

What's News

Business & Finance

The U.S. trade deficit increased 27% last year to an all-time high of \$859.1 billion, underscoring the strength of the nation's economy and its continued hefty dependence on imports from China and other countries. **A1**

◆ **Americans took on more new debt** in 2021 than in any year since before the 2008-09 financial crisis. **A3**

◆ **Peloton is replacing its CEO** and cutting about 2,800 jobs after a slowdown in demand caused the company's value to plummet. **A1, A6**

◆ **SoftBank CEO Son** is playing salesman for an initial public offering of Arm after a deal to sell the chip designer to Nvidia fell apart. **A1**

◆ **A judge dismissed** part of the criminal case against an ex-Boswell pilot accused of misleading regulators about faulty software that played a significant role in two deadly 737 MAX crashes. **B1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gaining 0.8%, 1.3% and 1.1%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **Ford and GM** are clamping down on dealerships that are trying to charge more than the sticker price amid a shortage of cars. **B1**

◆ **Pfizer forecast** strong sales this year for its Covid-19 vaccine and treatment and is hunting for deals to bolster its pipeline of experimental products. **B1**

◆ **BP sought** to reassure investors that declining oil-and-gas earnings for the remainder of the decade as it pivots to lower-carbon investments. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **McConnell criticized** the RNC's censure of two GOP lawmakers who sit on the House panel investigating the attack on the U.S. Capitol, saying Cheney and Kinzinger shouldn't be singled out for holding differing views from the majority of the party. **A4**

◆ **The Justice Department** said it seized over \$3.6 billion worth of digital currency stolen during a hack of Bitfindex and arrested two suspects for allegedly trying to launder the proceeds. **A4**

◆ **Ukraine's forces** geared up for military exercises in response to Russia's buildup along its borders as France's Macron shuffled from Moscow to Kyiv in a bid to ease tensions and avert a conflict. **A1, A5**

◆ **The House passed** legislation to keep the government funded through mid-March, advancing a temporary fix that will give negotiators time to reach a global agreement on fiscal 2022 spending. **A4**

◆ **Retired Pope Benedict XVI** replied to charges that he mishandled cases of clerical sexual abuse while an archbishop in Germany, asking forgiveness for any "grievous fault" he may have incurred but not admitting wrongdoing. **A7**

◆ **Israel is rushing** to prop up the Palestinian Authority, promising loans, allowing infrastructure upgrades, and holding talks with West Bank leaders, in a bid to stem Hamas's growing influence and keep a lid on violent unrest. **A7**

◆ **New data on U.S. births** suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a smaller-than-expected "baby bust." **A3**

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Vaccine Protests in Canada Bring Traffic at Border to a Halt



SIDELINED: Protesters against Canada's vaccine mandates blocked traffic coming from the U.S. Tuesday at the Ambassador Bridge crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. The bridge partially reopened for travel into the U.S. **A8**

Peloton CEO to Step Down, Company to Cut 2,800 Jobs

Activist investor says moves aren't enough, blasts management; shares rebound 25%

By CARA LOMBARDO

Peloton Interactive Inc. is replacing its chief executive and cutting about 2,800 jobs after a slowdown in demand caused the once-hot bike maker's value to plummet.

Co-founder John Foley, who has led Peloton for its entire 10-year existence, is stepping down as CEO and will become

executive chairman. Barry McCarthy, the former chief financial officer of Spotify Technology SA and Netflix Inc., will become CEO and president and join Peloton's board.

The New York company lowered its revenue forecasts and said it would cut roughly 20% of its corporate positions to help cope with widening losses. The cuts won't affect Peloton's instructor roster or content.

Peloton shares jumped 25% to close Tuesday at \$37.27 after the company confirmed The Wall Street Journal's earlier report on the leadership

moves and other changes. A little over two weeks ago, activist investor Blackwells Capital LLC called for Peloton to fire Mr. Foley and explore a sale of the company, which the Journal has reported is attracting potential suitors including Amazon.com Inc.

Blackwells reiterated its call Tuesday, saying Mr. Foley should leave the company entirely rather than become executive chairman. Blackwells also released a 65-page presentation in which it estimated a sale could value Peloton above \$65 a share.

"We are open to exploring

any opportunity that could create value for Peloton shareholders," Mr. Foley said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal prior to Blackwells's Tuesday release. Mr. Foley, a former Barnes & Noble Inc. executive who co-founded Peloton 10 years ago, declined to comment further.

Any deal would likely require Mr. Foley's support, as he and other insiders have

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◆ **New CEO Barry McCarthy** is former tech executive..... **A6**

◆ **Heard on the Street:** Peloton thriller keeps cycling..... **B12**

Trade Gap Grew 27% To Record Last Year

U.S.'s overall imports far outpaced exports, as deficit with China rose to \$355.3 billion

By YUKA HAYASHI AND ANTHONY DEBARROS

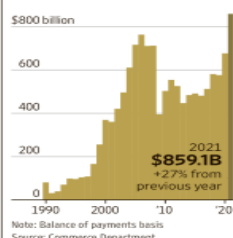
WASHINGTON—The U.S. trade deficit increased 27% last year to an all-time high of \$859.1 billion, underscoring the strength of the nation's economy and its continued hefty dependence on imports from China and other countries.

The 2021 trade deficit in goods and services well exceeded the previous record of \$763.53 billion in 2006, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Annual trade-balance records, which aren't inflation-adjusted, date to 1960.

The trade deficit—with China specifically—grew 14.5% for the full year to \$355.3 billion, reversing the decline that followed then-President Donald Trump's policies aimed at reducing the deficit with tariffs and purchase targets. Last

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Annual U.S. trade deficit, goods and services



◆ **U.S. household debt** rose by \$1 trillion in 2021..... **A3**

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
With 12 nominations, 'The Power of the Dog' leads the Oscar pack. **A10**



SPORTS
Gold medal for skier Eileen Gu spurs questions about her citizenship status. **A13**

Ukraine's Zelensky Tries To Navigate Russia His Way

President is keen to avoid being big-footed by Western powers

By JAMES MARSON AND VIVIAN SALAMA

KYIV, Ukraine—With Russian military forces gathering on three sides of Ukraine last month, advisers to President Volodymyr Zelensky urged a low-key response. His top national security adviser, in a cellphone call, counseled him with two words: "Olympian calm."

The following day, Mr. Zelensky addressed the nation on television and said the threat of war was no greater than any other time since Russian President Vladimir Putin in-

vaded portions of the country in 2014. This is the tack chosen by Mr. Zelensky, a 44-year-old ex-comic with no political experience prior to his election, in his bid to fend off both Russian aggression as well as the American response it has kicked off. Caught between two powers increasingly at odds with each other, Mr. Zelensky is adamant he can prevent an invasion on his terms. The question hovering over his jittery nation is

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◆ **Ukraine preps for drills** as Macron visits..... **A8**

SoftBank Plans IPO After Chip Deal Folds

By MEGUMI FUJIKAWA AND PETER LANDERS

TOKYO—After a deal that could have been worth \$80 billion to his company fell apart, SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Masayoshi Son is playing salesman for Plan B—an initial public offering of chip designer Arm.

