

What's News

Business & Finance

American Airlines CEO Doug Parker will retire from that job next year and hand over the reins to Robert Isom, the company's president. **A1**

◆ **Companies are planning** for steeper wage increases next year than at any point since the 2007-09 recession, according to a new report. **A1**

◆ **Evergrande didn't make** payments due on some U.S. dollar bonds before a final deadline expired on Monday, potentially setting the stage for a massive default. **B1**

◆ **Biden's nominee** to lead the OCC with new form consideration amid opposition from Republicans and moderate Democrats. **A4**

◆ **U.S. stocks continued** to rebound, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow adding 2.1%, 3% and 1.4%, respectively. **B12**

◆ **The flood of everyday** Americans into options trading has drawn a skeptical eye from U.S. regulators. **B1**

◆ **The FAA outlined** flight restrictions that will take effect in January when a new 5G wireless service makes its debut, even as efforts to avoid disruptions continue. **A2**

◆ **Instagram unveiled** a raft of new features that it said would make its site safer for teenagers. **B4**

◆ **The EPA proposed** reducing the amount of ethanol and other biofuels that must be blended into gasoline this year and retroactively lowered last year's mandate. **A3**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden warned Putin** that the U.S. and its allies would meet a Russian invasion of Ukraine with strong economic penalties and moves to bolster Ukrainian defenses and fortify support for Eastern European nations. **A1**

◆ **Voters are pessimistic** about the economy and short on confidence in the leadership of Biden and his party on the issues that concern them most, a Wall Street Journal poll found. **A1**

◆ **Top Republicans and Democrats** struck a deal for a process to raise the debt ceiling in the Senate, with the House passing a bill late Tuesday that paves the way for Congress to prevent a default. **A6**

◆ **The House approved** a \$778 billion defense-policy and budget bill that authorizes more in defense spending than requested by Biden. **A8**

◆ **The Omicron variant** of coronavirus can partially evade the protection afforded by vaccines, according to lab tests conducted in South Africa. **A9**

◆ **Former White House** chief of staff Meadows indicated to the House panel investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol that he would no longer cooperate with its probe. **A4**

◆ **A bipartisan commission** appointed by Biden unanimously adopted a report detailing controversies over the Supreme Court and assessing proposals to address them. **A8**

◆ **Saudi Arabia is appealing** for a resupply of defensive missiles as its arsenal of the interceptors dwindles. **A10**

JOURNAL REPORT
Cybersecurity: Holiday online scams and how to avoid them. **R1-B**

CONTENTS Personal Journal A23-34
Arts in Review... A15 Property Report... B6
Business News... B3-7 Sports... A36
Crossword... A16 Technology... B4
Heard on Street... B13 U.S. News... A2-9
Markets... B12 Weather... A36
Opinion... A37-19 World News... A10-31

0 33333
0 78081 6374 111

© 2021 Dow Jones & Company, Inc.
All Rights Reserved

Nation Marks 80th Anniversary of Attack on Pearl Harbor



IN HONOR: World War II veterans are escorted to the Freedom Wall for a wreath-laying ceremony Tuesday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. **A6**

Voters Signal Peril for Democrats

Participants of first Journal poll are sour on Biden and economy ahead of midterm year

By Aaron Zitner

WASHINGTON—Voters are heading into the midterm election year in a sour mood, pessimistic about the economy and short on confidence in the leadership of President Biden and

his party on the issues that concern them most, a new Wall Street Journal poll finds.

The survey reveals a set of danger signs for the Democratic Party as it prepares to defend narrow majorities in the House and Senate. Voters by a large margin see economic and fiscal issues, including inflation, as the priorities for Washington, and they view the GOP as better able to handle them.

A silver lining for Democrats is that the party's initiatives in

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL POLL

◆ **Inflation emerges** as pressing concern..... **A7**
◆ **Voters evenly split** over vaccine requirement..... **A9**

Congress—the recently enacted bipartisan infrastructure bill and a proposed set of climate and social-spending programs—have the potential to draw additional support from voters who

are undecided on their 2022 choice, the poll found. Democrats are also viewed as best able to control the pandemic, cut healthcare prices and improve education.

More voters say they would back a Republican than a Democrat for Congress, 44% to 41%, if 2022 elections were held today, a lead that is within the poll's margin of error. Some 41% approve of Mr. Biden's job performance, with 57% disapproving. *Please turn to page A6*

Companies Plan Hefty Raises for Workers

By David Harrison

Companies are planning for steeper wage increases next year than at any point since the 2007-09 recession, according to a new report, amid a tight labor market and the highest inflation in three decades.

A survey by the Conference Board set for release Wednesday finds that companies are setting aside an average 3.5% of total payroll for wage increases next year, the most since 2008.

The survey shows companies are planning on raising salary ranges, which would result in higher minimum, median and maximum salaries. That suggests pay raises could be broad-based and affect workers across a company's pay scale. The results are a sign the recent acceleration in private-sector wages is likely to carry over into 2022.

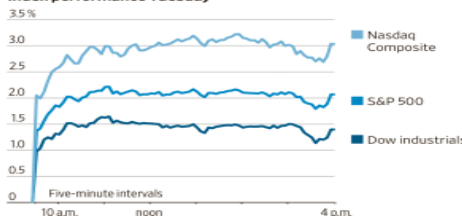
Such a sustained rise in wages could push consumer prices higher, as companies raise prices to compensate for pay increases. The dynamic of higher wages and prices could further stoke inflation and increase the chance of a spiral of rising wages and prices feeding on each other that could be difficult to stop.

Roughly 39% of respondents to the survey said inflation would be difficult to stop. *Please turn to page A7*

Stocks Rally on Variant Relief

Hopes that Omicron will have less of an impact on the economy than feared gave stocks another boost Tuesday. **B12**

Index performance Tuesday



Source: Factset

Amazon Unsettles Labor Markets

Wages rise when e-commerce giant comes to town, but so does worker turnover

By Sebastian Herrera

Max Ramirez knew he had a problem when he found out about the truck.

About two years ago, Amazon.com Inc. employees rigged a vehicle to carry a makeshift billboard advertising starting pay of roughly \$16 an hour. They drove the truck all over the small Texas city where Mr. Ramirez helps run a rival warehouse operation.

Within a few months, a handful of the employees at

his company, mattress manufacturer Serta Inc., had decamped to Amazon. "We had no choice but to compete," he said. The company raised its starting pay by roughly \$2 to about \$15 an hour and has since raised it about another dollar, he said.

As companies across the U.S. fight to find workers, Amazon is emerging as a de facto wage-and-benefit setter for a large pool of low-skilled workers. Business experts have long researched what is *Please turn to page A12*

American Airlines' Leader in Crisis To Leave as CEO

By Alison Sider

American Airlines Group Inc. Chief Executive Doug Parker will retire from that job next year after two decades running airlines, handing the reins to a longtime lieutenant as the company begins to emerge from the pandemic.

Robert Isom, who has served as American's president since 2016, will take over as CEO on March 31, 2022, the company said Tuesday. Mr. Parker will continue to serve as chairman of the company's board.

Mr. Parker's career has been bookended by crises: He took the helm at America West Airlines in 2001, just 10 days before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Now he is departing as airlines try to move past the Covid-19 pandemic. He has been a champion of consolida-

tion, engineering mergers that transformed the industry and built American Airlines into an industry giant.

Mr. Parker was quick to recognize last year that airlines would need financial help to avoid catastrophe during the pandemic, becoming one of the most vocal and visible advocates for a \$54 billion government payroll support program. American was particularly vulnerable, having ended the pandemic with more debt than rivals.

That aid helped avert thousands of layoffs, but it has been called into question lately by lawmakers who have become frustrated that some carriers, including American, have struggled with staffing and other problems as they have emerged from the pandemic.

People who have worked *Please turn to page A2*

Are you wasting 50% of half your people?

If software robots aren't unbundling your people, you're wasting your people.



UiPath Reboot™ Work.

