



SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 - 12, 2021 - VOL. CCLXXVIII NO. 138

What's News

World-Wide

The Supreme Court gave abortion providers a narrow legal path to chal-lenge Texas' ban on ending pregnancies after six weeks, pregnancies after six we but the splintered rulin left the law in effect for now and made any rapid re-sumption of such abortions in the state unlikely. A1

- ◆ Biden and top Democrats rushed to counter fresh Re-publican criticism that the party's education, healthcare and climate agenda is more expensive than it seems and will exacerbate inflation. A4
- The Omicron variant has so far caused mostly mild cases of Covid-19 in a small group of largely vaccinated people in the U.S., federal data show. A3, A10
- + China shifted its focus back to keeping growth sta-ble as a string of policies to curb debt and speculation have triggered a sharp eco-nomic slowdown, particularly in the property market. All
- ◆ The U.S. won an appeal in its bid to extradite As-sange, clearing a hurdle in Washington's battle to put the WikiLeaks founder on trial on spying charges. All
- ★ Iranian officials say the country's economy is resil-ient and would survive even if talks collapse to revive the 2015 nuclear deal and grant Iran sanctions relief. A12

Business & Finance

- ◆ U.S. inflation reached a nearly four-decade high in November as strong con-sumer demand collided with pandemic-related supply con-straints. The consumer-price index rose 6.8% from the same month a year earlier. A1
- ♦ GM plans to invest more than \$3 billion to make elec-tric vehicles in Michigan, a po-tential win for the state after recent commitments of auto projects to Southern states. A1
- ◆ U.S. stocks rose, with the S&P 500 gaining almost 1% to close at a record and the Dow and Nasdaq adding 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively. B1
- and 0.7%, respectively. B1
 ◆ Instacart said its president, Carolyn Everson, will leave the food-delivery company at the end of this year, about four months after she joined from Facebook. B3
- Chinese AI company
 SenseTime is trying to keep
 its IPO alive as the U.S. adds
 the firm to a blacklist that
 will ban American investors
 from buying its shares. B14
- A Spanish judge ruled that Banco Santander that Banco Santander must pay Andrea Orcel more than \$75 million for reneging on a promise to name him chief executive. **B14**
- ◆ Volvo said it was investigating a cybersecurity breach targeting systems that store research and de velopment files. B3

NOONAN

Kamala Harris Needs To Get Serious A17





U.S. Inflation's Persistent Rise Hits Fastest Pace in 39 Years

U.S. inflation reached a nearly four-decade high in No-vember, as strong consumer demand collided with pan-demic-related supply con-straints

aints. The Labor Department said

demic-related supply constraints.

The Labor Department said the consumer-price index—which measures what consumers pay for goods and services—rose 6.8% in November from the same month a year ago. That was the fastest pace since 1982 and the sixth straight month in which inflation topped 5%.

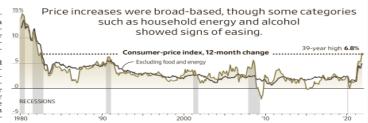
The so-called core price index, which excludes the oftenvolatile categories of food and energy, climbed 4.9% in November from a year earlier. That was a sharper increase than October's 4.6% rise, and the highest rate since 1991.

The increase in prices for new wehicles, which came in at 11.1% in November, was the largest on remover the constant of the same of the same in prices for men's far action of the same in prices for men's far action in the same prices last month marked the sharpest on record too.

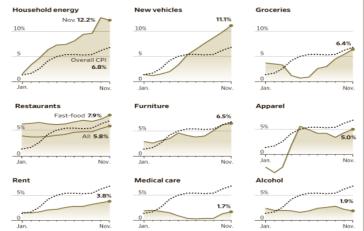
The steady rise in restaurant prices during the past few months is a sign of pass-through from wages into higher prices, economists say. That dynamic is increasingly showing up in other industries. Wages tracked by the Atlanta Fed climbed 4.3% in November, up from 4.1% in October and the highest since 2007.

Some energy prices showed signs of easing—in part be—Please turn topage Ad

2007.
Some energy prices showed signs of easing—in part bePlease turn to page A4



Consumer-price index for select categories, 12-month change



Texas Abortion Law Is Opened To Suits

Supreme Court gives clinics a narrow legal path, but restrictions remain in place for now

BY BRENT KENDALI
AND JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court on Friday gave abortion providers a narrow legal path to challenge Texas' ban on ending pregnancies after six weeks, but the splintered ruling left the law in effect for now and made any rapid resumption of such abortions in the state unlikely. While most justices found common ground on allowing the providers to challenge the law in a limited way, they split sharply on whether a broad set of Texas officials could be sued—an important procedural question that could affect the future of the state's abortion restrictions. A slim conservative majority said they couldn't be, prompting spirited exchanges about whether the court was retreating from its role as the protector of constitutional rights. Eight justices agreed the head of the state medical board and other licensing authorities could be sued before the law was enforced to test its constitutionality, despite Texas' efforts to insulate the law from federal court review by assigning enforcement power to private litigants who can win monetary awards for Please turn to page A8

Aboard a Stranded Ship That No One Would Help

Poor nations supplying flags seldom assist abandoned vessels

By Joe Parkinson And Drew Hinshaw

LIMASSOL, Cyprus—The cargo ship laden with 3,000 tons of flammable sulfur was stranded off the coast of Somalia and taking

stranded off the coast of Somalia and taking on water.
With "SOS" in the subject line, an Oct. 26 email from the crew of the MV Haj Abdullah said the hull of the 260-foot vessel was cracked and seawater was sloshing over the deck and into the diesel fuel. The sailors were almost out of food, and months had passed since the ship's owner had last paid them. The waters around them were notorious for piracy.

For more than two months, the Haj Abdul-

EXCHANGE

OUT OF OFFICE The future of in-person work is more uncertain than ever.

lah's requests for assistance had ricocheted around the international shipping system without any help responding. The ship's London-based insurer canceled its coverage, saying the vessel was unseaworthy. The ship's Lebanese, Egyptian and Syrian crew had been abandoned by a Lebanese owner. They were sailing under the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone, whose tricolor flag fluttered above the deck. The Sierra Leone Maritime Administration regulates hundreds of ships transporting billions of dollars of cargo, relying on a management company operating on the outskirts of Limassol, Cyprus. The crew petitioned the Cyprus office for help. Under the laws of the West African nation, its maritime authorities Please turn to page A13 lah's requests for assistance had ricocheted

Migrant Tragedy Spurs Grief



makeshift memorial marks the site of a Thursday tru-southern Mexico that killed at least 55 migrants. A10

Omicron—the Metal Band— Makes the Best of Its Name

Belgian group gets unexpected chance at fame as Covid-19 variant spreads

When Philippe Delhaute and Ignace Casier were working out the guitar parts for some new songs last week, they didn't expect their band's name to raise quite so many eyebrows.