Mr. Son sounded as if he were on a roadshow for investors at a news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday. He said Arm is entering a "golden period" of high demand for the chips it helps create in smartphones, electric vehicles and computer-server farms operated by the likes of Amazon.com Inc.

The pitch came hours after the Japanese investment and technology conglomerate said it was abandoning plans to sell Arm to Nvidia Corp.—in what would have been the largest semiconductor deal on record—because antitrust concerns stood in the way.

Mr. Son said he was surprised to see the backlash not only from U.S. regulators who sued to block the deal in December but also big tech companies that rely on Arm's chip designs.

"We saw strong opposition because Arm is one of the most important and essential companies that most companies in the IT industry or in Silicon Valley rely on, either directly or indirectly," he said.

SoftBank paid \$32 billion when it acquired the U.K.-based chip business in 2016. Mr. Son said the sale to Nvidia, under which SoftBank would have received both cash and Nvidia shares, could have been worth \$80 billion because of a rise in Nvidia's share price.

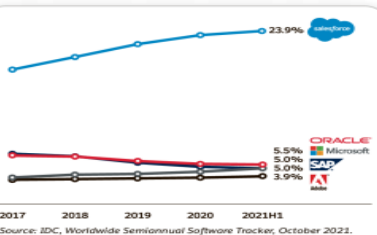
SoftBank now plans to pursue a public listing of Arm by March 2023. Arm shares will

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◆ **Heard on the Street:** SoftBank needs to slim down..... **B12**

Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2021 H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



salesforce.com/number1CRM

CRM market includes the following IDC-defined functional markets: Sales, Marketing, Customer Service, and Digital Commerce Applications. © 2021 Salesforce.com, Inc. All rights reserved. Salesforce.com is a registered trademark of Salesforce.com, Inc., and its other names and marks.

Commanding a price

Power of the trademark for former Redskins — BROOKE MASTERS, PAGE 19

Big shot

The race for the 'super jab' to avert new pandemics — BIG READ, PAGE 17



Scandal at Bild

Inside Axel Springer's #MeToo moment — FT INVESTIGATION, PAGES 6-7

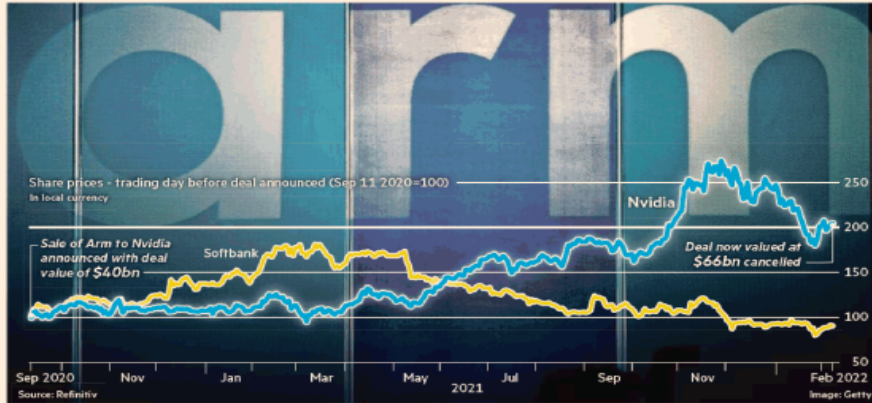
Arm wrestle Listing looms as sale falls

SoftBank is hoping to list Arm Holdings in New York following the collapse of its \$66bn sale of the UK-based chipmaker to California-based Nvidia.

What would have been the largest ever deal in the chip sector fell through after regulators raised concerns over the combined group's monopoly on creating the tech inside most mobile phones. The London Stock Exchange will try to wrestle any lucrative listing from its US rival.

The collapse of the cash-and-stock transaction robbed Japan's SoftBank of a windfall from a boom in Nvidia's stock price. The deal was worth about \$40bn when announced in September 2020 but rose as Nvidia's shares took off.

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Lex page 20



EU unveils €43bn chip plants drive after pandemic's lessons on supply

◆ Brussels follows US lead ◆ State aid for pilot factories ◆ Nations and business to contribute

ANDY BOUNDS AND JAVIER ESPINOSA — BRUSSELS
PEGGY HOLLINGER — LONDON

Europe has followed the US in setting out plans for a massive increase in semiconductor manufacturing, as Brussels attempts to secure supplies of the chips that drive the global economy.

Unveiling a €43bn investment plan, the European Commission said it wanted to use state aid to promote research and production of higher technology chips used in computers, smartphones, vehicles and other products.

The coronavirus pandemic had "painfully exposed the vulnerability" of Europe's supply chains, said Ursula von der Leyen, the commission president.

The Chips Act aims to double the EU's share of the semiconductor market

from 10 to 20 per cent by 2030, requiring the quadrupling of production.

The EU is following plans by the Biden administration for a \$52bn chips act to subsidise semiconductor manufacturing. Other governments are also trying to improve supply chains.

Under the European plan, Brussels and national governments would spend €11bn to build three pilot facilities for any company to use. Member states and businesses were expected to invest a further €32bn by 2030.

Thierry Breton, the French industry commissioner, has persuaded colleagues to adapt EU state aid rules to allow big subsidies for cutting-edge factories.

The legislation would require companies receiving subsidies to prioritise European customers in times of supply

shortage. The EU could also widen the measure to all businesses if the US or other countries applied such controls.

US chipmaker Intel plans to invest €20bn to build two chip fabrication plants, known as fabs, that are expected to be in Germany.

It also plans support services such as packaging and research facilities, which would require further investment. France, Italy and the Netherlands are in the running for those plants.

Digital Europe, which represents technology companies, said it was "unclear" whether all the money for the EU plans would be forthcoming.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, director-general, said: "The EU attracted just 3 per cent of global investment for chip factories in 2020 and a lot of work is



The commission aims to promote research and production of higher technology chips used in computers, smartphones and vehicles

needed to push this figure upwards." Some EU countries fear that bigger states will outbid them for chip investment.

One EU diplomat warned that the investment push could start a "race to the bottom", with pressure to permit similar aid in other industries.

Acknowledging concerns over a "subsidy race", Margrethe Vestager, the EU competition commissioner, said the semiconductor industry was a special case. A "rarely used" procedure in the EU's founding treaty could create a "bespoke approach" for new plants, she said.

Big semiconductor plants have huge price tags and "would not exist in Europe if we did not do something", Vestager said.

