

What's News

Business & Finance

Nvidia and Japan's SoftBank are abandoning a deal for the U.S. semiconductor company to buy Arm from SoftBank after regulators raised antitrust concerns. **A1**

◆ **Frontier Group Holdings** agreed to buy Spirit Airlines for \$2.9 billion in cash and stock in a deal that would create a discount-airline juggernaut. **A1**

◆ **"The Matrix Resurrections"** co-producer, Village Roadshow, sued Warner Bros. over the decision to release the movie simultaneously on HBO Max and in theaters. **A1**

◆ **The Biden administration** is preparing a wave of new regulations, sparking resistance campaigns from lobbyists representing a range of businesses. **A2**

◆ **Peter Thiel**, one of Facebook's earliest investors, plans to step down from the board of parent Meta Platforms, the company said. **B1**

◆ **The SEC subpoenaed** Tesla for information about compliance with a court-ordered settlement requiring certain of Elon Musk's tweets be preapproved. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** fell 0.4% and 0.6%, respectively, while the Dow ended the session little changed. **B9**

◆ **The IRS is scrapping** its use of a private facial-recognition system to authenticate taxpayers' identities for online accounts. **A3**

◆ **The U.S. agreed to lift** import tariffs on Japanese steel imposed by the Trump administration, removing a longstanding irritant between the two allies. **A2**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden said** the Russian-built Nord Stream 2 natural-gas pipeline to Germany would be suspended if Russia invades Ukraine, with the German chancellor offering support but without explicitly saying the project would be killed. **A1**

◆ **The Supreme Court** granted Alabama's request to reinstate its electoral map that has produced a House delegation of six white Republicans and one Black Democrat, temporarily blocking a lower-court order that found the map disadvantages Black voters. **A3**

◆ **Officials in several** Democrat-led states said they would lift mask mandates for schools or other indoor areas in coming weeks as Covid-19 cases fall. **A3**

◆ **Biden's top science** adviser, Eric Lander, resigned after an internal White House investigation found that he demeaned staff in violation of the administration's workplace behavior rules. **A4**

◆ **The National Archives** recently retrieved 15 boxes of documents from Trump's Florida residence, raising questions about his compliance with federal law. **A4**

◆ **The House passed** a bipartisan bill that would bar mandatory arbitration in cases of sexual assault and harassment. The Senate could take it up as soon as this week. **A4**

◆ **Israel launched** an inquiry into allegations that police illicitly used spyware to hack phones of political activists, government bureaucrats and people close to Netanyahu. **A7**

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Russian Figure Skater Makes Olympics History With Quad



ON ICE: Kamila Valieva on Monday became the first woman to land a quadruple jump in the Olympics, putting a stamp on Russia's dominant run in the team figure skating event at the Games. For Olympics coverage, see A13-14 and WSJ.com/Sports

Frontier and Spirit to Form Discount-Airline Juggernaut

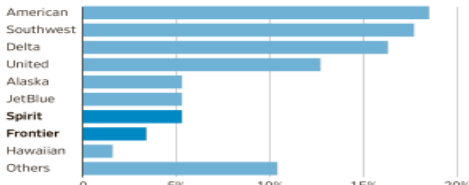
By ALISON SIDER

Frontier Group Holdings Inc. agreed to buy Spirit Airlines Inc. for \$2.9 billion in cash and stock in a deal that would create a discount-airline juggernaut.

Ultralow-cost airlines, designed around cutting costs and fares by offering a more basic flying experience, have upended the airline industry in recent years. The deal unveiled on Monday would bring together two of the biggest such airlines, which the carriers said would create the fifth-largest U.S. airline and allow them to compete more aggressively against larger rivals.

"This transaction is centered

Airline domestic market share*



*Based on revenue passenger miles for Nov. 2020 - Oct. 2021
Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

around creating an aggressive ultralow fare competitor to serve our guests even better," Spirit President and Chief Executive Ted Christie said.

The companies valued the deal at \$6.6 billion, including the assumption of net debt

and operating leases.

The consolidation comes as the travel industry continues to claw its way back toward pre-pandemic levels despite higher costs, labor shortages and disruptions caused by Covid-19.

Airlines that focus on cheap fares for leisure travelers—as Spirit and Frontier do—have added capacity back more quickly than larger rivals held back by a slower recovery in business and international travel, and have returned to ambitious growth plans. But they face competition from larger airlines such as American Airlines Group Inc. now chasing the same customers.

Upon the deal's close, Frontier and Spirit will combine

Two Years Into Pandemic, Shoppers Are Still Hoarding

Bulk buying becomes a habit amid supply uncertainty and inflation

By LISA BANNON

Alexis Abell recently walked out of a BJ's Wholesale Club outside Buffalo, N.Y., with 24 boxes of Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, a box of 50 frozen mozzarella sticks, a 40-pound bag of basmati rice and a 12-can pack of garbanzo beans.

"I don't want to be in a position again where I can't get something," says Ms. Abell, a 41-year-old mother of five, who was laid off from her retail job at a quilt shop in 2020 and decided not to return to work.

She estimates her family is now spending

about 25% more a week on food and staples than before the pandemic, and she is buying more than twice as much of some staples and household supplies.

"The stimulus money is gone, but we've gotten used to having more on hand and I'm cooking more at home, so I expect this to continue," she says.

Retailers and analysts predicted that the bulk buying in the early days of the pandemic, when supplies of many goods were constrained, would subside once people returned to work, stores were able to restock and vaccinations be-

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Warner Bros. Sued in HBO 'Matrix' Move

By JOE FLINT

In the latest battle over streaming, the co-producer of "The Matrix Resurrections" sued Warner Bros., claiming the decision to release the movie simultaneously on HBO Max and in theaters breached their contract.

The suit by Village Roadshow Entertainment Group is

a fresh volley in a growing industry fight as big media companies favor streaming over traditional distribution.

Warner Bros. parent WarnerMedia, a unit of AT&T Inc., put its entire 2021 slate of movies on its sister streaming service HBO Max at the same time as their theatrical release. The studio also moved the release date of "The Matrix Resurrections" to 2021 from 2022 in an effort to help HBO Max attract more subscribers, the lawsuit alleged.

"WB's sole purpose in moving the release date of 'The Matrix Resurrections' forward was to create a desperately needed wave of year-end HBO Max premium subscriptions from what it knew would be a

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Realtors Embrace Brutal Honesty. 'Smells Like a Farmtown.'

Agents hope advance truth-telling will avert buyer's remorse amid relocation boom

By JENNIFER LEVITZ

Dallas real-estate agent Richard Soto released a video on YouTube last year touting his state's many benefits, including a growing economy, low cost of living and friendly neighbors. He also included warnings for why people might

not want to move to Texas.

"The landscape is kind of boring; there's not much to look at," he says, whisking viewers through a virtual tour, with a stop in a subdivision of big new homes.

His unvarnished observations in the video range from the Au-

Please turn to page A9

U.S. Vows To Halt Pipeline If Russia Invades

German chancellor doesn't explicitly confirm project's end if Putin moves on Ukraine

President Biden said the Russian-built Nord Stream 2 natural-gas pipeline to Germany would be suspended if Russia invades Ukraine, with

By Gordon Lubold
in Washington,
Noemie Bissiere
in Paris and Bojan
Pancevski in Berlin

the German chancellor offering support but without explicitly saying the project would be halted.

"If Russia invades, that means tanks and troops crossing the border of Ukraine, again, then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will put an end to it," Mr. Biden said at a joint appearance with Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany after the leaders met at the White House. "I promise you, we will be able to do it."

Mr. Scholz said Germany and the U.S. are aligned in their positions regarding Moscow's potential invasion of Ukraine. In keeping with his past statements, he didn't cite suspending the pipeline specifically as among the steps his government is ready to take to punish Russia.

"We are acting together. We are absolutely united, and we will not be taking any steps, we will do the same steps, and they will be very, very hard to Russia, and they should understand that."