"I went to the store wearing our band T-shirt and people were looking at me really weirdly," Mr. Delhaute recalls. "But we have been here for six years now and have nothing to do with Covid whatsoever."

Meet Omicron. Not the cor-onavirus variant but the Bel-gian death metal band, who say that the only thing con-tagious about them is their mu-sic.

them is their music.
The four-piece band has already begun making a name in their home country, thrashing their guitars and singing about alien invasions and the mysteries of human evolution, their favorite themes. Soon they will begin recording their new album, "Entropic Entity," and, if the Please turn to page 48

GM Picks Michigan For Two EV Projects

By MIKE COLIAS

General Motors Co. plans to invest more than \$3 billion to make electric vehicles in Michigan, people familiar with the matter said, a potential win for the car maker's home state after recent commitments of auto projects to Southern states.

[GM] is finalizing plans for

states. GM is finalizing plans for two electric-vehicle projects in Michigan. One would convert its Orion Assembly plant in suburban Detroit to serve as its hub for production of electric pickup trucks, the people with knowledge of the plans said. The renovation would cost at least \$2 billion and would be ex-

pected to create more than 1,500 jobs at the factory, which today is lightly used, the people said.

Also, the Detroit-based auto maker intends to build a battery-cell factory near one of its assembly plants in Lansing, Mich., the people said. That project, involving a 50-50 joint venture between GM and its battery partner, LG energy Solutions, would split more than \$2 billion between GM and LG and create around 1,200 jobs, the people said.

GM officials are in talks with local governments to secure tax abatements and other approvals for the projects, and the plans could fall through or Please turn to page A2

USA \$3.00 Canada C\$3.50

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER / SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021

HOW TO Philanthropy special Jessie Buckley, Courtney Love, Yalda Hakim & many more SEPARATE MAGAZINE

Inflation rise piles pressure on Biden

Pace of surge hits 40-year high
 Midterm prospects threatened
 Spending bill under fire

US consumer prices rose at the fastest pace in nearly 40 years in November, pilling more political pressure on Joe Biden's administration as it seeks supportfor a massive spending plan.

The consumer price index, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics yesterday, rose 6.8 per cent last month from a year ago — the fastest annual pace since 1982 and a significant pick-up from the 6.2 per cent rate in October.

Inflation has become a thorny political issue for the White House, weighing on the president's approval ratings as

on the president's approval ratings as well as the electoral prospects for his

Democratic party during next year's

Democratic party during next years midterm elections.

In a sign of his concern, Riden sought to play down the relevance of the latest data both ahead of the announcement and afterwards, stressing that prices have fallen in recent weeks for many of the sectors driving the increase.

"Developments in the weeks after these data were collected last month show that price and cost increases are slowing, although not as quickly as we'd like," he said yesterday.

At risk for the White House is legislation to invest \$1.75m in America's social safety net, which Biden is seeking to

safety net, which Biden is seeking to pass through Congress this month. Last

month Biden signed into law another \$1.2th bipartisan infrastructure bill.
Republicans and some moderate Democrats have argued that additional spending will add fuel to rising prices.
Following yesterday's numbers, the Federal Reserve is likely to press ahead with plans to scale back more quickly its asset-purchase programme at its meeting next week. Jay Powell, chair of the central bank, earlier this month signalled his support for a quicker exit, acknowledging that the risks of inflation becoming entrenched had risen.
Economists now predict that that pace will be doubled so that the stimulus programme ends in March, which



Joe Biden, the US president, tried to play down the latest data, pointing out that prices had fallen in recent weeks

would give the Fed more flexibility to

would give the Fed more flexibility to raise interest rates sooner next year.

Prices between October and November jumped 0.8 per cent, slightly down from the previous month-on-month rise of 0.9 per cent. "Broad Increases in most component indices" fuelled the rise, the BLS sald, with petrol and food "among the larger contributors".

Core CPI climbed 0.5 per cent from October, pushing up the annual pace to 4.9 per cent. "Inflation will be more persistent," said Anna Stupnytska, global macro economist at Fidelity International. "It is very likely to stay well above (the is very likely to stay well above [the Fed's 2 per cent] target through 2022."

Disney's new boss on Netflix, talent and the past LIFE & ARTS



Sustainable Christmas How green is your tree? HOUSE & HOME



Putin's mind games Will Russia invade Ukraine? BIG READ



Festive wines Jancis Robinson's best reds LIFE & ARTS



Final corner Rivals set for F1 title decider

Formula 1 world champion Lewis Ham-ilton leads his Mercedes from Red Bull's Max Verstappen during practice yester-day for tomorrow's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The showdown will decide which

PIX. The showdown will decide which of the pair will take this year's title in the climactic race of a nailbiting season. The intense battle between British driver Hamilton, seven times the cham-pion, and the young Dutchman has enthralled fans and fuelled hopes at Lib-erty Media that its \$80n takeover of F1 in 2017 is starting to pay off

in 2017 is starting to pay off.
A tie-up with Netflix for the behindthe-scenes Drive to Swrive documentary
has helped the sport to woo new fans.
Gripping showdown page 14



Ski resorts take tentative first steps amid Covid fears

Europe's winter skiling season has got off to a faltering start as memories of spring 2020 loom large. Some Alpine resorts became notorious as virus superspreader spots after staying open even though the pandemic was ravaging neighbouring Italy. This year authorities are acting with caution. Austria has been in lockdow since late November. In France and Italy, where Jab rates are higher, nervousness about curbs is palpable. Europe's reopened resorts > PAGE 3

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Santander ordered to pay Orcel €68m in compensation over U-turn on job offer

OWEN WALKER — LONDON DANIEL DOMBEY — MADRID SILVIA SCIORILLI BORRELLI — MILAN

Spanish bank Santander must pay Andrea Orcel €68m in compensation after losing a legal battle over its ran-corous 2018 U-turn on hiring the Ital-ian banker as chief executive.

The Madrid court ruling capped a long-running dispute between Orcel, one of Europe's best-known investment bank-ers and now head of UniCredit, and Spanish lender Santander, his former client when he worked at UBS and Mer-

rill Lynch.

Brought by Orcel, the case centred on
Santander's decision to withdraw an
offer it made to him in 2018 when he was
running UBS's investment bank.