Briefing

► **Macron says he has Putin assurances**
The French president has said he has obtained assurances from his Russian counterpart that there would be no "escalation" of the Ukraine crisis, as he went to meet Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv. — PAGE 2

► **BP hits out at tax calls after profits soar**
Chief executive Bernard Looney has hit back at calls for a windfall tax after the oil group recorded its highest profit in eight years, warning it would deter investment and delay UK net zero pledges. — PAGE 5

► **White House bid to dilute EU tech law**
The Biden administration has lobbied key Brussels powerbroker Andreas Schwab in an effort to water down the impact of regulations aimed at curbing the market power of Big Tech companies. — PAGE 4

► **Thiel exits Meta to focus on politics**
Billionaire tech investor Peter Thiel, Silicon Valley's most prominent supporter of former president Donald Trump, has said he will not seek re-election to the board. — PAGE 5



► **Orban spending spree as elections near**
Hungary's conservative government has paid out the country's largest-ever pension bonus and given families big tax rebates. Most polls show the prime minister's Fidesz party only slightly ahead. — PAGE 2

► **BNP Paribas lifts investor payout pledge**
The French lender has raised profit targets and vowed to boost shareholder returns as it pursues a plan to bolster its investment bank and exploit the economic recovery. — PAGE 12, LEX, PAGE 20

► **France's goods trade deficit widens**
Paris has recorded a 31 per cent rise in the deficit as it rebounded strongly from the pandemic. Finance minister Bruno Le Maire said the data highlighted an "industrial weakening" over 30 years. — PAGE 2

Datawatch

Food for thought



Source: ONS, 2012-19



Jobs revival fails to boost fortunes of stifled Spain

More than a third of jobs created in the eurozone last year were in Spain, as the country that has struggled with unemployment for decades daws its way back to health after the pandemic. But despite the improvement, output is about 4 per cent behind 2019 levels as tourism and domestic demand falter, while wages lag behind inflation. Now economists ask whether Spain can sustain wage growth while the jobs rate even now is twice the EU average.

Labour market booms — PAGE 3

US arrests couple and seizes \$3.6bn in cryptocurrency from Bitfinex hack

STEFANIA PALMA — WASHINGTON
HANNAH MURPHY — SAN FRANCISCO

The US Department of Justice has arrested a married couple and confiscated more than \$3.6bn in cryptocurrency. It said was stolen during the 2016 hack of the Bitfinex exchange, in its biggest financial seizure ever.

New York-based Ilya Lichtenstein, 34, and his wife Heather Morgan, 31, were arrested yesterday and accused of conspiring to launder proceeds of \$119,754 bitcoin valued at \$4.5bn, US prosecutors said. The cryptocurrency was allegedly stolen when Hong Kong-based Bitfinex exchange was breached.

The justice department's move comes as US authorities have vowed to crack down on criminal use of digital tokens and marks one of the most significant actions since the DOJ poured more

resources into cryptocurrency enforcement. "Today's arrests, and the department's largest financial seizure ever, show that cryptocurrency is not a safe haven for criminals," said Lisa Monaco, deputy attorney-general.

US authorities alleged that the Bitfinex hacker launched more than 2,000 unauthorised transactions sending bitcoin stolen from the exchange to a digital wallet controlled by Lichtenstein.

The DOJ alleged that some of the stolen tokens were then transferred to accounts controlled by the couple via a "complicated money laundering process". More than \$4,000 bitcoin allegedly remained in the wallet.

Authorities said the amount of bitcoin stolen was valued at \$71mn at the time of the hack, but had since risen to more than \$4.5bn.

Bitfinex said it was "pleased" the DOJ

had recovered a "significant portion" of the bitcoin stolen during the hack and that it would continue to co-operate "extensively" with the agency.

When asked by a virtual currency exchange about the source of his funds, Lichtenstein responded in an email that he was a "tech entrepreneur and [bitcoin] early adopter since acquiring my first [bitcoin] in 2011", according to court documents filed by the Internal Revenue Service, which participated in the probe alongside the FBI and Homeland Security investigations.

The couple have been charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carries a maximum punishment of 20 years in prison, and conspiracy to defraud the US, which has a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Lichtenstein and Morgan could not immediately be reached for comment.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 9	prev	%chg		Feb 9	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4513.39	4483.87	0.66	\$ per £	1.142	1.145	-0.23	US Gov 10 yr	141.50	1.96	0.04
Nasdaq Composite	14140.73	14015.67	0.89	\$ per €	1.355	1.353	0.18	UK Gov 10 yr	1.41	0.08	0.00
Dow Jones Ind	35400.76	35091.13	0.88	£ per €	0.943	0.940	0.32	Gov 10 yr	0.26	0.04	0.00
FTSE100	1819.94	1820.05	-0.01	¥ per \$	115.698	115.095	0.52	Jpn Gov 10 yr	110.64	0.20	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4127.11	4120.56	0.16	¥ per €	156.684	155.686	0.64	US Gov 30 yr	105.08	2.26	0.03
FTSE All-Share	4233.62	4236.08	-0.06	SFr per €	1.096	1.097	-0.09	US Gov 2 yr	103.78	-0.30	-0.01
CAC 40	7058.41	7059.25	-0.12	€ per \$	0.876	0.874	0.23				
Nikkei	15242.38	15238.64	0.24								
Hang Seng	24259.49	24579.59	-1.02								
MSCI World	3059.44	3061.48	-0.07								
MSCI EM	1219.33	1221.10	-0.15								
MSCI ACWI	718.22	718.76	-0.08								

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Party Censures Earn a Rebuke By McConnell

Leader Calls Jan. 6 a
'Violent Insurrection'

By JONATHAN WEISMAN
and ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — Senator Mitch McConnell, the minority leader, pushed back hard on Tuesday against the Republican Party's censure of Representatives Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger and its characterization of the Jan. 6 riot as "legitimate political discourse," saying the riot was a "violent insurrection."

The remarks from Mr. McConnell, the normally taciturn Kentucky Republican, added to a small but forceful chorus of G.O.P. lawmakers who have decried the action that the Republican National Committee took on Friday, when it officially rebuked Ms. Cheney and Mr. Kinzinger for participating in the House investigation of the Jan. 6 attack, accusing them of "persecution of ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse."

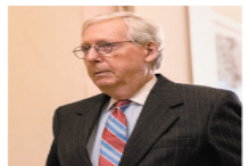
Mr. McConnell repudiated that description, saying of the events of Jan. 6, 2021: "We saw it happen. It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election, from one administration to the next. That's what it was."

He made the remarks to reporters outside Senate Republicans' closed-door weekly lunch, where his aides had signaled in advance that he was to make an important statement on the R.N.C.'s action.

Mr. McConnell's comments were a rebuke of how far the party has gone to deny the reality of the violence that unfolded during the bloody assault on the Capitol, sending lawmakers from both parties running for safety. More than 150 people were injured in the attack, which led to several deaths, and nearly 750 individuals have been criminally charged in connection with it.

In the days since the Republican National Committee passed the resolution at its winter meeting in Salt Lake City, a handful of Republicans have criticized the

Continued on Page A11



SARAHRETH MANEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES
Senator Mitch McConnell, the minority leader, on Tuesday.

N.F.L. Accused of Failing to Fix How It Treats Female Workers

By KATHERINE ROSMAN and KEN BELSON

At a Super Bowl halftime show rehearsal in 2020, a top male N.F.L. executive argued with a woman who said that he then pushed her. After investigating, the league removed the man from his longtime role overseeing the show and ordered him to take an anger management course. But he remains a senior executive.

Exactly what happened between the woman, who was involved in the production of the show, and the man, Mark Quenzel, the National Football League's senior vice president and head of content, remains in dispute, and the league insists he did not push her.

Yet the incident was one of many raised by more than 30

women who spoke to The New York Times about their experiences working for the N.F.L. as recently as 2021.

They described a stifling, deeply ingrained corporate culture that demoralized some female employees, drove some to quit in frustration and left many feeling brushed aside.

