

## What's News

### Business & Finance

The U.S. labor market remained tight at the end of last year, with job openings and worker turnover hovering near the highest levels on record, though there are signs demand cooled as the Omicron variant disrupted the economy in January. **A1**

◆ The recent stock rout is rattling the multitrillion-dollar market for startups after a long run of record investments, nosebleed valuations and rapid-fire deal-making. **A1**

◆ Exxon Mobil reported \$23 billion in profit for 2021, the company's highest total since 2014, including \$8.9 billion in profit for the fourth quarter. **A1**

◆ Google parent Alphabet posted another quarter of strong sales growth, capping a year when profit nearly doubled. The company plans a 20-for-1 stock split. **B1**

◆ AT&T said it would roughly halve its dividend and divest its WarnerMedia division through a spinoff that will give shareholders 0.24 share for each AT&T share they own. **B1**

◆ U.S. stocks advanced, with major indexes notching a three-session winning streak. The S&P and Nasdaq both rose 0.7%, while the Dow added 0.8%. **B12**

◆ GM said it plans to accelerate the timetable for some coming electric-vehicle launches. The company reported a net profit of \$10 billion for 2021. **B3**

◆ ABC News said it suspended Whoopi Goldberg from "The View" for two weeks over controversial remarks about the Holocaust. **B1**

### World-Wide

◆ Russia's Putin said the U.S. and its European allies had "basically ignored" Moscow's demands for security assurances but expressed a willingness to continue talks as Russian troops maneuvered near Ukraine's borders and Kyiv rushed to bolster its defenses. **A1, A7-8**

◆ The U.S. national debt exceeded \$30 trillion for the first time, reflecting increased federal borrowing during the pandemic. **A3**

◆ Pfizer and BioNTech asked the FDA to authorize use of their Covid-19 vaccine in children under 5 years, the last age group without access to the shots. **A3**

◆ Brian Flores, the recently fired coach of the Miami Dolphins, filed a lawsuit against the NFL and three teams, alleging that Black coaches such as himself are discriminated against in pursuing coaching opportunities. **A3**

◆ J&J and three major U.S. drug distributors agreed to pay nearly \$590 million to Native American tribes heavily affected by the opioid crisis to resolve litigation against the companies. **A6**

◆ Trump has over \$122 million in cash spread across his post-presidency political operation and has donated to dozens of Republican candidates for their midterm campaigns, FEC filings show. **A4**

◆ Sen. Lujan suffered a stroke and had surgery to ease swelling in his brain, his top aide said, leaving Democrats short of a crucial vote in the 50-50 Senate while he recovers. **A4**

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## Blaze at North Carolina Fertilizer Plant Forces Evacuation



ON THE GROUND: A fire at a fertilizer facility in Winston-Salem forced thousands of residents to evacuate their homes amid concerns over chemicals in the plant that could lead to an explosion. There were no reported injuries or deaths. **A6**

## Putin Accuses U.S. of Ignoring Demands in Ukraine Standoff

KYIV, Ukraine—President Vladimir Putin of Russia said the U.S. and its European allies had "basically ignored" Moscow's demands for security as-

By Matthew Luxmoore, Courtney McBride and Evan Gershkovich

surances but expressed a willingness to continue talks as Russian troops maneuvered near Ukraine's borders and Kyiv rushed to bolster its defenses. "We didn't see an adequate response to our key concerns,"

Mr. Putin said Tuesday at a Kremlin news conference at which he again castigated the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for what he has portrayed as a persistent eastward push that threatens Moscow.

Russia has deployed about 100,000 troops near Ukraine, triggering alarm in Western capitals that Mr. Putin plans to invade his smaller neighbor, which he has asserted can only be truly sovereign in partnership with Russia. Mr. Putin denies any such intention.

In response, Washington

has outlined a series of punitive sanctions it would impose if Russia encroaches on Ukraine, stepped up shipments of military assistance to Kyiv, and put thousands of soldiers on alert to defend NATO's eastern flank in the event of a conflict. The State Department ordered on Monday family members of U.S. government employees in Belarus to depart the country, a little over a week after sending home dependents of diplomats in Kyiv as well as some staff.

On Tuesday, President Vo-

lodomyr Zelensky of Ukraine met in Kyiv with Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the U.K. and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki of Poland, saying the three countries were working to establish a partnership that was "creating a new format of political cooperation in Ukraine's economy." **A7**

◆ Threat of war rattles Ukraine's economy. **A7**  
◆ U.S. allies question role of Germany. **A8**  
◆ Putin's edge is an upgraded military. **A8**

## Exxon Hits Gusher of Cash as Oil Rides High

By Christopher M. Matthews

The world's big Western oil companies are back in the money and once again attracting strong interest from investors as crude prices rise to their highest levels in years.

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported on Tuesday \$23 billion in profit for 2021, its highest total since 2014, including \$8.9 billion in profit in the fourth quarter. Last week, Chevron Corp. reported its most profitable year since 2014, earning \$15.6 billion in net income in 2021 and \$5.1 billion in the fourth quarter. The largest European oil companies, Shell PLC and BP PLC, are expected to also post resurgent annual results when they report in the coming days.

Exxon and Chevron are predicting a multiyear upswing for the industry as oil and gas demand surges from the depths of the pandemic and investment in new production slows. The strong results have lured investors to a sector many left for dead.

The S&P 500 Energy Sector is up around 23% so far this year while the broader S&P 500 is down about 5%. Over the last 12 months, shares of the largest Western oil companies have all risen sharply. Exxon is up about 80%, Chevron is up 56%, while Shell and BP are up 39% and 43%, respectively. Exxon's shares jumped about 6% Tuesday, while Chevron's shares hit an all-time high last week.

"Our effective pandemic response, focused investments

◆ Heard on the Street: Tough decisions for Exxon. **B13**

## Brady Retires on His Own Terms



After 22 seasons and seven Super Bowl titles, Tom Brady calls it quits—but he won't be a stranger. Jason Gay, A14.

## VR to the ER: Metaverse Early Adopters Prove Accident-Prone

Game players run into obstacles, literally; broken vases, dislocated shoulders

By Sarah E. Needleman and Salvador Rodriguez

A few hours after Toby Robicelli first strapped on the \$300 virtual-reality headset he got for Christmas, the Baltimore teenager, who was playing a shooter game called "Superhot VR," lost track of his balance and fractured his kneecap.

"We set it up around 2:00," said Toby's mother, Allison Robicelli, of the tech gadget, "and by 8:00 we were on our way to the ER." She fainted when she saw his leg, she said, and Toby, 14, is now using crutches.

Sales of VR headsets rose more than 70% last year from

2020, according to International Data Corp., to 7.9 million units. Demand is driven in part by rising hype around the metaverse, a term proponents use to describe a future 3-D version of the internet, comprising virtual worlds where people will get together to work, learn and play.

With interest in the devices growing, so is their reputation for being a source of pain and embarrassment.

When Nintendo Co.'s Wii made its debut in the mid-2000s, people hurt themselves using its motion-sensitive controllers. With VR headsets, as initial users found, the risk of getting



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## Startup Investors Retrench Following Rout in Tech IPOs

By Eliot Brown and Heather Somerville

The recent stock rout is rattling the multitrillion-dollar market for startups after a long run of record investments, nosebleed valuations and rapid-fire deal-making.

Venture capitalists said a significant reset in investment behavior is beginning to take hold that is poised to reduce initial public offerings, leave some companies short of funding and crimp valuations.

Investors said several large startup backers are cutting

back their investments, curtailing a flow that sprayed at full blast for most of the pandemic, particularly for older, more mature startups. And venture firms said they are advising their companies to prepare to conserve cash in a tougher funding environment.

Tiger Global Management, one of the most prolific startup investors of the last two years, in recent weeks has been renegotiating investments that had been under discussion for numerous companies, reducing the valuation. Please turn to page A4

## Fallen Ad Titan Aims At WPP in Comeback

Martin Sorrell wants to best his old firm with his new one: 'I had a point to prove'

By Nick Kostov

LONDON—Martin Sorrell built WPP PLC into the world's largest advertising agency over three decades through a combination of impatience, drive and the occasional angry outburst.

Not a lot has changed. Ever since his acrimonious departure as WPP's chief executive, the 76-year-old has been building a new business to rival his old shop. At S4 Capital PLC, he has ditched the tailored suits in favor of jeans and a black T-shirt. "Disrupting the old" is part of his pitch in deals talks, especially when "the old" means WPP.

The "About Us" section of S4 press releases note WPP's market capitalization has fallen since Mr. Sorrell left. He has traded insults with his former company, including one altercation with a WPP executive that the company said turned physical, though Mr. Sorrell denies that it did.

