

What's News

Business & Finance

SoftBank is completing a \$4 billion loan from Apollo backed by SoftBank's stable of technology-startup stakes as the Japanese conglomerate seeks to weather turbulence in its portfolio. **A1**

◆ **The stock market's** rise this year has narrowed around a short list of big tech companies, a sign of possible weakness heading into 2022. **A1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Dow** gained 1.8% and 1.6%, respectively, recouping some ground lost after Covid-19 concerns hit markets. The Nasdaq added 2.4%. **B1**

◆ **NatWest Markets** pleaded guilty to wire and securities fraud, admitting that some of its traders engaged in schemes between 2008 and 2018 to manipulate U.S. Treasury markets. **B1**

◆ **About 1,400 Kellogg** unionized workers ratified a new five-year contract with the cereal maker, concluding a 2½ month strike. **B1**

◆ **Hedge fund D1** lost 12% in its public investments for December through Monday amid big swings in stocks in recent trading sessions. **B1**

◆ **The SEC named** law professor William Birdthistle to serve as the agency's top regulator of asset managers. **A2**

◆ **The Turkish currency** mounted a dramatic, partial reversal from a monthslong collapse after Erdogan announced a rescue plan for the lira. **A9**

◆ **General Mills** will raise prices further in coming months as it grapples with cost inflation and supply-chain disruptions. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The Biden administration** is preparing to distribute 500 million free kits for Covid-19 tests to be administered at home to Americans and deploy military doctors and nurses to overburdened hospitals this winter, as the Omicron variant becomes the dominant form of the coronavirus in the U.S. **A1**

◆ **New travel restrictions** and other steps to curb the spread of the Omicron variant were put in place worldwide as further evidence emerged of just how rapidly the new strain spreads. **A9**

◆ **Blinken said the U.S.** expects to hold talks with Russia next month to try to defuse tensions over the country's military buildup near Ukraine as Putin hardened his rhetoric toward the West. **A10**

◆ **A jury found** Harvard professor Charles Lieber guilty on six counts related to payments he received from a Chinese government talent program, delivering a win for the U.S. government. **A3**

◆ **California officials** released a new set of congressional district maps that will result in more districts that analysts expect to be competitive. **A4**

◆ **The Biden administration** is considering another extension to the moratorium on student-loan payments. **A4**

◆ **Attacks by the Iran-backed** Houthi militant group against Saudi Arabia have more than doubled this year from last, according to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. **A11**

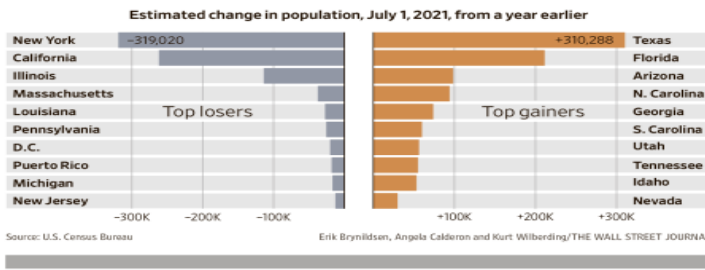
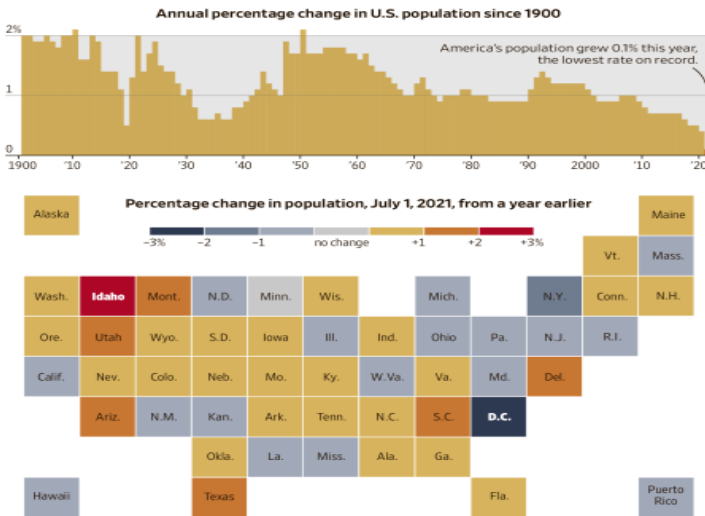
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Pandemic Sets Back Population Growth

New estimates released by the Census Bureau show the pandemic's fallout as Covid-19 became the nation's third-leading cause of death. The U.S. added just 393,000 people in the year that ended July 1, after averaging more than 2 million a year over the past decade. **A4**



U.S., Russia Face Tense Talks



Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed a meeting of the country's Defense Ministry Board in Moscow on Tuesday. The U.S. and Russia are set to hold talks next month to try to defuse tensions over the military buildup near Ukraine. **A10**

Market Flashes Warning As Few Stocks Fuel Gains

By MICHAEL WURSTHORN

The stock market's rise this year has narrowed around a short list of big tech companies, a sign of possible weakness heading into 2022.

Five of the biggest stocks in the S&P 500 account for more than half of the broad benchmark's gain since April, analysts at Goldman Sachs found. Of the S&P 500's 24% advance this year, those stocks—Microsoft Corp., Nvidia Corp., Apple Inc., Alphabet Inc. and Tesla Inc.—are responsible for around a third.

The dominance of a handful of tech behemoths marks a shift from the more-inclusive run-up that propelled the stock market

late last year and in early 2021. Investors appeared to be returning to a favored trade of the past decade—focusing on a few large, growing, profitable tech companies—for safety, analysts said, as they contend with a string of anxieties that have sapped confidence.

That has the S&P 500—and the more than \$5 trillion that follow it through passive funds—on precarious footing heading into the new year, several analysts and investors said. “If those companies, for whatever reason, stop performing, there’s nothing to support the market,” said Peter Cecchini, director of research at hedge fund Axonic Capital.

Investors have been getting a

dose of that reality in recent trading sessions. The S&P 500 fell nearly 2% last week, as shares of Microsoft, Nvidia, Apple, Alphabet and Tesla all slid at least 4.2%. This week, those five stocks continued to play a part in driving the index, with all of them falling Monday before mounting a small recovery amid Tuesday's 0.6% gain for the S&P 500.

Investors appeared to be trading out of those stocks and shares of other high-growth companies in favor of more defensive holdings, such as consumer staples and utilities, in

◆ Stocks rebound after 3 days of drops..... **B1**

Cats and Dogs Don't Get Supply Chains

Pet-food output is snarled; looks with 'sad eyes'

By JAEWON KANG

After an online order didn't show on time, Phyllis Pometta stopped at five different stores before she hit pay dirt. There it was on the shelf: beef stew-flavored dog food.

Ms. Pometta scooped up about four cans, which weren't her preferred brand. She was desperate, with supplies of the food she usually bought for her dog nowhere to be found online or in stores.

Karma, a Pomeranian rescue, wasn't as desperate. She sniffed the food and rejected it.

Ms. Pometta coaxed the dog to try it by adding beef-fla-

Please turn to page A13

Worker Burnout Challenges Bosses

As stress and resignations rise, employers experiment with new ways of working

By TE-PING CHEN AND RAY A. SMITH

In the first 10 months of this year, America's workers handed in nearly 39 million resignations, the highest number since tracking began in 2000.

Some want better jobs. Others, a better work-life balance. Still others want a complete break from the corporate grind. Almost two years into the pandemic that left millions doing their jobs from home, many Americans are rethinking their relationship with work.

Companies are struggling to stop employees from leaving and to boost morale. Some are trying mandatory companywide vacation days

and blackout hours when meetings are banned. Executives are experimenting with new ways of working, including four-day workweeks and asynchronous schedules that allow people to set their own hours.

