BioNTech and Moderna will be available to all adults after the CDC endorsed the extra doses for people at least six months after their second shot. **A1**

◆ **Austria became the first** European country to introduce a general vaccination mandate and return to a nationwide lockdown amid a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases. **A9**

◆ **Two liberal Democratic** senators said they would oppose a second term for Fed Chairman Powell because they want the central bank to play a more aggressive role addressing climate change. **A2**

◆ **The U.S. Chamber of Commerce** is challenging FTC Chairwoman Khan, contending in a series of letters that she is oversteering the agency's legal authority. **A2**

Business & Finance

◆ **Boeing has further slowed** production of 787 Dreamliners as it addresses defects that are delaying deliveries of new jets and complicating airlines' plans. **A1**

◆ **Private-equity firms Bain** and Hellman & Friedman are close to a deal to acquire healthcare-tech firm Athenahealth for about \$17 billion including debt. **B1**

◆ **Elizabeth Holmes took** the witness stand to defend herself against criminal-fraud charges tied to the failure of Theranos, the blood-testing startup she founded. **B1**

◆ **Ford and Rivian have** decided to go their separate ways rather than collaborate on future electric vehicles, backing away from an earlier strategic pact. **B2**

◆ **U.S. stock indexes ended** mixed, with the Nasdaq rising 0.4% to a record and the S&P 500 and Dow losing 0.1% and 0.7%, respectively. **B12**

◆ **The Pentagon said it** issued formal solicitations to four tech firms for a multi-billion-dollar cloud-computing contract to replace the ill-starred JEDI procurement. **A3**

◆ **McKinsey agreed to pay** \$18 million to settle allegations that it didn't adequately guard against the risk of insider trading involving investments in companies for which it was also a consultant. **B12**

NOONAN

America Slowly Learns To Live With Covid **A15**

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Kyle Rittenhouse, right, with his lawyer after he was acquitted of all charges on Friday.

Rittenhouse Acquitted In Wisconsin Killings

KENOSHA, Wis.—A jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse, the teenager charged with killing two people during unrest last year, after 3½ days of delibera-

By Joe Barrett, Ben Kesling and Jacob Gershman

tions in a highly watched case that turned on whether the defendant had acted in self-defense.

Mr. Rittenhouse, now 18 years old, faced charges of intentional, reckless and at-

tempted homicide, and reckless endangerment. The case revolved around his actions the night of Aug. 25, 2020, as he patrolled the streets of Kenosha with an AR-15-style rifle and a small medical kit amid unrest following the police shooting of Jacob Blake.

The prosecution portrayed Mr. Rittenhouse as an outsider from Antioch, Ill., who lied about his status as an EMT and was ill-prepared to render aid or handle a firearm in the chaotic situation. Prosecutors called him a "wannabe soldier,"

who provoked his confrontation with the first person he shot by pointing his rifle at two people at the scene of a fire.

But even some of its own witnesses during the two-week trial bolstered the defense argument that Mr. Rittenhouse acted in self-defense when he shot and killed Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, and injured Gaige Grosskreutz, now 27.

"The story that came out from the beginning was not

Please turn to page A6

Boeing Dreamliner Defects Further Bog Down Production

By Andrew Tangel

Boeing Co. has further slowed production of 787 Dreamliners as it addresses defects that are delaying deliveries of new jets and complicating airlines' plans, the matter said.

The plane maker is holding off completing the new wide-body jets at its North Charleston, S.C., factory as workers and engineers address problems related to areas sur-

rounding passenger and cargo doors on aircraft already under construction, these people said.

The latest production slowdown began in recent days and could last a few weeks as Boeing seeks expertise from other aerospace manufacturers in addressing the door issue, some of these people said. In late October, Boeing disclosed it was producing about two Dreamliners a month, down from a planned monthly rate of five, to re-

solve production issues.