The ruling was a significant blow for
Ana Botin, executive chair of the Span-

ish lender, whose tenure since succeeding her father Emillo Botin has been marked by the decision first to hire Orcel, a family confidant, and then to drop him, with the resulting legal fight. The court ruled that both sides had signed a "valid" contract, which had been broken in a "unilateral and unjustified" manner by the bank and that therefore it had to pay compensation. Santander said it would appeal.

The payment the court ordered from Santander included Elom "for moral and reputational damages" to Orcel, as well as contractual Items including CS.8m for two years of salary, a CT?m sign-on bonus and C35m compensation for loss of long-term incentives at USS.

"I think it's unfortunate that we are where we are, but if people look only at the facts and what has emerged in court the conclusions are clear," Orcel said in

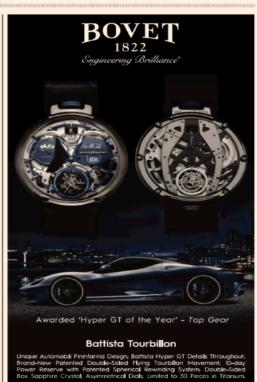
an interview with the Financial Times before he knew that the court's decision was coming yesterday. Santander sald: "We disagree strongly with the ruling. The board of Santander is confident we will be successful on appeal as we were in the two criminal complaints already considered by the courts in relation to this matter." The bank claimed Orcel's offer letter did not amount to a contract under

The bank claimed Orcel's offer letter did not amount to a contract under Spanish law. The court quoted what it described as "particularly eloquent" tweets by Botin, in which she enthused about Orcel's appointment "effective from the beginning of 2019", as well as a promotional video and interviews in which she gave the same message.

Orcel became chief executive of UniCredit, Italy's second-biggest lender, in April. He said that he hoped the decision would be the end of the matter.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURREN	CIES					INTEREST RATES			
	Dec 10	prev	%chg		Dec 10	prev		Dec 10	prev		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4691.34	4667.45	0.51	\$ per €	1.131	1.129	£per\$	0.756	0.757	US Gov 10 yr	147.71	1.46	-0.02
Nasdaq Composite	15585.95	15517.37	0.31	\$ per £	1.323	1.321	€per£	1.170	1.170	UK Gov 10 yr		0.66	-0.02
Dow Jones Ind	35821.51	35754.69	0.19	£ par €	0.855	0.855	¥ per €	128.222	128.029	Ger Gov 10 yr		-0.35	0.01
FTSEurofirst 300	1845.29	1849.96	-0.25	¥ per \$	113.425	113.445	£ index	81.001	80.813	Jpn Gev 10 yr	112.81	0.05	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4200.60	4208.30	-0.18	¥ per £	150.049	149.832	SFr per €	1.219	1.222	US Gov 30 yr	121.80	1.86	0.00
FTSE 100	7291.78	7321.26	-0.40	SFr per €	1.042	1.044				Ger Gov 2 yr	104.71	-0.70	0.01
FTSE All-Share	4146.90	4167.39	-0.49	€ per\$	0.885	0.886							
CAC 40	6991.68	7008.23	-0.24										
Xetra Dax	15623.31	15639.26	-0.10	COMMODITIES						price	prev	chg	
Nikiei	28437.77	28725.47	-1.00							Fed Funds Eff	0.08	0.08	0.00
Hang Seng	23995.72	24254.86	-1.07			D	ec 10	prev	%chg	US 3m Bills	0.06	0.07	-0.01
MSEI World \$	3172.49	3196.39	-0.75	Oil WTI S			71.21	70.94	0.38	Euro Libor 3m	-0.61	-0.60	-0.01
MSCI EM \$	1247.71	1241.01	0.54	Oil Brent \$			74.63	74.42	0.28	UK 3m	0.09	0.09	0.00
MSCI ACWI \$	743.61	748.11	-0.60	Gold \$		17	76.15	1783.80	-0.43	Prices are letest for edition	Deta pro	wided by Mo	mingstar



"All the News

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VOL. CLXXI ... No. 59,270

Civilian Deaths Mounted As Secret Unit Struck ISIS

U.S. Force Alarmed Officers by Sidestepping Rules Protecting Noncombatants

This article is by Dave Philipps, Eric Schmitt and Mark Mazzetti.

Eric Schmitt and Mark Mazzetti.
A single top secret American strike cell launched tens of thousands of bombs and missiles against the Islamic State in Syria, but in the process of hammering a vicious enemy, the shadowy force sidestepped safeguards and repeatedly killed civilians, according to multiple current and former military and intelligence officials.

The unit was called Talon Anvil, around the clock between 2014 around the clock between 2014 around the states' formidable air power to hit; convoys, car bombs, car bom

power to hit: convoys, car bombs, command centers and squads of enemy fighters.

command centers and squads of enemy fighters.

But people who worked with the strike cell say in the rush to destroy enemies, it circumvented rules imposed to protect noncombatants, and alarmed its partners in the military and the C.I.A. by killing people who had no role in the conflict: farmers trying to harvest, children in the street, families fleeing fighting, and villagers lites from the conflict: farmers trying to harvest, children in the street, families freeing fighting, and villagers and the street families freeing fighting, and villagers considered and fight for the street families from anonymous rooms cluttered with flat screens — but it played an outsize role in the 112,000 bombs and missiles launched against the Islamic State, in part because it embraced a loose interpretation of the military's rules of engagement of the military's rules of engagement of the military's rules of engagement of the comment of the first of the comment of the commen

A clinic in Zambia, a country lacking practice in adult shots.

Many Obstacles Even as Doses Flow to Africa

By STEPHANIE NOLEN

from 2016 to 2018. "But they also made a lot of bad strikes."

The military billed the air war against the Islamic State as themost precise and humane in milismost precise and coversight by top leaders kept civilian deaths to a minimum despite a ferocious pace of bombing. In reality, four current and former military officials say, the majority of strikes were ordered not by top leaders but by relatively low-ranking U.S. Army Delta Force commandos in Talon Anvil.

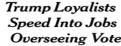
The New York Times reported last month that a Special Operations bombing run in 2019 killed dozens of women and children, and that the aftermath was concealed from the public and top military leaders. In November, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin on into the strike, which was carried out by Talon Anvil.

But people who saw the task force operate firsthand say the 2019 strike was part of a pattern of reckless strikes that started years earlier.

When presented with The Times's findings, several current

earlier. The search of the sea

Continued on Page 14



By CHARLES HOMANS

TORNADO OUTBREAK PUMMELS SIX STATES



Antoine Hawkins said the bathtub saved his life Friday night when a tornado tore apart his apartment building in Mayfield, Ky

Grief, and Gratitude, in a Small Kentucky Town

By RICK ROJAS and JAMIE MCGEE

and JAMIE MUGGE.