Employers say burnout, long an issue for American workers and exacerbated by the pandemic, is a prime cause. A September survey by think tank the Conference Board found that more than three-quarters of 1,800 U.S. workers cited concerns such as stress and burnout as big challenges to well-being at work, up from 55% six months earlier. Half said workload-related pressure was harming their mental

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Global accounting

Reason to cheer, despite the ravages of pandemic — ROBIN HARDING, PAGE 19

Migrants' struggles

How to nurture entrepreneurship
FT FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN, PAGE 17



Dutch get going

The Hague wants to be EU's engine rather than brake — BEN HALL, PAGE 2

Dubai divorce Princess wins £554m award

Princess Haya bint al-Hussein, the estranged wife of Dubai's ruler, has secured more than half a billion pounds in what is thought to be the largest post-divorce financial settlement awarded by an English court.

London's High Court yesterday ruled that Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum must pay about £554m in child maintenance and security costs.

The case has provided a rare peek into the standard of living of the Gulf elite, which the judge described as "truly opulent and unprecedented".

The maintenance award allows the two children a £5m annual budget for seven holidays over nine weeks — including £1.8m for private flights.

Biggest divorce settlement page 3



Henry H. Phillips/Reuters

Putin warns of military response to eastern encroachment by Nato

◆ Rhetoric hardens with alliance ◆ US talks seek to ease tension ◆ Alarm in western states

HENRY FOY — BRUSSELS
MAX SEDGWICK — MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin has warned of "appropriate military-technical measures" in response to the threat of Nato's expansion towards Russia's borders, in a significant ratcheting up of tensions with the western alliance.

The US said it would soon start diplomatic talks in a bid to ease fears of conflict over Ukraine. Russia has deployed about 100,000 troops on its border with the country, sparking western fears of a possible invasion.

The Russian president told senior officers yesterday that Moscow would "react harshly to hostile steps". Russia is demanding Nato and the US cut their presence in eastern Europe, agree never to admit Ukraine into the alliance and

rule out ever deploying troops there.

The proposals would reshape much of the post-cold war European security order by, in effect, restricting Nato military deployments to its borders before 1997, when it began admitting former communist states in eastern Europe. Russia's demand for concessions that Nato has previously made clear are unacceptable has led many western officials and experts to fear they are a pre-text for conflict.

Putin said the Kremlin was "seriously concerned" about Nato deployments near Russia's borders and the possibility of it having hypersonic weapons in Ukraine that could strike Moscow within 10 minutes.

"If our western colleagues continue this clearly aggressive stance, we will

take appropriate military-technical measures in response and react harshly to hostile steps," Putin said. "And I want to stress that we are within our rights to do what is required to ensure Russia's security and sovereignty."

The US said it was preparing talks with Putin over his security concerns. Karen Donfried, US assistant secretary of state, said bilateral negotiations would begin next month, despite alarm among EU and Nato member states that many of the demands would weaken the western military alliances.

"We are prepared to discuss those proposals that Russia put on the table," Donfried said. "There are other things in those documents that the Russians know will be unacceptable."

Western officials have stressed the



Vladimir Putin said he was concerned that Nato might site hypersonic weapons in Ukraine that could hit Moscow within 10 minutes

need to engage with Putin to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Nato states also met yesterday to discuss possible formats for multilateral talks with Russia, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is preparing wider talks on the crisis.

Russia denies western claims that it is considering a Ukraine invasion. Putin did not specify what he meant by "military-technical means".

However, deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov used the same phrase last week to say that Russia would be forced to deploy banned nuclear-capable ballistic missiles in Europe if the west ignored its demands.

Ukraine prosecution page 2
Europe gas prices at high page 12
Constance Stelzenmüller page 19

Briefing

► **Nikola settles fraud charges with \$125m**
Wall Street regulators have announced that the electric truck start-up has agreed to settle charges that it defrauded investors by misleading them on the capabilities of its vehicles. — PAGE 6, LEX, PAGE 20

► **Biden mobilises troops to fight Omicron**
The White House has decided to send out hundreds of millions of Covid-19 tests and mobilise the armed forces to help staff hospitals ahead of an expected surge in infections over the coming weeks. — PAGE 4

► **New UK negotiator keen to end EU spat**
Liz Truss, who replaced David Frost on Sunday, has said she wants to resolve the dispute over Northern Ireland's trade arrangements to allow London and Brussels to focus on global challenges. — PAGE 2

► **Supply crisis bites at McDonald's Japan**
The fast-food chain has said that because of delivery delays from Canada it will offer only the smallest serving of fries at its 2,900 outlets. Hash browns are unaffected. — PAGE 6

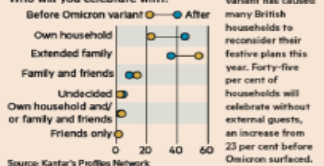
► **Backing for injectable HIV prevention**
GlaxoSmithKline has announced that US regulators have cleared a long-acting drug to prevent HIV. It can be administered six times a year, as opposed to the daily regimen of current treatments. — PAGE 8

► **Paris and London widen business help**
Paris has extended its pandemic financing scheme to help companies hit by the latest infection surge, following a similar move from Britain. Sweden also said it would bring in tougher restrictions. — PAGE 4

► **Kyrgyzstan justifies seizure of gold mine**
Kyrgyzstan has no option but to seize control of Kumtor gold mine from its Canadian owner because of environmental and safety issues, according to the director appointed to run the project. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Christmas presence
Who will you celebrate with?



The Omicron variant has caused many British households to reconsider their festive plans this year. Forty-five per cent of households will celebrate without external guests, an increase from 23 per cent before Omicron surfaced.



'Grinch bot' war catches shoppers in the crossfire

Shoppers hoping to secure last-minute Christmas gifts are having to fight it out with 'Grinch bots' stalking online stores. The software scans websites for in-demand products, such as limited edition trainers or video games, then snaps them up in a split second as soon as they become available. Often they are sold on at higher prices. Now big retailers, fearing customers are being scared away, are deploying their own software to counter the bots. Retailers battle — PAGE 8

Erdogan's new savings scheme revives lira amid claims of backdoor rate rise

LAURA PITEL AND TOMMY STUBBINGTON — LONDON

Turkey's lira has jumped sharply after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled a savings scheme that analysts described as a backdoor interest rate rise that could erode the public finances.

The currency has risen more than 40 per cent to trade at close to TL12.8 against the dollar yesterday, dramatically reversing course after hitting a record low of TL18.4 the previous day.

The intense volatility was triggered by a new plan by Erdogan to lure Turkish savers away from the dollar and gold by compensating them for exchange rate losses if they hold their money in lira.

Refet Gurkaynak, a professor of economics at Ankara's Bilkent University, described the new scheme as "in effect,

a powerful interest rate hike". He said that it could bring stability to the currency but warned that it might also have "dangerous consequences".

Erdogan, a staunch opponent of high interest rates, has ordered a succession of rate cuts in recent months despite double-digit inflation.

While the president has claimed that his "new economic model" will boost exports, investments and job creation, it has put huge pressure on the lira. The currency had lost about 50 per cent of its value against the dollar in the three months before the announcement.

Wolfgang Piccoli, a Turkey analyst at the consultancy Teneo, said the savings scheme amounted to a "stealthy rate hike" — and one that would be solely determined by the exchange rate.

"This huge exchange rate-indexed interest rate hike means that taxpayers

will be financing the wealthy so that they will not lose on the [foreign exchange] front," he wrote in a note to clients, adding that the scheme placed almost all currency risk on the state.

An exodus of foreign investors in recent years has meant that the pressure on the lira has been driven in large part by Turkish citizens and businesses.