A string of production snafus has hampered Boeing's ability to deliver new Dreamliners for much of the last year, fueling the manufacturer's financial losses and making it difficult for airlines to build schedules for jets often used in international travel. The plane maker has faced increased scrutiny internally, by air-safety regulators and lawmakers after two of its 737 MAX jets crashed in 2018

Please turn to page A2

Soggy Fries? Blame Oil Prices
Rising costs have restaurants stretching supplies

By Jesse Newman and Heather Haddon

If your french fries are tasting funny these days, it might be the oil.

A biofuels boom is driving up demand for vegetable oil, boosting costs for food manufacturers and restaurants who use it to bake bread and fry chicken, among other things. So many restaurant operators are trying to stretch the life of the liquid in their fry-

Please turn to page A12



WILD RIDE
IPOs keep jumping higher. Here's what that means for business.

B1

The Captain Died. Six Months Later He Was Still on the Ship.

Ports won't let cargo vessels unload the remains of dead seafarers

BUCHAREST—After 40 years at sea, on his last voyage before retirement, Captain Dan Sandu slipped into his cabin on the MV Vantage Wave, a cargo ship sailing away from India, feeling unwell. "Don't worry," he typed in what would be a final email to his wife in April. "Everything will be fine."

By Drew Hinshaw, Vipal Monga and Joe Parkinson

Last month, the ship, by then floating off the United Arab Emirates, sent what had become a familiar plea. Captain Sandu was dead and his body was in the ship's walk-in freezer. For six months, it had traveled thousands of miles lying near the crew's meat and vegetables. They needed to get him back to Romania.

It was the 13th country the Vantage Wave

petitioned. All had refused to take the body. The plight of Capt. Sandu, a 68-year-old born near the Black Sea, who decorated his home with mementos from a life on the ocean, had become a diplomatic incident. "All we wanted was to get our father home," said his son, Andrei Sandu, also a ship captain. "How can this happen in 2021?"

Strict and uneven rules governing the world's ports prevent the unloading of bodies suspected of being infected with the coronavirus. Though the pandemic has eased somewhat, the restrictions remain, leaving ships like the Vantage Wave to cross oceans in search of a port to offload a fallen crew member. That leaves corpses stuck for months on the world's cargo ships, stored in freezers meant for food.

In September, a 23-year-old seaman from

Please turn to page A12

House Passes \$2 Trillion Spending Bill

By Andrew Duehren and Richard Rubin

WASHINGTON—The House passed a roughly \$2 trillion education, healthcare and climate package on Friday, bringing Democrats a step closer to shepherding the core of President Biden's economic agenda through Congress with historically narrow majorities.

While the 220-213 House vote largely unified Democrats' fractious centrist and progressive wings, the party will need to move the legislation through the evenly divided Senate. There lawmakers are planning to change or pare back some of the bill's provisions in the coming weeks.

The bill calls for creating a universal prekindergarten pro-

gram, capping child-care costs for many families, negotiating lower prescription-drug prices and expanding tax credits for reducing carbon emissions, among other programs. In addition to expanding tax-enforcement efforts at the Internal Revenue Service, the legislation raises taxes on some corporations and very-high-income Americans.

Democrats have worked for months to craft an agreement that could pass the House, where the party can afford to lose just three votes. Ultimately only one Democrat, Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, joined with Republicans to oppose the bill, saying he was

Please turn to page A4

◆ **Business lobbying limits tax increases.....** A4

Boosters Cleared For All Adults

By Felicia Schwartz and Jared S. Hopkins

Booster shots from Pfizer Inc. and partner BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc. will be available to all adults after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorsed the extra doses for people at least six months after their second shot.

The signoff Friday by CDC Director Rochelle Walensky will lead to a significant widening of the U.S. booster campaign that health officials hope will remove confusion and offer people more protection ahead of holiday gather-

ings and travel as new daily Covid-19 cases are beginning to rise again.