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◆ **Hearst on the Street:** Europe rethinks Russian gas. **B10**

Nvidia, SoftBank Call Off Blockbuster Chip-Designer Deal

By ROBERT WALL

Nvidia Corp. and Japan's SoftBank Group Corp. are abandoning a blockbuster deal for the U.S. semiconductor company to acquire chip-design specialist Arm after regulators raised antitrust concerns, a person familiar with the matter said.

SoftBank, which owns Arm, now plans to pursue a public listing for the British-based chip business, the person said. Nvidia in September 2020

agreed to buy Arm for \$40 billion from SoftBank in what would have been the chip industry's biggest deal ever. The nominal value of the deal had risen along with Nvidia's share price, which has advanced sharply in the intervening time amid booming semiconductor demand.

The proposed deal quickly raised eyebrows with regulators and chip-making rivals. The Federal Trade Commission in December sued to block the

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Insuring the planet

Climate risk can bring the industry back to life — PATRICK JENKINS, PAGE 6

Anarchy and ads

Reddit's tricky marketing pitch ahead of listing — COMPANIES, PAGE 9



No streets of gold

Graduates fail to follow Whittington's path to London — SARAH O'CONNOR, PAGE 17

Table talk

Macron seeks to avoid war

Vladimir Putin, left, sits opposite Emmanuel Macron at a long oval table in the Kremlin, Moscow yesterday.

French president Macron told his Russian counterpart that he was seeking "a collectively useful answer for Russia and for all of Europe" to prevent war in Ukraine and build stability and trust.

Putin thanked Macron for being "very active in developing fundamental decisions" regarding European security.

Meanwhile, Josep Borrell, the EU's top foreign policy official, warned that the Ukraine crisis represented "the most dangerous moment for European security since the end of the cold war".

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Big Read page 15

Gideon Rachman page 17



Sputnik/Kremlin/Reuters

ECB rate expectations force up Greek and Italian borrowing costs

● Bond yields jump ● Selling pressure rises ● Lagarde plays down sudden policy shift

MARTIN ARNOLD — FRANKFURT

Borrowing costs for southern eurozone governments jumped close to pre-pandemic highs yesterday as investors adjusted to signs that the European Central Bank could raise interest rates as soon as this year in response to the global wave of inflation.

The ECB has trodden a careful line on the prospect of rate rises for several months as inflation has persistently risen, promising to keep financing conditions favourable until the eurozone economy rebounds from the pandemic.

But while the bank had continued to forecast that inflation would drop below its 2 per cent target over the medium term, Christine Lagarde signalled a "hawkish" shift last week by refusing for

the first time to rule out a rate rise this year. The ECB president pointed to "unanimous concern" on the bank's governing council over record eurozone inflation of 5.1 per cent in January.

At the weekend, Klaas Knot, head of the Dutch central bank, became the first ECB council member to say publicly that it should raise rates this year, warning that eurozone inflation would stay at 4 per cent for most of 2022. He called on the ECB to end not bond purchases "as soon as possible" in preparation for raising rates in the fourth quarter.

In response, a drop in eurozone bond prices sent the yield on Italian 10-year bonds up 0.2 percentage points to 1.84 per cent — back to levels reached in April 2020 after the pandemic hit.

The spread between Italian 10-year

borrowing costs and those of Germany — a key measure of stress in eurozone bond markets — rose to 1.63 percentage points, its highest level since July 2020.

The drop was even greater in Greek 10-year bonds. Their yield rose 0.3 percentage points to 2.55 per cent — the highest level since June 2019. Selling pressure was widespread and Spanish 10-year yields rose above 1.1 per cent for the first time for almost three years.

Analysts said the bond market was adjusting to the increased likelihood that the ECB could bring net asset purchases to an end in the next few months, opening the door to its first interest rate rise for more than a decade.

"We are ending a period of negative rates — even Greek bond yields turned negative last year — and we are seeing



Christine Lagarde

points to "unanimous concern" on the European Central Bank's governing council over record 5.1 per cent inflation

a repositioning of the market," said Carsten Brzeski at ING.

However, he said investors seemed to have "moved completely to the other extreme" by pricing in an ECB rate rise by June, adding the earliest he could imagine such a move was September.

Selling in Italian, Greek and Spanish debt eased later after Lagarde played down the chances of a sudden shift by saying there was "no need to rush to any premature conclusion at this point in time — the outlook is way too uncertain". She told the European Parliament: "There are no signals that inflation will be persistently and significantly above our target over the medium term."

Lagarde flags gradual approach page 3
Bonds sell-off page 10
Mohamed El-Erian page 11

Briefing

Credit Suisse dirty money trial opens

The bank has become the first in Swiss history to answer criminal charges as it faced a 500-page indictment alleging it processed millions for the Bulgarian mafia between 2004 and 2008. — PAGE 6

Cyberespionage claims halt Netanyahu trial

Benjamin Netanyahu's trial for corruption has been thrown into disarray after an Israeli newspaper alleged that police hacked the phones of the former premier's aides and son without a warrant. — PAGE 2

Chinese push to quash Peng allegations

Beijing and Olympics officials have released details of two carefully controlled encounters with tennis star Peng Shuai, who had accused an official of sexual assault. — PAGE 4



Seoul ditches test-and-trace programme

South Korea has abandoned its system of daily check-up calls and GPS monitoring after reaching 1mn cases at the weekend. Seoul said it would focus resources on the elderly and vulnerable. — PAGE 4

Frontier to buy Sprint for \$6.6bn

The US low-cost carrier has agreed to acquire its rival in what would be the first big airline merger since the industry was hit by travel bans to stem the spread of coronavirus in 2020. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 18

Companies' net-zero claims face fire

A report from European pressure groups has found that 25 of the biggest companies, including Nestlé, Unilever, BMW, Eon and Accenture, planned to cut emissions by only 40 per cent on average. — PAGE 8

Tesla subpoena over Musk funding tweet

The electric carmaker has received a subpoena from the US securities regulator over its compliance with a 2018 settlement that resolved a dispute over chief Elon Musk's infamous tweet. — PAGE 6

Datawatch

Earnings gap

% growth in US real pre-tax income since 1976, by wage bracket



Source: University of California, Berkeley

Pre-tax earnings in the US have now bounced back from a pandemic dip for all income brackets — much quicker than after previous economic crises. But the long-term view shows income inequality is at a record high and widening



Le Pen seeks favour in the court of the far-right

Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right Rassemblement National, is facing a power struggle worthy of the court of Versailles. As she seeks to take the Élysée, some of her allies have defected to the camp of Eric Zemmour, the anti-immigration polemicist who is trying to claim a share of her vote. At the same time, her charismatic niece and rival, Marion Maréchal, is weighing a political comeback and hinted at backing Zemmour.

Quest for the crown — PAGE 2

Dolce & Gabbana scents opportunity in bringing beauty business in-house

LAUREN INDIV — LONDON

Dolce & Gabbana is tapping into a boom in high-end perfumes and cosmetics by bringing its €476mn wholesale beauty business in-house after three decades of outsourcing.

A new Dolce & Gabbana beauty division will take over development, manufacturing and distribution of the brand's fragrance and make-up products from Shiseido, as part of a drive to diversify its revenue streams beyond fashion.

"We will be the first Italian fashion brand to manage the beauty category in-house," Gianluca Toniolo, the new operating chief executive of Dolce & Gabbana Beauty and former managing director of global travel retail at LVMH, told the Financial Times.

Although luxury fashion brands have been part of the beauty market since

Chanel introduced its first fragrance in 1921, they remain small players compared with sector leaders such as L'Oréal and Unilever.

Only a handful of fashion brands, including Chanel and Dior, manage the manufacturing and distribution of their beauty products. Most license their names to third-party specialists.

Japanese cosmetics group Shiseido last year disclosed plans to terminate its licensing deal with the Italian fashion house to focus on its skincare business.

Taking a beauty business in-house can be costly. Burberry briefly took ownership of its beauty business in 2013 but reached a licensing deal with Coty in 2017.