Don't be a robot. Visit upath.com
©2021 UiPath

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Passengers have a new check-in: reservations for airport security. **A13**

Farewell, Friday Brunch: U.A.E. Adopts Western Workweek

Gulf state is switching schedule to start on Mondays, changing weekend plans

By Rory Jones

DUBAI—Mounia Touhami used to love working Sundays, the first day of the workweek in the United Arab Emirates. The U.S. and Europe were off for the weekend, and the financier had a quiet day to get things done.

Now, her adopted country is switching to match the rest of the world with a Monday to Friday week, starting Jan. 1. The French expatriate fears she'll work six days a week as clients in other Gulf countries continue to work Sunday through Thursday, and her colleagues *Please turn to page A12*

Is the gig up?

Uber ruling on worker status rattles platform economies — PAGE 9

Toying with populism

Peace in the west has made politics reckless — JANAN GANESH, PAGE 19



Next step for quants

Computer-driven trading moves into corporate debt arena — BIG READ, PAGE 17

US urges Berlin to block Russian gas line in event of Ukraine strike

◆ Sanctions readied to deter invasion ◆ Biden warns Putin not to act ◆ Tension over Nord Stream

HENRY FOY — BRUSSELS
PATRICK MANKIN — WASHINGTON
GEORGE PARKER — LONDON
MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW

The US has called on Germany to commit to scrapping Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline as part of a package of potential sanctions that would be implemented in the event that Vladimir Putin invades Ukraine.

The demand for Berlin and Brussels to include a block on the pipeline as part of the sanctions package came as US president Joe Biden used a two-hour video call with Russia's president yesterday to warn him of "strong economic and other measures" in the event of military escalation in the region.

The threat to Nord Stream 2 comes as part of measures suggested by the US including blocking converting roubles to dollars and potential sanctions targeting Russian oligarchs, two officials with knowledge of the measures told the Financial Times.

The move has created tension between Washington and Berlin. "There have been some pretty robust conversations about it," said one western diplomat. "But ultimately a consensus could emerge that if there is a serious invasion of Ukraine, Nord Stream 2 becomes untenable."

A US official said that the new German government was expected to be "more helpful" to the US pressure campaign. The Biden administration is attempting to win European buy-in for a strong package of sanctions, but people familiar with the matter said that it had yet to fully win over Germany.

US officials are expected to travel to Germany as soon as the country's new government is in place.

"Nord Stream 2 is always an elephant in the room," said the US official. "It looms large over anything to do with Russia, Germany and Ukraine."

Western officials briefed on the thinking in Washington said that any restrictions on rouble conversion into western



Joe Biden, right, with secretary of state Antony Blinken, second right, speaks to Vladimir Putin on screen from the White House yesterday
The White House/AFG/Getty

currencies would make Russian oil sales "much more difficult". They say that sanctions would "clearly go much further" than western reprisals after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Both Putin and Biden have told their teams "to follow up" on their call, according to a White House readout, which added that the US would do so in close co-ordination with its European allies and partners. Biden was last night set to brief leaders of France, Germany, Italy and the UK and, separately, Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy following the call. The Kremlin gave no immediate readout on the call.

The US has spent weeks attempting to convince European partners of the risk that Putin might invade Ukraine early next year and shaping an aggressive

response to deter him. It is unclear what type of military escalation would trigger sanctions or other measures.

Putin initially denied that the "little green men" without insignia who seized the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 were Russian special forces, and continues to insist that Moscow is not involved in the separatist war in Ukraine's east — despite ample evidence to the contrary.

The EU also yesterday vowed to expand punitive measures against Russia in case of "further aggression" towards Ukraine. Ursula von der Leyen, the EU commission chief, told EU ambassadors that the bloc would

"respond appropriately to any further aggressions... taken against us or our neighbours including Ukraine" and would take "additional restrictive measures" beyond economic sanctions in case of an invasion.

"We would rather engage constructively with Moscow," she said. "But it depends on them. And currently it's Russia's deliberate choices and aggressive actions that continue to destabilise security in Europe."

Biden reiterated his support for "a return to diplomacy" on the call, according to the White House readout, while the two leaders also discussed ransomware and Iran.

Kremlin officials have in the past denied an intention to invade Ukraine and said that Moscow merely sought to dissuade Ukraine of a military operation to reclaim territory controlled by separatists in Donbas.

Briefing

► **D Bahn fraud claims not told to auditor**
The railways group did not "comprehensively inform" PwC of fraud claims at Germany's largest infrastructure project, a decision that experts said fell short of audit standards. — PAGE 6

► **German hints on fiscal rules reform**
Germany's incoming finance minister has stressed the need for eurozone "stability" but said it should be combined with "growth and investment", in a sign of openness to reforming Europe's fiscal rules. — PAGE 2

► **US draws in more UK financial services**
The US has leapfrogged the EU as the leading destination for British financial services exports after the UK's trade with the European bloc declined following Brexit. — PAGE 4

► **Aramco chief warns over fossil fuel shift**
The head of the world's largest oil producer has urged leaders to invest in fossil fuels or run the risk of high inflation and social unrest that would force them to end emissions targets. — PAGE 12

► **Intel to seek listing for Mobileye unit**
The US chipmaker plans to seek a separate stock market listing for its autonomous-vehicle business as it tries to shore up its battered stock price under chief executive Pat Gelsinger. — PAGE 6, LEX, PAGE 20

► **Evergrande bondholders left unpaid**
Some investors in the most indebted property developer say they have not received crucial bond payments after the expiry of a 30-day grace period, as the group edges closer to a default. — PAGE 8

► **Law spat delays Poland's EU virus funds**
In a sign of the EU gulf on judicial independence, a Brussels official has said that Poland's application for billions of euros in pandemic funding is unlikely to be approved before the end of the year. — PAGE 2

Datawatch

Lack of trust

% of Britons who believe the following professionals ...



Source: Ipsos Mori (Nov 2021)

The UK public's trust in the police has declined to a greater extent this year than trust in any other professional type. Politicians are among the least trusted, with only 19 per cent of the public saying they would trust those in that profession.

UAE to rest on Sundays and adopt west's working week to lure expats

SIMEON KERR — DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates government is shifting the national weekend to Saturday and Sunday to synchronise with global markets, instituting a four-and-a-half day working week from January.

Changes to the working week, which runs from Sunday to Thursday, aim to "boost work-life balance and enhance social wellbeing", the government said. The new schedule would "align the UAE with global markets, ensuring smooth financial, trade and economic transactions with other countries that follow a Saturday/Sunday weekend".

The move is the latest in a series of changes by the oil-rich Gulf state to make itself more attractive to expatriate staff, boost its recovery from the pandemic and enable it to compete better with Saudi Arabia.

The UAE said its shorter working week was the first global shift away from the standard five-day week and would apply to UAE federal entities, which will work from 7.30am to 5.30pm on Monday to Thursday and from 7.30am to 12 noon on Friday. The Dubai government said it would follow suit.

The emirate's education regulator said the private education sector would also "ensure a smooth transition" to adopting the new working week in a move likely to persuade the private sector to make similar arrangements.

Employees would be able to work from home on Fridays or arrange hours on a flexible basis, the UAE added.

The UAE said Friday sermon and prayers, an important day of collective Islamic worship and family gathering, would start at 1.15pm across all seven emirates.

The shift triggered resistance from some conservative Muslim segments of the population. The government had in May dismissed social media rumours of a change to the weekend as "fake news".

But officials have been determined to press ahead, as the Gulf state seeks to modernise its economy and diversify away from oil dependency. "The message being sent is clear: this is no longer an Islamic country but an international country where all religions coexist," said one senior businessman.

About 90 per cent of the 10m population are foreigners. The UAE has introduced other reforms to align itself with international norms, including allowing unmarried couples to cohabit; opening local family law courts aligned with expatriates' home jurisdictions; and permitting foreigners to own businesses without the need of a national partner.