"Booster shots have demonstrated the ability to safely increase people's protection against infection and severe outcomes and are an important public health tool to strengthen our defenses against the virus as we enter the winter holidays," Dr. Walensky said. Her decision

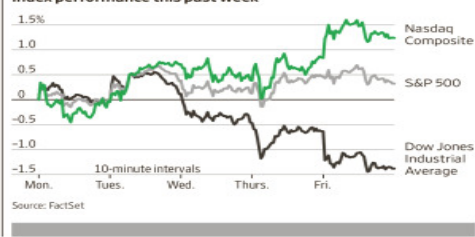
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◆ **Austria announces lockdown and mandates.....** A9

◆ **Japan approves \$490 billion Covid-19 recovery.....** A10

Stock Investors Eye Europe Curbs

U.S. stocks closed mixed on Friday as investors piled into the dollar and government bonds after fresh Covid-19 restrictions in Europe clouded prospects for the global recovery. **B12**



\$2 trillion spending bill clears House

Democrats celebrate as social aid overhaul advances to Senate

BY TONY ROMM

More than a year after President Biden clinched the White House on a pledge to "build back better," House Democrats advanced that promise, voting Friday to approve more than \$2 trillion in spending initiatives that would overhaul federal health-care, education, climate, immigration and tax laws.

The measure amounts to a dramatic re-envisioning of the role of government in Americans' daily lives. It sets aside, in some cases, historic sums to aid workers, families and businesses, seeking to rewire the very fabric of an economy still recovering from the financial devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

The 220-to-213 House vote on the Build Back Better Act, bearing the name of the president's 2020 campaign slogan, marks the second legislative milestone for Democrats this month. It comes about two weeks after they joined with Republicans to finalize a separate, sweeping bill to improve the nation's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and Internet connections, delivering long-sought infrastructure investments that Biden signed into law Monday.

But the more than \$2 trillion proposal, the final component of

SEE SPENDING ON A9

CDC opens eligibility for booster shots to all adults

BY LENA H. SUN, LAURIE MCGINLEY AND FRANCES STEAD SELLERS

All American adults became eligible for coronavirus vaccine boosters on Friday, ending months of confusion over complicated guidelines that had slowed their uptake and prompted unilateral moves by governors from Maine to California to make the shots available more broadly.

Federal health officials hope a straightforward boosters-for-all policy will prompt millions more people to get the shots before they fizzle or gather with friends and family over the holidays. Many are concerned about the worsening picture as winter approaches. After new cases dipped to almost 69,000 on Oct. 25 — their lowest point in months — they began climbing again, with the seven-day average rising 40 percent to more than 96,000 on Thursday.

The final piece of the booster-policy overhaul fell into place early Friday evening when Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accepted two unanimous recommendations from the agency's independent experts.

SEE BOOSTERS ON A6

Rittenhouse acquitted on all charges



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Verdict magnifies divisions in an already-polarized country

BY GRIFF WITTE AND HANNAH ALLAM

Ever since the early-morning hours that day in August 2020, when video footage of a teenager opening fire on the streets of Kenosha first started to circulate, Kyle Rittenhouse has been a human canvas onto which the nation's political divisions were mapped.

To many on the right — including gun-rights groups, Trump loyalists and white supremacists — he was a folk hero, a vigilante for justice who had stood up to a rampaging mob.

Americans on the left, including racial-justice activists, gun-control advocates and police reformers, saw something quite

different: a trigger-happy youth who had recklessly used his AR-15 to escalate an already-chaotic situation into the realm of deadly violence.

Those irreconcilable depictions played out vividly as news of Rittenhouse's acquittal Friday on all counts in a Wisconsin courtroom ricocheted from coast to coast. Although the question before the jury had been relatively narrow — was Rittenhouse acting in self-defense, or not? — the jury's decision was imbued with far greater resonance on both sides.