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Churches
were reduced to rubble. The
courrhouse was wiped out. A
building where the utility company parked its trucks had seemingly vaporized, taking the vehicles with it.

ingly vaporized, taking the vehi-cles with it.

And the candle factory was nothing more than a spread of as-sorted debris. The only indication of what it once was: The scents of vanilla and lavender, along with aromas that conjured up spring-time and fresh laundry — all from

the chemicals used in the candles—were picked up by powerful winds.

"Iden't know how Mayfield will rebound." Joe Crenshaw, 37, said as he stood along the perimeter of the factory on Saturday afternoon, hoping to help, somehow, with efforts to find survivors in the rubble.

Mayfield, a city of roughly 10,000 people perched in the west-

ern corner of the state, is a com-munity in shock. One person after the next told harrowing accounts of hiding as the tornado ripped through the town, sounding like a freight train. Gov. Andy Beshear of Kennucky called it he worst tor-tory. Of the 110 people working in the candle factory when the tor-nado hit, he said, just 40 have been rescued.

rescued.

But amid anguish and worry, there was also gratitude among those who survived.

"By the grace of God, I woke up late," said Jamal Morgan, 25, who

Continued on Page 20

Toll May Pass 100 From Midwest to the South

This article is by Rick Rojas, Jamie McGee, Laura Faith Kebede and Campbell Robertson.

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Rescue workers across the middle of the country combed through wreckage for survivors on Saturday after a horde of tornadoes ripped a catastrophic swath from Arkansas through Kentucky, Scores of people were killed in the storms.

The tornadoes tore through at least six states on Friday night, including Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, said Bill Bunting, the operations chief at the Storm Prediction Center, part of the National Weather Service. They crumbied metal like paper, swatted down freight train off its track.

The tornado outbreak killed people who were working the Friday night, sind outbreak killed people who were working the Friday night shifts at a candle factory in Kentucky, where scores are believed to have died, and at an Amazon warehouse in Illinois, where at least six people were killed and where recovery operations were continuing. Officials said on Saturday hat they did not know how were unaccounted for but that they expected recovery efforts to continue for three more days. Hundreds of thousands of people were without power on Saturday, according to reports compiled by PowerOutage.us. Many of them were customers in states at the heart of the outbreak, but close to a half million customers in other states, including Michigan seather system.

In a speech on Saturday afternoon in Delaware, where he was spending the weekend, President Biden said his administration would do "everything it can possibly do to help' the states that had sustained serious damage in the tornado outbreak.

"This is likely to be one of the lad approved the emergency dec-

Continued on Page 20

By CHARLES HOMANS

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. —
When thousands of Trump supporters gathered in Washington
on Jan. 6 for the Stop the Steal
rally that led to the storming of the
U.S. Capitol, one of them was a
pastor and substitute teacher
from Elizabethtown, Pa., named
Stephen Lindemuth.

Mr. Lindemuth had traveled
with a religious group from Elizabethtown to join in protesting the
certification of Joseph R. Biden's
victory. In a Facebook post three
days later, he said that "Media
coverage has focused solely on the
negative aspect of the day's
events," and said he had been in
Washington simply "standing for
the said that be beard.

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events, and said he fad been in
Washington simply "standing for
the local pennsylvania office that administers polling on Election Day,
in the local jurisdiction of Mount
Joy Township.

Mr. Lindemuth's victory in No-

local Pennsylvania office that administers polling on Election Day, in the local jurisdiction of Mount Joy Township.

Mr. Lindemuth's victory in November in this conservative rural community is a milestone of sorts in American politics: the arrival of the first class of political activists who, galvanized by Donald J. Trump's false claim of a stolen election in 2020, have begun seeking offices supervising the election systems that they believe robbed Mr. Trump of a second term. According to a May Reuters/Ipsos poll, more than 60 percent of Republicans now believe the 2020 election was stolen. This belief has informed a wave of mobilization at both grass-roots Continued on Page 18

Continued on Page 18

Close-Knit Community Shattered by Storm



A group of migrants was apprehended by officers with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Inside Texas' Unusual Effort to Arrest Migrants had a flashlight and a screen with coordinates for where Mr. Jime-

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

By J. DAVID GOODMAN
BRACKETTVILLE, Texas —
Magdaleno Ruiz Jimenez huddled
under a waxing moon in the rough
brush of a Texas ranch. His journey to the small border community of Brackettville had been long,
about 1,300 miles from his home in
Mexico. But now a drone was
buzzing overhead.
A lone officer, Sgt. Ryan Glenn,
emerged from the darkness. He

coordinates for where Mr. Jimenez and six other men could be found on the cold caliche, blobs of heat visible to an infrared camera on the overhead drone. More officers soon arrived.

"I spent everything to get here," Mr. Jimenez said after the officers wrested him and the other men from the brush.

The men assumed they had been detained by immirration of.

The men assumed they had been detained by immigration of-

ficers for illegally crossing into the United States. They were wrong Instead they were ar-rested on charges of trespassing on a vast private ranch by officers from the Texas state police. For several months now, Texas has been engaged in an effort to repurpose the tools of state law enforcement to stem the increase of people crossing illegally. To do this, Texas officials led by Continued on Page 22

Continued on Page 22

BOOK REVIEW

The Year's Top 10 Books

Continued on Page 6

By STEPHANIE NOLEN

NGWERERE, Zambia — Four people turned up at a health clinic tucked in a sprawl of commercial maize farms on a recent morning, looking for Covid-19 vaccines. The staff had vials of the Johnson & Johnson was provided to the staff had vials of the Johnson & Johnson to the staff had vials of the Johnson to the staff had vials of the Johnson to the staff had vials of the staff members apologetically declined to vaccinate the four and suggested they try another day. In the staff was under orders not to wascine those five does, and the staff was under orders not to waste a single one.

Ida Musonda, the nurse who supervises the vaccination effort, suspected that her team might have found more takers if they packed the vials in Styrofoam coolers and headed out to markets and churches. "But we have no fuel for the chicle to take the vaccinate with the staff to the staff of the st

Editors at the Book Review choose best fiction and nonfiction of 2021, from a "prose poem" by a debut novelist to a biography of Sylvia Plath. PAGE 14

METROPOLITAN

Old Murder, New Mystery
The 1993 killing of a woman near Buffalo is drawing scrutiny amid fears the state was wrong when two men were convicted of the crime.