World Markets													
STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES							
	Dec 7	prev	%chg		Dec 7	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg		
S&P 500	4698.71	4691.67	2.07	\$ per £	1.125	1.127	0.796	US Gov 10 yr	148.00	1.45	0.03		
Nasdaq Composite	15672.77	15525.75	2.94	\$ per €	1.324	1.324	0.000	UK Gov 10 yr		0.85	0.03		
Dow Jones Ind	35780.24	35227.83	1.51	£ per \$	0.890	0.892	-0.222	Ger Gov 10 yr		0.38	0.01		
FTSEurofirst 300	1862.27	1818.25	2.42	¥ per \$	113.865	113.455	0.362	Japan Gov 10 yr	113.10	0.05	0.01		
Euro Stoxx 50	4273.67	4137.11	3.36	\$ per ¥	150.442	150.168	0.185	US Gov 30 yr	122.43	1.77	0.05		
FTSE 100	7359.90	7232.28	1.49	SFR per €	1.042	1.044	-0.192	Ger Gov 2 yr	104.79	-0.71	0.03		
FTSE All-Share	4178.76	4117.60	1.48	€ per \$	0.888	0.887	0.011						
CAC 40	7065.39	6866.76	2.91	COMMODITIES					price	prev	chg		
Xetra Dax	15813.94	15380.79	2.82										
Nikkei	28455.60	27927.37	1.89	Dec 7									
Hang Seng	23883.66	23349.36	2.30	Dec 7									
MSCI World \$	3117.31	3096.44	1.72	Oil WTI \$ <td>72.57</td> <td>68.46</td> <td>4.43</td> <td>US 3m Bills</td> <td>0.56</td> <td>0.06</td> <td>-0.01</td>			72.57	68.46	4.43	US 3m Bills	0.56	0.06	-0.01
MSCI EM \$	1213.96	1224.84	-0.87	Oil Brent \$ <td>75.95</td> <td>73.08</td> <td>3.93</td> <td>Euro Bond 3m</td> <td>-0.60</td> <td>-0.60</td> <td>0.00</td>			75.95	73.08	3.93	Euro Bond 3m	-0.60	-0.60	0.00
MSCI ACWI	3229.85	3204.18	0.78	Gold \$ <td>1778.65</td> <td>1767.55</td> <td>0.63</td> <td>UK 3m</td> <td>0.98</td> <td>0.09</td> <td>-0.01</td>			1778.65	1767.55	0.63	UK 3m	0.98	0.09	-0.01

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Bloomberg. A Nikkei Company



Milder symptoms invite vigilant hope on Omicron

Global health bodies that have been alarmed by South Africa's rapid rise in Omicron infections will be reassured by early data on the coronavirus variant that suggest that it leads only to mild symptoms. However, experts are warning that Omicron's higher transmission rates could still overwhelm hospitals, and concern is growing in neighbouring Zimbabwe, where surging rates are beginning to test the creaking healthcare system.

Analysis — PAGE 3

Subscribe in print and online

www.ft.com/subsusa
Tel: 1 800 628 8088
For the latest news go to
www.ft.com

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2021
No: 40,885 ★

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Dubai



design + made in denmark LINDBERG

A Nikkei Company

Cash Cushions For Americans Start to Shrink

Even More Uncertainty for Many Families

By TALMON JOSEPH SMITH

Infusions of government cash that warded off an economic calamity have left millions of households with bigger bank balances than before the pandemic — savings that have driven a torrent of consumer spending, helped pay off debts and, at times, reduced the urgency of job hunts.

But many low-income Americans find their savings dwindling or even depleted. And for them, the economic recovery is looking less buoyant.

Over the past 18 months or so, experts have been closely tracking the multitrillion-dollar increase in what economists call "excess savings," generally defined as the amount by which people's cash reserves during the Covid-19 crisis exceeded what they would have normally saved.

According to Moody's Analytics, an economic research firm, these excess savings among many working- and middle-class households could be exhausted as soon as early next year — not only reducing their financial cushions but also potentially affecting the economy, since consumer spending is such a large share of activity. Additionally, many pandemic-era federal programs expired in September, including the federal supplement to unemployment benefits.

In April 2020, after the pandemic's outset, the nation's personal saving rate — the percentage of overall disposable income that goes into savings each month — jumped fourfold from its February 2020 level to 34 percent. Some of that spike in savings resulted from government checks of up to \$1,200 sent to most Americans; some simply stemmed from reduced spending by firmly middle-class or affluent households during lockdowns.

The rate peaked again at 26 percent this past spring after another round of direct federal payments.

But the personal saving rate doesn't account for how those sav-

Continued on Page A17

Redrawn Maps Turn California Into Battlefield

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

FRESNO, Calif. — For nearly three years, Phil Arballo has been running for Congress against Representative Devin Nunes, the Republican that Democrats across the country have loved to loathe, raising money by the truckload and compiling an email outreach list that is all the more impressive considering his lack of political experience.

On Monday, Mr. Nunes announced he would resign from Congress at year's end to lead former President Donald J. Trump's media and technology company, continuing an unswerving fealty to Mr. Trump that had turned him into a national figure of admiration on the right and contempt on the left.

Mr. Nunes was prodded toward that decision in large part by the nonpartisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission, which this week is putting the finishing touches on new boundaries.

The plan is likely to transform the district he has represented for 19 years from a dusty, rural swath that voted for Mr. Trump in 2020 by 5 percentage points into one centered here in Fresno, the fifth-largest city in California, which Joseph R. Biden Jr. would have carried handily.

Continued on Page A15

INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Assessing Variant's Impact

A study found that Omicron may dull the power of vaccines, but hinted that booster shots might help. PAGE A10

A Landmark Moment in Chile

The legalization of same-sex marriage comes as the country grapples with demands for social change. PAGE A9



NATIONAL A14-20

Deal to Raise Debt Ceiling

The House passed an unusual measure that would allow a one-time simple majority vote in the Senate to avert a catastrophic federal default. PAGE A16

House Passes Defense Bill

The House overwhelmingly passed a \$768 billion defense policy bill after lawmakers dropped pet proposals to salvage a bipartisan priority. PAGE A16

Grief for Dole, and Bygone Era

Residents of Bob Dole's Kansas hometown spoke longingly of a time when compromises were celebrated and opponents were not enemies. PAGE A14

SPORTS B7-10

Story Shifts on Soccer Attack

The assault of a women's player made headlines, with masked men, a metal bar and a teammate's arrest, but now some doubts are being raised. PAGE B7

Tracking Bryant Crash Photos

Lawyers for Kobe Bryant's widow charted how emergency workers shared images on cellphones. PAGE B8

BUSINESS B1-6

Markets Rebound, Again

Much is still unknown about the Omicron variant, but investors seem to have taken the latest news in stride. PAGE B1

FOOD D1-14

Sweet Ambitions in the West

Soda-shop chains in the mountain states are projecting aggressive growth in the next few years. PAGE D2

A Season for All Cookies

Add more joy to the holiday table with these treats from The New York Times Cooking recipe creators. PAGE D8



ARTS C1-6

Streamlining a Wizard

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" returned to Broadway, now on one part instead of two, but still dazzling. PAGE C1

An Inaugural Star's Poetry

Amanda Gorman, who stood out in Washington on Jan. 20, offers some new musings, playful and pithy. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

Bret Stephens

PAGE A23

U.S. WARNS PUTIN OF COSTS FOR ANY UKRAINE INVASION

2-HOUR VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Too Early to Tell if Tense Discussion Will Ease Immediate Crisis

By DAVID E. SANGER
and MICHAEL CROWLEY

WASHINGTON — President Biden warned President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Tuesday that an invasion of Ukraine would result in heavy economic penalties for him and lead NATO to reposition its troops in Europe, measures that he said would go well beyond the West's response to Russia's annexation of Crimea seven years ago.

In a two-hour, secure video conference that American and Russian officials both described as tense but occasionally pierced by humor, Mr. Biden also said an invasion could end Russia's hopes of completing the Nord Stream II gas pipeline to Europe, which would be a major new source of energy revenue.

It is too early to tell whether the much-anticipated conversation, whose details were hard to elicit as both the White House and the Kremlin put their spin on it, will alleviate the immediate crisis in Ukraine, where roughly 70,000 Russian troops have massed, with more equipment and personnel arriving every day.

Mr. Putin gave no indication of his ultimate intent, American officials said, leaving the world guessing whether he was actually planning an invasion early next year, or trying to get the West to pay attention to his demands by manufacturing a crisis.