The women said this culture has persisted despite a promise from N.F.L. Commissioner Roger Goodell — made after the 2014 release of a video that showed running back Ray Rice punching his fiancée unconscious — that the league would take a stricter stance on domestic violence and

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Endless War for Syria's Kurds

The group's breakaway region in the northeast has been engulfed in conflict ever since its creation. PAGE A6

Retired Pope Asks Forgiveness

Benedict, responding to a report accusing him of mishandling sexual abuse cases, denied any wrongdoing. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A10-17

Harvard Sued as Rift Widens

A lawsuit claims the university ignored harassment accusations against an anthropology professor, a dispute that has also divided the faculty. PAGE A10

\$3.6 Billion in Bitcoin Seized

The Justice Department accused a married couple of conspiring to launder cryptocurrency stolen in the 2016 hacking of a Hong Kong exchange. PAGE A14

Shoring Up the Postal Service

Supporters say the bipartisan measure in the House will address the agency's financial woes while requiring delivery six days a week. PAGE A13



ARTS C1-6

On the Way to the Oscars

Streaming services received a batch of nominations. Above, Benedict Cumberbatch in "The Power of the Dog." PAGE C1

New Leadership at BAM

The Brooklyn Academy of Music picked Gina Duncan, a former leader of its film program, to be its president. PAGE C2

BUSINESS B1-5

J. & J. Pauses on Vaccine

Johnson & Johnson quietly suspended making its Covid-19 vaccine, despite persistent demand for it in the developing world. Production is expected to resume in late spring. PAGE B1

U.S. Trade Deficit Hits Record

The widening imbalance last year was driven by a \$576.5 billion increase in imports as Americans purchased more products made abroad. The rising price of energy also contributed. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Robert J. Shiller

PAGE A18



FOOD D1-8

Marvelous Meringue

Making meringue is the most magical thing you can do with an egg white, and it's not nearly as hard as you think. Melissa Clark has some tips. PAGE D1



A Ukrainian marine at the front on Tuesday. Western leaders have resisted the Kremlin's demand for an expanded sphere of influence.

Hochul to Join Move to Relax Mask Decrees

This article is by Lisa Lerer, Luis Ferré-Sadurni and Astead W. Herndon.

Gov. Kathy Hochul will drop New York's stringent indoor mask mandate on Wednesday, ending a requirement that businesses ask customers for proof of full vaccination or require mask wearing at all times, and marking a turning point in the state's coronavirus response, according to three people briefed on her decision.

The decision will eliminate a rule that prompted legal and interpersonal clashes over mask wearing, especially in conservative parts of New York. It was set to expire on Thursday and would have required renewing.

Ms. Hochul's decision will let the mask mandate lapse just as a crushing winter surge in coronavirus cases is finally receding. But it was not yet clear whether the governor would renew or drop a separate mask mandate in New York schools that is set to expire in two weeks.

The easing of New York's pandemic restrictions on businesses comes as Democratic-led states from New Jersey to California have announced similar moves this week, in a loosely coordinated effort that is the result of months

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Trump Allies Unleashed Spycraft on U.S. Politics

By MARK MAZZETTI
and ADAM GOLDMAN

WASHINGTON — During the summer of 2018, as Richard Seddon, a former British spy, was trying to launch a new venture to use undercover agents to infiltrate progressive groups, Democratic campaigns and other opponents of President Donald J. Trump, he turned for help to a longtime friend and former colleague: Erik Prince, the private military contractor.

Mr. Prince took on the role of celebrity pitchman, according to interviews and documents, raising money for Mr. Seddon's spying operation, which was aimed at gathering dirt that could discredit politicians and activists in several states. After Mr. Prince and Mr. Seddon met in August 2018 with Susan Gore, a Wyoming heiress to the Gore-Tex fortune, Ms. Gore became the project's main benefactor.

Mr. Prince's role in the effort, which has not been previously disclosed, sheds further light on how

Scheming to Infiltrate Progressive Groups and Tar 'RINOs'

Mr. Prince's role in the effort, which has not been previously disclosed, sheds further light on how

a group of ultraconservative Republicans employed spycraft to try to manipulate the American political landscape. Mr. Prince — a former C.I.A. contractor who is best known as the founder of the private military firm Blackwater and whose sister, Betsy DeVos, was Mr. Trump's education secretary — has drawn scrutiny over the years for Blackwater's record of violence around the world and his subsequent ventures training and arming foreign forces.

His willingness to support Mr. Seddon's operation is fresh evidence of his engagement in political espionage projects at home during a period when he was an

Continued on Page A14



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEDEL SAGET; COMPOSITE IMAGE BY JON HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Giving It a Whirl (or Four and a Half)

With a 1,620-degree trick she had never tried, the freeskier Eileen Gu won gold in big air. Page B9.

In China, Bearing a Torch for Unity Only Spotlights Its Absence

By AMY QIN

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — The Uyghur athlete had been a relative unknown — a first-time Olympic Games competitor and a cross-country skier in a country not renowned for its skiing tradition. Then she was thrust into the limelight, beaming as she clutched the Olympic torch at the opening of the Games, becoming

not just a symbol of China's snow sports ambitions but also its strident defiance of Western criticism.

The lighting of the Olympic cauldron is traditionally an honor given to people who symbolize the host nation, or its sporting history, or its vision of itself. China's selection of the Uyghur athlete, Dinigeer Yilamujiang, 20, for that role, along with a teammate of the Han Chinese ethnic majority, was

How Uyghur Skier Rose to Be Divisive Symbol

immediately divisive.

To many Chinese, it was a feel-good message of ethnic unity. But to human rights activists and Western critics, it looked like Beijing was using an athlete in a cal-

culated, provocative fashion to whitewash its suppression of Uyghurs in the western region of Xinjiang, where Yilamujiang is from.

Chinese state media declared after the ceremony that Yilamujiang had "showed the world a beautiful and progressive Xinjiang" with her "smiling face and youthful figure." The propaganda

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FOOD D1-8

Marvelous Meringue

Making meringue is the most magical thing you can do with an egg white, and it's not nearly as hard as you think. Melissa Clark has some tips. PAGE D1



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Vegas jaunts tripped alarms

Investigation of L.A. Councilman Huizar began after casino security alerted FBI.

By MICHAEL FINNEGAN AND DAVID ZAHNISE

Las Vegas casinos pamper their big spenders with loads of perks, and the \$13 million Wei Huang had lost gambling at the Palazzo made him a coveted "whale" of a customer. So the casino charged him nothing to fly on its private jet and stay in its presidential suite overlooking the Strip.

But when Palazzo security learned one day in July 2015 that the billionaire developer was bringing Los Angeles politician Jose Huizar to Las Vegas that night on the resort's luxury Gulfstream IV, it set off alarms.

As a City Council member, Huizar was what casinos call a "politically exposed person." He could gamble at the Palazzo only after filing papers showing he was not using public funds.

Palazzo dealers kept close watch on Huang and Huizar when they arrived hours later in Parlor 8, a room for high rollers who typically bet with \$25,000 and \$100,000 chips.

What they discovered triggered an FBI investigation that brought to light a sprawling corruption scandal at Los Angeles City Hall. Federal prosecutors so far have put another City Council member in prison and yielded four other felony guilty pleas.