PAG

Alabama Star Wins Heisman

Bryce Young, the Crimson Tide's sophomore quarterback, led his team to the College Football Playoff despite playing behind a leaky offensive line. PAGE 31

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Elon Musk's Troll Philanthropy

No burnishing here: The Tesla founder seems to take immense pleasure in using his identity as a philanthropist to antagonize the public. PAGE 1

SUNDAY REVIEW

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TWISTERS RAVAGE 5 STATES. **KILLING** DOZENS

Storms decimate parts of Kentucky, where governor says death toll may surpass 100.

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske and Jenny Jarvie

MAYFIELD, Ky. — As a tornado passed over this Kentucky town of about 10,000 late Friday, the Rev. Wes Fowler huddled with his wife and three children — ages 12,8 and 6 — In the baseman of the control o



Anita, tanbur





Fatima, cello



Zohra, trumpet



Farida, violin



Sunbol, violin

A bittersweet escape

reporting from doha, qatar, by Nabih Bulos and Marcus Yam | photography by Marcus Yam

It was already dark when the crimson-silver Qatar Airways jetliner glided to a stop at its parking slot in Doha's airport. A small group assembled at the bottom of the gangway to meet the disembarking passengers. Among those waiting was 59-year-old Ahmad Sarmast. ¶ He wanted to seem businessilke, to maintain calm. After all, the experience of the last few months had taught the director of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music that nothing's done until it's done. But then 13-year-old Farida, her violin case in hand, appeared at the top of the gangway; another budding musician, Zohra, also 13, followed. They saw Sarmast, ran down the steps and hugged him. ¶ "That's when I gave up and started to cry," he said. "We all were." ¶ With Farida and Zohra in Doha, the months-long, herculean struggle to evacuate members of the music school after the Taliban's triumph in Afghanistan was over. The flight's arrival meant that all those willing and able to leave the capital, Kabul — almost 300 students, faculty, staff and their families — were out, and that the journey to the institute's new home in exile was almost complete. ¶ But the moment was bittersweet for Sarmast. [See Escape, A4]

Critics Choice gets its shot at A-list

With the Globes on hold, Joey Berlin aims to move his also-ran into the big leagues.

By Stacy Perman Josh Rottenber and Glenn Whipe

Since he founded the Critics Choice Awards in 1995, Joey Berlin has dreamed of the day when his show might emerge from the shadow of the Golden Globes, taking over as the awards season's leadoff event and stealing the mante of "Hollywood's party of the year."

That chance appeared to come in May, when NBC pulled the plug on the 2022 Globes after months of controversy sparked by a Times investigation in February that detailed allegations of financial and ethical lapses among the 87 members of its among the 87 members of the that the association had no Black members.

The absence of the glitzy, star-studded Globes telecast left a void worth tens of millions of dollars in the industry's awards ecosystem. Berlin — and about 500 broadcast, radio, print and online entertainment reporters and critics from the U.S. and Canada who make up the Critics Choice Assn. — stood ready to fill that vacuum.

up the Critics Choice Assn.—stood ready to fill that vacuum.

"Tve been getting all these calls from the industry, saying, "We're counting on you to step up now," Berlin, the group's chief executive, told The Times in late July, as he drank a cup oftea at the Pendry hotel in West Hollywood. "Just feel such a strong wind at our back."

Even as he tries to capitalize on his rivals' stumbles, however, Berlin and his organization face their own head winds, both intermal ready crue and the control of the strong wind at the strong wind at the strong wind and the strong wind winds. The strong wind winds will be strong wind winds with the strong wind winds will be strong wind with the strong wind winds will be strong with the strong winds will be strong with the strong winds will be strong with the strong will be strong will be

COLUMN ONE

The globe-spanning quest in search of a lost timepiece

A gold pocket watch made for J.P. Morgan vanished in the 1970s. Finding it became an obsession.

By Daniel Miller

The double-sided pocket watch had a map of the heav-ens on one of its two dials, an intricate display whose com-plexity nodded to the me-chanical masterpiece ticking within the solid-

gold case.

It told time, of course, but it could also chart the sunris and sunset, the phases of the moon, the ses of the moon, the path of constellations, the signs of the Zodiac, and track equinoxes, solstices and the declination of the sun. The watch's creation II2 years ago must have seemed like a bit of alchemy — and operating it a brush with magic. Impressive as its features were, the 1:75-pound watch may be just as notable for whom it was believed to be made: John Pierpont Morgan.



Around 1905, the Gilded Age tycoon commissioned the English firm J. Player & Son to create the timepiece, people familiar with the watch have asserted over the dec-ades. It cost 1,000 pounds—or about

asserted over the decades. It cost 1,000 pounds — or about \$5,000 at the time — and took four years to make.

Just a few years after the watch's completion, Morgan died in 1913 at the age of 75. The banking magnate's death is said to have touched off a long, peripatetic journey for the timeplece, which yentually found its way into the hands of an enigmatic antiquities dealer in New York.

Then, in the mid-1970, the pocket watch disappeared, apawning an enduring mystery. I set out to solve it in spring 2020. [See Watch, A10]

Newsom calls for anti-gun law

Outraged at Supreme Court ruling on Texas abortion ban, gover-nor urges restrictions enforced by private suits. CALIFORNIA, B1

Small-town boy with big dreams

On his way to becom-ing USC's new football coach, Lincoln Riley built his reputation in tiny Muleshoe, Texas. sports, Di

Local product wins Heisman

Alabama quarterback Bryce Young's football skills were honed at Cathedral and Mater Dei. sports, D6

Weather Partly sunny, cool. L.A. Basin: 64/47. **B12**

BUSINESS INSIDE

BUSINESS INSIDE
Uber has blocked
transgender people
from jobs by treating
their documents as
fakes, some say. A15

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.

'Fully vaccinated' could soon mean getting a booster

Waning immunity and Omicron variant lead to scrutiny of what meets that standard.

By Melissa Healy

BY MELISSA HEALY

For many Americans who scrambled to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as their turn came up, the relief of gaining immunity was just one reward. Achieving "fully vaccinated" status conferred a faint halo on the satisfaction of contributing to the herd's immunity are proving short-lived. And with a worrisome new coronavirus variant threatening to erode vaccine-induced immunity further, health officials are debating whether the definition of "fully vaccinated" should be acalled to include a boostershot.

Scientists are leaning

heavily in favor, and public health leaders are not far be-hind.

heavily in favor, and public heavilh leaders are not far behind.