Reluctant to save money in lira, whose value has been eroded by soaring inflation and negative real interest rates, they have flocked instead to the dollar and gold. That in turn has put further pressure on the currency.

Turkey's Treasury said that Erdogan's plan was to be open only to individuals, not businesses, and that they would have to lock their money away for a minimum of three months to benefit from the exchange rate guarantee. Erdogan's faulty calculus page 2

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World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES			
	Dec 21	prev	Dec 21	prev	Dec 21	price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4817.22	4999.02	\$ per £	1.125	1.129	US Gov 10 yr	147.48	1.45	0.05
Nasdaq Composite	15187.44	14980.94	£ per \$	1.329	1.322	UK Gov 10 yr		0.80	0.10
Dow Jones Ind	35381.86	34822.16	€ per \$	0.854	0.854	Ger Gov 10 yr		-0.31	0.06
FTSEurofirst 300	1840.42	1814.01	¥ per \$	114.085	113.395	Japan Gov 10 yr	112.97	0.05	0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	4173.39	4107.13	₹ per \$	156.962	149.914	US Gov 30 yr	118.85	1.91	0.09
FTSE 100	7287.41	7198.03	S\$ per \$	1.042	1.040	Ger Gov 2 yr	104.58	-0.71	0.03
FTSE All-Share	4144.88	4089.84	₹ per \$	0.888	0.888				
CAC 40	6884.99	6870.10							
Xetra Dax	15447.44	15239.67							
Nikkei	28617.99	27937.81							
Hong Kong	22971.33	22744.86							
MSCI World \$	3190.50	3139.75							
MSCI EM \$	1190.08	1216.30							
MSCI ACWI	724.73	734.67							
COMMODITIES									
	Dec 21	prev		Dec 21	prev		price	prev	chg
Oil WTI \$	71.34	68.61	Feed Funds Eff				0.88	0.08	0.03
Oil Brent \$	73.94	71.52	US 3m T-bill				0.87	0.05	0.02
Gold \$	1798.30	1807.70	Euro Liber 3m				-0.81	-0.62	0.01
			US 3m				0.24	0.22	0.02

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Make an impact



A virus testing center in Miami. Part of the plan announced on Tuesday to fight the Omicron variant is to set up new federal sites. SAIL MARTINEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Retired Colonel Pushed Stories Of Voting Plots

By ALAN FEUER

A few days after President Biden's inauguration put to rest one of the most chaotic transitions in U.S. history, a former Army colonel with a background in information warfare appeared on a Christian conservative podcast and offered a detailed account of his monthslong effort to challenge the validity of the 2020 vote count.

In a pleasant Texas drawl, the former officer, Phil Waldron, told the hosts a story that was almost inconceivable: how a cabal of bad actors, including Chinese Communist officials, international shell companies and the financier George Soros, had quietly conspired to hack into U.S. voting machines in a "globalist/socialist" plot to steal the election.

In normal times, a tale like that — full of wild and baseless claims — might have been dismissed as the overheated rantings of a conspiracy theorist. But the postelection period was not normal, providing all sorts of fringe players an opportunity to find an audience in the White House.

Mr. Waldron stands as a case study. Working in conjunction with allies of President Donald J. Trump — like Rudolph W. Giuliani, Sidney Powell and Representative Louie Gohmert of Texas, a member of the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus — and in tandem with others like Michael T. Flynn, Mr. Trump's first national security adviser and a retired lieutenant general, Mr. Waldron managed to get a hearing for elements

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A Prickly Russia Cultivates a Military Mind-Set

This article is by Anton Troianovski, Ivan Nechepurenko and Valerie Hopkins.

MOSCOW — Stepping onto a podium in heavy boots and military fatigues at a ceremony outside Moscow, six teenagers accepted awards for an increasingly important discipline in Russia: patriotism.

For days, students from around the country had competed in activities like map-reading, shooting and history quizzes. The contest was funded in part by the Kremlin, which has been making "military patriotic" education a priority.

"Parents and children understand that this aggressive shell around us, it is tightening, it is hardening," said Syratoslav Omelchenko, a special forces veter-

Raising Specter of Foes All Around and War on the Horizon

eran of the K.G.B. who founded Vypel, the group running the event. "We are doing all we can to make sure that children are aware of that and to get them ready to go and serve."

Over the past eight years, the Russian government has promoted the idea that the motherland is surrounded by enemies, filtering the concept through national institutions like schools, the military, the news media and the Orthodox Church. It has even raised the possibility that the

country might again have to defend itself as it did against the Nazis in World War II.

Now, as Russia masses troops on the Ukrainian border, spurring Western fears of an impending invasion, the steady militarization of Russian society under President Vladimir V. Putin suddenly looms large, and appears to have inured many to the idea that a fight could be coming.

"The authorities are actively selling the idea of war," Dmitri A. Muratov, the Russian newspaper editor who shared the Nobel Peace Prize this year, said in his acceptance speech in Oslo this month. "People are getting used to the thought of its permissibility."

Speaking to Russian military

Continued on Page A6



Driving a model Soviet-era tank at the Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces outside Moscow. SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Inflation Robs New York of a Cherished Treat: The \$1 Pizza Slice

By NICOLE HONG

For two decades, 99 Cent Fresh Pizza, a New York City chain, has charged \$1 for a slice of cheese pizza, luring anyone who needed to fill up for cheap in a notoriously expensive city, from construction workers to students to late-night partiers.

But the pandemic has thrown its business model, which relies on heavy foot traffic in office districts and tourist hubs, into an existential crisis. With inflation rising at its fastest pace in a generation, prices for just about everything — from pizza boxes to pepperoni, flour and oil — have skyrocketed. The chain's owner, Mohammad Abdul, is now agonizing over

whether to raise prices for the first time since opening in 2001.

"Maybe I can raise it 5 cents," he said. "Some customers don't have the money to buy the pizza. I'm thinking how low can I sell it and help the customer."

Mr. Abdul is one of the last holdouts in New York City's fiercely competitive dollar-slice pizza scene, where a growing number of

chains have raised prices or closed locations, in part because some can no longer pay their rent. No other city in America has a dollar-slice culture quite like New York, which took off in popularity after the 2008 recession.

Pizza businesses nationwide were hugely successful during the pandemic, well positioned to han-

Continued on Page A17

Biden's Plan for Omicron: Testing but No Lockdowns

Wave Is Challenging Effort by Schools to Stay Open

By DANA GOLDSTEIN

The dread was familiar. As news spread of the latest coronavirus surge, fueled by the Omicron variant, parents faced a return to the drudgery of school through a screen, child care crises and restless young bodies, penned inside for the winter.

In Manhattan, Olivia Strong received an email from her son's public middle school on Monday, informing her that his cohort of eighth graders would transition to remote learning because of multiple positive virus cases.

"I was not even slightly surprised; I fully expected it," she said, sighing deeply. Her hope, she added, was that a short break to reset would allow schools to reopen more safely in the new year.

Districts have mostly reassured families that despite targeted classroom closures to contain spread of the virus, they plan to continue in-person learning until the Christmas break and reopen as planned in January. New York City, Boston and Montgomery County, Md., in suburban Washington, were among the large school systems that said they would not shift districtwide to remote learning, or would do so only if forced to by public health officials.

Still, the alarming spread of the virus could expose the rickety infrastructure that has kept schools running through most of this year. Many schools are still in need of substitute teachers and bus drivers and can ill afford an outbreak that would send even more staff members home. There are still not enough rapid tests to quickly screen whole classrooms or schools. And some districts may have a tough time meeting demand for online learning as children are quarantined or concerned parents choose to keep them home.

School officials must simultaneously address the devastating impact of the pandemic on students: academic deficits, mental health struggles and labor shortages.