Details of the cat-and-mouse drama that unfolded at the Palazzo that night are spelled out in an FBI affidavit that was recently made public and was at the center of a court dispute over a search warrant for [See Huizar, A14]

D.A. won't charge Dodgers' Bauer

Pitcher is cleared of criminal counts in sex assault case, but MLB may still suspend him.

By BILL SHAIKIN AND RICHARD WINTON

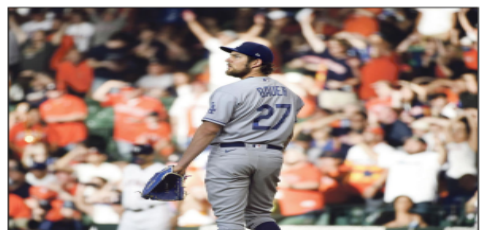
After a five-month review of the Pasadena police investigation into allegations of sexual assault against him, Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer will not face criminal charges, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office announced Tuesday.

That the district attorney decided criminal charges were not warranted does not mean Bauer has been

cleared to rejoin the Dodgers. Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred retains the right to suspend Bauer.

Manfred is widely expected to do so, but not soon. MLB issued a statement Monday after the district attorney decision: "MLB's investigation is ongoing, and we will comment further at the appropriate time."

Bauer had two sexual encounters with a San Diego woman last year at his Pasadena home. The district attorney opted not to file assault charges in the first encounter in April and domestic violence charges in the second encounter in May. [See Bauer, A14]



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH Associated Press

"MY VERSION of events has not wavered, because it is the truth," Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer said.

BEIJING OLYMPICS



TIM CLATTON Corbis/Getty Images

SHAUN WHITE practices for the snowboarding halfpipe competition at the Beijing Games. The Carlsbad native has won three Olympic gold medals in the event and says this year's contest will be his last.

For White, 'beautiful run' in snowboarding is ending

Sport's first crossover star, 35, looks to go out with a medal



GREGORY BULL Associated Press

WHITE IS pumped up after a finals run in 2018, when he captured gold at the Pyeongchang Games. "I knew I had it in me," he said.

By DAVID WHARTON

BEIJING — By the end of the day, his body ached all over. His ankle and back, a knee still sore from surgery. Shaun White was feeling every bit of 35 years old, worn down from a lifetime spent attacking the halfpipe, launching himself skyward, spinning and twisting and landing hard.

Riding a chairlift on a mountain in Austria, he saw the truth of it.

"The mountain was closing down and no one was around," White recalls. "I was watching the sun go down, and it just hit me. I was like: 'This is it. These are the signs.'"

The men's halfpipe contest at the Beijing Olympics will be his last, he says. If so, it will mark the end of an era, an unmatched career that has spanned three gold medals and a [See White, A4]

OSCAR NOMINATIONS



RYAN PFLUGER For The Times

NETFLIX western "The Power of the Dog" led the Oscar nominations with 12, including best picture and lead actor for Benedict Cumberbatch, above.

Streaming's big power play

Shift in viewing habits keeps shaking up awards season

By JOSH ROTTENBERG

Battered and weary after navigating two years of a punishing pandemic, Hollywood soldiered on with one of its most hallowed traditions Tuesday morning, unveiling nominations for the 94th Academy Awards.

While the movie industry as a whole may not be in the most festive mood these days, academy voters still found plenty worth celebrating from the last year,

spreading their love to films and performances across a wide range of genres, with Netflix's western drama "The Power of the Dog" leading the pack with 12 nominations followed by the sci-fi epic "Dune" with 10.

Both were best picture nominees along with "Belfast," "CODA," "Don't Look Up," "Drive My Car," "King Richard," "Licorice Pizza," "Nightmare Alley" and "West Side Story."

In the acting categories, lead actor nominations [See Nominations, A11]

KEEPING IT ALL IN THE FAMILY

Oscar voters embrace tales of togetherness in a best picture slate that shows why movies still matter. Also, the biggest snubs and surprises. CALENDAR, E1

UCLA SETTLES SEXUAL ABUSE SUITS

More than 200 women who accused a gynecologist will share \$243.6 million.

By RICHARD WINTON

The University of California system has agreed to pay \$243.6 million to settle lawsuits by more than 200 women, some of them cancer patients, who alleged they were sexually abused by a former UCLA gynecologist.

The agreement, announced Tuesday, covers 203 former patients who have sued over the conduct of Dr. James Heaps. It comes on top of a \$73-million class-action settlement involving more than 5,000 patients from 1983 to 2018.

The settlement does not cover more than 300 patients who are continuing to sue. Heaps is also facing criminal charges involving seven of those patients.

The deal amounts to \$1.2 million for each plaintiff, similar to one USC struck last year that paid \$852 million to more than 700 women who accused school gynecologist George Tyndall of sexual abuse, said John Manly, a lawyer for the lead plaintiff in the Heaps case.

Some women who said they were abused by Heaps called the settlement a vindication for complaining about the doctor for years and seeing little done.

"Today, after eight long years, I received recognition of what happened to me," said Kara Cagle, a breast cancer survivor who reported Heaps while she was undergoing treatment at the university.

"Although there is some consolation in that, my heart breaks for all the women who were not spared, all the women who suffered after me, because UCLA refused to act. What happened to those women is on UCLA. UCLA will have to live with what they've done or, rather, didn't do. Let today be a wake-up call to other institutions."

Another patient, Julie Wallach, said she hoped the payout would bring changes to the way UCLA handles reports of abuse.

"This is long overdue. Twenty-four years ago, in 1998, I was referred to Dr. [See UCLA, A8]

GOP leaders split on censure

McConnell criticizes party resolution targeting two members of Jan. 6 panel; McCarthy demurs. NATION, A7

County cautious on mask rule

Local officials are probably weeks away from lifting mandate for indoor public places. CALIFORNIA, B1

Lions fans still with Stafford

Many in Detroit will be pulling for their ex-quarterback as he leads the Rams in the Super Bowl. SPORTS, D1

Weather

Unseasonably warm. L.A. Basin: 86/60. B6

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Mostly sunny 55/39 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny, breezy 56/35 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 • B2

Military's Kabul exit plan was resisted

Report details frustration with senior U.S. officials, greater danger to troops

BY DAN LAMOTHE
AND ALEX HORTON

Senior White House and State Department officials failed to grasp the Taliban's steady advance on Afghanistan's capital and resisted efforts by U.S. military leaders to prepare the evacuation of embassy personnel and Afghan allies weeks before Kabul's fall, placing American troops ordered to carry out the withdrawal in greater danger, according to sworn testimony from multiple commanders involved in the operation.

An Army investigative report, numbering 2,000 pages and released to The Washington Post through a Freedom of Information Act request, details the life-or-death decisions made daily by U.S. soldiers and Marines sent to secure Hamid Karzai International Airport as thousands converged on the airfield in a frantic bid to escape.