So far, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hasn't officially shifted the goalposts. Americans subject to job-related vaccination to the property of the property



Bruce's Beach A Black family's property win ignites a national movement business



Navy upsets Army The Midshipmen cap a down year with a win against their rivals sports



The Washington Post

Cooler 51/33 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 56/37 C12

Democracy Dies in Darknes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 - \$3.50

Dozens of tornadoes

250-mile path

Debris at 30,000 feet

Scores killed as twisters rake six states

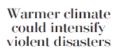
Families search amid the rubble of candle factory

BY AUSTYN GAFFNEY, ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER, TODD C. FRANKEL AND ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ

MAYFIELD, KY. — Ivy Williams's wife, Janine, had called him Friday night to tell him that a bad storm was coming when the call abruptly cut out. He hasn't heard from her since.

from her since.
The 50-year-old quality assurance worker was several hours into her night shift at Mayfield Consumer Products with more than 100 other employees when a tornado swept through and flattened the metal building on top of

them. About 40 people were rescued; just as many remain unaccounted for and are feared dead. Williams spent Friday night and Saturday trying to learn to which group his wife of seven years belonged. "I won't go home without her." Williams said Saturday, crying as he spoke while sitting on a bench outside His House Ministries counseling center, where families SEE CANDLE FACTORY ON A15



BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, BRADY DENNIS AND JASON SAMENOW

In the wake of deadly storms In the wake of deadly storms that ravaged parts of the South and the Midwest this weekend, scientists had a warning: While the exact link between climate change and tornadoes remains uncertain, higher temperatures could add fuel to these violent disasters.

disasters.

As rescuers searched Saturday amid the rubble of violent tornadoes that barreled through multiple states, killed scores of people, and leveled homes and business-

and leveled homes and businesses, climate scientists said people
around the world needed to brace
for more frequent and intense
weather-driven catastrophes.
"A lot of people are waking up
today and seeing this damage and
saying," Is this the new normal?"
said Victor Gensini, a meteorology professor at Northern Illinois
University, adding that key questions still remain when it comes to
SEE CLIMATE ON A14





RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

State of emergency declared in Kentucky

BY AUSTYN GAFFNEY, ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER AND SCOTT WILSON

MAYFIELD, KY. — A desperate search and rescue operation un-folded Saturday across six states mauled the previous evening by rare late-season tornadoes that may have left more than 70 people

may have left more than 70 people dead.

More than 30 separate tornadoes moved with devastating power and speed through an area stretching from Mississippi in the south to Illinois in the north. As they swept through the region over several hours, the twisters killed dozens, including workers in a candle factory in a flattened Kentucky town, lakeside vacationers in Tennessee and a nursing home resident in Arkansas.

While the stream of tornadoes battered dozens of communities, none suffered more than this town of about 10,000 people in southwestern Kentucky, not far from a SEE STORMS ON A17

In care home, a furious effort to protect lives

BY ANTONIO OLIVO, EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX AND SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

MONETTE, ARK. — Barbara Richards made a horrifying discovery as she looked out the glass door of the Monette Manor nursing home Friday night.

A tornado was heading straight for her.

Tognild see the statistics.

"I could see the rotation out-side before it got to us," Richards, 57, said in an interview. She ran back toward the resi-dents, warning them to cover their heads with pillows and hold on tight. She and the other nurses on tight. She and the other nurses had already gathered the home's elderly residents together, put-ting as many as they could in a hallway near the nurse's station. They barricaded the glass doors with mattresses. with mattresses.

There wasn't anything left to

do.
"Then it hit and blew the glass out of the windows in the facility," Richards said. "You could see the SEE NURSING HOME ON A19

At a dollar store, a thriftier worker's revolt unfolds

BY GREG JAFFE

WINSTED, CONN. — The after-noon shift workers at Dollar Gen-eral No. 18660 had listened with growing panic as an executive accused their store manager of stealing. They could hear the yell-ing and threats in the back office, a scene that had shaken all of them — especially Shellie Par-sons.

sons.

In a life marked by poverty, addiction and physical abuse, Parsons, 37, had come to see her store — a beige prefabricated building on the outskirts of town — as her haven, a \$15.75-an-hour pathway to a better life. She was desperately afraid of losing it.

And so, after a brief discussion with a few trusted co-writers, she

vith a few trusted co-workers, she readed to a nearby Stop & Shop



grocery store where years earlier she recalled seeing a picket line, walked back to the deli counter and asked one of the butchers, whom she had never met, whether he had a phone number for someone at their union. She dialed from the parking lot.

"Why does it got to be me?" she recalled thinking as the phone rang. She feared that talking to a union organizer could get her fired, even as she worried that doing nothing would leave her and her colleagues vulnerable to the whims of upper management. All over the country, workers who had labored through a global pandemic for low pay and meager benefits were concluding that they deserved better from their bosses. Wages were rising, and a see DOLLAR GENERAL ON A6

For Putin, Ukraine embodies ultimate battle with the West

MOSCOW — Since President Biden's call with Russian Presi-dent Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine crisis, Russian officials have dug in deeper: blaming NATO for the confrontation, dis-missing Ukraine as a puppet state of the West and ruling out a pull-back of Russian forces massed near Ukraine's border. Putin even commared Ukraine's

Putin even compared Ukraine's fight against Moscow-backed sep-aratists in eastern Ukraine to genocide.

genocide.

It all suggests that — even if
Putin heeds Biden's warnings —
the current tensions in the region
will look a lot like future tensions,
SEE RUSSIA ON A25



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deportes

¡CUBA campeón!

Se coronó en la URBA en un final con suspenso

Venció 10-9 al SIC, que defendía el título y tuvo una chance para ganar en el último minuto. Página 8



El festejo de CUBA por una victoria inolvidable

HEDNÁN ZENTI

DE FIESTA CON LA ESTRELLA ROSARINA NICKI NICOLE

-revista

Sus canciones alcanzan cifras de audiencia descomunales y en el programa de Jimmy Fallon sorprendió al mundo; transformó la industria discográfica.

LA NACION

DOMINGO 12 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION COM AR

Con un peritaje prueban el traspaso de fondos de Báez hacia los Kirchner

HOTESUR. Hay 21 transferencias sospechosas; el fiscal las usará para apelar el sobreseimiento

Hernán Cappiello y Candela Ini

El corazón de la apelación para permitir la reapertura de la causa contra Cristina Kirchner y sus hijos, Máximoy Florencia, por lavado de dinero en Hotesur y Los Sauces es un peritaje contable ignorado por los jueces que sobreseyeron a la vicepresidenta y su familia.

El estudio muestra cómo el mismo día, en 21 ocasiones, el dinero que recibió Lázaro Báez de la obra pública con sobreprecios terminaba en las cuentas de los Kirchner, luego de pasar por Valle Mitre, la gerenciadora de los hoteles.