In a brief video of the opening moments of the call released by Russian state television, Mr. Putin said, "Greetings, Mr. President!" "Good to see you again," Mr. Biden responded warmly, after what appeared to be a brief connection glitch. He lamented that they had not seen each other in person this fall at the Group of 20 summit meeting. But neither side released any video of conversations on the issues at hand.

Not surprisingly, both sides portrayed their leaders as resolute. Jake Sullivan, Mr. Biden's national security adviser, said the president was "clear," "direct" and "candid."

The Russian government, in an unusually detailed description of the encounter, said Mr. Putin had warned Mr. Biden that Western military activity in and around Ukraine was approaching a "red line" that was threatening Russia's security.

Continued on Page A8

Stimulus Had Greatest Effect on Poorer Households, but the Gains Levelled Off

Percent change in weekly median household checking account balances, from 2019, by income quartile



Source: JPMorgan Chase Institute [Analysis of households with at least \$12,000 in income in 2019, after taxes and withholdings, and that had active checking accounts]

On the Banks of the Congo River, a 5-Star Emporium of Ambition



ASHLEY GILBERTSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Congolese president, Felix Tshisekedi, at top in gray suit, arrived in April at the Fleuve Congo Hotel in Kinshasa.

Hotel Attracts Global Cast of Cobalt Dealmakers

This article is by Dionne Searcey,
Eric Lipton and Michael Forsythe.

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo — The lobby of the Fleuve Congo Hotel was a swirl of double-breasted suits and tailored dresses one April morning. Shiny gold watches dangled from wrists. Stilettos clacked across marble floors. Smooth jazz played as men in designer loafers sipped espressos.

Situated on the banks of the muddy, furious Congo River, the Fleuve is an emporium of ambition in a nation that, despite extreme poverty and chronic corruption, serves up raw materials crucial to the planet's battle against climate change.

The soil in the Democratic Republic of Congo is bursting with cobalt and other metals used in the production of electric car batteries, wind turbines and other mainstays of the green energy revolution. Practically everyone who passes through the hotel, where the air-conditioning battles the sweltering heat, seems determined to grab a piece of the wealth.

Just off the lobby that day, near a sumptuous brunch buffet, sat Dikembe Mutombo, the 7-foot-2 former N.B.A. All-Star player. He had teamed up in his quest for mineral riches with Gentry Beach, a Texas hedge-fund man-

ager who is a family friend and major fund-raiser to former President Donald J. Trump. Mr. Mutombo shared his table with a top Congolese mining lawyer-turned-politician whose office is conveniently located in a complex near the hotel.

Mr. Mutombo is among a wave of adventurers and opportunists who have filled a vacuum created by the departure of major American mining companies, and by the reluctance of other traditional Western firms to do business in a country with a reputation for labor abuses and bribery.

The list of fortune hunters includes Erik Prince, the security contractor and ex-Navy SEAL; Jide Zeitlin, the Nigerian-born former chief executive of the parent company of Coach and Kate Spade; and Aliaune Thiam, the Senegalese-American musician known as Akon.

All have been drawn to Congo's high-risk, high-reward mining sector as the demand for cobalt has skyrocketed because automakers around the world are speeding up plans to convert from gasoline- to electric-powered fleets.

Most recently, Ford Motor, General Motors and Toyota announced they would spend billions of dollars to build battery fac-

Continued on Page A12

New Chancellor Offers Blueprint to Revive Left

By KATRIN BENNHOLD

BERLIN — Last December, as he was plotting what most considered to be a hopeless bid to become Germany's next chancellor, Olaf Scholz interrupted his campaign preparations for a video call with an American philosopher.

Mr. Scholz, a Social Democrat, wanted to talk to the philosopher, Prof. Michael J. Sandel of Harvard, about why center-left parties like his had been losing working-class voters to populists, and the two men spent an hour discussing a seemingly simple theme that would become the centerpiece of the Scholz campaign: "Respect."

On Wednesday, Mr. Scholz will be sworn in as Germany's ninth postwar chancellor — and the third Social Democrat in 16 years — succeeding Angela Merkel and heading a three-party coalition



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Olaf Scholz's message of respect resonated with German voters.

government. Defying polls and pundits, he led his 158-year-old party from the precipice of irrelevance to an unlikely victory — and now wants to show that the center-left can again become a politi-

cal force in Europe.

Mr. Scholz won for many reasons, not least because he persuaded voters that he was the closest thing to Ms. Merkel, but

Continued on Page A9

State weighs water waste fines

As West tips toward crisis, California could usher in a wave of usage regulations.

By Hayley Smith

As California descends deeper into drought, officials are growing increasingly troubled by dwindling water supplies and the public's lackluster response to calls for conservation, with residents in recent months falling short of Gov. Gavin Newsom's request for a voluntary 15% reduction in usage.

Now, as the West tips toward crisis, state water regulators are considering adopting emergency regulations that will prohibit certain actions in an attempt to curtail water waste and help conserve supplies.

If approved, the proposal could usher in a wave of water regulations that harken back to previous droughts while underscoring the seriousness of the current one.

On Tuesday, Lake Mead — the nation's largest reservoir and a lifeline for water in Los Angeles and the West — was at 1,065 feet, or about 34% of its capacity, a near-historic low. Much of California on the U.S. Drought Monitor map was painted in worrisome shades of red.

"These regulations are kind of no-brainers at this point," said Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources at UC Davis. "They probably should have been done a little while ago."

Among the activities that may be prohibited are washing vehicles with hoses that do not have shut-off nozzles; hosing down sidewalks, driveways or patios "except in cases where health and safety are at risk"; watering landscapes in a manner that causes excessive runoff; and watering lawns within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.

For many, the measures feel like déjà vu as California again faces the prospect of dwindling water supplies.

In 2014, then-Gov. Jerry Brown introduced similar bans on watering at the start of an impending drought. Within a year, Brown had instituted mandatory water-use cuts statewide — a move [See Water, A6]



RUSSIA'S military buildup at its border with Ukraine has sparked fears about an invasion. Above, a Ukrainian soldier on the front lines of the conflict with pro-Russia rebels in the Donetsk region.

ANDRIY DUBCHAK Associated Press

Biden presses Putin on diplomacy with Ukraine

Russia, which has mobilized troops, wants guarantees on NATO

By Eli Stokols

WASHINGTON — President Biden warned Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during a videoconference Tuesday that invading Ukraine would result in stiff economic sanctions from the U.S. and several European allies.

The virtual meeting, the second time the two leaders have held direct talks since their June summit in Geneva, arose after Putin mobilized about 100,000 Russian forces on the country's border with Ukraine, sparking new fears about an invasion.

"President Biden voiced the deep concerns of the United States and our European Allies about Russia's escalation of forces surrounding Ukraine and made clear that the U.S. and our Allies would respond [See Russia, A4]



MIKHAIL METZEL Sputnik

AT THEIR meeting, President Biden urged Russian leader Vladimir Putin to consider the U.S. response to an invasion of Ukraine.

Spray of bullets cut off young life

A shooting Monday left a 12-year-old boy dead and kids on a playground fleeing.

By Cindy Carcamo, Kevin Rector, Richard Winton and Maria L. La Ganga

Alexander Alvarado did not live to see his teens. A blast of gunfire Monday afternoon saw to that.

Had he made it to Christmas week, Alexander would have turned 13. Instead, the boy was shot to death outside an elementary school in Wilmington, a port neighborhood filled with industry, working-class families and gang problems that ebb and flow like the tides.

His stepmother was injured too. A fourth-grade girl also received a gunshot wound in the late-afternoon incident; she was hit by a stray bullet as she watched her brother play kickball on

the playground of Wilmington Park Elementary during an after-school program called Beyond the Bell.

Law enforcement officials have not identified the woman, who is in her 30s, or the 9-year-old girl. Both were taken to hospitals, where they remained Tuesday. No suspects are in custody and no motive has been offered — though the Los Angeles Police Department has suggested that the sheer volume of shell casings recovered from the scene indicated a purposeful attack.

"At first I thought it was fireworks," said Jackel Fonseca, a classmate of the wounded girl who is also 9. Jackel was on the playground near the girl when a bullet slammed into her little back. Teachers told the children "to run inside the cafeteria and use your Chromebook," Jackel said Tuesday. "I was scared, so I went on my Chromebook and watched YouTube."