The new firm outbid WPP to make its biggest acquisition. S4 has since chased high-profile clients including the tech companies that dominate the modern advertising market. The result: S4 is valued at around \$3.85 billion, roughly one-fifth of the size of WPP, despite having a

Please turn to page A10

## Job Market Still Tight As Hiring Cools a Bit

Workers quit at lower, but still elevated, rate as economy takes hit from Omicron spread

By Bryan Mena

The U.S. labor market remained tight at the end of last year with job openings and worker turnover hovering near the highest levels on record, though there are signs demand cooled as the Omicron variant disrupted the economy in January.

The Labor Department said Tuesday there were 10.9 million job openings in December, up slightly from 10.8 million the previous month. Meanwhile, the number of times workers quit fell to 4.3 million in December, from a record 4.5 million. Hiring slowed to 6.3 million, down from 6.6 million.

Separate private-sector data for January showed that employers pulled back on demand for workers last month. An analysis of postings by job-

Please turn to page A2



Note: Seasonally adjusted. Source: Labor Department

◆ Heard on the Street: Jobs showed resilience. **B13**



## Big Tech lobbying

Rise in donations to US think-tanks reflects Big Oil strategy — PAGE 8

## Pull the punchbowl

The Fed will struggle to end this inflation party — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 17



## Johnson survives

Range of plotters prevents a united front — SEBASTIAN PAYNE, PAGE 16

## Mane event China's curbs stifle new year

A lion dance is performed in Beijing as China marks the first day of the year of the tiger yesterday.

China's biggest holiday season will be muted once again this year as the world's most populous nation struggles to contain the spread of the infectious Omicron variant of coronavirus. Before the pandemic, the lunar new year break heralded the biggest annual movement of people as many of China's 300m migrants made their annual trip home.

This year Chinese authorities have warned people against travel between provinces after a series of localised lockdowns. As an incentive, economic assistance has been offered to those who choose to stay put during the holidays.

Big Read page 15



Andrew Verville/Getty Images

# Markets signal expectation of at least two ECB rate rises this year

◆ Inflation drives sentiment ◆ Traders price in tightening ◆ 'No hikes' mantra questioned

TOMMY STUBBINGTON — LONDON  
MARTIN ARNOLD — FRANKFURT

Investors are betting that persistently high inflation will force the European Central Bank to raise interest rates more than once this year, in a challenge to the central bank's insistence that it expects to freeze them at historic lows at least until next year.

Markets have this week pulled forward expectations of tighter policy, with an increase in the central bank's deposit rate to minus 0.25 per cent — from its current minus 0.5 per cent — now priced in by December, according to trading in short-term funding markets.

That implies traders expect at least two 0.1 percentage point rate rises, with the shift coming before the bank's governing council meets tomorrow.

Markets had priced in a smaller rise to minus 0.4 per cent by the end of the year before last week's hawkish US Federal Reserve meeting. That triggered a fresh round of speculation that the ECB would be forced to follow the Fed this year by raising borrowing costs.

The growing conviction in markets that eurozone rates are set to rise for the first time since 2011 comes despite Christine Lagarde's repeated rejection of calls for earlier tightening. The ECB president said last month that the central bank had "every reason not to act as quickly or as ruthlessly" as the Fed.

"The ECB has stuck to the mantra of no rate hikes this year but the market is clearly challenging that view," said Richard McGuire, a rates strategist at Rabobank. "Investors think the ECB might

get spooked by this shift in inflation."

Inflation has exceeded the ECB's expectations for several months and hit a record high in the eurozone of 5 per cent in December. A report due today is expected to show the pace of inflation eased to 4.4 per cent last month. But German, Spanish and French inflation exceeded expectations in January. Economists say price pressures are likely to continue overshooting ECB forecasts.

Nadia Gharbi, senior economist at Pictet Wealth Management, predicted wage growth would increase this year after the bloc's unemployment rate hit an all-time low of 7 per cent in December and a quarter of EU companies reported record labour shortages. "It will be quite a tough period for the doves at the ECB right now," she added.



The ECB's headquarters in Frankfurt: investors believe the bank 'might get spooked by this shift in inflation'

Rate-rise expectations rekindled a sell-off in eurozone bonds this week, pushing Germany's 10-year borrowing cost — a benchmark for assets across the currency bloc — above zero.

German two-year yields, which are highly sensitive to rate expectations, have climbed sharply since last week to a six-year high of minus 0.48 per cent yesterday, rising above the ECB's deposit rate for the first time since 2015.

Lagarde is expected to be pressed tomorrow on whether she still thinks eurozone inflation will fall below the ECB's 2 per cent target in the fourth quarter and whether the central bank remains "very unlikely" to raise interest rates this year.

Markets insight page 11  
Martin Wolf page 17

### Briefing

► **Putin says Moscow security fears ignored**  
The Russian president has hit out at western powers for ignoring Kremlin demands for guarantees that Ukraine will not join Nato, as he insisted he wanted to avoid "negative scenarios" like war. — PAGE 4

► **UBS unveils highest profit since 2006**  
Switzerland's biggest bank has announced bumper results on the back of strong stock market growth last year and set out plans to almost double its share buyback programme. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Gupta's \$2.7bn freight contracts revealed**  
The South African corruption probe has highlighted deals from a state company in a report that labels the family's business "racketeering". The brothers were allied to former president Jacob Zuma. — PAGE 2

► **Attempted coup in Guinea-Bissau**

Heavy gunfire has been reported in the capital Bissau near the Government Palace, where president Umaro Sissoco Embalo was presiding over a cabinet meeting. — PAGE 2



► **Amnesty apartheid verdict angers Israel**

The human rights group has said that treatment of Palestinians amounts to systematic oppression, matching findings from other bodies. Its report drew charges of anti-Semitism from Israel. — PAGE 4

► **Rio Tinto reveals sexual assaults**

The London-based miner has revealed 21 women said they were raped or sexually assaulted at its mines over the past five years, in a report that also pointed to bullying and racism. — PAGE 9; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Aston Martin petrol engine countdown**

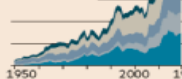
The luxury carmaker has said it plans to sell only electric or hybrid cars within four years, as it seeks to decarbonise while serving customers who still want the combustion engine experience. — PAGE 6

### Datawatch

#### Sanctions arsenal

Number of imposed measures globally

Other  
Arms & military  
Trade  
Travel  
Financial



Source: Global Sanctions Data Base

Western measures against Russia could involve 'smart' sanctions targeting specific individuals or organisations with financial or travel restrictions. Such measures are now deployed more often alongside traditional military curbs



## EDF stakeholders stir as nationalisation talk looms

A cap on bill increases imposed by the French government has revived debate over whether state-controlled power group EDF, said by one minister to be "there to protect the French", should be nationalised. With a €6bn hit expected from the move and after a 16 per cent beating for its shares, EDF's scope to invest in priorities such as renewables is hobbled. Paris now faces a clash with employee investors and unions, who allege over-reach. Stand-off with Paris — PAGE 9

## Exxon bounces back with biggest profit since 2014 after oil and gas prices boost

JUSTIN JACOBS — HOUSTON

ExxonMobil has recorded its highest profits since 2014, capitalising on strong oil and natural gas prices in a sharp reversal from the early months of the pandemic.

The US oil supermajor said yesterday that it had bounced back to a net profit of \$23bn in 2021, compared with a \$22.4bn loss in 2020 when fuel demand collapsed. The company's fourth-quarter earnings of \$8.9bn easily beat analysts' expectations of \$8.4bn.

The results showed the benefits of ever tighter energy markets for the world's largest oil and gas producers. Chevron, Exxon's main US rival, last week reported annual net profit of \$15.6bn after a loss of \$5.5bn in 2020.

Exxon said it was using the influx of cash to launch a \$10bn share buyback

programme, adding that it had paid back much of the debt it took on during the 2020 downturn.

"Our effective pandemic response, focused investments during the downturn, and structural cost savings positioned us to realise the full benefits of the market recovery in 2021," said Darren Woods, chief executive.

Brent crude prices surged to more than \$91 a barrel this week for the first time since 2014 as the global recovery in oil demand strains supplies.

Exxon shares rose 6 per cent to \$90.49 by midday yesterday and have surged more than 20 per cent this year, making the stock one of the best performers in a weak broader market.