Alfonso Dolce, Dolce & Gabbana's chief executive, believes beauty can be a substantially larger business for the group. The company forecasts annual

beauty retail sales will expand by more than €1bn to €2.5bn in seven years, generating about €1.25bn in annual wholesale revenue. Dolce & Gabbana is investing €300mn in the venture.

"It's a very healthy and very exciting market they are going into," said Larissa Jensen, beauty industry adviser at market research group NPD.

All big beauty categories grew in the US in 2021, but none faster than the \$6.3bn fragrance industry, which was up 35 per cent on pre-pandemic levels. "There are more buyers spending more money... it's the way consumers are treating themselves," Jensen said.

The new division plans to introduce "very rare, Italian-quality" scents, with launches costing about 50 per cent more than Dolce & Gabbana fragrances currently on the market. "We have to go at the very high end," Toniolo said.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

| | Feb 7 | prev | %chg |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| S&P 500 | 4434.36 | 4500.53 | -1.14 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 14053.56 | 14098.01 | -0.32 |
| Dow Jones Ind | 35104.38 | 35099.74 | 0.04 |
| FTSEurofirst 300 | 1820.05 | 1806.49 | 0.75 |
| Barron's 500 | 4125.37 | 4098.58 | 0.66 |
| FTSE 100 | 7573.47 | 7516.40 | 0.76 |
| FTSE All-Share | 4238.88 | 4208.61 | 0.67 |
| CAC 40 | 7039.25 | 6951.38 | 0.93 |
| Nikkei | 15206.64 | 15099.56 | 0.71 |
| Hang Seng | 24579.55 | 24573.29 | 0.03 |
| MSCI World \$ | 3061.46 | 3052.50 | 0.29 |
| MSCI EM \$ | 1221.10 | 1210.27 | 0.89 |
| MSCI ACWI \$ | 718.76 | 716.16 | 0.36 |

CURRENCIES

| | Feb 7 | prev | %chg |
|------------|---------|---------|-------|
| \$ per £ | 1.145 | 1.144 | 0.09 |
| £ per \$ | 0.739 | 0.738 | 0.13 |
| € per \$ | 0.846 | 0.846 | 0.00 |
| \$ per € | 1.182 | 1.183 | -0.09 |
| ¥ per \$ | 131.686 | 131.697 | -0.01 |
| ¥ per € | 151.055 | 151.025 | 0.02 |
| € index | 82.340 | 82.839 | -0.60 |
| Sfr per \$ | 1.249 | 1.252 | -0.24 |
| Sfr per € | 1.057 | 1.059 | -0.19 |
| £ per \$ | 0.874 | 0.874 | 0.00 |

COMMODITIES

| | Feb 7 | prev | %chg |
|--------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Oil WTI \$ | 91.34 | 92.31 | -1.05 |
| Oil Brent \$ | 92.76 | 93.27 | -0.55 |
| Gold \$ | 1804.70 | 1792.70 | 0.67 |

INTEREST RATES

| | price | yield | %chg |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| US Gov 10 yr | 141.39 | 1.92 | 0.00 |
| UK Gov 10 yr | 1.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gov 10 yr | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Japan Gov 10 yr | 110.68 | 0.20 | 0.00 |
| US Gov 30 yr | 104.54 | 2.23 | 0.01 |
| Gov 2 yr | 103.70 | -0.29 | -0.04 |
| Fed Funds Eff | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.00 |
| US 3m Bills | 0.23 | 0.20 | 0.03 |
| Euro Libor 3m | -0.50 | -0.50 | 0.00 |
| UK 3m | 0.74 | 0.65 | 0.09 |

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Bloomberg

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L I N D B E R G



A convoy of truck drivers has paralyzed Canada's capital. They oppose the mandatory vaccination of truckers crossing the border. COLE BURSTON/GETTY IMAGES

Electric Cars Set for Breakthrough as Sales Soar

By JACK EWING and NEAL E. BOUDETTE

Sales of cars powered solely by batteries surged in the United States, Europe and China last year, while deliveries of fossil fuel vehicles were stagnant. Demand for electric cars is so strong that manufacturers are requiring buyers to put down deposits months in advance. And some models are effectively sold out for the next two years.

Battery-powered cars are having a breakthrough moment and will enter the mainstream this year as automakers begin selling electric versions of one of Americans' favorite vehicle types: pickup trucks. Their arrival represents the biggest upheaval in the auto

Some Models Are Sold Out for 2 Years, and Pickups Are Next

industry since Henry Ford introduced the Model T in 1908 and could have far-reaching consequences for factory workers, businesses and the environment. Tailpipe emissions are among the largest contributors to climate change.

While electric vehicles still account for a small slice of the market — nearly 9 percent of the new cars sold last year worldwide were electric, up from 2.5 percent in 2019, according to the Interna-

tional Energy Agency — their rapid growth could make 2022 the year when the march of battery-powered cars became unstoppable, erasing any doubt that the internal combustion engine is lurching toward obsolescence.

The proliferation of electric cars will improve air quality and help slow global warming. The air in Southern California is already a bit cleaner thanks to the popularity of electric vehicles there. And the boom is a rare piece of good news for President Biden, who has struggled to advance his climate agenda in Congress.

The auto industry is on track to invest half a trillion dollars in the next five years to make the transition to electric vehicles, Wobush

Continued on Page A11

Ottawa Protest Stirs Far Right Around World

This article is by Catherine Porter, Ian Austen and Sheera Frenkel

OTTAWA — Eleven days into an unruly occupation against coronavirus restrictions that has paralyzed Canada's capital, the protests have become a rallying cry for powerful far-right and anti-vaccine groups around the world that have made the cause their own.

The demonstration in Ottawa started in January as a loosely organized convoy of truck drivers and protesters rumbling across the country to oppose the mandatory vaccination of truckers crossing the U.S.-Canada border. It soon attracted the support of other Canadians exhausted by nearly two years of pandemic restrictions.

Some were clearly on the fringe, wearing Nazi symbols and desecrating public monuments. But many described themselves as ordinary Canadians driven to take to the streets by desperation.

"They keep doing the same thing, and it's not working," said Nicole Vandelaar, a 31-year-old hairdresser protesting in the capital. "They have to do something else. No more lockdowns. Let us live our lives."

On Sunday, after a weekend of boisterous demonstrations, the authorities in Ottawa declared a state of emergency and said the police were overwhelmed. "We continue to employ all available officers, there are no days off," the Ottawa police chief, Peter Sloly, said Monday. "This is not sustainable."

The message at the heart of the protests — that government has been overreaching for too long — has resonated far away across Canada's borders.

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Fast and Unforgiving

The giant slalom saw many falls, including Nina O'Brien of the U.S., who was carried off. Page B10.

India Officials Are Silent as Hate Speech Against Muslims Grows

This article is by Mujib Mashal, Suhasini Raj and Hari Kumar.

HARDWAR, India — The police officer arrived at the Hindu temple here with a warning to the monks: Don't repeat your hate speech.

Ten days earlier, before a packed audience and thousands watching online, the monks had

called for violence against the country's minority Muslims. The monks' speeches, in one of India's holiest cities, promoted a genocidal campaign to "kill two million of them" and urged an ethnic cleansing of the kind that targeted Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

When videos of the event provoked national outrage, the police came. The saffron-clad preachers

A Movement Emerges From the Fringes

questioned whether the officer could be objective.

Yati Narsinghanand, the event's firebrand organizer known for his violent rhetoric, as-

sauged their concerns.

"Biased?" Mr. Narsinghanand said, according to a video of the interaction. "He will be on our side," he added, as the monks and the officer broke into laughter.

Once considered fringe, extremist elements are increasingly taking their militant message into the mainstream, stirring up com-

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Putin Has West Guessing Even After Macron's Visit

Stark Warnings Over Ukraine as French Leader Describes 'Extreme Tension'

This article is by Anton Troianovski, Roger Cohen and Katie Rogers.