"This is going to be a winter of challenging choices for schools,"

Continued on Page A20

Giving Military Help to Hospitals, and Urging No Panic

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — President Biden accelerated his administration's coronavirus response on Tuesday as the country faced a surge in cases from a highly contagious new variant, telling anxious Americans that "we should all be concerned about Omicron, but not panicked."

In a White House address delivered against the backdrop of a new global struggle to cope with the two-year-old pandemic, Mr. Biden said the government will buy a half-billion rapid coronavirus tests and distribute them free to Americans; create new vaccination and testing sites; and send 1,000 military medical professionals to help hospitals nationwide.

"I know you're tired, really, and I know you're frustrated," Mr. Bi-



President Biden called getting vaccinated a "patriotic duty." STEPHAN REYNOLDS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

den said, adding that vaccinated Americans should feel comfortable celebrating with their friends and family for the holidays. "We all want this to be over, but we're still in it."

The president said military troops would begin arriving in Wisconsin and Indiana this week to aid health care workers at hospitals. He said the first of the new testing sites would open in New York within days. And he promised to use the Defense Production Act to help manufacturers better meet the demand for testing.

Mr. Biden acknowledged the political division in the country and

Continued on Page A18

CHANGE IN PLANS Mayor-elect Eric Adams canceled his inauguration gala as New York City faces another troubling wave of cases. PAGE A21
TIERED OFF A sense of dread about the variant's rapid spread is growing even in places that had recently experienced a lull. PAGE A20

To Control Electric Car Market, China Nurtures a Battery Maker

By KEITH BRADSHAW and MICHAEL FORTSYTHE

NINGDE, China — As the global pandemic hit, the world's biggest maker of electric car batteries, a Chinese company now worth more than General Motors and Ford combined, suddenly faced its own crisis.

A rival had released a video suggesting that a technology used by the company, CATL, and other manufacturers could cause car fires. Imitating a Chinese government safety test, the rival had driven a nail through a battery cell, one of many in a typical electric car battery. The cell exploded in a fireball.

Chinese officials took swift ac-

RACE TO THE FUTURE Strong and Growing Swifty

tion — by dropping the nail test, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times. The new regulation, released two months later, listed who had drafted it: First on the list, ahead of the government's own vehicle testing agency, was CATL.

The shift did not expose the world to unsafe batteries — other countries do not require a nail test — but it showed China's commitment to nurturing a corporate champion with a strong and growing sway over the future of driving. CATL has given China a com-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Turks Struggle to Get By

As inflation soars and the value of Turkey's currency plummets, families can't make ends meet and have had to cut back on basic necessities. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A14-23

Policy at Heart of a Standoff

President Biden and Senator Joe Manchin III have many differences over a proposed bill, but one stands out: the child tax credit. PAGE A15

SPORTS B8-10

N.H.L. Players to Skip Beijing

Months after agreeing to send hockey's top stars to the Olympics, the N.H.L. and its players' union have reversed course as Covid cases surge. PAGE B9

FOOD D1-10

The Joy of Cooking in a Semi

Some long-haul truckers have turned their close quarters into traveling kitchens, which provide comfort during a stressful holiday season. PAGE D1

OPINION A24-25

Michelle Cottle

PAGE A24



About Love
TIFFANY & Co.



Texas kindles copycat statutes

After abortion law is upheld, Newsom and others apply tactics to target guns, education.

By MAURA DOLAN

A gun rights group warned the Supreme Court in late October that upholding Texas' so-called vigilante anti-abortion law would have grave consequences for other constitutionally protected activities.

"The most useful way to appreciate the significance of this case is to stop thinking of it as an abortion case and recognize it for what it is," wrote Erik Jaffe, a Washington, D.C., lawyer for the Firearms Policy Coalition: a vehicle for "detering the exercise of any and all rights."

The Supreme Court failed to heed the warning, which came from both the right and the left, and decided 5 to 4 this month to let stand a law that will make obtaining abortions in Texas impossible for most women and that was crafted to prevent abortion rights advocates from obtaining an injunction to block it.

Now political leaders in other states are backing similar legal schemes, not all of them targeting abortion.

The Texas law allows citizens to sue abortion providers and anyone who helps a woman to obtain an abortion after five or six weeks of pregnancy, when many women may not even know of their condition. Successful plaintiffs receive at least \$10,000 if they prevail, and the defendants must pay for their legal costs. Abortion providers have no way to block the law in court and

[See Copycat, A7]



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

TRAVELERS WAIT for shuttles upon arriving at LAX on Tuesday. Though Omicron is a serious concern, the region is in better shape than at this time last year because of vaccines, the county's public health chief says.

Biden officials OK 2 solar plants in Southland desert

The huge projects raise concerns about sensitive habitat

By SAMMY ROTH

The Interior Department gave the green light Tuesday to two huge solar farms in the California desert — a reminder that the Biden administration still has tools to combat climate change even if it can't pass the president's "Build Back Better" bill.

The two solar plants could eventually cover 2,700 acres in Riverside County, an hour's drive east of Palm Springs and just south of Joshua Tree National Park. Federal officials say they would generate enough electricity to power some 132,000 California homes.

That energy would help keep the lights on after dark, with the developer also building a bank of lithium-ion batteries.

A third solar farm in the same area, which the Biden administration said it expects to approve soon, would bring total clean power generation at the new facilities to nearly 1,000 megawatts of solar and 900 megawatts of four-hour battery storage.

Approving renewable energy facilities on public lands is no substitute for national climate legislation, in terms of how much planet-warming pollution might be avoided. But these projects can still displace fossil

fuels — and they don't need the approval of Senate Republicans or conservative Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who have blocked "Build Back Better."

"We absolutely have to move forward as much as we can with clean energy," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in an interview.

At the same time, the new solar farms offer a reminder that the transition to renewable power — although badly needed to limit the worsening wildfires and deadlier heat waves of the climate crisis — comes with its own environmental challenges.

[See Solar, A9]



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

THE DEATH of Kobe Bryant, daughter Gianna and seven others led to an outpouring of grief.

A deputy, a bar and grisly photos of Kobe Bryant

His widow's suit over the images is now being argued in federal court

By ALENE TCHEKMEDEYAN, RICHARD WINTON AND CHRISTOPHER GOPFARD

Two days after Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash, a young man with a shaved head and muscular, tattooed arms walked into a Norwalk bar and took a seat at the counter. His name was Joey Cruz, a deputy trainee at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Cruz, who had been on patrol just two months, had stood sentry at a trailhead leading to the debris field in the hills above Calabasas in the frenzied aftermath of the crash. People had swarmed to the area — reporters and devastated fans, lookie-loos and seekers of macabre souvenirs — and Cruz had helped keep them away.

Now Cruz sat at the Baja California Bar and Grill 45 miles south, a bottle in his left hand and his phone in his right. Across the world, news and social media were full of tributes to the basketball great, and questions about the Sunday morning crash that killed him, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others.

Cruz had photos of the wreckage on his phone, forwarded to him by another deputy. About 9:30 that Tuesday night, bar surveillance footage [See Bryant, A12]

The 'unthinkable': Getting deported back to Afghanistan

Overwhelmed Iran returns more and more refugees — into the Taliban's hands.

By Omid Khazani and Henry Chu

TEHRAN — Unlike most of his compatriots, Jamal Papoli didn't have to worry about being stuck in Afghanistan when the Taliban sped to power in August. Pa-

poli had quit his homeland years ago to set up shop as a stonemason here in neighboring Iran, just outside Tehran.

But instead of relief, what the 30-year-old father of two feels these days is fear. As one of hundreds of thousands of undocumented Afghans in this country, he's frightened of getting snared in one of the growing number of sweeps by Iranian authorities and sent back to his native land, where an uncertain fate awaits — especially

for him as an ethnic Uzbek in a Pashtun-dominated, Taliban-run society.