Output from the vast Permian Basin oilfield in western Texas was up 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day in 2021 to 460,000 boe/d. Exxon also reported ris-

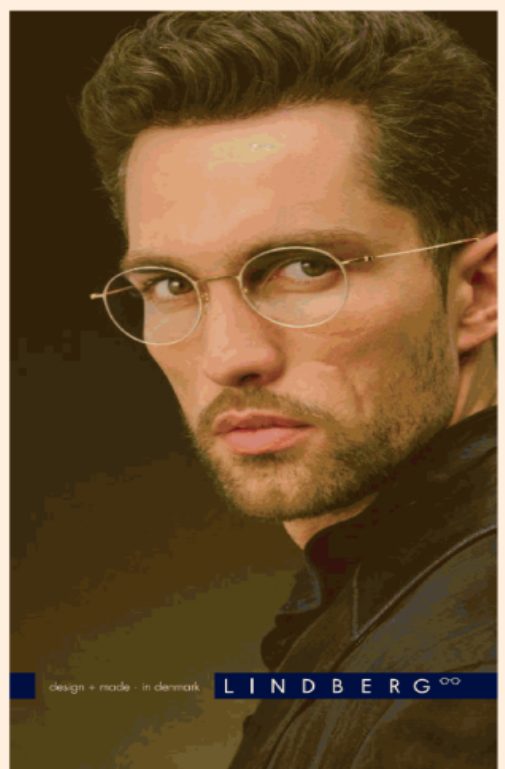
ing output from Guyana's offshore fields.

The boom in profits comes as Exxon's climate strategy remains under the microscope after it lost a bruising proxy fight last year to the activist hedge fund Engine No 1, which brought three new directors on to the oil major's board.

Exxon announced a goal last month to reach net zero emissions from its operations by 2050. Critics said the target did not go far enough, however, because it did not include the carbon emitted from burning fuels, which comprises the bulk of emissions associated with the group.

Exxon this week disclosed a corporate restructuring that elevated its low-carbon division to become one of three large business lines. Kathy Mikells, Exxon's chief financial officer, said it was actively looking at acquisition opportunities for the low-carbon business.

Total's east Africa project page 8



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World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 1	prev		Feb 1	prev		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4521.05	4515.55	\$ per £	1.125	1.121	US Gov 10 yr	144.27	1.81	0.02
Nasdaq Composite	14204.51	14229.08	£ per \$	0.891	0.887	UK Gov 10 yr		1.23	0.03
Dow Jones Ind	35100.56	35131.06	€ per \$	0.933	0.930	Ger Gov 10 yr		0.03	0.02
FTSEurofirst 300	1853.60	1830.66	¥ per \$	114.280	115.225	Japan Gov 10 yr	111.14	0.18	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4214.04	4174.00	₹ per \$	155.045	154.592	US Gov 30 yr	110.48	2.15	0.03
FTSE 100	7535.78	7484.37	SFr per \$	1.038	1.044	Ger Gov 2 yr	104.05	-0.53	0.00
FTSE All-Share	4232.48	4191.01	₹ per \$	0.889	0.892				
CAC 40	7059.49	6999.20							
Xetra Dax	15611.39	15471.20							
Nikkei	27079.40	27081.38							
Hang Seng	23802.26	23560.08							
MSCI World \$	3059.65	3005.03							
MSCI EM \$	1208.23	1191.14							
MSCI ACWI \$	717.38	705.12							
COMMODITIES			FEB 1			PRICE			
	Feb 1	prev		Feb 1	prev		price	prev	chg
Oil WTI \$	87.80	86.15				Feed Cattle Eff	0.58	0.08	0.01
Oil Brent \$	88.88	86.28				US 3m Bill	0.22	0.19	0.03
Gold \$	1795.25	1788.15				Euro Liber 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
						UK 3m	0.64	0.61	0.02

Data provided by Bloomberg



## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Trump's Aim: Keep Power At All Costs

#### His Own Words Show Democracy's Fragility

By SHANE GOLDMACHER  
A series of new remarks by Donald J. Trump about the aftermath of the 2020 election and new disclosures about his actions in trying to forestall its result — including discussing the use of the national security apparatus to seize voting machines — have stripped away any pretense that the events of Jan. 6, 2021, were anything but the culmination of the former president's single-minded pursuit of retaining power.

Mr. Trump said on Sunday that Mike Pence "could have overturned the election," acknowledging for the first time that the aim of the pressure campaign he focused on his vice president had simply been to change the election's result, not just to buy time to root out supposed fraud, as he had long insisted. Those efforts ended at the Capitol with a violent riot of Trump supporters demanding that Mr. Pence block the Electoral College vote.

Over the weekend, Mr. Trump also dangled, for the first time, that he could issue pardons to anyone facing charges for participating in the Jan. 6 attack if he is elected president again — the latest example of a yearslong flirtation with political violence. And, ignoring what happened the last time he encouraged a mass demonstration, Mr. Trump urged his supporters to gather "in the biggest protests we have ever had" if prosecutors in New York and Atlanta moved further against him. The prosecutor examining Mr. Trump's efforts to overturn the election in Georgia immediately asked the F.B.I. to conduct a "risk assessment" of her building's security.

The events of Jan. 6 played out so publicly and so brutally — the instigating speech by Mr. Trump, the flag-waving march to the

Continued on Page A12

### 'Swine Bomb' Hits Bay Area, Tusks Flailing

By THOMAS FULLER

MORAGA, Calif. — The residents of the San Francisco Bay Area go to great lengths to accommodate the wealth of wildlife around them.

A sign at a playground in Moraga, a 35-mile drive from San Francisco, advises parents that rattlesnakes are "important members of the natural community" and to give the snakes "respect."

Across the Bay in Burlingame, an animal shelter has rescued a family of skunks from a construction hole, a chameleon from power lines and nursed 100 baby squirrels that tumbled out of their nests.

With the exception of the occasional aggressive coyote, the animals that roam the hills and gulches of the Bay Area — turkeys, mountain lions, deer, bobcats, foxes and the rest of a veritable Noah's Ark — find themselves on somewhat laissez-faire terms with the humans around them.

Not so for the rampaging feral pigs. They are tearing up lawns,

Continued on Page A15

## INTERNATIONAL A4-9

### China Turns to Middle East

Beijing is expanding its ties to several Arab oil giants, using vast infrastructure investments and cooperation on technology and security.

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## NATIONAL A10-16, 20

### Vaccine for Young Children

Pfizer asked the F.D.A. to authorize two doses for children younger than 5 while it researches whether three doses would be more effective.

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## BUSINESS B1-6

### Little Help in Protecting Pay

Only about a quarter of the \$800 billion of aid went to jobs that would have been lost, new research found. A big chunk lined bosses' pockets.

PAGE B1

## SPORTS B7-10

### N.F.L. Faces a Bias Lawsuit

Brian Flores, the former coach of the Miami Dolphins, said teams discriminated against him and other Black coaches in their hiring.

PAGE B9

## OPINION A18-19

### Amy Julia Becker

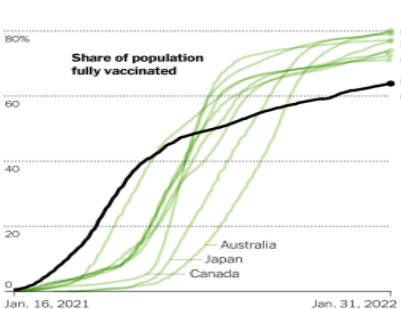
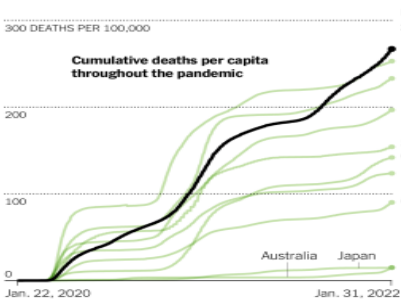
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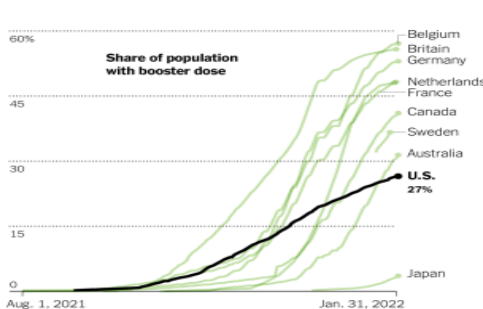
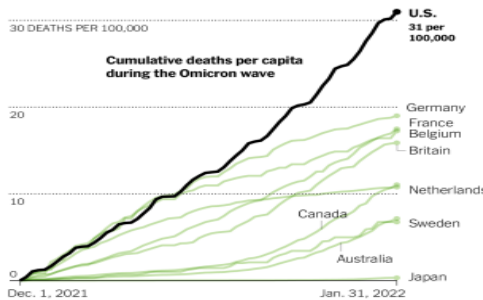
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## U.S. Leads in Deaths and Lags in Vaccinations Among High-Income Nations

America, with one of the most powerful vaccine arsenals, has failed to inoculate as much of its population as other wealthy nations. Page A11.