Alexander's death came [See Shooting, A6]

COLUMN ONE

Their best trick of all: Bonding on boards

We could learn from skaters, whose culture makes diversity and inclusiveness totally cool

By David Wharton

The women keep their distance. At first. Dressed in T-shirts and sneakers, skateboards in hand, they stand by a chain-link fence, talking, laughing, waiting to make their move.

The Aunt Skatie crew, as they call themselves, has traveled east of downtown Los Angeles to convene just outside a community skate park outfitted with all manner of concrete stairs, banks and ledges for doing tricks. On a gray Sunday morning, they can see the space is filled mostly with guys.

Killing a few minutes on an adjacent tennis court, the women ride in lazy circles as a portable speaker blasts rap music, its heavy beat mixing with the scuffle of urethane wheels. One of the men inside the park stops to peer through the fence at them; Maggie Bowen, the Aunt Skatie leader, is used to this.

"Going into a skate park as a [See Skateboard, A7]



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

MAGGIE BOWEN of the Aunt Skatie crew rides at the South Pasadena Skate Park. Skateboarding has attracted more women and the LGBTQ community.

34,000 LAUSD KIDS LACK SHOTS

In January, students without the jab face independent study or leaving the district.

By Howard Blume

About 34,000 students have not yet complied with the COVID-19 vaccine mandate in the Los Angeles Unified School District — and there's no longer enough time for students who have not gotten their first shot to be fully vaccinated by the Jan. 10 start of the second semester, portending significant disruption to their education as they will be barred from campus.

The high number of students who will not be able to meet the full inoculation deadline is likely to force difficult decisions on leaders of the second-largest U.S. school system, which has enacted among the strictest vaccine mandates in the nation. Students who are not fully vaccinated — or exempt — will be forced into the district's independent study program or will have to leave the Los Angeles public school system.

Shifting 34,000 students 12 and older into independent study would be challenging — especially as the district's independent study program, called City of Angels, has been beset by staffing shortages and confusion after it was inundated at the start of the school year with about 10,000 students, a number that grew to 16,000. The 34,000 total by itself would make up one of the 25 largest school systems in California.

There's no indication that L.A. Unified is backing down — with no leniency or extended deadlines under public discussion.

"Our schools have some of the strongest safety standards in the nation and we plan on keeping it that way," interim Supt. Megan Reilly said in a video broadcast during Tuesday's school board meeting. Despite the determined statement, the video message was mostly a soft-sell, with smiling students urging their peers to be vaccinated "like me," as they said, one after another.

The L.A. school system is one of the few in the nation [See Schools, A9]

Afghans adjust to life on bases

Refugees at U.S. military facilities learn English and Zumba on the way to being resettled. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Council district remap approved

After weeks of debate, L.A. finalizes its political boundaries for the next 10 years. CALIFORNIA, B1

Melrose area to install cameras

Neighborhood raised \$30,000 for license plate readers to help combat rise in crimes. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 65/53. B6

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



IMAGES OF 2021

Captivating pictures from a memorable year. **SPECIAL SECTION**



BATTLING FOR HER LIFE

One woman's fight to beat the spread of cancer. **SPECIAL SECTION**



FOOD

Cookies! 12 recipes to brighten your holidays. **EXPANDED SECTION**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

M2 V1 V2 V3 V4



Snow, rain 45/30 • Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy 45/37 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021 • \$3.50

Sides find a path on must-pass debt limit

Parties reach deal on complicated maneuver to raise ceiling, avert crisis

BY TONY ROMM
AND MIKE DEBONIS

Top Democrats and Republicans signaled Tuesday that they had clinched a deal to raise the country's debt ceiling, settling on a complicated legislative maneuver to help them stave off another high-stakes battle and prevent the U.S. government from experiencing a catastrophic default.

The apparent compromise arrived eight days before a critical fiscal deadline, averting what would have been another political and economic crisis. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) secured adoption of the measure late Tuesday after a 222-212 vote. And Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) earlier in the day each expressed a measure of confidence that they had the votes to proceed with their plans.

The deal itself does not directly raise the debt ceiling but rather sets up a smoother process that allows Democrats in the narrowly divided Senate to accomplish the task without GOP support. The two sides had been at loggerheads over the issue for months, with Republicans refusing to lend their must-have votes to raise the borrowing cap, in protest of President Biden's economic agenda.

Democrats derided Republicans' **SEE DEBT ON A20**

Corporate tax: Some Treasury officials have reservations. **A21**

Volcano death toll climbs



ARI BOWO/SUPOT/AJANTA FOTO/REUTERS

People in Indonesia's East Java province watch Mount Semeru spew ash and smoke Tuesday. Since the first eruption Saturday, the death toll has risen to 34, the national disaster agency reports, and at least 17 people are missing. Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited the area Tuesday and vowed to rebuild destroyed homes.

BY JOBY WARRICK,
SOUD MEKHENNET
AND LOUISA LOVELUCK

The assassins' weapon was a souped-up hobby drone, the kind that can be bought online for a few thousand dollars. It featured four helicopter-like rotors, an oversized battery and a small bomb, compact but powerful enough to blow up a car or, potentially, to kill a head of state. Investigators who studied fragments of the device — one of two drones that targeted the official residence of the Iraqi

Deadly attack drones amass in Middle East

Iran-backed militias now have scores of them — and are becoming more willing to deploy

prime minister on Nov. 7 — quickly pinned the attack on powerful Iraqi militia groups backed by Iran. The bomb itself, experts concluded, was of a design previously linked to Iran.

A third finding came as a surprise to some analysts: Tehran did not authorize the attack, Iraqi officials concluded, and in fact strongly opposed it. Instead, the attempt on the life of Iraqi leader

Mustafa al-Kadhimi appears to have been the work of private militias that are now armed with drones and feeling emboldened to carry out strikes with potentially catastrophic consequences — sometimes without waiting for approval from their ostensible sponsors.

Last month's attack has underscored what intelligence officials and analysts describe as a growing threat to stability in the Middle East and beyond: the proliferation of attack drones, particularly among paramilitary **SEE DRONES ON A14**

Biden warns Putin on Ukraine

PLEDGES SANCTIONS IF RUSSIA INVADES

Sides plan 'consultations' to follow virtual meeting

BY PAUL SONNE,
ASHLEY PARKER
AND ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN

President Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin in a video call Tuesday not to mount a new invasion of Ukraine and laid out the economic and security costs Russia would face if the Kremlin chooses to go down that path, as the White House attempts to forestall a renewed war in Europe.

Biden also offered a diplomatic route to end the war scare that has arisen since the Kremlin, for the second time this year, massed troops and materiel near the border with Ukraine, raising fears of an offensive far larger and more deadly than its invasion eight years ago.

The two leaders came out of the virtual meeting and tasked their teams with engaging in what the Kremlin called "substantive consultations" on "sensitive" European security issues, including Russia's complaints that NATO is encroaching on its borders and conducting threatening activities on Ukrainian territory. In the run-up to the call, Russia had proposed starting **SEE BIDEN ON A16**

Who invited you?: China sniffs at diplomatic boycott of Games. **A12**

THE FORGOTTEN DEAD

A final salute for unclaimed veterans

Thousands of those who served die alone every year, a Post investigation finds

BY MARY JORDAN
AND KEVIN SULLIVAN

DES MOINES — Everyone on the third floor of South View Manor was accounted for except James Dean Ryan in Room 301. A police officer, checking on a worrying smell, opened his door and found Ryan facedown on his living room floor — another Vietnam veteran who died alone.

Ryan's son and other relatives were notified, but many wanted nothing to do with him, alive or dead. No one stepped forward to bury him after his death last November. So the 66-year-old with talents for disco dancing and repairing furniture became yet another of America's unclaimed dead.

There is no requirement for local governments — which are responsible for unclaimed bodies — to report them to any national authority, so there is no official count. But tens of thousands of **SEE UNCLAIMED ON A6**



CHRISTOPHER SMITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jim Mowrer carries the remains of James Dean Ryan, who served in the Army in the Vietnam era and died alone last year. Ryan was one of several veterans interred in Iowa in June.