MOSCOW — President Vladimir V. Putin said he was prepared to keep negotiating over Russia's security demands in Eastern Europe but offered a stark warning over the possibility of a full-scale war between Russia and the West — using a five-hour meeting with his French counterpart on Monday to keep the world guessing about his intentions.

Mr. Putin said that proposals made by President Emmanuel Macron of France in their one-on-one meeting at the Kremlin were "too early to speak about" but could create "a foundation for our further steps." Mr. Macron, in a joint news conference with Mr. Putin after their hastily scheduled meeting, described the coming days as potentially decisive in heading off what the West fears could be a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The meeting came in a situation of extreme tension, a degree of incandescence that Europe has rarely known in the past decades," Mr. Macron said.

The meeting came as President Biden hosted Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany at the White House to coordinate a trans-Atlantic response to a potential attack on Ukraine, underscoring the intense unease in the West touched off by Mr. Putin's enormous troop buildup around Ukraine's borders.

Mr. Biden said on Monday that Western countries would take a "united" approach to rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine, and he vowed that a con-

troverial gas pipeline project designed to send gas from Russia to Germany would not go forward in the event of a military invasion.

Mr. Putin appeared to resist the attention, and signaled he was prepared to draw out the mystery around his next moves that has turned the Russian troop buildup into the West's most urgent crisis. The Russian leader is an avid geopolitical tactician, and Monday's concurrent talks in Moscow and in Washington showcased his ability to force the West to pay attention to the Kremlin's longstanding grievances over NATO's expansion to Russia's borders.

But whether that attention will be enough to satisfy Mr. Putin is far from clear. Some analysts worry that his engagement in diplomacy in recent weeks is merely buying time for Russia's military to make final preparations for an invasion.

Mr. Putin said Russia was still working on a new written response in its back-and-forth with NATO and the United States over the security architecture of Eastern Europe, predicting that the "dialogue" would continue even though he said the West had ignored Russia's principal demands.

He told reporters at the Kremlin that if Ukraine were to join NATO — a scenario that Western officials characterize as a far-off possibility, but one that the Kremlin describes as an existential threat — a wider war would follow.

"Do you want France to go to war with Russia?" Mr. Putin said in answering a French reporter's question, claiming that a NATO-

Continued on Page A6

Justices Restore Vote Map Said To Dilute Rights

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated an Alabama congressional map that a lower court had said diluted the power of Black voters, suggesting that the court was poised to become more skeptical of challenges to voting maps based on claims of race discrimination.

The vote was 5 to 4, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joining the court's three liberal members in dissent.

The Supreme Court's brief order, which included no reasoning, was provisional, staying a lower court's decision while the case moves forward. The justices said they would hear Alabama's appeal of the lower court's ruling, but they did not say when.

Both the stay and the decision to hear the case indicated that the court is open to weakening the role race may play in drawing voting districts for federal elections, setting up a major new test of the Voting Rights Act in a court that has gradually limited the reach of the law in other contexts.

The dispute in Alabama is part of a pitched redistricting battle playing out across the country, with Democrats and Republicans alike challenging electoral districts as unlawful gerrymanders. Those challenges have mostly been filed in state courts, meaning the Supreme Court is unlikely to intervene.

Civil rights leaders and some Democrats say the redistricting process often disadvantages growing minority communities. Republican state officials say the Constitution allows only a limited

Continued on Page A12



Victor Rivera pleaded guilty.

Disgraced Head Of N.Y. Shelters Admits Bribery

By AMY JULIA HARRIS

The former head of one of the largest operators of homeless shelters in New York pleaded guilty on Monday to pocketing hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes from contractors in a scheme that went on for years, as homelessness in the city grew to record numbers.

Victor Rivera, the founder and former chief executive of the nonprofit Bronx Parent Housing Network, admitted to accepting kickbacks from contractors working with the organization and laundering the money through entities he controlled, according to the city Department of Investigation.

As part of the plea agreement, Mr. Rivera is expected to face a prison sentence and, according to federal court documents, he has agreed to forfeit \$1.2 million.

The case marked a steep fall for a man whose power, influence and wealth grew along with the number of people living in the city's homeless shelters and on the streets. Since 2017, Mr. Rivera's organization has received more than \$274 million in city funding to operate shelters.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Spyware Hits Home in Israel

The government will review whether spyware was illegally used by the police against its own citizens. PAGE A7

Sudan's Push for Democracy

Hundreds of loosely connected "resistance committees" are protesting and demanding civilian rule. PAGE A4



NATIONAL A10-15

Trump Turns Over Documents

Boxes improperly taken from the White House were sent to the National Archives, and questions lingered about the Presidential Records Act. PAGE A12

N.Y.P.D. Deaths Shaped Mayor

Eric Adams's views on policing are tied in part to his relationships with families of officers killed on the job, as well as with police abuse victims. PAGE A15

No Free Community College

In a speech on Monday, the first lady acknowledged that her signature legislative initiative is "no longer" in the Democrats' spending bill. PAGE A13

BUSINESS B1-5

Big Brother Watches Grandpa

Some municipalities in rapidly aging Japan are using surveillance technologies to try to protect lost and wandering elderly people. PAGE B1

Low-Cost Airlines to Merge

Frontier and Spirit say joining forces would create a carrier able to compete against the Big 4 airlines. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-15

Baseball's Long-Term Problems

The lockout may delay the season, but the game should address a bigger issue: improving the product. PAGE B14

SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

A Raptor's Home Base

A bald eagle named Rover has been terrorizing gulls and delighting bird watchers in Central Park. PAGE D4

Covid-Infected Wildlife

White-tailed deer could become a reservoir for the virus, putting people and animals at risk, experts say. PAGE D1



ARTS C1-6

Exploring the Cosby Legacy

W. Kamau Bell's documentary series is a model of how to engage honestly with disgraced artists and their art. PAGE C1

Spotify Stands by Joe Rogan

After the podcaster's apology for using a slur, a company executive said, "canceling voices is a slippery slope." PAGE C3

OPINION A18-19

Michelle Goldberg

PAGE A19



Health bill died but fight goes on

State Democrats cling to single-payer but struggle to move from ideology to policy.

BY TARYN LUNA AND MELODY GUTIERREZ

SACRAMENTO — There's no bigger litmus test in the California Democratic Party than where a politician stands on single-payer healthcare.

But the anemic performance and unspectacular demise last week of another bill to launch the model in the Golden State shows that may be all it is.

Bogged down by political tension and unanswered questions about its enormous price tag, legislation to guarantee medical coverage to every resident by levying billions in new taxes died in the Assembly without a floor vote.

"AB 1400 was an exercise in abstract morality," William Hsiao, professor emeritus of economics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said of the failed legislation. "It's a dream plan if you want to put out a plan that has a realistic chance at passage and serious consideration, you have to have serious cost estimates."

Still, the debate over single-payer in California isn't going away — even if bills go nowhere at all.

For decades, Democrats at the state Capitol have tried and failed to transition single-payer from a widely shared ideology that every person deserves affordable care to a policy that would replace what many consider a broken healthcare system that puts profits over the well-being of the state's residents.

Yet each year, lawmakers spend less time publicly vetting the merits of enacting such a complicated and revolutionary system than they do getting mired in the politics surrounding single-payer.

Nurses and unions battle doctors and insurers. Party progressives threaten the political careers of anyone they consider a "corporate Democrat" who could stand in the way. Legislation is tossed around the state Senate and Assembly like a hot potato. The governor distances himself. And at some point, allies turn on one another. [See *Single-payer*, A6]

SUPER BOWL LVI



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE UPPER decks at SoFi Stadium, empty ahead of a Jan. 30 game between the Rams and 49ers, feel relatively close to the action. Architectural studio HKS' vertical focus pushed accessibility "at every price point."

Even its cheap seats are VIP

SoFi Stadium's dreamy views come with transit snarl

CAROLINA A. MIRANDA



When it comes to the design innovations of football stadiums in recent years, it would seem that a good deal of the innovating has been reserved primarily for the luxury suites.