After all the previous times Papoli was arrested and deported, he simply waited until he could sneak back in again. But Afghanistan's new government and Iran's intensifying efforts to tighten the border mean that that's not a viable option anymore.

"It's no longer like it was in the past. If I get caught again, I would be given to [See Afghans, A4]

NO L.A. CLOSURE DESPITE VARIANT THREAT

County officials say they have no plan for a lockdown, even with Omicron's spread.

By LUKE MONEY, RONG-GONG LIN II AND HANNAH WILEY

Despite the rapid spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant, Los Angeles County's top health official said Tuesday that no lockdowns are planned at this time, as vaccines and other safety measures remain strong tools to combat the new threat.

The stance in the nation's most populous county echoes statements from President Biden, national COVID-19 czar Dr. Anthony Fauci and health officials elsewhere in California.

Meanwhile, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday announced that California will mandate boosters for all healthcare workers in hopes of improving immunity and protecting hospitals from an expected surge of patients.

While L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer acknowledged the concerns over Omicron, she emphasized that the rollout of vaccines puts the region in a better position than it was in during last winter's COVID-19 surge.

"I know that the thing that's top of mind is, do we see in this near future closing back down our stores, telling people they have to stay home? And my hope is no," Ferrer told the county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. "But that's a hope. And it really depends on us being able to use these new tools we have to the best of our ability to actually be able to mitigate against this pretty big threat that we all face with Omicron."

"We're obviously going to look very carefully at what are the strategies that are appropriate as we see more [See L.A. County, A7]

Inland Empire braces for a wave

Riverside and San Bernardino counties are seeing a rise in hospitalizations. CALIFORNIA, B1

At-home virus tests are scarce

As Omicron spreads and the holidays near, drug stores can't keep them in stock. CALIFORNIA, B1

U.S. turns away dozens of Afghans

The Biden administration has issued denials to people seeking safety in the U.S. through humanitarian parole. WORLD, A3

Midterm races taking shape

High-stakes contests between Democrats are likely as candidates line up in new state congressional districts. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather

Cloudy and cool. L.A. Basin: 66/54. B6 Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



WALLY SKALIZ Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Rams running back Sony Michel stiff-arms Seattle's Ryan Neal in L.A.'s home win in a game postponed due to positive coronavirus tests. SPORTS, B10

BUSINESS INSIDE: Kellogg workers ratify a tentative pact, ending a two-month strike. A8



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CRAIG HUCSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Biden signals strategy shift against virus

VOWS NO LOCKDOWNS AMID OMICRON WAVE

White House plan adds testing sites and at-home kits

BY TYLER PAGER,
DAN DIAMOND
AND ANDREW JEONG

President Biden sought to recast the fight against the coronavirus pandemic on Tuesday, insisting the United States would not lock down or close schools despite surging cases driven by the new, highly transmissible omicron variant.

Instead, Biden argued that Americans who are vaccinated and boosted remain largely protected from severe illness and should plan to celebrate the holidays with family and friends as normal.

"This is not March of 2020," Biden said, referring to the early, pre-vaccine days of the pandemic as he spoke from the White House State Dining Room. "Two hundred million people are fully vaccinated. We're prepared. We know more."

The president still issued a grave warning to unvaccinated Americans who he said have a "patriotic duty" to get vaccinated, but he spent much of his speech reassuring Americans the country has the tools to avoid the extreme measures that typified the early months of the pandemic response.

To that end, Biden detailed new plans to expand coronavirus testing sites across the country, distribute a half-billion free at-home tests and deploy more federal

health resources to aid strained hospitals as the omicron variant drives a fresh wave of infections.

Biden's speech marked the clearest distillation to date of a new message from the White House, as officials acknowledge the virus is unlikely to disappear but Americans no longer have to fully upend their daily lives even as cases rise. And it reflected the extent to which many Americans and political leaders show little appetite for the widespread shutdowns of the early pandemic period that hobbled the economy, forced millions of students into virtual learning, and sparked bitter partisan and cultural battles over how to combat the virus.

For the Democratic Party, Biden's message indicates a shift away from being the party associated with strict covid mitigation measures as vaccines are widely available and proven to work against the latest variant. The change comes just before the start of a midterm election year in which Democrats are expected to face an uphill struggle, and lawmakers

SEE VIRUS ON A4

Convalescent plasma: Study says it has reduced hospitalizations. A4

FAQ: Experts answer questions on living with the omicron variant. A10

Short supply: D.C. residents search for test kits amid surge. B1

Caution in the nation's capital

People are tested for the coronavirus Tuesday at Farragut Square in Washington. President Biden said in his speech that the country is well prepared, and he told unvaccinated Americans that they have a "patriotic duty" to get inoculated.

BY HANNAH DREIER
IN DENVER

The only light in the apartment came from the glow of a computer monitor and a candle that was supposed to smell like Christmas cookies. The trainers had said to cultivate calm and self-care, and Irene Hild was trying. She called over her cat, took a deep breath and logged on to her computer, where the blue logo of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

'My sincere condolences'

Inside the struggles and heartaches of FEMA's massive covid funeral assistance program

appeared. "I hope you had a wonderful weekend and you're ready to go," came the voice of the shift manager overseeing FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance call center. The system had been crashing all

morning, she said. "It's been doing its thing again. Just use your judgment."

Irene and her colleagues joked in a group chat that "just use your judgment" should be the motto of the assistance line. It was the

main reason Irene, 23, had decided this would be her last week with the program, which provides up to \$9,000 to offset funeral costs for victims of covid-19. She had started the job when FEMA created the call center in the spring. She liked the idea of helping bereaved families, and had also been thrilled to make \$11.40 an hour instead of the \$6 she'd been earning as a barista. But several thousand tearful, frustrated, confused callers later, SEE FUNERALS ON A12

How AI could revolutionize breast cancer detection

BY STEVEN ZEITCHIK

When Regina Barzilay returned to work after her breast cancer leave seven years ago, she was struck by an unexpected thought.

The MIT artificial-intelligence expert had just endured chemotherapy, two lumpectomies and radiation at Massachusetts General Hospital, and all the brutal side effects that come along with those treatments.

"I walked in the door to my office and thought, 'We here at MIT are doing all this sophisticated algorithmic work that could have so many applications,'" Barzilay said. "And one subway stop away the people who could benefit from it are dying."

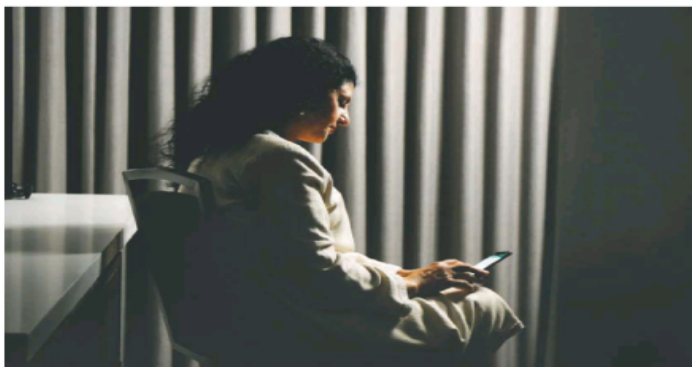
Barzilay had spent years researching the AI specialty known as natural-language processing, which applies algorithms to textual data. Those skills, she realized, might be put to a different use: predicting cancer. She decided to shift her research.

SEE MAMMOGRAM ON A20

THE PEGASUS PROJECT

Interrogation, and then spyware on her phone

Months before Jamal Khashoggi's murder, a UAE agency tried to install a surveillance tool from Israel's NSO Group that targeted his then-fiancee, a new analysis reveals



JOHN GERBERG/THE WASHINGTON POST

Hanan Elatr, the widow of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. A forensic analysis challenges NSO Group's denial that Pegasus spyware was placed on her phone before Khashoggi's murder in 2018.