Beyond the bleak, blunt assessments of top military commanders, the documents contain previously unreported disclosures about the violence American personnel experienced, including one exchange of gunfire that left two Taliban fighters dead after they allegedly incited a group of U.S. Marines and Afghan civilians. In a separate incident a few days later, U.S. troops killed a member of an

SEE KABUL ON A12

Centcom pick: U.S. should help Afghan allies, nominee says. **A15**

RNC wording about Jan. 6 sparks uproar, cleanup effort

BY JOSH DAWSEY
AND FELICIA SONMEZ

When the Republican Party voted to censure two of its own members of Congress last week at its winter meeting in Salt Lake City, it justified the move in part by declaring that efforts to investigate the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection amounted to the persecution of individuals engaging in "legitimate political discourse."

Those three words have since sparked a massive backlash among GOP senators who fear the resolution could jeopardize the party's fortunes in the mid-term elections. The move has also led to days of attempted political cleanup by the Republican National Committee over the language and the accompanying censures of Reps. Liz Cheney (Wyo.) and Adam Kinzinger (Ill.).

While RNC Chairwoman Ron

SEE CENSURES ON A4



PATRYK OGROZALEK/AGENCIA WYBORCZA.PL/REUTERS

U.S. service members disembark Tuesday from a military aircraft at an airport in Poland. U.S. and European officials say that Russian military exercises set to start Thursday, along with the Feb. 20 end of the Beijing Olympics, may offer cover for an attack on Ukraine.

Protests in Canada jam up U.S. border crossing

BY AMANDA COLETTA,
EMILY RAUBALA,
ANNABELLE TIMSIT
AND JENNIFER HASSAN

TORONTO — The busiest crossing on the U.S.-Canada land border was blocked Tuesday as the demonstrations against vaccine mandates that have paralyzed Canada's capital spread to a crucial trade artery, while inspiring similar protests from Europe to Australia.

The Ambassador Bridge, which

Bridge connecting
Detroit and Ontario
is a crucial trade link

links Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, was "temporarily closed" for passengers and commercial traffic, authorities on both sides of the border said Tuesday, though Windsor police said "limited traffic" was being allowed into the

United States. The 1.6-mile suspension bridge is an important trade link, particularly for the region's auto industry. It also connects families, friends and essential workers, including Canadian nurses who work in Detroit-area hospitals.

The blockade there began Monday; it was unclear when it might end. The U.S. Transportation Department estimates the bridge carries nearly 30 percent of the annual trade between Canada and the United States.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has urged the self-styled "Freedom Convoy," which has since Jan. 28 jammed major thoroughfares in downtown Ottawa with idling big rigs and other vehicles, to go home.

"Individuals are trying to blockade our economy, our democracy and our fellow citizens' daily lives. It has to stop," he said

SEE CANADA ON A10

Behind the protest: What to know about the "Freedom Convoy." **A10**

Putin's pieces nearly in place

WARSHIPS SAIL
TOWARD BLACK SEA

Spree of diplomacy seeks to avert Ukraine assault

BY ROBYN DIXON,
RICK NOACK,
SHANE HARRIS
AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

MOSCOW — Russian warships sailed toward the Black Sea on Tuesday, stoking alarm among U.S. and European security officials who warned that the final capabilities for a large-scale assault on Ukraine appeared to be falling into place.

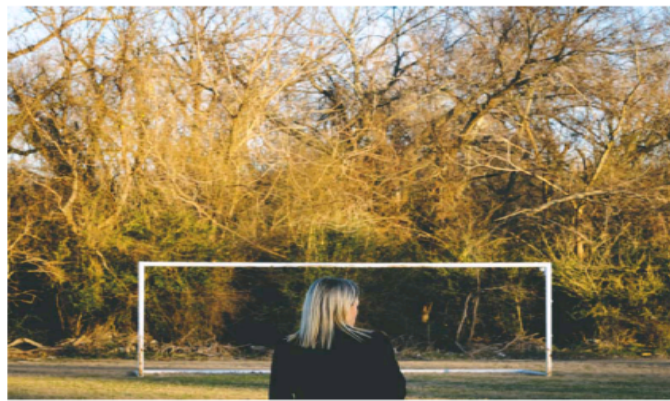
On a day of frantic shuttle diplomacy by French President Emmanuel Macron, who hopped among capitals trying to avert a conflict, Russian officials gave little sign that the French leader's initiatives had changed their calculations.

Instead, U.S. and European officials said they were eyeing the next 12 days with increasing concern, fearing that Russian military exercises scheduled to start Thursday could provide cover for a sudden strike against Ukraine and that the Feb. 20 conclusion of the Olympic Games in Beijing clears away a potential diplomatic barrier for Russian President Vladimir Putin, who may fear upstaging Chinese President Xi Jinping.

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

A priest's calling: Ukrainian cleric ready for war in chaplain corps. **A8**

'Nobody believed those teenagers'



ALLISON V. SMITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A woman, who chose not to be identified, alleges ex-Chicago Red Stars coach Rory Dames groomed and coerced her into having sex with him when she played for his youth soccer club.

Youth players alleged abuse by coach years before NWSL team did

BY MOLLY HENSLEY-CLANCY

Last fall, when players in the National Women's Soccer League publicly accused prominent coach Rory Dames of verbal and emotional abuse, Megan Cnota was immediately transported to two decades before, when she was a teenager playing for Dames in suburban Chicago.

Yes, she recognized the behavior the players described, she said. But she also recognized something else: The NWSL players said they had twice before raised alarms about Dames, only to see him continue coaching.

Cnota and her teammates tried to do the same, she said. In 1998, a police officer in Arlington Heights, Ill., investigated after a former player complained that Dames had touched her inappropriately on her upper thigh when

SEE ABUSE ON A19

Democrats in Va. Senate back school mask opt-out

BY LAURA VOZZELLA
AND GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

RICHMOND — Democrats in Virginia's Senate signaled support Tuesday for making school masks optional by July, a turnaround after weeks of howling against Gov. Glenn Youngkin's efforts to end mask mandates right away.

Youngkin (R), who has made parental power over masks a centerpiece of his first month in office, called the move "a significant step ... for parents and children."

The sudden change of heart by at least some Democrats gives Youngkin a win on an issue that otherwise could be bogged down in courts for weeks or even months, and it comes as several other states led by Democratic governors have begun winding down their K-12 mask mandates.

There is still some distance for

SEE MASKS ON A4

IN THE NEWS



ROBERT F. BUKATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another shocking setback Mikaela Shiffrin failed to finish a second Olympic race — this time faltering in her specialty, the slalom. **D1**

An Oscar-hunting 'Dog' Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog" leads the pack with 12 Academy Award nominations. **C1**

THE NATION

The pandemic is starting its third year with dueling realities, with many Americans resuming their lives even as cases overwhelm hospitals. **A6**

Holocaust scholar Deborah Lipstadt testified at a Senate hearing on her nomination to lead the State Department's efforts to combat antisemitism. **A7**

A Coast Guard mother convicted last week in the death of her 5-month-old daughter at an outpost in Alaska was sentenced to six years in prison. **A15**

THE WORLD

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI apologized to victims of clerical abuse but admitted no personal responsibility. **A10**

U.N.-backed negotiators are starting work on a global treaty to reduce plastic pollution, possibly including caps on its production. **A13**

The debate in Britain over the role and influence of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's wife exploded into full public view in recent days. **A18**

Mexican fishers are blocked from U.S. ports after years of illegal cross-border fishing. **A14**