Florida's Hard Rock Stadium, where the Miami Dolphins play, features so-called "living room boxes" stocked with recliners and private television



WALLY SKALIZ Los Angeles Times

THE RAMS' Nick Scott gets a pregame introduction under the stadium's massive tent-like roof.

screens. At Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, the arena the San Francisco 49ers call home, a landscaped rooftop reception terrace shaded with solar panels offers views of the game as well as Silicon Valley for those with access to the suite tower. At Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., the owner's suite comes with football-themed stained glass, while TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Fla., went full fall-of-Rome in a recent architectural revamp, adding private cabanas that come stocked with a swimming pool on the

[See *SoFi*, A12]

THE COMMERCIALS: Agencies spend up to \$7 million on winning over ad-averse audiences. **CALENDAR, E1**

O.C. grapples with racism, past and present

Slurs directed at a Black student-athlete in January highlight long-standing issues.

BY HANNAH FRY

Watching his son play basketball at Laguna Hills High School, Terrell Brown couldn't shake an uneasy feeling.

He has felt it before in Orange County, where he and his family are often the only Black people in a room.

Fans of the home team, the Eagles, and the visiting Portola High Bulldogs slammed their feet against the wood bleachers and screamed. It was a type of energy that often makes for an exciting game.

But the vibe was off, Brown recalled. He was soon proved right. His son, Makai, became the target of racial

slurs shouted from the stands by a Laguna Hills student. A video capturing the slurs at the Jan. 21 basketball game has generated widespread outrage. The family was interviewed by Don Lemon on CNN. A group of local businessmen gave Makai a \$20,000 college scholarship.

But Brown and others are wondering what will change in a county where racial taunts of students of

color, particularly at sporting events, still happen with alarming frequency.

Brown, who moved to Irvine from the Atlanta area about four years ago, said the overt racism of the South is in some ways easier to deal with than Orange County racism.

"The microaggressions here are worse," said Brown, 48. "The guy with the Confederate flag, he's letting you know he's a racist. He's making it clear."

[See *Racism*, A7]

BEIJING OLYMPICS

Shiffrin banks on rise after the fall

In two years, the face of women's skiing has experienced tragedy, injury and the virus.

BY NATHAN PENNO

BEIJING — Early Monday morning, text messages flew back and forth between Mikaela Shiffrin and her brother Taylor long before the sun rose over the barren brown mountains streaked with rivers of artificial snow at the Yanqing National Alpine Centre.

Taylor Shiffrin kidded his sister about being up so early before her first race at these Winter Olympics, defending the gold medal she won in the giant slalom four years ago. It was the start of an ambitious week and a half in which she could chase

medals in five individual events. Then the unthinkable happened.

Seconds into the first of two runs down the steep course dubbed the "Ice River," Mikaela Shiffrin missed a gate, fell on her side, then skied off. It was the first giant slalom she failed to complete in four years. The day ended with nothing for the world's most dominant female skier other than shock and questions.

"I won't ever get over this," Shiffrin said. [See *Shiffrin*, A4]



ROBERT F. BUKATY Associated Press

MIKAELA SHIFFRIN, a medal favorite of the United States, loses control and skis off course during her first run of the women's giant slalom on Monday.

Biden makes new threat to Russia
The president says allies will "bring an end" to pipeline if Ukraine is attacked. **WORLD, A3**

Nun gets 1 year for \$835,000 fraud
Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper, 80, apologizes for bilking Torrance school. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Paid sick leave for COVID approved
A bill passed by state lawmakers would give most workers up to two weeks off. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 80/57. **B6**

State to ease mask order Feb. 16

The mandate will be relaxed for vaccinated people. L.A. and other counties can retain stricter local rules.

BY RONG-GONG LIN II, LUKE MONEY AND PHIL WILSON

SAN FRANCISCO — With the Omicron coronavirus surge rapidly receding, California will lift its universal mask mandate for indoor public places next week, state officials announced Monday.

The lifting of the mandate will apply to counties without local mask orders of their own, such as San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, as well as swaths of the San Joaquin Valley. Counties can still opt to retain local mask orders, as Los Angeles County will do.

While this move doesn't mean face coverings will be a thing of the past — they still will be required for unvaccinated residents indoors and for everyone in select settings, such as nursing homes or while aboard public transit — relaxing the roughly 2-month-old order reflects the progress California has made in its battle against Omicron, even as officials say continued vigilance will be vital in keeping the state on the right track.

Omicron has loosened its hold on California, vaccines for children under 5 are around the corner and access to COVID-19 treatment is improving, said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, the state's director of public health and health officer. "With things moving in the right direction, we are making responsible modifications to COVID-19 prevention measures, while also continuing to develop a longer-term action plan for the state."

California's existing indoor mask mandate will remain in place through Feb. 15 as previously scheduled, officials said. At that time, the state will also increase the attendance thresholds for indoor and outdoor "mega events" — which are subject to additional recommendations and requirements surrounding coronavirus testing and vaccination verification — from 500 to 1,000, and 5,000 to 10,000, respectively.

In a sign of potentially more seismic moves to come, state officials also announced Monday they are working to update school masking requirements. Currently, everyone on a K-12 campus must wear masks indoors.

California isn't alone in weighing such changes as much of the country emerges quickly from the latest COVID-19 wave. Just this week, officials in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Oregon also announced timelines for relaxing their own mask requirements.

The state also is lifting the requirement that visitors to hospitals and nursing homes test negative for the coronavirus.

While many are eager to return to pre-pandemic life, some public health officials and experts remain wary of removing all guardrails, aware that new coronavirus variants are possible in the

[See *Masks*, A7]

Troubled nursing home to shut down

Bakersfield facility had 19 residents die early in pandemic. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



A woman gives a thumb-up to truckers on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Monday. Their protest, which has been going on for a week and a half, is blocking streets in the Canadian capital and distressing residents. It's also inspiring protests in other countries.

Canada struggles to rein in protest

BY JENNIFER HASSAN
AND AMANDA COLETTA

Canada's capital is long used to hosting protests. But the self-described Freedom Convoy has been an unusual and intimidating presence in Ottawa since it rolled up nearly a dozen days ago with its snowballing list of grievances, from opposition to vaccine mandates and lockdowns to antipathy toward recently reelected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Big rigs and other vehicles continue to block crucial downtown arteries, snarling traffic, blaring their horns and fraying

Police try to cut supplies to end unprecedented disruption in Ottawa

residents' nerves. The protest has forced several businesses to close because of safety concerns. National monuments are now fenced off after protesters desecrated them. In a surreal scene, a man on horseback traveled down a road in front of Parliament over the weekend, waving a Trump 2024 flag.

Ottawa Police Chief Peter

Stoly has called it a "siege." Ontario Premier Doug Ford cast it as an "occupation."

The convoy, which has attracted the attention of combatants in the U.S. culture wars and drawn support from former president Donald Trump and Elon Musk, is spurring solidarity demonstrations elsewhere in Canada and inspiring similar protests from Europe to Australia. As it drags on, questions are mounting about what critics say has been the insufficient response of authorities — and what comes next.

"It's so unprecedented that as we watched it, and as the police

and government watched it approaching, they could not recognize it for what it was," said Michael Kempa, a criminologist at the University of Ottawa. "It was figuratively outside our conceptual frame for what was possible for the city of Ottawa or for a protest in Canada."

Police have now begun trying to choke off the supply lines of food, fuel and other goods that have sustained the protesters. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson declared a state of emergency on Sunday, saying authorities were "losing the battle" against groups that were "calling the

SEE CANADA ON A7

Biden: Pipeline dead if Russia invades Ukraine

THREAT ISSUED AS GERMAN LEADER VISITS

Scholz stops short of a promise to halt Nord Stream 2

BY MISSY RYAN,
RICK NOACK,
ROBYN DIXON
AND RACHEL PANNETT

President Biden vowed Monday that a major European energy pipeline would be abandoned if Russia sends forces into Ukraine, intensifying pressure on the Kremlin as Western leaders attempt to stave off a renewed assault on the continent's eastern edge.