Fireable offense: Teaching White privilege to Whites

Tennessee educator's plight epitomizes the acrid debate over race

BY HANNAH NATANSON

KINGSPORT, TENN. — Matthew Hawn checked his phone to see if the wait was finally over.

It had been five months since he was fired for teaching about White privilege at a high school in rural Tennessee. Two months since he had fought to regain his job at an emotional three-day hearing, becoming a symbol of the acrimonious debate over the way race, racism and history should be taught in America's schools.

Now — nothing. No announcements from the school district about his appeal effort. No messages from his lawyer. No texts from the friends and former colleagues who had sustained him through a lonely half-year of job-

less limbo.

Could he return to teaching in his hometown? Apparently no one knew, although an independent hearing officer was supposed to deliver a verdict by the end of the week.

It was now Friday, inching past 4:26 p.m. on an October afternoon.

Hawn, 43, White and balding, sighed. Marloh, his German shepherd, started to whine. Hawn grabbed the leash, because no matter what, he still had to walk the dog.

Shrugging on a gray hoodie against the fall chill, he walked out his front door and down the long, sloped driveway of the house he had grown up in, Marloh tugging at every step.

A lifelong resident of Kingsport, Hawn was well aware his liberal views made him an outlier in his overwhelmingly White, mostly conservative community. But that had never mattered before. He had taught in the Sullivan **SEE TEACHER ON A18**

BUSINESS...A17 KIDSPOT...C8 OBITUARIES...B6 TV LISTINGS...C4
COMICS...C6 LOCAL NEWS...B1 SPORTS...D1 WEATHER...B8
EDITORIALS/LETTERS...A23 LOTTERIES...B3 STOCKS...A26 WORLD NEWS...A11

CONTENT © 2021
The Washington Post / Year 145, No. 3

0 70628 21101 0

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF MONUMENTAL HAPPENINGS

Please play responsibly. For help, visit mdgamblinghelp.org or call 1-800-GAMBLER.



—deportes

Fabrizio Coloccini

"En la Argentina vas a cualquier cancha y te insultan por nada"

ENTREVISTA — por Cristian Grosso



NUEVO REGRESO DE MIRTHA LEGRAND A LA TV

—espectáculos

Tras un *impasse* de casi dos años, y luego de un regreso fugaz el 28 de agosto, la diva retomará su programa el próximo sábado 18.

HAY 18,4 MILLONES DE PERSONAS POBRES EN EL PAÍS, SEGÚN LA UCA

—economía

El informe muestra que el flagelo alcanza al 43,8% de la población; el índice es casi un punto menor que en 2020, pero aún es más alto que en la prepandemia. **Página 18**

LA NACION

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

Aumenta la tensión entre la Casa Rosada y la Corte, tras un ataque del ministro Soria

ENCUENTRO. En la primera reunión, el titular de Justicia acusó al máximo tribunal por sus fallos

El ministro de Justicia, Martín Soria, usó su primera reunión con los miembros de la Corte Suprema para lanzar un duro cuestionamiento al máximo tribunal, en línea con las críticas tradicionales del kirchnerismo. Lo hizo cuando la Corte debe resolver los pedidos de la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner para anular las causas

de corrupción en su contra. "Expresé mi preocupación por la gravedad institucional a la que llegó la Justicia argentina en los últimos cinco años", publicó el ministro en Twitter al concluir la reunión.

El Gobierno difundió el ataque de Soria, que acusó a la Corte de fallar a favor de "la corporación judicial". Los

ministros del tribunal decidieron no responderle. Más tarde, la Corte confirmó una sentencia a favor de Santa Fe por una deuda de \$86.000 millones de la Nación, y preparó una declaración de inconstitucionalidad de la actual conformación del Consejo de la Magistratura, surgida de una reforma de Cristina Kirchner. **Página 8**

EL ESCENARIO

Una puesta en escena política

Paz Rodríguez Niell

Página 9

Los nuevos diputados, con juras para todos los gustos

política— Los diputados electos juraron ayer en la Cámara baja, en una ceremonia marcada por las particulares fórmulas elegidas para aceptar el cargo: desde el tradicional "Dios y la Patria" hasta las "víctimas del terrorismo" o la "marihuana". **Página 10**



Los bonaerenses Margarita Stolbizer, Diego Santilli, Victoria Tolosa Paz y Vanesa Siley, al momento de jurar

PRENSA HCDN

El Congreso chileno aprobó el matrimonio igualitario

LEY. SANTIAGO, Chile (Para LA NACION).— Después de años de debate de la iniciativa que garantiza derechos de reconocimiento legal y de filiación, el Congreso chileno aprobó ayer el matrimonio entre parejas del mismo sexo. La ley

quedó lista para la promulgación del presidente Sebastián Piñera, que a mediados de este año le dio impulso al proyecto. La Cámara baja adoptó la iniciativa por 82 votos a favor, 20 en contra y 2 abstenciones. **Página 2**

Crecen las quejas por el cierre de pasos a Uruguay

COVID-19. Ante la cercanía de la temporada de verano, a los reclamos de los turistas argentinos por la reapertura de los pasos fronterizos terrestres con Uruguay se sumaron gestiones del gobierno de Luis Lacalle Pou para recuperar el

normal movimiento de tránsito. Ayer, además, el gobernador de Entre Ríos le hizo un duro reclamo a la Casa Rosada por la rehabilitación de dos de los tres puentes internacionales que están clausurados por la pandemia. **Página 20**

EL ANÁLISIS

Una oposición al servicio del Gobierno

Joaquín Morales Solá

—LA NACION—

Menos de un mes después de un arrollador triunfo en el país, la oposición está haciendo un papelón. ¿Es solo una guerra de egos y de ambiciones? ¿O, acaso, existen proyectos políticos diferentes detrás de las aparentes y frías diferencias? ¿La nueva generación de políticos radicales practica de manera aún peor la vieja costumbre del internismo partidario? Un poco de todo eso existe en las peleas verbales (y en increíbles gimnasias boxísticas) de los últimos días. Aunque todos los dirigentes de Juntos por el Cambio juran y perjuran que la unidad de la coalición opositora está garantizada, lo cierto es que la imagen también tiene valor en la construcción de la política. **Continúa en la página 13**

EE.UU. pidió un acuerdo "sólido" con el Fondo

DEUDA. En medio de las discusiones técnicas en Washington entre el Gobierno y el Fondo Monetario Internacional, Estados Unidos reiteró ayer que la Argentina debe lograr un acuerdo "sólido" con el organismo que facilite el retorno del país al sistema financiero global. El mensaje llegó a través del principal asesor del presidente Joe Biden para América Latina, Juan González. **Página 16**

Flexibilizarán el cepo a las exportaciones de carne

CONCESIÓN. Solo se restringirán las ventas al exterior de siete cortes parrilleros. **Página 17**

Mercado A20 e A21

O fim do Maksoud

Ícone da hotelaria paulistana encerrou ontem as atividades após 42 anos. O fechamento pegou funcionários de surpresa e deixou 170 desempregados.

Cotidiano B5

Aos 130 anos, av. Paulista morre e renasce como símbolo da capital

Esporte B7

Massagista campeão em 1971 e 2021 no Atlético-MG celebra 2º título brasileiro

Ilustrada C1

Na era de selfies, jovens moldam nova onda de retratos com ostentação

A pandemia em 7.dez

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose) **77,0%**

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **64,5%**

Dose de reforço **8,8%**

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

Média móvel Em 24 h 278

188 -18,8%*

Total 616.067

Casos -5,0%* (desacelerado)

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Butantan tem 15 milhões de doses de Coronavac paradas

O Butantan está com 15 milhões de doses da Coronavac paradas na sua fábrica. Os imunizantes foram recusados pelo Ministério da Saúde e estão sem destino certo. O instituto, que se disse surpreso com a rejeição, tenta agora um acordo para doar os lotes a outros países. Saúde B2

Substância do Viagra pode reduzir desenvolvimento do Alzheimer

Saúde B2

EDITORIAIS A2

MP deseducativa

Sobre mudança promovida pelo governo no Prouni.