BY DANA PRIEST

Emirates flight attendant Hanan Elatr surrendered her two Android cellphones, laptop and passwords when security agents surrounded her at the Dubai airport. They drove her, blindfolded and in handcuffs, to an interrogation cell on the edge of the city, she said. There, she was questioned all night and into the morning about her fiancé, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The next day, at 10:14 a.m. on April 22, 2018, while her devices were still in official custody, someone opened the Chrome browser on one of the Androids.

The person tapped in the address of a website — "https://myfiles[.]photos/1gGrRCMO" — on the phone's keyboard, fumbling over the tiny keys, making two typos, and then pressed "go," according to a new forensic analysis by cybersecurity expert Bill Marczak of Citizen Lab. The process took 72 seconds.

SEE PEGASUS ON A16

U.S. seeks to denaturalize a man who did his time

BY HANNAH ALLAM
AND RAZZAN NAKHLAWI

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — In the summer of 2018, Abdulrahman Farhane and his family were living together again for the first time since "the problem," their delicate term for the federal terrorism sting that began after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and led to his decade-long imprisonment.

Farhane's six children, now adults, had grown up with the fallout: FBI agents raiding their apartment in Brooklyn. Long road trips to visit their dad in prison. The soothing words of their mother, Malika, when the stain of the case cost them job opportunities and made them pariahs at the mosque.

The family always maintained that the case was unjust, counting Farhane, a Moroccan-born naturalized U.S. citizen, among those they believe were persecuted in the government's post-9/11 roundup of Muslims, which often relied on controversial sting

SEE DENATURALIZATION ON A8

IN THE NEWS



RICKY CAROTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Fade in Philadelphia A coronavirus-depleted Washington Football Team gets an early lead but can't contain the Eagles, falling 27-17. D1
Old role, new twist As second gentleman, Doug Emhoff is an envoy for Vice President Harris, without the political edge. A6

THE NATION

In the trial over Daunte Wright's killing by a Minnesota police officer, accountability may be the best that can be achieved, writes Robin Givhan. A2
In Alabama, former President Donald Trump's endorsed candidate for Senate has struggled amid Republican clashes. A3
California's congressional map increases the majority-Latino districts in the state while pushing Republicans into more competitive territory. A6
The Federal Bureau of

Prisons can keep inmates in home confinement after the coronavirus emergency ends, the Justice Department said. A9
Liberal lawmakers, angry at Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) over his rejection of the Build Back Better bill, are not interested in sealing back their priorities. A11

THE WORLD
Animal lovers in China want a law against abuse, but conservatives label the effort part of a Western conspiracy. A14
Amid Turkey's deepening economic woes, op-

position leaders are stepping up their efforts to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the next election. A15
French police have uncovered 182,000 fake coronavirus passes since they were introduced this past summer. A15

THE ECONOMY
For another pandemic Christmas, buyers are focusing on practical gifts, such as books or gift cards. A18
A financial watchdog that lost its teeth in the Trump administration has signaled it's back, and targeting "buy now, pay later" offers. A18
Unions Kelllogg's workers in four states

accepted a five-year contract that includes wage hikes and expanded benefits, ending an 11-week strike. A19

THE REGION
A recent wave of coronavirus cases across the District has spurred some schools to pause in-person learning and many parents to keep their children home. B1
The 10-mile extension of the 95 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia will not be completed by the 2022 goal. B1
An emergency bill intended to restrict the mayor's authority to clear homeless encampments was defeated in a D.C. Council vote. B1

INSIDE



FOOD
Casserole legacies
Obituaries suggest that the food we share with loved ones lives on. E1
STYLE
Clintonology
MasterClasses by Bill and Hillary are not of equal caliber. C1

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deportes

Ascenso histórico

El club de los Tapia llegó a Primera

Barracas Central le ganó por penales (5 a 4) la final a Quilmes; hará su debut en la A.



TODO SOBRE MATRIX 4, LA NUEVA SECUELA DE LA SAGA DE CULTO

—espectáculos

Dos décadas después del final de la trilogía, Lana Wachowski, Keanu Reeves y Carrie-Anne Moss regresan con *Resurrecciones*, una visión distinta desde la metanarrativa.

EL DIVORCIO MÁS CARO EN LA HISTORIA DEL REINO UNIDO

—el mundo

El emir de Dubái deberá pagarle US\$725 millones a su sexta esposa; la Justicia también dictaminó que el jeque tuvo secuestradas a dos de sus hijas. Página 6

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 22 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Menos gente deberá pagar Bienes Personales, pero suben las alícuotas más altas

DIPUTADOS. Se impulsó el oficialismo por un voto y ahora el proyecto vuelve al Senado

Por un voto de diferencia, el oficialismo resistió la ofensiva de Juntos por el Cambio para sancionar una rebaja del impuesto a los bienes personales. Para lograrlo, debió impulsar un proyecto alternativo y promover que el Senado lo convirtiera en ley la semana próxima. Así sumó a aliados provinciales y de la izquierda.

La iniciativa, al igual que la defendida por la oposición, eleva de \$2 a \$6 millones el mínimo imponible y de \$18 a \$30 millones el valor de la vivienda única que quedará exento. Pero sube las alícuotas para los patrimonios de más de \$100 millones, de 1,25% a 1,50%. Cuando superen los \$300 millones, será de 1,75%. Prorroga,

además, la tasa de 2,25% para bienes en el exterior.

La oposición no logró sancionar el proyecto que el Senado aprobó en octubre, pero celebró haber forzado el debate. Por efecto de la inflación, unas 500.000 personas quedarían alcanzadas por el impuesto de no actualizarse los montos. Página 8

EL ANÁLISIS

Máximo, derrota y victoria cristinista

Joaquín Morales Solá

Página 13

Espionaje: un fallo niega asociación ilícita del macrismo

CÁMARA FEDERAL. Fue beneficiado Arribas; Majdalani sigue procesada

La Cámara Federal portefaña sostuvo, en un fallo dividido, que no existió una asociación ilícita durante el gobierno de Mauricio Macri para hacer espionaje ilegal sobre dirigentes políticos, sindicalistas y periodistas.

Por eso, desprocesó al exjefe de la Agencia Federal de Inteligencia (AFI) Gustavo Arribas, pero mantuvo el procesamiento de la exnúmero dos del organismo, Silvia Majdalani, por abuso de autoridad. Para los jueces, los actos ilegales existieron, pero no fueron un plan orquestado desde el poder, sino actividades privadas.

El fallo puede favorecer de manera indirecta a Macri en la causa del ARA San Juan, por la que está procesado en Dolores. Página 15

El desempleo bajó, aunque el trabajo es más precario

INDEC. El desempleo bajó a 8,2% en el tercer trimestre (en el mismo período de 2020, en la pandemia, había sido 11,7%), pero la recuperación fue opacada por la precarización del mercado laboral. La cifra indica que hay 2,24 millones de desempleados en el país. Entre los ocupados, crecen los informales y cuentapropistas, y los asalariados privados registrados son aún menos que en 2019. Página 16



IGNACIO SÁNCHEZ

DEBUTÓ EL PASE SANITARIO. Sin demostrar que se está vacunado al menos con una dosis, no se podía entrar ayer en la cancha de Racing para ver la final del reducido de la Primera Nacional (ver Deportes). Fue una de las actividades masivas en la provincia de Buenos Aires, donde ayer de manera dispar comenzó a regir el pase sanitario obligatorio para trámites públicos, bancarios y diversas actividades en espacios cubiertos y al aire libre. Página 21