Sources: New York Times database of reports from state and local health agencies (U.S. deaths); The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University (world deaths); World Bank (world populations); Census Bureau (U.S. population); Our World in Data (world vaccinations); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. vaccinations). [Note: Countries shown are those with the top 10 gross national income per capita among countries with a population of over 10 million. Sweden data for booster doses is available only from Jan. 20, 2022.]



ELEANOR LUTZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES

### National Debt Breaks Record At \$30 Trillion

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — America's gross national debt topped \$30 trillion for the first time on Tuesday, an ominous fiscal milestone that underscores the fragile nature of the country's long-term economic health as it grapples with soaring prices and the prospect of higher interest rates.

The breach of that threshold, which was revealed in new Treasury Department figures, arrived years earlier than previously projected as a result of trillions in federal spending that the United States has deployed to combat the pandemic. That \$5 trillion, which funded expanded jobless benefits, financial support for small businesses and stimulus payments, was financed with borrowed money.

The borrowing binge, which many economists viewed as necessary to help the United States recover from the pandemic, has left the nation with a debt burden so large that the government would need to spend an amount larger than America's entire annual economy in order to pay it off.

Some economists contend that the nation's large debt load is not unhealthy given that the economy is growing, interest rates are low and investors are still willing to buy U.S. Treasury securities, which gives them safe assets to help manage their financial risk. Those securities allow the government to borrow money relatively cheaply and use it to invest in the economy.

For years, presidents have promised to limit federal borrowing and bring down the nation's

Continued on Page A14

### Covid Tests Head to Homes, After a Late Dash

This article is by Noah Weiland, Katie Thomas and Jessica Silver-Greenberg.

WASHINGTON — As the United States saw a nearly vertical increase in coronavirus cases in late December and a growing backlash over a shortage of rapid tests, President Biden promised that his administration would mail 500 million of them to Americans, free of charge.

There was a major hitch: The administration had yet to secure a single test kit for the program. The announcement sent officials hunting for stockpiles in warehouses around the country and

### 60 Million Households Make Request After Biden's Promise

uncommitted supply from large manufacturers.

Today the federal government is mailing tens of millions of rapid tests requested through a new Postal Service website that has sustained heavy traffic, with roughly 60 million households ordering the tests so far, according to the White House. The nation has a little more than twice that many households overall, suggesting enormous interest. Orders are limited to four per household for now.

Testing shortages have bedeviled the government since the beginning of the pandemic, and the resurgent supply of at-home tests, which deliver results in about 15 minutes, may be coming too late, given that the Omicron variant has already peaked in many regions. But the home deliveries, and broadened access to tests overall, represent a striking turnaround for an administration that had struggled to meet demand as it focused largely on vaccination.

It succeeded partly by turning to a cast of new players in a fast-Continued on Page A11

### Brady Retires After 22 Years of Setting Records and Defying Time

By BEN SHPIGEL

Tom Brady's football career traced an arc that bordered on mythical, ascending from sixth-round N.F.L. draft pick to seven-time Super Bowl champion quarterback and global celebrity. And, after more than two decades of unparalleled brilliance in his sport, it has ended.

The retirement announcement by Brady, who once said that he would leave football only when his performance began to decline, comes as he is, even at age 44, still clearly among the best in his sport. In his 22nd season, he led the league in passing yards (5,316), completions (485) and touchdowns (43) for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who lost in the divisional round of the N.F.C. playoffs to the Los Angeles Rams.

Brady's official declaration came three days after ESPN reported his departure, inciting a frenzy that was initially denied by



NOM KLEIN/USA TODAY SPORTS, VIA REUTERS

Tom Brady announced his retirement on social media Tuesday.

his father, Tom Brady Sr., and his agent, Don Yee, who in a statement said Brady alone would announce the details of his future plans.

Brady had for years asserted

that he wanted to play until he was 45 years old. But on his "Let's Go!" podcast with Jim Gray in late January, he spoke about spending more time with his wife, the supermodel Gisele Bündchen, and three

children, and said he would make a decision with their input. He said that he always believed the sport of football is an "all-in proposition" — if a 100% competitive commitment isn't there, you won't succeed, and success is what I love so much about our game," Brady said in his Instagram post.

He added: "This is difficult for me to write, but here it goes: I am not going to make that competitive commitment anymore. I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention."

After Brady's announcement, tributes from across the N.F.L. flowed in. The Patriots, for whom he played his first 20 seasons, thanked and congratulated him on social media, as did their owner, Robert K. Kraft, who in a statement said that he has "the greatest respect" for Brady and "always will."

Continued on Page A15

02  
02  
22

EXHIBIT  
CASTELLO  
CUBE

The Socle du Monde of our Times

Today only

N 40° 46' 22"  
W 73° 58' 17"

Central Park, Naumburg Bandshell  
New York



## UCLA teacher raised worries last year

Ex-lecturer arrested in Colorado after making threats. Some say school ignored signs.

By ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE, NATHAN SOLIS, RICHARD WINTON AND TERESA WATANABE

To his students at UCLA, the warning signs about lecturer Matthew C. Harris seemed abundant and long-standing.

By the spring 2021 quarter, the philosophy lecturer had gained a reputation as odd and quixotic, speaking haltingly, changing his syllabus willy-nilly and spending the first four weeks of his "Philosophy of Race" class without once showing his face over Zoom.

Things got weirder as the term progressed, students said, leading up to a final exam that included an essay question about the hate-filled manifesto of Christopher Dorner, a former LAPD officer whose 2013 shooting rampage killed four people and wounded three others. Students were asked to consider the "oppression, disrespect and loss of dignity" suffered by the homicidal ex-cop.

Eventually, one student said she reported Harris to campus authorities and the FBI after he directed another student to his YouTube channel, which included disturbing references to sexual perversion and bomb threats at Los Angeles International Airport. UCLA removed the postdoctoral fellow from his post last spring after emails he sent to his mother revealed even more graphic, and specific, al-

[See UCLA, A9]

## BEIJING OLYMPICS



ABDURAHMAN Tohti, a Uyghur who is in Turkey, lost touch with his family after China's mass arrests.

## Uyghurs seize on Games to shine light on their plight

Some exiles protest China's repression and labor camps

By ALICE SU

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Surely his son would know his voice, Abdurahman Tohti thought.

But the answer that came over the phone nearly crushed him. "I have no father," the boy replied in Mandarin, not in Uyghur, his mother tongue.

"The Chinese government trained him like that," said Tohti. "It's a feeling I cannot describe."

The boy was only 2 in 2016, when he left Turkey with his mother and grandmother to visit their homeland in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Mass arrests began while the child was there. More than

a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other mostly Muslim minorities were forced into indoctrination camps. Tohti, who had been living and working in Istanbul since he left China years earlier, lost contact with his entire family.

Five years after China began the campaign of mass incarceration, cultural erasure and coercive labor, most Uyghurs abroad remain cut off from their families. Many kept quiet through the first years of the camps, afraid that contacting their loved ones would draw fresh persecution. But Uyghur exiles have since grown bolder — staging protests and filing legal complaints — in calling attention to their people's plight and taking a stand against repression.

Now, as the world's gaze turns to Beijing for the Winter Olympics, Uyghurs, along with Tibetans, Hong Kongers and Chinese human rights advocates, are calling for governments to boycott the Games and athletes to speak out against the Communist Party. More than 240 international nongovernmental organizations, many of them human rights groups, issued a statement last week urging governments, athletes and sponsors to not legitimize China's abuses.

Tohti hopes the groups succeed. He cannot bear that his boy, Abdulaziz, has lost the language of his people. He first learned of it in 2019 when he spotted Abdulaziz in an online

[See Uyghurs, A4]

## Brady showed his greatness on field until the very end

BILL PLASCHKE

The press box was suddenly hushed. I'll never forget the sound of that hush.

It was two Sundays ago in Tampa, Raymond James Stadium, the Rams playing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFC divisional playoff.

For nearly three hours, the Rams were dominating, leading by 24 points, and my working brethren were relaxed, chatting, loudly typing stories that would be completed long before the end of the game.

Then, in the flash of a GOAT, everything changed. Tom Brady went to work. And the press box grew sweepingly silent, awe-struck, entranced, because everyone knew.

At age 44, in his 22nd season, Brady was still scary as hell.