Linhas vermelhas

A respeito de reunião e impasses entre Biden e Putin.

ISSN 1414-5723 33852
9 771414 572049

Crise do clima nos EUA



Laio de Almeida/Folhapress

CAPITAL EÓLICA DO TEXAS, MCCAMEY ESCANCARA DIFICULDADE DE TRANSIÇÃO ENERGÉTICA NOS EUA

Poço de extração de petróleo em meio a aerogeradores na região da cidade de Odessa, perto de McCamey; fontes renováveis enfrentam ceticismo Mundo A10 a A12

Brasil exigirá quarentena de 5 dias a viajantes sem vacina

Medida, que contradiz Bolsonaro, afeta quem não provar imunização e resultado negativo de teste

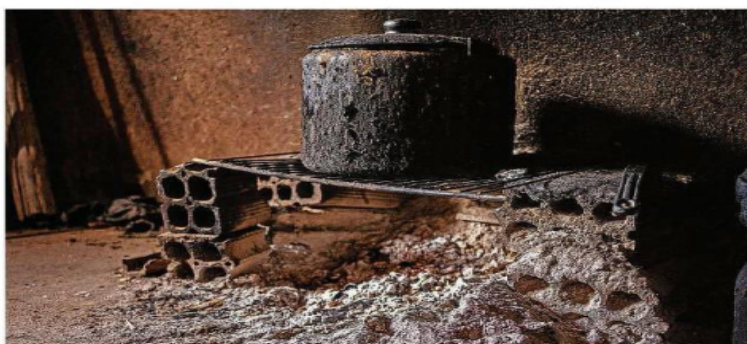
O governo brasileiro exigirá cinco dias de quarentena a viajantes que venham ao país e não comprovem que tomaram vacina contra a Covid, anunciaram os ministros Marcelo Queiroga (Saúde) e Ciro Nogueira (Casa Civil).

Além do comprovante de imunização, será necessário apresentar o resultado negativo de um teste para detectar coronavírus feito até 72 horas antes. Não foram dados detalhes de como será fiscalizado o isolamento.

É a primeira medida ampla da gestão Jair Bolsonaro em relação a viajantes desde que foi identificada a variante ômicron, mais transmissível. Estudos para verificar a letalidade da cepa e a reação à vacina estão em curso.

Bolsonaro, que minimiza a pandemia desde seu início, reluta em adotar restrições e exigir o passaporte vacinal no país, no que é contestado pela Anvisa. Horas antes do anúncio, ele comparou o documento a uma coleira.

O presidente reclamou de ser tratado como único chefe de Estado que agiu diferente e tentou explicar por que promoveu a hidroxiquina, ineficaz: "Estudei, corri atrás, liguei para embaixadores, médicos". Saúde B1



Allan Lima/Folhapress

FAMÍLIAS COMEM LAGARTOS E RESTOS DE CARNE NO RN

Panela vazia na casa do agricultor José Vicente, em São Paulo do Potengi; assolados pela seca, moradores recorrem a carcaças e até a pequenos répteis para sobreviver Mercado A16 e A17

Valor articulado para emendas de relator zeraria fila de auxílio

Governo e Congresso planejam deixar 3,7 milhões de famílias fora do Auxílio Brasil em 2022 citando falta de espaço orçamentário.

Enquanto isso, parlamentares estudam como direcionar às emendas de relator um valor que poderia atender o grupo. Mercado A15

Projeto das fake news avança para plenário da Câmara

O grupo de trabalho na Câmara concluiu a votação do projeto das fake news, relatado por Orlando Silva (PC do B-SP), mas o texto só deve ser apreciado em plenário no ano que vem. Foram mantidos trechos que obrigam as big techs a serem mais transparentes com o usuário. Poder A8

Prescrição no caso tríplice antecipa embate Lula X Moro

O pedido de arquivamento do processo contra o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) no caso do triplex de Guarujá (SP), emitido ontem pelo Ministério Público Federal sob o argumento de prescrição, deve antecipar o embate entre o petista e Sérgio Moro na corrida presidencial.

O ex-juiz criticou a decisão ao dizer que crimes de corrupção não deveriam prescrever, e aliados o acompanharam. A expectativa de que um acerto de contas entre os dois domine a campanha preocupa Jair Bolsonaro, que vê Moro lhe tomar parte do eleitorado à direita. Poder A4 e A5

Tribunal do DF anula maior condenação contra Eduardo Cunha

Poder A7

Elio Gaspari Mendonça é alvo de intolerância

Foi exagero deixar André Mendonça na geladeira por 4 meses. Currículo por currículo, o dele está na mídia de indicações ao Supremo. Exagero maior tem sido desvalorizar um servidor por ser evangélico. No fundo, há intolerância. Afé de um juiz não quer dizer nada. Poder A6

Embratel

APRESENTA
A TECNOLOGIA
NO PRÓXIMO NÍVEL

Mundo digital acelera ainda mais em 2022

mercado

EstúdioFOLHA

Existe una millonaria cuenta a nombre de la mujer en un banco de EEUU

Querella pide que se investigue a la esposa de RGD por lavado

Los representantes de las víctimas, igual que la Fiscalía, pidieron 15 años de pena para el dirigente y 7 años 5 meses para el hijo. La defensa por su parte planteó la absolución.

PÁGINA 40

**Criminales ponen presión
Familia de trabajador
secuestrado no tiene
dinero para el rescate**

PÁGINA 41

**Dinero era para pagar salarios
Policía muere en intento
de asalto a avión que
transportaba caudales**

PÁGINA 42

**Reconocimiento para su trayectoria
Compositor paraguayo
estrena su obra en
un santuario italiano**

PÁGINA 21



Caacupé. Miles de fieles acuden al Santuario de la Virgen Serrana para cumplir con sus promesas. El calor y largas distancias no son reparo para feligreses. **PÁGINAS 2 y 3**

CON ESTA EDICIÓN

- MI PROPIA MUERTA 12
- ESTAMPA DE CAACUPÉ + PULSERA PERFORADA

¡Ejemplar GRATIS a su carrito!

COMPRA OPCIONAL

COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA 22

¡50.000!

**Se incrementa por segundo año consecutivo
La población pobre crecerá
a casi 30% para fin de año**

PÁGINA 12

**Ente contralor no encontró documentos
Lavamanos fantasmas, otra
perla de Nenecho, según CGR**

PÁGINA 19

UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO INDESTRUCTIBLE

TOYOTA

TOYOTOSHI

WORLDWIDE



FIGARO
scope

- **À la une** : dix lieux réconfortants pour l'hiver
- **Restaurants** : les meilleurs menus gastronomiques à offrir à partir de 60 euros

HOMMAGE

LÉOPOLD SÉDAR SENGHOR, UN INTELLECTUEL AUX ANTIPODES DE LA « CANCEL CULTURE » PAGE 14



PRÉSIDENTIELLE

Dans le Cher, Emmanuel Macron rode ses réflexes de candidat avant d'entrer en campagne PAGE 5

ENTRETIEN

Jean-François Copé : « La droite fera ce pour quoi elle a été élue » PAGE 6

JUSTICE

Affaire Khashoggi : un suspect arrêté à Roissy PAGE 8

SÉCURITÉ

Face au risque terroriste, la police à l'exercice PAGE 10

CRISE SANITAIRE

Bercy annonce des aides aux patrons de discothèque PAGE 22

DÉFILÉ

La collection métiers d'art de Chanel : un hommage à ses artisans PAGE 29

ARCHITECTURE

La Sagrada Família sous sa bonne étoile PAGE 32

CHAMPS LIBRES • Quelles leçons électorales peut-on tirer de la primaire LR ?

• La tribune de Nicolas Lecaussin
• Les chroniques de Bertille Bayart et de Mathieu Laine
PAGES 15 À 17

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mardi :
Êtes-vous favorable à la vaccination des enfants de moins de 12 ans ?

OUI 36% NON 64%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 239 627

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr

Angela Merkel a-t-elle été une bonne chancelière ?