Europa prepara más restricciones y Biden refuerza el plan de testeos

ÓMICRON. La nueva variante obliga a restablecer las medidas de contención

ROMA (AP).— Ante la acelerada propagación de ómicron, la muy contagiosa variante del coronavirus, varios países de Europa activaron planes preventivos con la imposi-

ción de nuevas restricciones o los preparativos para hacerlo en las próximas horas, como Italia, que evalúa reimponer el uso obligatorio del barbijo, o Alemania, que desde el

28 de este mes limitará los encuentros cercanos. En Estados Unidos, el presidente Joe Biden anunció la distribución de 500 millones de tests, entre otras medidas. Página 22

Crecieron 75% los contagios de coronavirus en apenas 24 horas

Se informaron 9336 casos, la cifra más alta desde el 19 de agosto pasado

Página 21

La Pampa no exigirá buenas notas para ser abanderado

EDUCACIÓN. Consideran más inclusivo que todos porten la bandera. Página 24

ENTREVISTA Gilberto Kassab PSD não vai ter ninguém, nem Alckmin, vice de Lula

Presidente da sigla desejada para aliança pelo ex-presidente diz não abrir mão da candidatura de Rodrigo Pacheco, ou outra própria, no 1º turno. Ele considera a proposta de parceria em SP com Geraldo Alckmin encerrada, e defende o fim da reeleição e das coligações majoritárias. **Poder A8**

Vinicius T. Freire Bolsonaro, que já era Nero, agora quer ser Herodes

A ignorância sobre a epidemia cresceu devido a hackers quando o ômicron chegou. Já Jair Bolsonaro pede dinheiro a policiais e, sendo Nero, mira Herodes ao barrar vacinação de crianças. **Mercado A17**

Centrão quis fim de golpismo para apoiar presidente

Poder A4

Com alta de preço, IPVA terá mais parcela em SP
O imposto terá um aumento de 22,54% em 2022 em São Paulo, devido à alta nos preços. Haverá cinco parcelas e desconto de 9% à vista. **Mercado A17**



Praia Pedras Miúdas/Ilha das Cabras, em Ilhabela (litoral norte de SP) **Muthilde Missionheiro/Folhapress**

Policiais e partidos são beneficiados no Orçamento

A pedido de Bolsonaro, federais vão ganhar R\$ 1,74 bi a mais em 2022; fundo eleitoral de R\$ 4,9 bi é recorde

O Congresso aprovou o projeto de lei do Orçamento para o ano eleitoral de 2022.

O texto traz a previsão de R\$ 1,74 bilhão para conceder aumento a 45 mil policiais federais, um pedido do presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) para agradecer a uma de suas bases presumidas.

O fundo eleitoral aprovado é recorde na história. São R\$ 4,9 bilhões, menos do que os R\$ 5,7 bilhões possíveis, mas ainda assim R\$ 3 bilhões a mais do que havia sido sugerido pelo governo e aplicado no pleito de 2018.

Tudo isso configura mais uma derrota de Paulo Guedes, o ministro da Economia que viu seu poder se esvaziar ao longo deste 2021.

A votação ocorreu um dia depois de o ministro entrar em férias por 19 dias. Ela já abriu uma crise: outras categorias na elite do funcionalismo, como auditores da Receita, estão deixando seus cargos em protesto pela falta de aumento.

Alvo de polêmicas, as chamadas emendas de relator foram mantidas em R\$ 16,5 bilhões. **Mercado A15**

Brasil não avança na limpeza de suas praias há 6 anos

% de um total de 1.338 pontos monitorados

	Boas	Regulares	Ruins	Péssimas	Sem medição
2016	37	25	9	16	14
2017	39	27	9	16	10
2018	34	28	14	16	9
2019	36	25	11	22	5
2021	37	25	9	12	17

Boa: própria em 100% das semanas monitoradas; **Regular:** imprópria em até 25% das semanas monitoradas; **Ruim:** imprópria entre 26% e 50% das semanas monitoradas; **Péssima:** imprópria em mais de 51% das semanas monitoradas. *2020 não foi considerado porque, com a pandemia, metade dos pontos não foi monitorada. **PI, PA e AP não medem; ES e MA só medem em certas cidades; PR e RS só medem na alta temporada. Fontes: Órgãos ambientais estaduais e municipais

Crise do clima nos EUA



Lailo de Almeida/Folhapress

NA CALIFÓRNIA, INCÊNDIOS FREQUENTES DIFICULTAM RECONSTRUÇÃO

Destruições provocadas pelo Dixie, o segundo maior incêndio florestal da história do estado americano, no município de Greenville; com ondas extremas de calor e seca, a crise do clima aumenta o potencial destrutivo das chamas **Mundo A10 a A12**

Brasil patina na redução de praias poluídas em 6 anos

FOLHA VERÃO

Seis anos após a Folha iniciar ranking de balneabilidade de praias, o retrato é de estagnação. Em 2021, o volume de pontos monitorados considerados bons (37%), ou seja, próprios para banho em todas as medições, foi igual ao de 2016, primeiro ano da coleta dos dados.

Também estacionaram os locais regulares (25%) e ruins (9%). Praias péssimas, impróprias em mais da metade das aferições, tiveram queda de 16% para 12%. Já pontos não monitorados subiram de 14% para 17%.

Devido à pandemia, o levantamento não inclui dados de 2020. **Cotidiano B1**

Esporte B6

Preto, pobre e pugilista

Boxe é ovelha negra do esporte, afirma campeão olímpico Hebert Conceição

Ilustrada B7

Novo filme 'Matrix Resurrections' retoma legado de saga visionária

Máscara em lugares abertos divide população

A obrigatoriedade de máscaras em locais abertos divide a população no momento em que casos de Covid caem, mas a ômicron e a gripe preocupam. Pesquisa Datafolha mostra que 48% defendem uso em lugares abertos e fechados, enquanto 44% dizem que a exigência só deveria ocorrer nos fechados. **Saúde B4**

Ilustrada B9

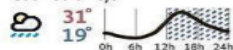
Brasil disputa vaga no Oscar 2022 com curta 'Seiva Bruta', mas sem longa

Epidemia de gripe desacelera após um mês no Rio de Janeiro

Saúde B5

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



EDITORIAIS A2

O vice de Lula
A respeito de articulação para ter Alckmin na chapa.

Fed contra a inflação
Sobre ações indicadas pelo banco central americano.

Ambas son socias comerciales de un empresario sospechado de narco

Adjudicación exprés de 8.000 ha. a dos jóvenes hermanas

En 4 meses en el Indert les fue aprobada la concesión de dos propiedades de 4.000 ha. cada una. La rapidez con que corrió el expediente no es algo usual en el ente.

PÁGINA 6

Será año de internas presidenciales
UIP cree que economía se verá frenada por el electoralismo en 2022

PÁGINA 14

Habría sospecha de vínculos con RGD
La Seprelad investiga una presunta estafa piramidal multimillonaria

PÁGINA 12

Deberán actualizar el sistema
Firma vinculada a las comisarias de oro ganó licitación para el 911

PÁGINA 42

CON ESTA EDICIÓN
ANIMAR EN CASA 2

COMPRA OPCIONAL
COLECCIÓN MINERALES DE LA TIERRA 24

MINERALES

50.000



Tiempo de reencuentro
Tras larga espera. Emotivos abrazos se vivieron ayer en el Aeropuerto Silvio Pettitrossi cuando residentes en el exterior se reunieron con familiares.