Brady completed five straight passes to set up a field goal. Brady completed three straight passes to set up a touchdown. Brady completed a 55-yard pass for another touchdown. Brady completed a perfect pass over the middle to set up a game-tying touchdown.

That last throw was a

nine-yard dart through traffic to Cameron Brate, a beautiful toss that would eventually sail into history.

It would be the last pass of his career.

Brady announced his retirement Tuesday, and how perfect that he ended his playing days still fighting, still climbing, still able to mount a 24-point comeback with a greatness that made anything possible.

The Rams won Brady's last game, but they won it only because he was on the bench, helpless to stop a last-second field goal drive. They won only by taking the ball out of his hands, sitting him down and making him watch.

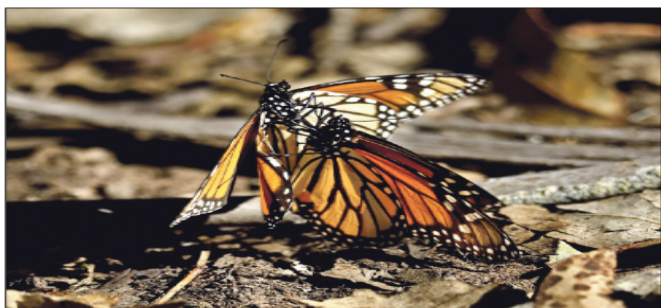
Brady didn't run out of talent. He ran out of time. He didn't stumble out of his final moments. He marched boldly away. Even while taking his last competitive breaths, Brady nearly pulled off a miracle.

He is so magical, folks crowded around one of the Raymond James Stadium tunnels after the game just to watch him walk off.

He is taller than one would think, his 6-foot-4 frame often dwarfed by the giant linemen around him. He also looks older than one might imagine, the years showing on his face in ways they never appeared

[See Plaschke, A12]

EX-COACH SUES NFL: Flores, fired by Dolphins, alleges racial discrimination by teams. SPORTS, B10



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES mate at a preserve in Los Osos, Calif. The population is starting to recover after nearly disappearing for two years.

COLUMN ONE

## A flutter of magical hope along the Central Coast

By DIANA MARCUM REPORTING FROM LOS OSOS, CALIF.

There was the distinctive noise of something falling.

Plop. Plop.

It was the sound of pairs of monarch butterflies hitting the ground.

Mating season, which sometimes involves the male monarch hurtling the female from canopy to earth, had come early. In a small eucalyptus grove at the end of a housing tract, it was raining butterflies.

One pair landed next to a black Labrador stretched out in dappled sun. The dog wiggled to her feet.

"Careful, Shilo! Don't step on the butterflies," called her owner, Nate Everitt, who lives nearby and volunteers in the Coastal Access Monarch Butterfly Preserve in Los Osos.

Kingston Leong, an entomologist who watches over this and other little-known Central Coast monarch havens — and the first to document hurtling-from-the-treetops mating behavior — kept his eyes on the butterflies missed by Shilo's paws.

"They're going to spiral," he said. They did. Two interlocked butterflies looped upward, a tumbling bright orange against bright-blue sky, landing on the top of a Monterey pine.

Leong pointed out that the sunlight shining through their patterned, or-

[See Monarchs, A12]

## WHY OMICRON WASN'T A 'GREAT UNIFIER'

It initially appeared the variant might spread equally. Then it hit poor areas.

By HAYLEY SMITH

The Omicron wave swept through Los Angeles over the last two months with unprecedented speed but ultimately traced a grim path that is becoming increasingly familiar two years into the pandemic.

Cases first exploded in affluent communities, where air travel likely introduced the latest coronavirus variant, which got a head start in places like South Africa, London and New York.

At first, it appeared the variant might be a "great unifier," spreading equally throughout the county, but then it took a hard turn toward lower-income communities of color that had already suffered the most throughout the pandemic.

By January's end, officials with the L.A. County Department of Public Health said South and South Central Los Angeles, East L.A. and parts of the San Fernando Valley once again had the highest coronavirus case rates in the county.

The shifts "likely reflect the fact that we're now seeing increased transmission among those whose jobs are putting them in close contact with others and who often live in crowded housing," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said.

The findings lay bare how even a highly contagious variant like Omicron couldn't overcome the pervasive and systemic inequities of public health in a massive county like Los Angeles.

Though Omicron is proving to be generally less severe than earlier strains of the coronavirus, essential workers, people who live in dense or multigenerational housing and those with underlying health issues remain at high risk. [See Omicron, A7]

## Pfizer seeks OK for youngest kids

Urged by FDA, the firm asks for COVID vaccine authorization for those under 5. PERSPECTIVES, A2

## County's mask rules questioned

Scrutiny comes after the governor and mayor are seen barefaced at a Rams game. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Ukraine calls on its allies to get tough on Russia

Kyiv asks the West for stronger "prevention" measures against an invasion. WORLD, A3

## Early snow gains disappear

After a dry January, Sierra levels are again below average, survey finds. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Coveted QB commits to USC

Oklahoma transfer Caleb Williams will rejoin coach Lincoln Riley. SPORTS, B10

Weather Sunny and windy. L.A. Basin: 66/43. B6

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.





## Drone firm obscured money ties to China

Four state-linked bodies invested in commercially popular DJI, files show

BY CATE CADELL

Chinese drone maker DJI, a leading supplier of drones to U.S. law enforcement, obscured its Chinese government funding while claiming that Beijing had not invested in the firm, according to a Washington Post review of company reports and articles posted on the sites of state-owned and -controlled investors, as well as analysis by IPVM, a video surveillance research group.

The documents show that four investment bodies owned or administered by Beijing have invested in the popular drone brand in recent years, including a state asset manager that has pledged to play a key role in promoting partnerships between private enterprises and the Chinese military.

Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, which authorizes DJI's equipment for use on U.S. communications networks, labeled reports of the links as "deeply concerning" in an interview. The FCC proposed changes last year that could severely limit access to U.S. markets for companies deemed a national security risk.

Scrutiny of DJI comes as the company is already facing action by U.S. regulators over its ties to Beijing's security apparatus. DJI was among eight Chinese companies added to a U.S. investment blacklist by the Treasury Department in December over sales of

SEE DRONES ON A11

## A quiet Lunar New Year observance



AGING PARAMESWARA/GETTY IMAGES

A man prays at Vihara Satya Dharma, a Chinese temple in Indonesia, to mark the Lunar New Year. Countries across Asia welcomed the Year of the Tiger on Tuesday, although Beijing banned fireworks ahead of the Winter Olympics, which open Friday. The ban helped the city record its cleanest air for a Lunar New Year in nine years.

## Spyware firm allegedly sought cell network access

BY CRAIG TIMBERG

The surveillance company NSO Group offered to give representatives of an American mobile-security firm "bags of cash" in exchange for access to global cellular networks, according to a whistleblower who has described the encounter in confidential disclosures to the Justice Department that have been reviewed by The Washington Post.

Whistleblower says NSO offered 'bags of cash' to mobile-security company

The mobile-phone security expert Gary Miller alleges that the offer came during a conference call in August 2017 between NSO Group officials and representa-

tives of his employer at the time, Mobileum, a California-based company that provides security services to cellular companies worldwide. The NSO officials specifically were seeking access to what is called the SS7 network, which helps cellular companies route calls and services as their users roam the world, according to Miller.

Surveillance companies try to access cellular communication

networks to geolocate targets and provide other spying services. Cellular companies seek to prevent such intrusions by restricting access to the SS7 network and using firewalls to block computer queries that seek personal information on their customers.

Miller's allegations are becoming public at a time when the Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation into

SEE SPYWARE ON A24

## Putin: Ukraine a pawn of West

SAYS U.S., ALLIES AIM TO HEM IN RUSSIA

In Kyiv, warnings of a wider, intractable conflict

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN, MISSY RYAN, RACHEL PANNETT AND WILLIAM BOOTH

KYIV, UKRAINE — President Vladimir Putin hit back against the West on Tuesday, accusing the United States and NATO of using Ukraine to hem in Russia and ignoring Moscow's security concerns.

The Russian leader, speaking to reporters as a major military buildup around Ukraine stokes fears of an assault, said the Kremlin was reviewing U.S. and NATO replies to recent proposals that seek to check NATO's military presence in the region, one element in a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at averting further conflict.

"But it is already clear that Russia's fundamental concerns have been ignored," Putin said, questioning NATO's open-door policy, which could allow for former Soviet states like Ukraine to join. "NATO refers to the right of countries to choose freely, but you cannot strengthen someone's security at the expense of others."