THE ECONOMY

Authorities arrested a couple and seized more than \$3.6 billion in bitcoin allegedly stolen as part of a 2016 hack, the Justice Department said. **A36**

Legislation designed to relieve the U.S. Postal Service of billions of dollars in liabilities passed the House and is set to be considered by a favorable Senate. **A24**

Peloton will remove its CEO and lay off 2,800 workers as part of an overhaul amid decreasing demand for its workout equipment. **A24**

THE REGION

Montgomery County voted to hire Monifa B. McKnight as schools superintendent, the first Black woman to fill the post. **B1**

Virginia lawmakers struck down legislation that would have given voters a chance to decide on removing a now-defunct provision in the state constitution banning same-sex marriage. **B1**

Virginia Democrats thwarted an effort to revive Gov. Glenn Youngkin's bid to install a former Trump administration official as natural resources secretary. **B1**

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced a \$2 million lottery as part of a renewed effort to encourage booster shots. **B1**

INSIDE



FOOD

Putting in the work A clueless cook reflects on the lessons and tiny triumphs in learning to make dinner for his partner. **E1**

STYLE

Editing test James Bennet testified about his role in a faulty New York Times opinion piece that led Sarah Palin to sue. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS	A16
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OPINION PAGES	A21
LOTTERIES	B3
OBITUARIES	B5
TELEVISION	C4
WORLD NEWS	A8

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espectáculos**El poder del perro, la gran favorita para los Oscar 2022**

La película de Jane Campion (disponible en Netflix) obtuvo once nominaciones.

**MAR DEL PLATA TUVO SU NOCHE DE LOS MUSEOS**

—cultura

La estrella fue el MAR, que convocó a una gran cantidad de visitantes; instituciones públicas y privadas participaron de la iniciativa. **Página 24**

YA VEN EL FINAL DE LA TERCERA OLA DE COVID EN EL PAÍS

—coronavirus

Los especialistas creen que el último pico está terminando, pero no descartan que se produzca un rebrote si aparece una nueva variante del virus. **Página 20**

LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 9 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

ANÍBAL GRECO

Adiós y emoción Del Potro se despidió en el Lawn Tennis



En un clima de tristeza y emoción, Juan Martín del Potro "colgó la vincha" anoche en el Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis tras perder (6-1; 6-3) ante Federico Delbonis. "Me quería despedir acá y no en una conferencia de prensa", dijo entre lágrimas después del partido. No cerró definitivamente la puerta a la posibilidad de jugar en Río, pero dejó en claro que está en el final de su carrera. **Deportes**

Preocupación en EE.UU. por el avance de China y Rusia en la región

TENSIÓN. Congresistas norteamericanos le pidieron a Biden que acentúe la cooperación en materia de seguridad en América Latina frente a la expansión de ambas potencias

WASHINGTON.— Dos senadores que lideran el Comité de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado, el demócrata Bob Menendez y el republicano Marco Rubio, con mucha influencia en el Capitolio, pidieron ayer al gobierno de Estados Unidos que profundice la cooperación en materia de seguridad en la región

ante el avance de China y Rusia. El proyecto de ley que presentaron Rubio y Menendez llegó luego de que la Argentina se sumó a la Franja y la Ruta de la Seda, el proyecto de expansión de Pekín a través de inversiones en infraestructura y seguridad. Y luego de las críticas que volvió a lanzar el presidente Alber-

to Fernández contra Estados Unidos, al que acusó de no colaborar en la obtención de un acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

"No hay mayor amenaza en nuestra región que la creciente intromisión de Rusia y China en América Latina y el Caribe", dijo Marco Rubio en un comunicado. **Página 8**

Manzur profundiza su apuesta norteamericana**Página 9****El acuerdo con el FMI divide a todo el oficialismo**

Pedro Lacour
Página 11

EL ANÁLISIS

Un presidente que dice y se desdice todo el tiempo

Joaquín Morales Solá
—LA NACION—

Faltan 42 días. Si llegara al 26 de marzo sin lograr un acuerdo definitivo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional, la Argentina habrá caído por primera en su historia en default con los organismos multilaterales. Una transgresión que no cometió ni siquiera en el irresponsable 2001. **Continúa en la página 10**

Hackean el Poder Judicial de Chaco y piden rescate

ATAQUE. Exigen dinero a cambio de los datos robados

El Poder Judicial de Chaco fue blanco de un ataque informático que infiltró sus sistemas, tomó el control de la información disponible y reclamó el pago de un rescate a cambio de devolver el material.

La Justicia chaqueña extendió la feria judicial hasta el lunes, confía en que la información robada no sea relevante y se negó a pagar el rescate exigido por los hackers. **Página 14**

El Banco Central acelera el ritmo de devaluación

DÓLAR. Permitió el mayor ajuste diario en un año

Sin dólares en las reservas internacionales, el Banco Central (BCRA) aceleró ayer el ritmo de devaluación con el objetivo de ir dejando atrás el dólar que mantuvo "piso" en las elecciones legislativas.

La entidad monetaria, que preside Miguel Pesce, permitió ayer una suba de 0,13%, lo que no sucedía desde hacía un año. Pudo recomprar solo US\$2 millones gracias a las trabas a la importación. **Página 16**

OPINIÓN

El peronismo tiene el complot en el código genético

Loris Zanatta
—PARA LA NACION—

Página 29



Karim Sahib/AFP

PALMEIRAS TIRA AL AHLY DO CAMINHO E FICA A UM PASSO DO TÍTULO MUNDIAL

Raphael Veiga (centro, abraçado) comemora com colegas gol feito no 2 a 0 diante dos egípcios, ontem, em Abu Dhabi; equipe disputa final no sábado (12), contra Chelsea ou Al Hilal **Esporte B8**

Ciência B6

A volta do pterossauro

Após ter saído do país ilegalmente, fóssil brasileiro é devolvido por museu belga

Ilustrada C1

Oscar 2022 revela lista de indicados, que tem 'Ataque dos Cães' na liderança

Ilustrada C6

App Kwai ameaça reinado do TikTok com piadas de tiozão e dramas de novela

Ocupação de UTIs para Covid supera 80% em 8 estados e DF

A ocupação de UTIs para Covid está acima do patamar de 80% em oito estados e DF, em quadro semelhante ao da última semana, segundo levantamento da Folha. **Saúde B4**

Atila Iamarino

Fomentado pelo governo, negacionismo antivacina em curso no Brasil é único **B4**

Quiosque seguiu aberto mesmo com corpo de Moisés

O quiosque Tropicalia continuou funcionando por três horas, mesmo com o corpo de Moisés Kaba-gambe estendido no chão, mostram imagens da noite do crime. O registro vai das 22h25 do último dia 24 à 1h27 do dia 25. **Cotidiano B3**

Apresentador perde patrocínio por fala de partido nazista

O podcaster Bruno Aiub, o Monark, foi desligado do Flow após defender o direito de existência de um partido nazista no Brasil. O canal perdeu diversos patrocínios após ser alvo de críticas, em especial de entidades judaicas. **Política A8**

Bento 16 admite erros da igreja sobre abuso sexual

Envolvido em uma investigação sobre abusos de menores que teriam ocorrido em sua gestão como arcebispo de Munique, nos anos 1980, o papa emérito Bento 16 reconheceu, em carta, erros da igreja em lidar com os casos. Não admitiu, porém, ter praticado irregularidades, e disse estar consolado pelo perdão de Deus. **Mundo A10**

ARTIGO

Alessandro Vieira
Reforma tributária por mais igualdade deve ser carro-chefe

Para fazer mais pela maioria da população, é preciso vencer os "auxílios permanentes" que as elites recebem do Estado, como as isenções do sistema tributário. O que 4 dos 5 homens mais ricos do país têm em comum? Empresas que recebem gastos indiretos do governo via renúncia fiscal. **Mercado A13**

Pré-candidato à Presidência da República pelo Cidadania

EDITORIAIS A2

Registrado em ata
Sobre alerta do BC relativo à PEC dos Combustíveis.