PÁGINA 21

Hay máxima alerta a nivel mundial
Omicron ya es la variante predominante en EEUU

PÁGINA 38

Recusó a los miembros del Tribunal
Froilán Peralta retrasa con chicanas su juicio oral

PÁGINA 44



lefigaro.fr

LE FIGARO

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



TÉLÉVISION
L'INCROYABLE AVENTURE
DU CHŒUR MILITAIRE
DE SAINT-CYR SUR M6 **PAGE 16**

ENVIRONNEMENT
SUR LA MONTAGNE SAINTE-
VICTOIRE, L'OPPOSITION
AUX ÉOLIENNES SE DURCIT **PAGE 11**



GOVERNEMENT
Élisabeth Borne,
la mue
d'une « techno »
en politique
PAGE 7

GAUCHE
La délicate double
campagne
d'Anne Hidalgo
PAGE 8

AFRIQUE
En Éthiopie,
les rebelles
se replient
dans le Tigre
PAGE 9

COVID-19
La France incapable
de repérer
des milliers
de cas du variant
Omicron
PAGE 13

LIGUE 1
Quand les
footballeurs
s'envolent, la
polémique décolle
PAGE 14

CINÉMA
« Matrix
Resurrections » :
Orphée et Eurydice
dans la matrice
PAGE 26

CHAMPS LIBRES

• La chronique
de Bertille Bayart
• Un entretien
avec le docteur
Gérald Kierzek
PAGE 17

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

**Réponses à la question
de mardi :**
Êtes-vous favorable
à l'obligation
du passe sanitaire
en entreprise ?

OUI 46% NON 54%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 283 421

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Faut-il transformer
le passe sanitaire
en passe vaccinal ?

LOU BRETON / M6; SERGE MERCIER/
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MAXPPP; HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS

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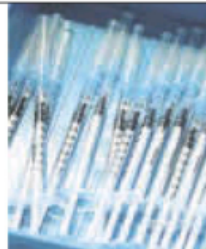
Trente ans après, la Russie à l'ombre de l'URSS

Malgré sa dislocation en 1991, l'Union soviétique survit dans les mentalités russes, et la nostalgie impériale de Vladimir Poutine menace ses ex-satellites, notamment l'Ukraine. **PAGES 2 À 6 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**

La crise à Sciences Po Grenoble prend une tournure politique

Wokisme, islamisme-gauchisme... Abonné aux polémiques, l'IEP, qui vient de suspendre l'un de ses professeurs, cristallise les divisions entre la gauche et la droite. Un député LREM de-

mande à l'exécutif de se pencher sur ces dérives idéologiques qui font école ailleurs. L'IEP, lui, fustige la décision de Laurent Wauquiez de lui retirer son financement. **PAGE 10**



Vaccins, traitements, tests: ces entreprises qui ont tiré profit de la pandémie

La crise sanitaire a bouleversé l'industrie de la santé. Pfizer, BioNTech et Moderna ont gagné la bataille des vaccins. Mais à côté de ces géants, une multitude d'acteurs se sont mobili-

sés en un temps record et affiché de fortes croissances. Eurofins, BioMérieux, Doctolib, Delpharm... de nombreuses sociétés françaises sont en surchauffe. **PAGES 20 ET 21**

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Poussières d'empire

A trente ans de distance, une victoire peut se révéler amère. Avec l'acte de décès de l'Union soviétique, signé presque en catimini par Mikhaïl Gorbatchev le 25 décembre 1991, les Occidentaux croyaient assister au triomphe de leur modèle démocratique et capitaliste: puisqu'il venait de gagner la guerre froide, sa suprématie allait étendre à l'est le meilleur des mondes. C'était négliger le « cataclysme géopolitique » que déplore encore Vladimir Poutine: quinze républiques éparpillées sur les 22,5 millions de km² de l'URSS, un demi-million de soldats et des milliers d'armes nucléaires à rapatrier, dans un contexte d'effondrement économique et industriel dont Tchernobyl était déjà le symptôme cinq ans plus tôt. La myopie des Occidentaux les a conduits à se réjouir de cet affaiblissement sans voir qu'il serait une source d'instabilité. La patte de l'ours russe n'a pas tardé à faire couler le sang en Tchétchénie, en Géorgie, en Ukraine. Nostalgie d'un empire dont il était l'agent zélé au KGB, Vladimir Poutine court depuis vingt ans après la puissance perdue et l'honneur flétri de la Russie.

Sa quête passe par l'instauration d'un équilibre stratégique avec l'Otan, qu'il veut à tout prix tenir à distance de « l'espace russe » - quoi qu'en pensent ceux qui le peuplent. Mais une fois l'empire soviétique réduit en poussière, il ne lui reste que l'arsenal des faibles: s'attaquer à plus petit que soi, mordre sur des frontières, entretenir des conflits larvés, soutenir des dictateurs redevables, déployer des mercenaires, agir masqué dans l'ingérence, la désinformation, le sabotage, la cyberguerre...

De la puissance soviétique, on est passé à la nuisance russe

À l'équilibre des blocs a succédé la stratégie des mille entailles - plus souvent l'apanage des terroristes et des États voyous. Poutine rembourse avec de la petite monnaie la grande humiliation historique de la Russie. Comme depuis des siècles, c'est d'abord le peuple russe qui en fait les frais, son rêve de liberté emporté par le règne de la répression et de la peur. ■

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PM rules out further curbs on Christmas socialising

Decision for England could lead to tougher rules in the new year

Peter Walker
Andrew Gregory
Linda Geddes

Christmas will go ahead without any curbs on socialising, Boris Johnson has confirmed, prompting warnings this could lead to tougher measures later despite tentative signs that cases have begun to plateau.

The prime minister released a brief video message yesterday saying he understood that families across England needed certainty to press ahead with Christmas plans but warned that curbs could still be imposed after 25 December owing to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

From today, the Covid self-isolation period will be cut from 10 days to seven for vaccinated people in an attempt to save Christmas for tens of thousands of people if they get the all-clear from lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7, the government

announced. The decision, after deep splits within the cabinet, was in contrast to moves by the Scottish and Welsh governments yesterday.

Scotland cancelled Hogmanay street parties for tens of thousands of people, Wales announced £60 fines for employees who refuse to work from home, and both countries said sporting events would be held behind closed doors. Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, had previously urged indoor mixing to be limited to three households either side of Christmas Day.

Labour said that while the news about Christmas in England would be a relief to many, Johnson now appeared to be "too weak" to push any new restrictions through his cabinet if they were needed.

The number of reported Covid cases across the UK fell for the third time in five days yesterday, raising hopes the recent surge may be starting to plateau - albeit at record high levels. There were 90,629 confirmed cases yesterday, compared with a high of 93,045 on Friday.

Paul Hunter, professor in medicine at the University of East Anglia, said the recent rapid



▲ Sheikh Mohammed and Princess Haya at Ascot in 2010. She fled to Britain in 2019 PHOTOGRAPH: MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY

Hospitality warns £1bn help too little, too late

Richard Partington
Andrew Sparrow

Rishi Sunak has been accused of failing to do enough to help embattled hospitality firms through the Omicron wave after refusing to bring back furlough for the hardest-hit firms.

Succumbing to intense pressure to offer financial support amid a collapse in pre-Christmas trade for pubs, restaurants and hotels, the chancellor announced a £1bn bailout package yesterday consisting of business grants and help with sick pay.

However, it drew an angry response from bosses

Sheikh's divorce payout could hit £500m record

Haroon Siddique
Legal affairs correspondent

The ruler of Dubai has been ordered to pay his ex-wife Princess Haya and their two children a divorce settlement that could reach more than £500m - the highest ever awarded

by a British court - to protect them from the threat he poses to them.

In a written judgment yesterday, Mr Justice Moor said that "uniquely" the "main threat" to Haya and the children came from Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who is also prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, a close Gulf ally of Britain.

Haya fled to Britain in April 2019 with her two children. Since then, in a series of hearings concerned with custody, access and financial support, which have so far cost more than £70m in legal fees, high court judges have found on the balance of probabilities that:

● The sheikh orchestrated

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