Los jueces Daniel Obligado y Adrián Grünberg saltearon este peritaje, que será la llave del recurso que presentará el fiscal Diego Velasco entre mañana y el martes para conseguir que se haga el juicio oral y público. En el trabajo, se visualiza el "reciclaje" que se hizo con el dinero que recibió Lázaro Báez, pasó por Valle Mitre y terminó en las cuentas de los Kirchner. Continúa en la página 10

EL ANÁLISIS

Un país de patotas y falsedades

Joaquín Morales Solá

Is un gobierno raro. Está a punto de exigir un pase sainitario en la provincia de Buenos Aires para contener los contagios de la variante ómicron, pero al mismo tiempo convoca a una masiva marcha autorreferencial y sectaria por el aniversario de una celebración de todos los argentinos. Continúa en la página 35

EL ESCENARIO

Cristina, Kristalina y un FDT en tensión

Jorge Liotti

a cena había sido convocada para que los diputados salientes del Frente
de Todos recibieran a los nuevos legisladores en un marco
de camaradería. Era lunes a
la noche y en el Club Caledonia de Barracas había buen
clima. Para matizar alguien le
preguntó a Máximo Kirchner
qué posición adoptarían cuando llegue al Congreso el acuerdo con el FMI. "Bueno, Alberto ya tiene asegurados los 116
votos de Juntos por el Cambio;
nosotros después vemos", respondió con el tono irónico que
utiliza ante temas espinosos.
Continúa en la página 16

La Natividad rompió con la historia del polo

-deportes

Los Castagnola lograron la hazaña: vencer al tío Cambiaso en Palermo; fue 15-13 a La Dolfina en una final electrizante.



La selfie de Camila Cambiaso con sus hijos Barto (con la copa) y Camilo (der.) Castagnola y con Nachi Du Plessis y Polito Pieres RODRIGO NÉSPOLO

Miramar: imputaron al policía por homicidio

TENSIÓN. Reforzaron la seguridad con 600 efectivos

El policía bonaerense Maximiliano González fue imputado ayer por homicidio agravado a causa del asesinato en Miramar del adolescente Luciano Olivera. El uniformado se negó a declarar y fue enviado al penal de Batán. En tanto, 600 efectivos llegaron a Miramar para reforzar la seguridad tras los disturbios. Página 27

Solo el 20% tiene formación universitaria

EDUCACIÓN. Así surge de un ranking de la OCDE

El 20% de los argentinos de entre 25 y 64 años tiene formación universitaria y apenas el 36% concluyó sus estudios secundarios. Esos porcentajes encienden las alarmas vinculadas con el acceso al mercado laboral y surgen de un ranking de la OCDE, analizado por la Universidad de Belgrano (UB). Página 25

Las disputas hunden a la oposición venezolana

PULSEADAS. Hay peleas por el liderazgo y por cómo enfrentar a Maduro. Página 4

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HÁ 100 ANOS



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SÉRIE DE TORNADOS DEIXA PELO MENOS 70 MORTOS NOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

Destruição em Mayfield, no Kentucky, após fenômeno varrer regiões do estado; tempestades violentas atingiram também Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas e Mississippi миндо A18

Muito além da Semana

Centenário deve ser ocasião para rever protagonismo do evento paulista c4

Catálogo de mostra do MAM-SP aborda modernismo além da Semana de 22 ca

Romance 'Psicopata Americano'. de 1991. previu desolação política atual co

Mpme p.1 Mercado de plantas e flores renasce com retorno dos eventos presenciais

Esporte B6

Verstappen larga na pole e Hamilton em 2º na luta pelo título da F1, em Abu Dhabi



Hildemar Diniz, o Monarco

Morre aos 88 anos Monarco, lenda do samba e da Portela Ilustrada B4



proprietária de um hospital de plantas Adriano Vizoni/Folhapeess

Passaporte de vacinação é obrigatório, decide Barroso

Medida dispensa os impedidos por motivo médico ou por falta de imunizante

O ministro do Supremo Tri-bunal Federal Luís Roberto Barroso determinou a obrigatoriedade do passapor-te de vacinação contra Co-vid-19 para todo viajante que vier do exterior.

A medida acolhe parcial-mente pedido feito pelo par-tido Rede Sustentabilidade.

Verba sob Lira irriga caixa de cidade governada pelo pai

Governada pelo pai de Arthur Lira, presiden-te da Câmara, Barra de São Miguel (AL) recebeu R\$ 4,7 milhões em 2021 e R\$ 5,8 milhões em 2020 em emendas de relator. Lira disse que o repasse é legítimo e reduz desigualda-des no município. Poder A6

Marcos Lisboa O populismo

nitária excepcional.

A decisão dispensa os não

pusilânime O populismo em campanha teme enfrentar grupos de interesse e o desmon-te de políticas fracassa-das. O baixo crescimento não é obra do acaso diante do voluntarismo pouco embasado e da captura de políticas públicas por gru-pos organizados. Poder A20

mitir a livre opção pela qua-rentena "cria situação de ab-soluto descontrole e de con-sequente ineficácia da nor-ma". Ele definiu o tema covacinados por motivos médicos, por falta comprovada de imunizante no país de origem ou por razão humamo urgente, pelo aumento de viagens no período de fes-tas e pelo risco de o Brasil se Para o magistrado, teste negativo ou quarentena, co-mo havia determinado o go-verno, não são suficientes. tornar destino antivacina.

Segundo o ministro, per-

Rivais do presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL), como o go-vernador de São Paulo, João Doria (PSDB), e secretários estaduais de Saúde come-moraram a decisão. O ministro pedirá que ela seja envi-ada para referendo em ses-são extraordinária do plená-rio virtual da corte. saúde B3

Congresso mira cortes para ampliar emendas e fundão

Para elevar a verba do fundo eleitoral e de emendas, o Congresso avalia cortes em outras despesas, como no custeio de ministérios.

Também se discute redu-zir parte da quantia em gas-tos obrigatórios, como aposentadorias e demais benefícios da Previdência Social.

Os congressistas querem aprovar a lei orçamentária ainda neste mês para garan-tir a execução das emendas no início de 2022. Em ano eleitoral, o prazo de libera-ção é mais curto, até julho. O mecanismo tende a ser

o principal capital político de parlamentares. Poder A4

Inundações em MG e BA põem cidades em emergência BS

São Paulo tem ao menos 175 mil moradias em áreas de risco

Ao menos 175,5 mil moradias em São Paulo ficam em áreas de perigo iminente de deslizamento e solapamento de margens de córregos. Promotoria cobra da prefeitura plano previsto há seis anos para reduzir riscos. B3

Auxílio de R\$ 400 leva a distorção e beneficia famílias menores A26

IPVA poderá ser pago em 5 parcelas a partir de janeiro, diz Doria A24

Múltis enviam trabalhadores brasileiros a EUA e Europa A21

FDITORIAIS A2

Dinheiro esfarelado Sobre perda de qualida-de no Orçamento federal.