BERNARD ALLEMANE/INA VIA AFP

Allemagne : Olaf Scholz, les défis du nouveau chancelier

Ministre des Finances du gouvernement d'Angela Merkel, Scholz sera élu, mercredi, par les députés du Bundestag à la tête d'une coalition inédite alliant le SPD, les Verts et les libéraux.

Le Bundestag élira, mercredi, le social-démocrate Olaf Scholz au poste de chancelier, à la tête d'une coalition inédite associant les Verts et

les libéraux, tournant ainsi la page de l'ère Merkel. Son premier défi sera de tenir cette majorité hétéroclite. Durant la campagne électo-

rale, les deux partis ont présenté des projets économiques divergents. Les Verts, qui héritent du portefeuille de l'Environnement, ont

prôné le recours à l'investissement public pour moderniser les infrastructures et les mettre à l'heure de la transition énergétique. En face, le

nouveau ministre des Finances, Christian Lindner, entend renouer avec la rigueur budgétaire qui était celle d'avant l'épidémie.

→ LA VERTE ANNALENA BAERBOCK VEUT INJECTER PLUS D'EUROPE DANS SA POLITIQUE ÉTRANGÈRE → LE NOUVEAU GOUVERNEMENT AFFICHE SES AMBITIONS EUROPÉENNES ET VEUT RELANCER LE DIALOGUE FRANCO-ALLEMAND → SUR L'ÎLE DE SYLT, LA RÉVOLTE DES ÉCOLOS CONTRE LE « TOUT-ÉOLIEN » PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Levée de boucliers contre le projet de réaménagement intérieur de Notre-Dame



Une centaine de personnalités, dont Stéphane Bern, Alain Finkielkraut ou Pierre Nora, signent une tribune dans laquelle ils expriment leur inquiétude face au projet d'aménagement de la cathédrale proposé par l'archevêché. PAGE 16

L'industrie française se lance dans la course à l'hydrogène

Produire de l'acier sans polluer, faire rouler des véhicules sans émettre de gaz à effet de serre... Pour verdifier l'économie, la France investit massivement pour bâtir une filière dans l'hydrogène « vert », un gaz produit sans émettre de CO₂ grâce à l'électrolyse de l'eau, qui fournira de l'énergie décarbonée à l'industrie et aux transports. Groupes industriels et start-up travaillent activement à la création d'un nouvel écosystème. PAGES 20 ET 21

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Europe allemande

À la veille d'endosser le costume de président de l'Union européenne pour six mois, Emmanuel Macron peut se réjouir : il aura à Berlin un partenaire décidé à « faire avancer l'Europe ». Alors que la prudence d'Angela Merkel confinait à l'inertie, la coalition « feu tricolore » d'Olaf Scholz, où cohabitent sociaux-démocrates, libéraux et Verts, affiche une ambition « européiste » qui fait écho à celle du président français, restée lettre morte depuis son discours de la Sorbonne en 2017. Aujourd'hui, Berlin semble prêt à dépasser l'Europe de marché pour « accroître la souveraineté stratégique » du Vieux Continent. Son objectif déclaré est de « conduire à l'évolution de l'UE vers un État fédéral européen », au prix d'une révision des traités. Gare aux malentendus ! On voit mal Emmanuel Macron agiter devant l'opinion française le chiffon rouge du fédéralisme européen en pleine campagne présidentielle. Pour Paris, l'Europe-puissance doit se traduire par une capacité d'intervention dans les crises, ce qui implique une dimension militaire. L'Allemagne, elle, propose de créer un ministre des Affaires étrangères européen et d'abandonner la

règle de l'unanimité pour la politique extérieure... Quand Annalena Baerbock, l'écologiste appelée à diriger la diplomatie, dit vouloir « européaniser » la politique étrangère de l'Allemagne, cela s'applique aussi à celle de ses vingt-six partenaires. Au jeu des rapports de force, une Allemagne plus européenne mène à une Europe plus allemande. Il faut donc rester lucide devant le miroir aux alouettes. La première qualité d'un dirigeant allemand, c'est d'être un bon gestionnaire. Olaf

Scholz prépare une « nouvelle révolution industrielle » qui vise à rattraper le retard numérique de l'Allemagne tout en décarbonant son appareil de production. Le nouveau chancelier, qui a alourdi la dette de 400 milliards d'euros pendant la pandémie, promet de revenir à l'équilibre des comptes dès 2023. Prenons-le au mot : compétitivité et rigueur sont les fondamentaux de la politique allemande. Tant qu'elle restera à la traîne économiquement, la France ne sera que la petite roue du tandem. ■



Steven Spielberg

On reimagining West Side Story

Interview → G2



How cats can teach us to be happier → G2



Wednesday
8 December 2021
£2.50
From £1.75 for subscribers

The Guardian

For 200 years

PM accused of lying after No 10 team filmed joking about party

Leaked footage suggests Downing Street did host event during lockdown despite repeated denials

Peter Walker
Aubrey Allegretti
Jamie Grierson

Boris Johnson is facing accusations of lying after senior No 10 officials were filmed joking about a lockdown Christmas party that Downing Street insists did not take place.

Johnson and his aides have repeatedly denied the event, reportedly held for staff at No 10 in December last year, broke Covid rules or took place at all.

In the leaked video of a mock televised press briefing, an adviser to Johnson is seen joking with Allegra Stratton, the prime minister's then press secretary, about "a Downing Street Christmas party on Friday night".

The footage, obtained by ITV, was shot on 22 December 2020. The previous Friday was 18 December, the date on which multiple sources have said there was a staff party inside Downing Street, which would have contravened strict Covid regulations in place at the time.

It shows Stratton, the prime ministerial adviser Ed Oldfield and other staff making jokes about a party, including references to "cheese and wine", lack of social distancing and making the excuse it was a business meeting.

Questioned in the leaked footage, Stratton laughingly says: "This is recorded ... This fictional party was a business meeting and it was not socially distanced."

Johnson has repeatedly said no Covid rules were broken, while his spokesman denied earlier yesterday that any event at Downing Street had taken place. Asked about the video, Downing Street insisted it had not changed its view, saying: "There was no Christmas party. Covid rules have been followed at all times."



▲ Boris Johnson and Dominic Raab visiting a youth detention centre yesterday
▼ Allegra Stratton, then the Downing Street press secretary, in a still from the video footage
PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW PARSONS/NO 10



Separately, the Department for Education confirmed a report that some staff and the then-education secretary, Gavin Williamson, held an office party on 10 December last year, while London was in the second-highest level of Covid restrictions.

The Mirror said Williamson gave a speech while up to two dozen staff gathered in a cafe area drinking wine. A DfE spokesperson said that on that date, "a gathering" took place of officials already present at the office "to thank those staff for their efforts during the pandemic".

They added: "Drinks and snacks were brought by those attending and no outside guests or supporting staff

were invited or present. While this was work-related, looking back we accept it would have been better not to have gathered in this way at that particular time."

Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, said Johnson had not been truthful: "To lie and to laugh about those lies is shameful. The prime minister now needs to come clean and apologise."

Becky Kummer, spokesperson for Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice said: "In September Boris Johnson looked bereaved families in the eyes and told them he had done everything he could to save their loved ones."

"There are simply no

Letter links Johnson to airlift of animals

Dan Sabbagh
Aubrey Allegretti
Peter Walker

A leaked letter suggests Boris Johnson and the Foreign Office may have covered up the prime minister's involvement in airlifting more than 150 dogs and cats from Afghanistan, a senior MP has said.

It emerged yesterday that the charity worker Pen Farthing received a letter from Johnson's parliamentary secretary saying Farthing, his staff and the animals could be rescued from Kabul amid the Taliban takeover in August, when thousands of Afghans with UK connections were also trying to flee.

The letter was signed by Trudy Harrison, MP for Copeland and parliamentary private secretary to the prime minister, and says: "I have received confirmation ... that you, your staff and their dependents are permitted to travel." All 68 people were to be provided with a place on an RAF plane, it continued, while the animals could be "evacuated on a separate, chartered flight".

Earlier, Johnson's spokesperson had denied any intervention by the prime minister after claims made by a Foreign Office diplomat-turned-whistleblower about the chaotic evacuation, including the animal airlift, which triggered claims that pets were prioritised

13 →



9 770261 307132 49