SEE UKRAINE ON A15

In war's path? Ukrainians wait and worry along a key entry route. A14

China and Russia: Putin's trip shows the nations' close ties. A15

## Ex-coach sues NFL over hiring practices

BY MARK MASKE AND NICKI JHABVALA

Brian Flores, who was fired last month as coach of the Miami Dolphins, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the National Football League and its teams, accusing them of discriminating against Black coaches in their hiring practices and denying them equal opportunity and pay compared with their White counterparts.

The lawsuit is a stinging public rebuke by a prominent Black coach of the NFL, which for years has said hiring more Black candidates to senior coaching and executive positions was a major goal for a league in which approximately 70 percent of the players are Black. The NFL's own senior executives have lamented the lack of diversity among the coaching

SEE FLORES ON A10

BEIJING OLYMPICS

## A 'closed loop' separates Beijing from Olympics



AARON FAVILA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athletes, journalists and officials were tested before boarding planes to China and again upon arrival at Beijing's airports. Then they waited on another test before entering the "closed loop."

Culture, tourism take a back seat to safety under covid policy

BY ADAM KILGORE

BEIJING — For participants, the Olympics are not taking place in China so much as within a tiny universe that happens to be inside China. Officials have labeled it a "closed loop." People inside cannot go out, and people outside cannot go in. Visitors may observe the host city only at a remove, through the windows of their hotel room or moving buses. The Beijing Olympics are composed of Beijing and the Olympics, and the two are walled off from one another.

Much like their brethren in Tokyo last summer, Beijing 2022 organizers created a bubble sys-

SEE OLYMPICS ON A13

Barry Svrluga: Abby Roque is a pioneer for Indigenous people. D1

## NATO forces unite, grow as Putin tries for opposite

BY LIZ SLY

AMARI AIR BASE, ESTONIA — With roaring engines flashing orange against the snowy sky, two U.S. F-15 fighter jets on Tuesday streaked into the icy air above this former Soviet air base, where they have become part of the effort to reinforce NATO's eastern flank in response to Russia's military buildup around Ukraine.

The jets are among a contingent of six F-15 Strike Eagle warplanes that arrived in Estonia last week from their base in Britain, initially part of a scheduled NATO exercise. Now, the planes will remain indefinitely, said Lt. Col. Taylor Gifford, director of operations for the 336th Fighter Squadron, to bolster the small Baltic air-policing mission patrolling the only sliver of NATO airspace directly border-

SEE NATO ON A16

## IN THE NEWS



DANIEL LIN/DAILY NEWS/REUTERS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fatal shooting in Virginia Two Bridgewater College campus officers were killed, and a suspect was taken into custody. B1

Meet the Washington ... ? The Washington Football Team unveils its new name today, part of an 18-month rebranding process. D1

### THE NATION

The lack of Medicare coverage for at-home coronavirus tests has sparked an outcry. A3  
Former president Donald Trump's latest claims that the election should have been "overturned" have jolted a congressional debate. A4  
Native American tribes reached a landmark opioid deal with Johnson & Johnson and drug distributors for up to \$665 million. A6  
All federal prisons were placed on lockdown this week after a gang fight in a Texas facility that left two

injured and two dead. A6

President Biden has started reaching out to Republican senators in an effort to smooth the path for a Supreme Court pick. A10

### THE WORLD

The Indian government said it would tax cryptocurrencies and create a "digital rupee," in a reversal of an earlier proposal to ban almost all digital assets. A17  
After a coup attempt, Guinea-Bissau's president said the situation was "under control." A18

THE ECONOMY  
About 4.3 million

people quit or changed jobs in December, according to new federal findings. A19

### THE REGION

Another wave of bomb threats at Howard University and at least a dozen other historically Black institutions deepened a sense of fear and unease among students and staff. B1  
Virginia's public universities are rolling back student coronavirus vaccine mandates after an opinion issued last week by the state's new attorney general. B1

Richmond began removing the pedestals for the Confederate monuments that were taken

down in 2020. B1

D.C. day-care workers will receive checks for at least \$10,000 after the D.C. Council voted to redirect tax dollars from the city's wealthiest residents. B1

A Virginia Senate panel rejected Trump administration EPA chief Andrew Wheeler for a Cabinet post, but the snub is unlikely to halt efforts to install him as secretary of natural and historic resources. B1

### SPORTS

Tom Brady, the seven-time Super Bowl champion, makes his retirement official. Sally Jenkins discusses what made him great. D1

## INSIDE



### STYLE

Two's company, three's allowed Janie and Cody and Maggie are a Tennessee troupe riding out the pandemic together. C1

### FOOD

Sauce is the thing with chicken wings Think beyond Buffalo when you're preparing the football-watching snacking legend. E1

BUSINESS NEWS	A19
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LOTTERIES	B3
OBITUARIES	B6
TELEVISION	C4
WORLD NEWS	A14

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## deportes

## Siempre cumple

La selección festejó con la gente en Córdoba

Con gol de Lautaro, venció a Colombia 1-0; incluso sin Messi, no pierde contundencia.



Martínez marcó su 19º gol con la selección y lo celebra con Acuña

PALOMA HERRERA  
RENUNCIÓ AL BALLET  
DEL TEATRO COLÓN

—espectáculos

La prestigiosa artista era desde 2017 la directora del Ballet Estable; presentó su dimisión indeclinable por problemas con el staff de bailarines.

## LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 2 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

FMI: el portazo de Máximo  
Kirchner pone en riesgo el  
aval del Congreso al acuerdo**DEUDA.** Unos 30 legisladores de La Cúmpora y aliados resisten el entendimiento anunciado por Alberto Fernández; sin embargo, en el oficialismo dicen que el bloque no se fractura

Unos 30 diputados del Frente de Todos rechazan el entendimiento con el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) en línea con la postura de Máximo Kirchner, quien el lunes renunció a la jefatura de la bancada por su desacuerdo con la resolución de la negociación del Gobierno por la deuda.

El sector que cuestiona al minis-

tro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, aparece así como un escollo para que Alberto Fernández logre el respaldo del Congreso al entendimiento con el Fondo Monetario. Pese a las diferencias y al portazo del hijo de la vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner, en el oficialismo desestimaban ayer una fractura de la bancada.

Máximo Kirchner fue reempla-

zado ayer al frente del bloque por el santafesino Germán Martínez, luego de reuniones entre Fernández —y el titular de la Cámara de Diputados, Sergio Massa. Martínez responde al exministro Agustín Rossi, quien ayer aseguró que “la posición de Máximo no representa a todo el kirchnerismo”. **Página 6**Reuniones frenéticas en la  
Casa Rosada y Olivos

Cecilia Devanna

**Página 7**El Presidente y Massa  
apuraron el reemplazo

Santiago Dapelo

**Página 7**

## EL ANÁLISIS

Dos actos  
golpistas en  
24 horas

Joaquín Morales Solá

—LA NACION—

Era el mejor de los tiempos, era el peor de los tiempos. El célebre párrafo de Dickens podría servir para describir el estado de ánimo de gran parte del gabinete que responde a Alberto Fernández. “Esta es la oportunidad”, repite un ministro albertista. ¿Oportunidad para qué? Para demostrar que el cristinismo se convirtió en una secta pequeña, solo preocupada por satisfacer a una tertulia cada vez más insignificante. **Continúa en la página 14**

Dirigentes —entre ellos, D'Elía y Godoy— y funcionarios judiciales alineados con el kirchnerismo, ayer, frente a Tribunales