Ouro amazônico Acerca de liberação de pes quisa mineral na região.





ULTIMAHORA

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Apalancamiento político fortaleció el viejo negocio familiar de la usura

Aviesa complicidad de entes en esquema criminal de RGD

- No hubo control financiero y Justicia se prestó al juego
- Movieron USD 900 millones a su antojo y elegían fiscales
- Última Hora mostró cómo operaba el perverso sistema



Evidencias contra Hugo Javier caen en saco roto por operativo blanqueo

PÁGINA

Lamentan cajoneo de proyecto de ley que busca atacar crisis previsional

PÁCINA 1

Cuestionado es nombrado director de RRHH de Junta de Asunción

PÁGINA 31

Gran expectativa por el desempeño de Nadia Ferreira en Miss Universo

PÁGINA 33





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NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE Un troisième référendum en forme d'impasse

DROITE

Valérie Pécresse et Xavier Bertrand unis contre le chef de l'État

GUERRE D'ALGÉRIE

La France accélère l'ouverture de ses archives

UKRAINE

Joe Biden tente de rassurer Kiev face à la Russie

ROUBAIX

La verbalisation n'effraie pas les squatteurs de halls d'immeuble

CADEAUX Les coups de cœur de la rédaction

 Les tribunes de Bruno Retailleau et de Laurent Chalard

 La chronique de Mathieu Bock-Côté L'analyse d'Alexis

Feertchak

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Approuvez-vous la décision des mairies qui interdisent le foie gras dans les réceptions officielles?

TOTAL DE VOTANTS: 117 637

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr

Êtes-vous favorable à la décision d'ouvrir les archives sur les enquêtes judiciaires relatives à la guerre d'Algérie?

Variant Omicron : ce qui inquiète, ce qui rassure

Alors que l'épidémie de Covid-19 continue à progresser en France, cette nouvelle souche découverte en Afrique du Sud suscite toujours de nombreuses interrogations.

sa course et la cinquième vague déferle sur la France, même si elle commence à montrer des signes de ralentissement. Mais nouveau variant Omicron, détecté en Afrique du Sud il y a une quinzaine de jours et qui

s'implante en Europe, pourrait-il changer le visage de l'épidémie? Ses très nombreu-ses mutations avaient fait craindre une plus forte conta-giosité et une plus grande viru-lence. Il apparaît, selon les premières données disponibles,

que si cette nouvelle version du Sars-CoV-2 se transmet à un rythme encore plus rapide que le variant Delta, elle pourrait ne pas provoquer davantage de formes graves. Reste une in-connue de taille: quelle est la protection apportée par la vac-

infection contre ce nouveau variant? Face à Omicron, il semble que la troisième dose soit plus que jamais nécessaire. En attendant peut-être que les fabricants de vaccins ne décident d'adapter leurs produits.

- ⇒ LE VARIANT S'IMPLANTE SUR LE VIEUX CONTINENT
- POURQUOI LES VACCINS SONT-ILS MOINS EFFICACES FACE A OMICRON?

Olaf Scholz

Macron

tentent

de partir

du bon pied

Ayant réservé à Paris sa premiè re sortie de chancelier vendredi, Olaf Scholz s'est félicité d'une rencontre «très amicale» avec

Emmanuel Macron, assurant que «la relation (franco-alle-

mande) continuera à évoluer positivement». « Nous avons la vo-lonté de faire travailler ensemble

nos deux pays», a confirmé le président, évoquant une « solide convergence de vues». Certaines

négociations, notamment éco-nomiques, s'annoncent cepen-dant délicates. PAGE 10

46 avenue Montaigne, Paris

et Emmanuel

→ EN FRANCE, L'ÉPIDÉMIE PROGRESSE MAIS À UN RYTHME PLUS LENT PAGES 2 ET 4



de la montagne. Les stations de ski ont fait le plein de réservations pour Noël et les fêtes de fin d'année. PAGE 22

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigarofr

autrefois

Pédalage en tandem

épreuve dite de « pédalage de groupe », dans laquelle il ne servait à rien d'arriver premier si vous n'étiez pas capa-ble de faire avancer vos équipiers au même rythme. C'est le défi que devra relever Emrythme. C'est le den que devra relever Em-manuel Macron durant sa présidence de l'Union européenne, qui va coîncider avec sa campagne électorale. Ce premier de la classe a fait connaissance vendredi avec son nou-veau partenaire de tandem franco-allemand, Olaf Scholz. Un petit bonhomme au sourire énigmatique, qui ne paye pas de mine mais a fait la preuve de son habileté et de sa ténacité iant la preuve de son habilete et de sa tenache pour succèder à Angela Merkel. Sa force, di-sent ceux qui le connaissent, procède souvent d'avoir été sous-estimé. À qui le comparait avec mépris à un Schtroumpf, il avait répon-du non sans astuce : « Ils sont petits, malins et ils gagnent à tous les coups !» Dans un cours magistral de deux heures, per

formance intellectuelle aussi remarquable qu'épuisante, le président français a exposé jeudi son plan de bataille pour un semestre où il se voit manifestement en grand timonier de l'Europe. Reprise en main des frontières et des flux migratoires, refonte du modèle européen de croissance, taxe carbone sur les im-portations dans l'UE, boussole stratégique pour plus de souveraineté, défense des valeurs, relations de voisinage avec l'Afrique et les Balkans... Emmanuel Macron a une solution pour tout. Souvent intelligente, rationnelle, idéale. C'est la spécialité des Français, la «vision» à laquelle tous les autres devraient adhérer s'ils avaient un minimum de

Français la vision, aux Allemands la méthode

bon sens. Ce qui leur manque, en général, c'est la méthode pour arriver au consensus. Angela Merkel avait sa recette: l'écoute sans préjugés et la prise en compte des intérêts

pays, y compris des plus petits - tout en pré-servant en priorité ceux de l'Allemagne. Olaf Scholz, qui a «cloné» l'inusable chancelière, devrait marcher dans ses traces. Le prochain président du Conseil de l'UE pourrait en bé-néficier, pour peu qu'il soit prêt à ajuster ses idées lumineuses aux dures réalités d'un club à vingt-sept. ■

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