Biden issued the threat after talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, whose recently formed government has pledged to take part in Western retaliation should Russia seize more Ukrainian territory, as it did in

the 2014 annexation of Crimea. But Germany has stopped short of explicitly promising to halt the \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 project, which would bring Russian gas to energy-hungry European consumers. On Monday, Scholz said only that his country was "absolutely united" with the United States and other NATO allies, "and we will not be taking different steps."

Biden, in contrast, told reporters at the White House that "if

SEE UKRAINE ON A9

Seeking shelter: In Kyiv, residents must huddle to hide if war arrives. **A6**

Working together: U.S., German leaders emphasize unity. **A8**

Conn., N.J., Del. to end school mask mandates

Democratic governors join national shift away from virus restrictions

BY LAURA MECKLER
AND PAULINA FIROZI

The Democratic governors of New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware will lift mask requirements for schools in the coming weeks, reflecting a nationwide shift away from restrictions as coronavirus caseload numbers fall and political pressures for a return to normalcy rise.

Teachers, school boards and administrators have been fighting fiercely over mask policies all school year. Most recently, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) banned districts from requiring masks in schools on his first day in office last month, prompting several lawsuits to allow districts to keep them in place.

In one camp are those who argue that masks are essential to slow transmission of the virus and keep schools open for in-person learning. In another are those who say the pandemic has

SEE MASKS ON A4

Virginia: A suit against Youngkin's mask-optional order was tossed. **B1**

Archives had to fetch Trump documents from Mar-a-Lago

Jan. recovery of 15 boxes adds to concerns over his adherence to records act

BY JACQUELINE ALEMANY,
JOSH DAWSEY,
TOM HAMBURGER
AND ASHLEY PARKER

The National Archives and Records Administration last month retrieved 15 boxes of documents and other items from former president Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence because the material should have been turned over to the agency when he left the White House, Archives officials said Monday.

The recovery of the boxes from Trump's Florida resort raises new concerns about his adherence to the Presidential Records Act, which requires the preservation of memos, letters, notes, emails,

faxes and other written communications related to a president's official duties.

Trump advisers deny any nefarious intent and said the boxes contained mementos, gifts, letters from world leaders and other correspondence. The items included correspondence with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which Trump once described as "love letters," as well as a letter left for Trump by President Barack Obama, according to two people familiar with the contents.

Two former advisers described a frenzied packing process in the final days of the administration because Trump did not want to pack or accept defeat for much of the transition.

Archives officials confirmed the transfer, which occurred in mid-January, following publication of a version of this article by The Washington Post earlier Monday. The National Archives and Records Administration said in a

SEE TRUMP ON A4



Mourning the 900,000 American lives lost to covid-19

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), center, leads congressional lawmakers in a moment of silence Monday on Capitol Hill to commemorate the more than 900,000 coronavirus deaths in the United States. The current wave of cases appears to be trending down.

JABIN BOTSFOORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

IN THE NEWS



Peng rescinds accusation The Chinese tennis star, announcing her retirement, said her post gave rise to a "huge misunderstanding." **A9**

IRS about-face The agency abandoned its plan to require a facial recognition check to access online tax accounts. **A11**

THE NATION The Supreme Court reinstated a district map in Alabama that a lower court said was unfavorable to Black voters. **A3**
A new global study found that mountain glaciers may have less ice than previously estimated due to climate change. **A3**
Florida Republicans ditched a Texas-style abortion measure in favor of a bill banning the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy, in a move that has drawn criticism from all sides. **A10**
The Heritage Foundation, which has seen its

role in GOP policy diminished, has revamped its leadership and focus. **A14**

THE WORLD Australia will reopen to vaccinated international tourists later this month, effectively ending one of the world's longest and strictest coronavirus border closures. **A7**

THE ECONOMY Stocks charted a mixed Monday, catching a break from recent volatility as investors looked to another busy week of earnings and key economic data. **A11**
The White House has

released a blueprint for how the federal government can work to boost union participation and strengthen the right to organize. **A12**
Frontier and Spirit announced a merger to create the fifth-largest U.S. airline. **A13**

THE REGION Formerly homeless people have been displaced twice in two years by fires in a D.C. building run by the nonprofit So Others Might Eat. **B1**
A report showed that more than a third of Metrobus riders aren't paying fares, a percentage that has doubled during the pandemic. **B1**
Virginia Gov. Glenn

Youngkin distanced himself from an "unauthorized" tweet mocking a teenager that his campaign account had posted Saturday. **B1**
American University officials confirmed that the school unknowingly distributed counterfeit KN95 masks. **B4**
The District is set for a massive increase in local education spending in a sign of the overall strong finances of the city. **B5**

OBITUARIES Jason Epstein, 93, an editor and publishing executive, launched the "paperback revolution" in the 1950s and helped found the New York Review of Books. **B6**

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE Unique remedies for rare diseases
Researchers and patients see hope in genome editing advancements. **E1**

STYLE Old magazines, new anxiety
After two years of pandemic absence, fretful patients return to the dentist. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS **A11**
COMICS **C6**
OPINION PAGES **A10**
LOTTERIES **B3**
OBITUARIES **B6**
TELEVISION **C3**
WORLD NEWS **A11**

CONSENT 01/2022
The Washington Post / Year 145, No. 95
70628-21100 3

Tomás Saraceno: arte argentino en la vidriera del mundo

El artista tucumano monta en Nueva York su muestra más importante, que abrirá esta semana; se trata de una megainstalación con telarañas. **Página 24**



FEINMANN MARCÓ SU IMPRONTA EN SU DEBUT EN RADIO MITRE

—espectáculos

Comenzó un nuevo ciclo en el *prime time* de AM; ocupa el lugar que dejó Marcelo Longobardi, con buena parte de su equipo y algunas incorporaciones.

DEL POTRO, UNA CARRERA ENTRE EL CALVARIO Y LA GLORIA

—deportes

De 16 temporadas como profesional, en más de 5 estuvo inactivo por lesiones y cirugías; aun así, ganó todo; hoy juega con Delbonis en el Argentino Open. **Página 4**

LA NACION

MARTES 8 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno suma trabas y limita más el acceso de las empresas a los dólares

RESERVAS. Incluyó cambios en un sistema de la AFIP y frenó así permisos de importación

Con escasas reservas en el Banco Central (BCRA) y en medio de las negociaciones con el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI), el Gobierno introdujo cambios en un sistema de la AFIP que funciona como pre-requisito para hacer un pedido de importación, y sumó así un nuevo obstáculo para que las empresas ac-

cedan a los dólares que requieren para sus compras al exterior.

El cambio en el sistema de capacidad económica financiera (CEF) fue un trabajo en conjunto entre el Banco Central (BCRA) y el Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo que terminó de cerrar la AFIP. En el Gobierno indicaron que se trata de

frenar de esta manera "la especulación" entre importadores por la brecha financiera e indicaron que se cuida al tejido productivo. Sin embargo, en el sector privado ya arrecian las críticas, incluso entre empresas industriales de gran porte que terminaron afectadas por la decisión oficial. **Página 14**

FMI: Fernández admite que no todo el oficialismo avalará el acuerdo

Página 6

Maniobra en el juicio contra Jaime para intentar su nulidad

ENRIQUECIMIENTO. La fiscal abrió el juego para la embestida de los acusados

Hernán Cappiello
LA NACION

El juicio oral que se le sigue al ex secretario de Transporte kirchnerista Ricardo Jaime por enriquecimiento ilícito y por la compra de trenes chatarra a España y Portugal, en este caso junto al ex ministro Julio De Vido, tuvo una audiencia de alto voltaje: una intervención de la fiscal Gabriela Baigún permitió que los acusados pidieran a corrala nulidad del proceso porque uno de los jueces se apartó del tribunal por haber cumplido 75 años. **Continúa en la página 12**

Sin burbujas ni protocolos en las escuelas porteñas

coronavirus— La Ciudad anunció un paso más en la vuelta a la etapa prepandemia en las escuelas, con la flexibilización de protocolos y aislamientos, tendiente a favorecer la interacción entre los chicos, el aprendizaje y la previsibilidad de las jornadas. **Página 18**



Ayer, en el Polo Educativo Walsh, del Barrio 31, retiraban las cintas que delimitaban las burbujas y el distanciamiento en las aulas. **TOMÁS CUESTA**

Reclaman que se federalice la investigación por la droga

COCAÍNA LETAL. Es por la posibilidad de que las dosis adulteradas ya estén en varias jurisdicciones

Página 26

PERSPECTIVAS

La trampa de la "censura progre"

Luciano Román

—LA NACION—

¿Solo queremos leer y escuchar aquellas cosas con las que estamos de acuerdo? ¿Nos resulta cada vez más difícil aceptar la disidencia y digerir los discursos disonantes? ¿O desconfiamos de nuestra propia ca-

pacidad, y la de los otros, para distinguir entre argumentos y disparates, o entre ideas y prejuicios? Son preguntas inevitables ante el avance de nuevas formas de censura en nombre de un supuesto progresismo.