TOMÁS CUESTA

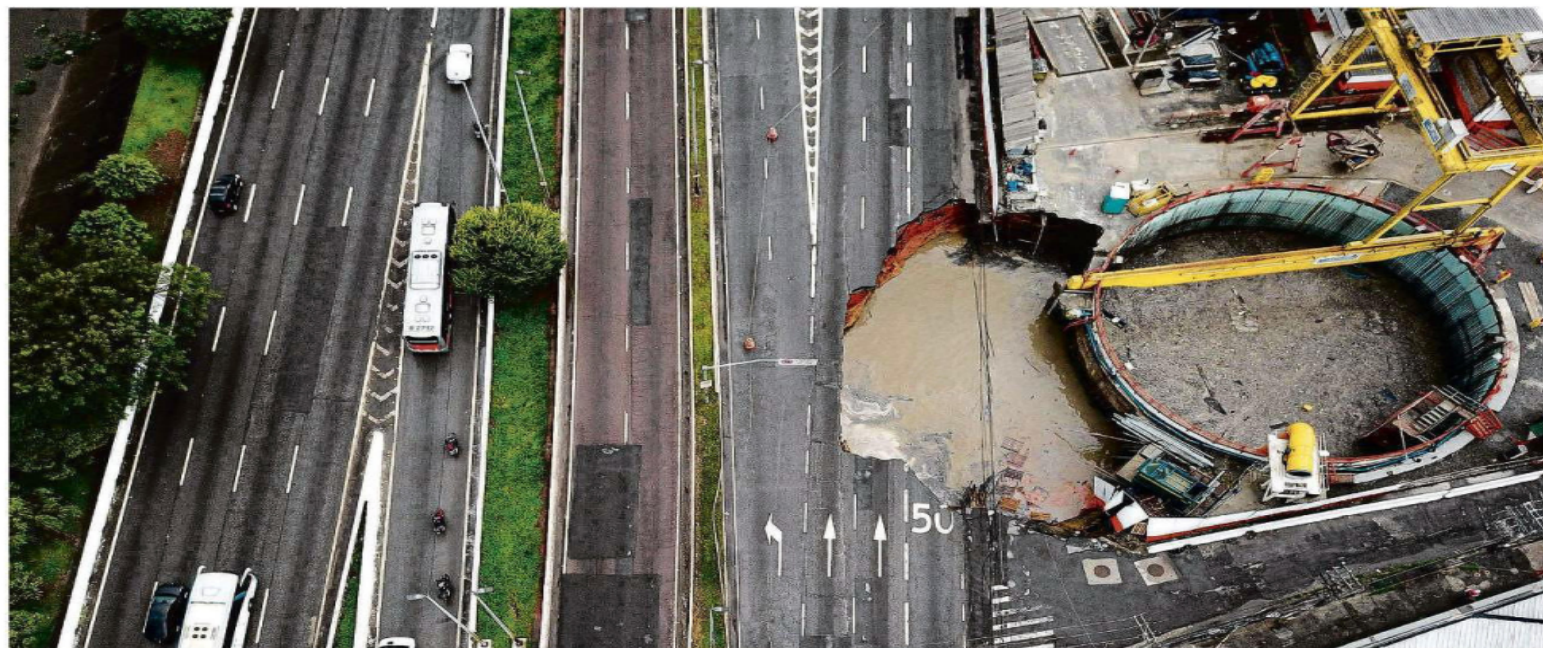
El kirchnerismo  
duro marchó “para  
que se vaya la Corte”**JUSTICIA.** La manifestación fue encabezada por el juez Ramos Padilla y el expiquetero D'Elía; estuvo Boudou; no hubo funcionarios de primera línea

La Plaza Lavalle se transformó ayer en el epicentro de un embate político contra el Poder Judicial. Allí, frente al Palacio de Tribunales, dirigentes alineados con el kirchnerismo pidieron públicamente la renuncia de los cuatro jueces de la Corte Suprema, que a su vez no asistieron a sus despachos y reprogramaron el habitual acuerdo de los martes para hoy.

Los protagonistas de la manifestación fueron el juez penal porte-

ño Juan María Ramos Padilla y el dirigente Luis D'Elía. También fue de la partida el exvicepresidente Amado Boudou, quien, junto a D'Elía, estuvieron presos. En la marcha se hicieron ver dirigentes sindicales como Pablo Moyano y Sergio Palazzo, y militantes afines al gremialista Juan Pablo “Pata” Medina. La convocatoria fue cuestionada por la oposición, antes de una contramarcha que se realizará mañana. **Página 15**La soja llegó  
a su precio  
más alto  
desde junio  
de 2021**DÓLARES.** Por la baja de la cosecha en la región, superó ayer los US\$560 por tonelada. **Página 18**Rosario. La  
lujosa vida  
de los narcos  
millennialsLa mayoría no conoció la pobreza; combinan salvajismo mafioso con ostentación. **Página 26**Dinamarca, el  
primer país que  
vuelve a la vida  
en prepandemia**COVID.** Eliminó todas las restricciones sanitarias y recupera la plena normalidad. **Página 22**





Cratera aberta ao lado de obra da linha 6 do metrô, na marginal Tietê, após galeria de esgoto se romper; buraco cresceu ao longo do dia, ocupando três faixas da pista local *Filipe Araújo/APP*

**Esporte B7**  
Paulo André recebe dinheiro do Bolsa Atleta enquanto participa do BBB

**Ilustrada C1**  
Almodóvar estreia 'Mães Paralelas' e encara o fantasma do fascismo

**Ilustrada C8**  
Tony Bizarro, morto aos 73, foi além do soul e esteve ao lado de Tim Maia

## A pandemia em 1º.fev

Dados das 20h

### POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

#### No Brasil

Ap menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose) **79,1%**

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) **69,7%**

Dose de reforço **21,5%**

### ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

#### Óbitos

Média móvel

**604** ↑ 226,2%\*

Em 24 h

767

Casos ↑ +120,5%\* (acelerado)

Total

628.132

\*Variação em relação a 14 dias

## Cratera se abre ao lado de obra do metrô em São Paulo

Sabesp aponta rompimento de galeria de esgoto como causa; não houve vítimas

Uma cratera se abriu no asfalto da marginal Tietê, na altura da ponte da Freguesia do Ó, na manhã de ontem, bem ao lado da obra da linha 6-laranja do metrô. Segundo a Sabesp, uma tubulação de esgoto se rompeu enquanto a máquina conhecia como tatzão perfurava um túnel três metros abaixo.

Ninguém ficou ferido, mas o incidente causou transtornos, com a interdição total do sentido Ayrton Senna da via. A pista expressa foi liberada à tarde, mas a local deve continuar fechada por tempo indeterminado. Instável, o buraco foi se expandindo ao longo do dia. À noite, já havia tomado três faixas.

O secretário estadual dos Transportes Metropolitanos, Paulo Galli, afirmou que não houve choque entre o tatzão e a galeria.

Uma hipótese que deve ser investigada é a de que a passagem do equipamento tenha provocado vibração suficiente no solo para danificar a tubulação.

As empresas responsáveis negaram relação da obra com a ruptura. *Cotidiano B1*

**Análise de risco da construção deveria ter detectado problema B2**

**Análise Eduardo Scolese**  
Episódio é nova vitraça tucana em obras do metrô B2

## Governo vê clima hostil com trocas na cúpula do Judiciário

Trocas de comando em cortes superiores e no tribunal que fiscaliza o orçamento devem criar cenário desfavorável a Jair Bolsonaro antes das eleições. A chefia de Alexandre de Moraes no TSE, a partir de agosto, é vista como a mais delicada. *Política A4*

## Esper Kallás

### Fumaça tóxica sobre a Covid-19

Fazer a opinião pública entender distorções sobre a Covid não é uma tarefa fácil. Seguem algumas dicas: evite usar casos raros para chegar a conclusões, olhe para o todo. Busque informações de especialistas no assunto, não oportunistas de ocasião. *Saúde B5*

## Bolsonarista é nomeado corregedor da Receita Federal

Política A6

## Bolsonaro nega verba a Doria, mas fala em ajudar locais das chuvas

Cotidiano B4



Video mostra Moisés Mugenyi, no chão e sem reação, sendo espancado na Barra da Tijuca

## Polícia prende três homens pela morte de Moisés no Rio

A Polícia Civil do Rio prendeu 3 suspeitos de participação na morte por espancamento do congolês Moisés Mugenyi. Um deles confessou ter dado pauladas na vítima, como mostra vídeo no quiosque em que Moisés trabalhava. O tio do congolês disse que o sobrinho apanhou até quando já estava morto. *Cotidiano B3*

**Antonio Isuperio**  
Irmão, o Brasil te matou e me mata também B3

## EDITORIAIS A2

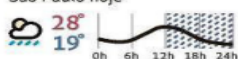
**Rédeas institucionais**  
Sobre novos embates entre Bolsonaro e Supremo.

### UTI fiscal

Acerca de melhora duvidosa das contas públicas.

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: www.climatepro.com.br



## Planalto avalia cortar IPI para forçar governadores a rever ICMS

Na tentativa de reduzir o preço dos combustíveis, o governo federal estuda realizar corte linear do Imposto sobre Produtos Industrializados —de 10% a 50%— para pressionar os estados sobre a cobrança do ICMS. *Mercado A11*

**Deputados tentam liberar trabalho aos 14 anos Mercado A13**

**TCU vai apurar se BB prejudica estados de oposição a Bolsonaro A12**

## Putin diz que EUA ignoram pedidos e faz manobra militar

Em sua primeira declaração sobre a tensão com a Ucrânia no ano, o presidente da Rússia, Vladimir Putin, disse ontem que EUA e Otan ignoraram suas demandas para encontrar estabilidade no Leste Europeu. Moscou fez novo exercício militar. *Mundo A9*

**Saiba quem são as cotadas à Suprema Corte dos EUA**  
O presidente Joe Biden prometeu fazer indicação de substituta de Stephen Breyer neste mês, e 13 juízas negras são consideradas para o cargo. *Mundo A10*





# LE FIGARO

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



**scope**

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- **Restaurants** : les plus belles tables d'hôtel pour la Saint-Valentin

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**FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question de mardi :**  
Présidentielle :  
Anne Hidalgo doit-elle  
renoncer à sa candidature  
pour se ranger derrière  
Christiane Taubira ?