Rittenhouse's defenders saw justice at work. His critics recorded one more count against a fundamentally unfair legal

SEE REACTION ON A5



SEAN RAJACIC/KENOSHA NEWS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP: Kyle Rittenhouse is steadied by lawyer Corey Chirafisi as he learns of his acquittal on all five charges, including homicide, Friday in Kenosha, Wis. **ABOVE:** From left, Karlann Swart, Joseph Rosenbaum's fiancée; Susan Hughes, Anthony Huber's great-aunt; and Hannah Gittings, Huber's girlfriend, react to the verdict. Rittenhouse killed the two men in last summer's unrest.

Kosher-system reforms irk some Israelis

Government trims the power of ultra-Orthodox over food certification

BY STEVE HENDRIX



CORINNA KEHN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sara Meckler is an inspector for the Israeli group Tzohar, which offers an alternative kosher certification system.

RAANANA, ISRAEL — In a small gourmet food store one recent morning, kosher inspector Sara Meckler walked the aisles checking labels.

She looked for kosher marks from around the world, checked ingredients, consulted a database on her phone — "I better call the rabbi about this one," she said of a packet of breadsticks — just as hundreds of inspectors do in a country where a kosher certificate is as vital as a business license for most grocery stores, hotels and restaurants.

But for some religious Israelis, Meckler's careful pondering of a can of Italian artichokes is to be denounced as an existential threat. Neither she nor her bosses at Tzohar, a pluralistic Jewish organization, belong to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community that has held a monopoly on the official

SEE ISRAEL ON A12

Attempted breach of election data in Ohio county is probed

Incident similar to one the same month in Colo. draws FBI, state scrutiny

BY AMY GARDNER, EMMA BROWN AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Federal and state investigators are examining an attempt to breach an Ohio county's election network that bears striking similarities to an incident in Colorado earlier this year, when government officials helped an outsider gain access to the county voting system in an effort to find fraud.

Data obtained in both instances were distributed at an August "cyber symposium" on election fraud hosted by MyPillow executive Mike Lindell, an ally of former president Donald Trump who has spent millions of dollars

promoting false claims that the 2020 election was rigged.

The attempted breach in Ohio occurred on May 4 inside the county office of John Hamercheck (R), chairman of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, according to two individuals with knowledge of the incident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigations. State and county officials said no sensitive data were obtained, but they determined that a private laptop was plugged into the county network in Hamercheck's office and that the routine network traffic captured by the computer was circulated at the same Lindell conference as the data from the Colorado breach.

Together, the incidents in Ohio and Colorado point to an escalation in attacks on the nation's voting systems by those who have embraced Trump's false claims

SEE BREACH ON A7

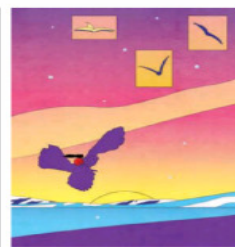
IN SUNDAY'S POST



MARCO GIROLAMI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

<< Gucci's moment As the brand turns 100, creative director Alessandro Michele is leading the industry to a new future — and showing it how to thrive. **Magazine**

Cycling is on a roll Nearly 3,000 miles of new trails have been added to the U.S. Bicycle Route System in five states in an infrastructure boon for cyclists. **Travel**



MARISA MEDEM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

<< Best books of 2021 There was at least one bright spot in our second pandemic year: an abundance of engaging books. These 10 standouts are an eclectic bunch, but all will make you see the world a little differently. **Arts & Style**

\$178 SUNDAY'S COUPONS

INSIDE

REAL ESTATE
It started with the laundry A family's renovation of nearly their entire home in North Arlington, Va., began with a modest goal.

THE ECONOMY
Tesla harassment lawsuit A former worker claims she was subjected to catcalling and aggressive physical touching. **A15**

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THE NATION
Time's Up to clean house The anti-harassment group will "completely rebuild" after a storm over ties to Andrew M. Cuomo. **A2**

THE REGION
A spat over masks in D.C. The mayor digs in on softening the city's indoor mandate as most on the council stridently object. **B1**

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