Algunos músicos norteamericanos acaban de plantearle a Spotify que, si no "cancelaba" a un comediante provocador y antivacunas, ellos se iban de la plataforma: "él o nosotros". **Continúa en la página 29**

El chavismo le entrega la sede de El Nacional a Cabello

VENEZUELA. En un nuevo avance sobre los medios, una jueza venezolana le entregó ayer la sede del diario *El Nacional* al segundo del régimen chavista, Diosdado Cabello. El medio, que definió la decisión como "un robo judicial", había sido embargado en mayo de 2021 tras una demanda de Cabello por "daño moral". **Página 4**

Lanzaron intimaciones masivas a contribuyentes

IMPUESTOS. La AFIP envió más de 30.000 notificaciones por supuestas inconsistencias en declaraciones juradas

Página 14

Ciência B6

Pequeno astrônomo

Aos cinco anos de idade, o garoto Miro Latansio Tsai, de São Paulo, foi reconhecido como a pessoa mais jovem do mundo a identificar um asteroide.

Esporte B7

Primeiro gol em Mundiais é meta inicial do Palmeiras nos Emirados Árabes

Ilustrada C1

Performance de Nuno Ramos retoma debate sobre animais em obras de arte

Comida C8

No estilo anos 1990, sorvetes ganham montagens gulosas na capital paulista

União Brasil nasce gigante, mas terá de definir rumo

O TSE julga hoje o pedido de fusão entre PSL e DEM, o que resultará na União Brasil. O partido nascerá como o maior da Câmara dos Deputados, mas já em iminente esvaziamento. Além de uma anúncio da saída em bloco de parlamentares bolsonaristas, a nova sigla ainda está em busca de um rumo na eleição presidencial. **Política A4**

Evangélicos bolsonaristas promovem fake news contra Lula e Moro A7

Michael França

Minorias querem, em vão, o poder
Querer não é poder. A pretensão política das minorias não tem se refletido, na mesma magnitude, em uma realidade. Elas tendem a ser foco de amplo conjunto de políticas públicas, mas estão distantes dos espaços decisórios do Estado. **Mercado A20**

Doria garante vaga para crianças, mas adia início de aulas

O governo João Doria (PSDB) tem convocado pais para matricular crianças na 1ª série do ensino fundamental em São Paulo após a Folha revelar que milhares estavam na fila por vagas. O início das aulas, porém, não está garantido. **Cotidiano B2**



PUTIN E MACRON NEGOCIAM SOBRE CRISE NA UCRÂNIA

Presidente russo conversa com o francês no Grande Palácio do Kremlin; ao mesmo tempo, Biden ampliou ameaças caso Moscou invada o vizinho **Mundo A11**

Produção de veículos no país cai 27% em janeiro

Queda abrupta ante 2021 vem de salto nos casos de Covid e de férias coletivas

A pandemia em 7.fev

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil

| | |
|---|-------|
| Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose) | 80,1% |
| 1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose) | 70,4% |
| Dose de reforço | 23,9% |

Nos estados

| | Ao menos uma dose | 1º ciclo completo | Dose de reforço |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| SP | 89,0% | 79,7% | 37,2% |
| PI | 87,2% | 77,3% | 19,1% |
| MG | 81,6% | 74,0% | 24,6% |

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

Média móvel

765

149,0%*

Casos ↑ +9,5%* (acelerado)

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Em 24 h

431

Total

632.720

O total de veículos produzidos no Brasil em janeiro despencou 27,4% em relação ao mesmo mês do ano anterior e 31,1% na comparação com dezembro, anunciou a Anfavea (associação de montadoras). A fabricação foi afetada pela disparada de casos de Covid causados pela variante ômicron durante as férias coletivas, que, por sua vez, foram atrasadas.

Mudanças na legislação ambiental exigiram acelerar a produção em dezembro, o que levou ao adiamento do período de descanso que tradicionalmente ocorre naquele mês. Pesaram, ainda, os problemas na cadeia de fornecimento de peças. As vendas também foram afetadas, com retração registrada de 26,1% sobre igual período de 2021.

O saldo deve se refletir no PIB industrial, que subiu 3,9% no ano passado na comparação com a base fraca de 2020, segundo o IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística). Ao todo, foram fabricadas 145,4 mil unidades em janeiro e, de acordo com as distribuidoras, vendidas 126,5 mil. A expectativa da Anfavea é de normalização apenas em 2023.

Segundo a consultoria KBB Brasil, os preços dos dez veículos mais vendidos subiram em média 25,4% no ano. Ademais, a elevação da taxa referencial de juros, a Selic, para 10,75% ao ano deve inibir as vendas, 60% das quais são financiadas. **Mercado A12**

Economia teme que debate da PEC dos Combustíveis pressione o dólar A14



BUROCRACIA CONTRA CULTURA PERIFÉRICA É CRITICADA

Os atores gêmeos Jefferson e Júlio Silvério, 36, da série 'Sintonia', da Netflix, afirmam ter desistido de se inscrever em editais públicos e citam linguagem incompreensível. **Ilustrada C4**

Algemas em deportados criam impasse entre Brasil e EUA

O uso de algemas em brasileiros deportados dos EUA criou impasse entre os governos Jair Bolsonaro e Joe Biden. O Itamaraty vem fazendo, desde o fim de 2021, apelos para parar com a prática e melhorar o tratamento dado a esses cidadãos, mas tem sido ignorado.

Segundo depoimentos obtidos pela Folha, pessoas foram algemadas na frente dos filhos em um voo que chegou em 26 de janeiro.

Passageiros disseram ter sofrido maus-tratos e autoridades envolvidas confirmaram que receberam relatos semelhantes. **Mundo A10**

Três em quatro escolas públicas do Rio já foram alvo de tiroteio

Levantamento da plataforma Fogo Cruzado mostra que, em 2019, 74% das escolas municipais do Rio foram afetadas por ao menos uma troca de tiros. Eventos reduzem aprendizado dos alunos, dizem especialistas. **Cotidiano B1**

Gilmar Mendes liga morte de Moïse a atuação de milícias B1

EDITORIAIS A2

Ocidente na mira
Acerca de implicações da aliança entre Xi e Putin.

Primazia militar
Sobre preservação de investimentos das Forças.

Proceso político de fiscalía general depende del voto de diputados llanistas

Quiñónez ordena investigar a Cartes ante amenaza de juicio

En medio de críticas a su gestión, la jefa de fiscales abrió carpeta por contrabando y lavado. Ex presidente, en nota al Ministerio Público, dijo que quiere aclarar acusación de Giuzzio.