**OUI 42% NON 58%**  
**TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 184 615**

**Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr**  
La France doit-elle retirer  
ses troupes du Mali ?

ILLUSTRATION : FABIEN CLAIREFOND - ALDI

## Covid : faut-il accélérer la levée des restrictions ?

Le nombre de cas positifs et les admissions à l'hôpital baissent en France, deux signes indiquant que le pic de la cinquième vague épidémique semble enfin franchi.

Alors que les contaminations par le Covid atteignent des niveaux records au Danemark, le pays a fait le choix de lever presque intégralement toutes les mesures de contrôle de

l'épidémie. Une décision conseillée par les experts scientifiques danois, grâce à l'effet combiné du fort taux de vaccination de la population et à la moindre dangerosité du

variant Omicron. Au Royaume-Uni, la plupart des restrictions ont également été levées, même si certains commerces exigent encore le port du masque. En France, le pic de la

cinquième vague semble enfin dépassé et les mesures de restrictions s'allègent, mais lentement. Première étape ce mercredi, avec la fin des masques en extérieur, des jauges

dans les grands événements et du télétravail obligatoire. Les prochains allègements, dont la réouverture des discothèques, sont prévus dans deux semaines, le 16 février prochain.

→ **LE PIC DE LA VAGUE ENFIN ATTENT, RESTE À ATTENDRE LA DÉCRUE** → **LES DANOIS RETROUVENT LE PARFUM DE LA LIBERTÉ** → **LA PLUPART DES RESTRICTIONS SONT LEVÉES EN ANGLETERRE MAIS LA POPULATION RESTE PRUDENTE** → **MADRID VEUT PASSER À UNE SURVEILLANCE ALLÉGÉE, COMME POUR LA GRIPPE** → **À PÉKIN, UN PÉRIPLE SANS FIN VERS DES JO DÉSHUMANISÉS** → **À OTTAWA, CES « GILETS JAUNES » QUE LE CANADA N'AVAIT PAS VU VENIR** **PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**

### Au Mali, la France s'interroge sur le maintien de ses troupes

Face à une junte malienne hostile qui vient d'expulser son ambassadeur, Paris se donne deux semaines pour trancher sur l'avenir de son intervention militaire au Sahel. Certains de ses partenaires européens renoncent déjà.

**PAGE 8**

PHOTO: LA PROVENCE / NAUPEP



### Les maisons de retraite Orpea dans le viseur du gouvernement

La ministre déléguée à l'Autonomie, Brigitte Bourguignon, a reçu mardi les dirigeants du groupe mis en cause pour maltraitance sur ses résidents dans le livre *Les Fossoyeurs*. Elle a annoncé l'ouverture de deux enquêtes et des contrôles inopinés. L'entreprise, par ailleurs menacée d'une action en justice par plusieurs familles de résidents, a déclaré avoir lancé une contre-enquête. **PAGE 5**

**ÉDITORIAL** par Vincent Trémolet de Villers [vtremolet@lefigaro.fr](mailto:vtremolet@lefigaro.fr)

### Le galop de la liberté

C'était il y a un an. Emmanuel Macron avait eu le courage d'écarter les modélisateurs effrayants, les bureaucrates craintifs, les précautionneux de principe qui, une fois encore, voulaient confiner le pays. S'ensuivit, sur les plateaux de télévision, une procession de médecins et de scientifiques transformés en Philpippus annonçant l'apocalypse. « Il a du sang sur les mains », disaient les plus fanatiques, brandissant ici un rapport biaisé, là une projection orientée. En vain, les faits venaient confirmer en tout point que ce choix était proportionné. Aujourd'hui, les mêmes voudraient maintenant, malgré la conjugaison d'une vaccination et d'une contamination de masse, malgré la moindre agressivité du nouveau variant, malgré les déclarations rassurantes des grandes institutions - OMS, Agence européenne des médicaments -, le même paradigme étouffant. Le décalage entre leur discours et la réalité est visible à l'œil nu. Les mesures de freinage ? Elles apparaissent dérisoires quand nous avions il y a encore dix jours 1 million de cas par jour. Le passe vaccinal ? Il est anachronique quand le nombre de Français

vaccinés dépasse les 90 %, quand, depuis l'émergence d'Omicron, plus de 15 millions d'entre nous ont été infectés, quand surtout (et c'est la meilleure nouvelle) ce chiffre vertigineux n'a pas entraîné l'engorgement de nos services de réanimation. Inutile de reprendre l'antienne sur les « non-vaccinés qui entraînent des déprogrammations », l'AP-HP elle-même reconnaît que c'est l'exode massif de soignants qui entraîne d'abord la fermeture de blocs. On l'a compris, plus rien n'est ajusté à la situation actuelle : ni les règles d'isolement, ni la gabegie des tests (10 milliards d'euros !), ni la pratique du QR Code, ni le masque à la récréation... L'audace, aujourd'hui, serait de rejoindre la Grande-Bretagne, le Danemark, qui retrouvent les charmes de la vie d'avant. Confondant la « raison d'État » et la « raison des bureaux », « qui permet à l'administration de cacher ses fautes et de les aggraver » (Anatole France), nos technocrates demandent à Emmanuel Macron de lever les restrictions au rythme de l'escargot. Souhaitons qu'il préfère le galop de la liberté... ■

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## Has sex positivity's revolution failed?

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# Levelling-up drive is 'new slogans without new ideas', says Labour

Critics say 12-point plan to help the poorest areas lacks funding and clarity

Heather Stewart  
Josh Halliday

Targets to reduce inequalities across society by 2030 are to be enshrined in law as part of long-awaited levelling up proposals to be published today,

amid new rows over funding for the government's flagship policy.

Michael Gove will promise to "call time on the postcode lottery" of inequalities across Britain, setting 12 legally binding "missions" to improve health, living standards, transport, crime and wellbeing by the end of the decade.

Announcing the government's levelling up strategy, the communities secretary will say that every area of England will have the chance to create a "London-style" metro mayor

as part of what he claims is the biggest shift of power from Whitehall to local areas in modern times.

The levelling up white paper comes with Boris Johnson desperate to shift the public debate away from lockdown parties and on to what he says is the guiding aim of his premiership.

However, critics warned that the government is not clear about how it will achieve its 12 "missions", which include everything from cutting crime to boosting skill levels in

left-behind regions, and that there is insufficient funding behind the plans. Labour denounced it as a series of slogans.

The new levelling up targets include increasing taxpayer-funded research and development outside London and the south-east by 40%; boosting "perceived wellbeing" in every part of the country and improving "pride in place" defined as "people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community"; and bringing

local transport connectivity across the UK "significantly closer to the standards of London".

Gove said: "For decades, too many communities have been overlooked and undervalued. As some areas have flourished, others have been left in a cycle of decline. The UK has been like a jet firing on only one engine. Levelling up and this white paper is about ending this historic injustice and calling time on the postcode lottery."

Ministers will give government departments a

10 ➔



## Ukraine invasion would be disaster, says Johnson

A Russian invasion of Ukraine would end in a humanitarian, political and military disaster for Russia and the world, the prime minister warned as he visited the capital Kyiv yesterday **News Page 7 ➔**

## PM went to another No 10 party in lockdown

Exclusive  
Aubrey Allegretti  
Rowena Mason  
Peter Walker

Boris Johnson attended a prosocco-fuelled leaving do for a No 10 aide during the strict post-Christmas lockdown that is now under police investigation, the Guardian has learned.

Sue Gray's inquiry into lockdown parties this week revealed several events not previously publicised, including a gathering on 14 January 2021 "on the departure of two No 10 private secretaries". But the redacted report revealed no further details.

Sources said the event was held in Downing Street in part as a leaving do for a senior policy adviser who is now a top civil servant working in the culture department.

Prosocco is alleged to have been drunk by some staff, with Johnson understood to have given a speech thanking the official for their work and staying for about five minutes.

England's third national Covid lockdown came into

4 ➔