PÁGINA 4 a la 8

Hirió a dos policías en procedimiento
**Alemán preso tendría
nexo con desaparición
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Hijo de RGD se jacta
de vacaciones top y
confirmación de pena
aún sigue en Apelación

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Maniobra ataca libertad de prensa
**Mandamás chavista
se queda con la sede
de un diario opositor**

PÁGINA 38



DANIEL DUARTE

Deuda por 18 kilos de droga causó tragedia

Caso San Ber. El reclamo de USD 64.800 por cocaína de Marcos Rojas a Alcides Villasboa, ambos del PCC, enojó a este, quien planificó el atentado.

PÁGINA 40

En Alto Paraná, gran epicentro de contagios, casos disminuyen
**Covid: No vacunados siguen siendo
mayoría entre internados en Clínicas**

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LE FIGARO

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



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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses
à la question de lundi :**
Présidentielle :
croyez-vous les candidats
lorsqu'ils déclarent
qu'ils vont améliorer
votre pouvoir d'achat ?

OUI 11% NON 89%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 167 428

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Faut-il rendre obligatoires
les maths en première
et en terminale ?

F. BOUCHON / LE FIGARO -
NEUROSTORE/J. RAVIER -
R. LAFARGE / ABAKA

Ukraine : le pari russe de Macron



Le président français a cherché les moyens « d'amorcer une désescalade » lors d'un tête-à-tête lundi soir à Moscou avec le chef du Kremlin. Il doit poursuivre sa médiation aujourd'hui en Ukraine, avant des consultations à Berlin. PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Puces électroniques : le plan de l'Europe pour revenir dans la course

Thierry Breton, commissaire européen au Marché intérieur, souhaite quadrupler la production de semi-conducteurs en Europe d'ici à 2030. Pour y parvenir, Bruxelles

va mobiliser 52 milliards d'euros pour aider les projets industriels, les start-up innovantes et le développement de puces de nouvelle génération. PAGES 20 ET 21



Blanquer corrige le tir et réintègre les maths en première et en terminale

En annonçant, dimanche, un possible retour des mathématiques pour tous les élèves de première et de terminale, le ministre de l'Éducation a pris acte de critiques récurrentes

depuis la mise en vigueur de sa réforme du bac, en 2019. « Nous avons perdu un élève sur trois », déplorent les professeurs, loin d'être convaincus par le ministre. PAGE 9

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

La danse de l'ours

En se hasardant à un face-à-face solitaire avec Vladimir Poutine lundi soir, Emmanuel Macron a tenté le diable : que pèse le coq gaulois devant l'ours russe ? Le président français n'a pas beaucoup d'options dans son bras de fer qui le dépasse. Du moins a-t-il pu calculer qu'à l'heure où Washington crie à l'invasion « imminente » de l'Ukraine, il ne lui serait pas reproché d'essayer quelque chose. Ce sera déjà ça de pris électoralement... Mais à quelle aune juger du succès ou de l'échec de sa médiation ? Le président français espérait arracher au Kremlin un « signal de désescalade » tout en sachant qu'il n'obtiendrait pas de « gestes unilatéraux ». Il lui fallait reconnaître une part de légitimité aux revendications sécuritaires russes, sans quoi il n'y aurait aucun dialogue possible. La démarche comporte le risque, en entrant dans la logique de l'adversaire, d'inverser les rôles : la Russie, qui a envahi la Géorgie et l'Ukraine, se voit en victime de l'Otan, certes élargie à ses confins, mais qui ne l'a pas agressée.

Esprit agile, Emmanuel Macron jongle avec les concepts : « indivisibilité de la sécurité », « nouvel ordre européen », « égalité souveraine

des États »... À défaut d'une formule magique pour sortir de l'impasse, tout au plus peut-on espérer une formulation magique dont les ambiguïtés permettent de gagner un peu de temps. Car ce que veut Poutine - l'endiguement de l'Otan et l'assujettissement des anciens satellites soviétiques -, il ne peut l'obtenir par le dialogue, sauf reculade munichoise des Occidentaux, ce que le président français n'a pas eu la naïveté d'amorcer.

**Garantir
la sécurité
de la Russie,
sans inverser
les rôles**

Contrairement aux Américains, les Européens - et les Ukrainiens - semblent parier que la guerre serait aussi contreproductive pour le chef du Kremlin, poussant ses voisins dans les bras d'une Alliance atlantique ressoudée. Mais ils doivent au moins se préparer à subir une longue période d'instabilité sur leur flanc est, mêlant menace militaire, pressions sur le gaz, cyberattaques, désinformation... Espérons qu'Emmanuel Macron est instruit de ce proverbe russe : « Si tu invites un ours à danser, ce n'est pas toi qui décides quand la danse est finie, c'est l'ours. » ■

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Eh-oh!

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Zoe Williams Suddenly, we are footnotes in our children's story

→ G2



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Angry MPs blame Johnson's 'poison' after anti-vaxxers set upon Starmer

Jessica Elgot
Rowena Mason

MPs from all sides angrily rounded on Boris Johnson last night, accusing him of whipping up political poison after the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, was set upon by protesters who accused him of protecting the paedophile Jimmy Savile.

Johnson provoked fury last week when he suggested Starmer protected Savile during his time as director of public prosecutions. The comments drew criticism from two former Tory chief whips and prompted the resignation of a long-serving aide.

Starmer and the shadow foreign secretary, David Lammy, had to be bundled into a police car after anti-vaccine protesters surrounded him near parliament with shouts of "traitor" and "Jimmy Savile". One witness said a protester carried a hangman's noose prop, which another had joked was for Starmer.

Lammy said it was "no surprise the conspiracy theorist thugs who harassed Keir Starmer and I repeated slurs we heard from Boris Johnson last week at the dispatch box. Intimidation, harassment and lies have no place in our democracy. And they won't ever stop me doing my job."

The former chief whip Julian Smith

was among at least seven Tory MPs to criticise Johnson as he described the events as appalling. "It is really important for our democracy and for his security that the false Savile slurs made against him are withdrawn in full," he tweeted.

Calls for an apology also came from Sir Roger Gale, Anthony Mangnall and Tobias Ellwood - Tory MPs who have sent letters of no confidence in Johnson - as well as Stephen Hammond, who has expressed significant concerns about the prime minister.

The Tory MP Robert Langan also said it was time to defuse the situation. "Words matter. What we say and how we say it echoes out far beyond



▲ Keir Starmer was surrounded by anti-vax protesters shouting 'traitor'

parliament. Elected representatives have a responsibility to lower the temperature of debate, not add fuel to the fire."

Johnson said the behaviour "directed at the leader of the opposition tonight is absolutely disgraceful" but stopped short of apologising for his remarks. "All forms of harassment of our elected representatives are completely unacceptable. I thank the police for responding swiftly."

Labour sources were furious at the incident, though Starmer was unharmed and escorted back to his office within minutes. "Boris Johnson and his cabinet chose to lie down with the dogs - and

'It's hard to see this and not think a war could happen'

Andrew Roth
Kursk and Voronezh



The military train lurched into the rail depot at Kursk on a recent afternoon, carrying more snow-dusted main battle tanks, self-propelled artillery, and other heavy weapons to within a few hours' drive by car of the Ukrainian border.

At the depot, the flatbed railcars parked between heavy containers carrying chemical products, leaving them visible only from a small pedestrian footbridge overhead. There, military police kept watch as locals looked on curiously at the latest arrivals in Russia's vast military buildup.

A recent trip by the Guardian to the Voronezh and Kursk regions in Russia found a hive of barely hidden military activity as Russian troops continued to position themselves for



▲ While Russian armour masses on the Ukraine border, a volunteer defender in Kyiv practises with a wooden gun

Cambridge water had dangerous chemicals

Exclusive
Rachel Salvidge

Drinking water containing dangerously high levels of toxic chemicals has been pumped into the homes of more than 1,000 people in Cambridgeshire, the Guardian can reveal.

Cambridge Water has admitted it removed a supply containing four times the legal limit of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) from the homes of customers in south Cambridgeshire in June last year. But the 1,080 customers living in Stapleford and Great Shelford were never told that they had been exposed. The company has not revealed for how long the water had been tainted.



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