Além da inauguração
Acerca de obra para transposição do São Francisco.

A pandemia em 8.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)	70,5 %
Dose de reforço	24,5 %

Nos estados

	Ao menos uma dose	1º ciclo completo	Dose de reforço
SP	89,1%	79,7%	37,7%
PI	87,4%	77,4%	19,5%
MG	80,6%	74,1%	25,1%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos		
Média móvel	823	Em 24 h 1.174
	↑ 148,0 %	Total 633.894
Casos	↑ +2,8% (acelerado)	
Casos nos estados		Ritmo
	Média móvel (variação*)	
MG	24.154 (+9,8%)	acelerado
RS	17.307 (+9,0%)	acelerado
PR	17.027 (+2,0%)	acelerado

*Variação em relação a 14 dias.

BC alerta que PEC dos combustíveis aumentará inflação

No mesmo dia, presidente da Câmara defende driblar rechaço à medida com apoio a projeto que congela ICMS

O Banco Central alertou que as propostas para reduzir a tributação de combustíveis — e, portanto, subsidiá-los — alimentarão a inflação e forçarão a continuidade da elevação dos juros. Horas depois, o presidente da Câmara, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), defendeu um projeto de lei que prevê congelar o ICMS sobre o produto.

O BC afirma na ata da reunião do Copom, na qual explica suas decisões e indica tendências, que políticas fiscais que incentivem a demanda podem levar a um aumento do dólar e, por consequência, dos preços. Ao menos duas propostas de emenda à Constituição preveem tal incentivo às custas do gasto público.

A medida viria em ano eleitoral e, segundo analistas, teria efeito incerto sobre os valores ao consumidor.

Ontem, contudo, Lira defendeu acelerar o debate com a aprovação de um projeto de lei que fixa a alíquota de ICMS, um imposto estadual, sob teto calculado com a média de preços dos últimos dois anos. **Mercado A12**

Total de crianças de 6 e 7 que não sabem ler e escrever sobe a 41%

O Brasil atingiu o maior patamar, desde 2012, de crianças de 6 e 7 anos que não sabem ler e escrever. Em 2021, chegou a 40,8% a fatia que não havia sido alfabetizada — cerca de 2,4 milhões.

Os dados são de um estudo do Todos pela Educação, com base na Pnad Contínua do IBGE. Na pesquisa, os responsáveis pelos domicílios responderam se suas crianças sabiam ler e escrever.

Em 2012, eram 28,2% da população de 6 e 7 nessa situação. Por lei, crianças teriam assegurado o direito de dominar essas habilidades até o fim do 2º ano do fundamental, aos 7. **Cotidiano B1**

Afastado, Jefferson comanda PTB, dizem mensagens

Mesmo após o STF ter determinado afastamento de Roberto Jefferson da presidência do PTB, o ex-deputado seguiu dando as cartas no partido de dentro do presidio, segundo mensagens de WhatsApp obtidas pela Folha. **Política A4**



José Lucena/TheNews/Folhapress

JOVEM NEGRO PRESO DEPOIS DE COMPRAR PÃO É SOLTO

O estudante Yago Corrêa, 21, segura cartaz após sair do Complexo Prisional de Benfica, no Rio; morador do Jacarezinho, ele foi preso no domingo (6) quando deixava padaria **Cotidiano B3**

Lula banca Alckmin após contestação de Dilma

Após Dilma Rousseff questionar Lula sobre a valia da aliança com Geraldo Alckmin pela Presidência, o ex-presidente bancou a união, em nome da governabilidade. Em conversa em janeiro, Dilma havia perguntado se o ex-tucano "vale uma missa", se referindo à renúncia do rei Henrique 4º à própria fé para ser coroado na França. **Política A7**



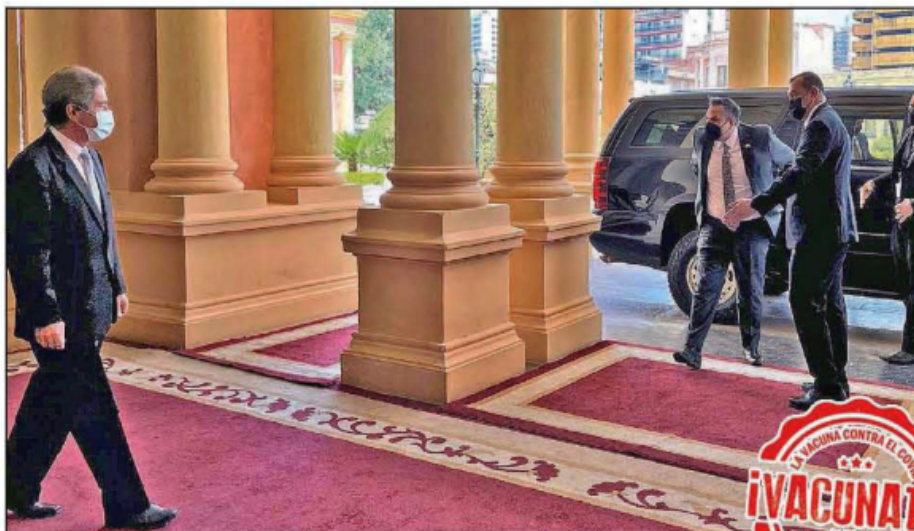
Sugestiva visita del encargado de Negocios de la Embajada al mandatario

EEUU da apoyo a Abdo en lucha contra corrupción e impunidad

- La reunión se da en medio de la investigación a Cartes
- Hablaron de asegurar que el pueblo reciba justicia
- Sigue incertidumbre sobre juicio político a fiscal general

Sorpresiva. Joseph Salazar al llegar al Palacio de López. Luego dijo que compartió con el Ejecutivo el mutuo interés por fortalecer las instituciones democráticas.

PÁGINA 6 a la 10



Solo la Corte pagó USD 1,4 millones
Entes públicos dieron bonificaciones por USD 7 millones en enero

PÁGINA 12

Si no aparece variante agresiva
Salud estima que la pandemia puede llegar a su fin para abril

PÁGINA 2

Migración alemana no cesa



Itapúa. Nuevos pobladores siguen llegando a Colonias Unidas. Hohenau inició censo para inserción ordenada y productiva.

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Apriete judicial a deudores
El Jurado investigará a los jueces y fiscales que se prestaron a RGD

PÁGINA 41

Fomenta modelo económico arcaico
Empresarios ratifican su oposición a la ley de comercio fronterizo

PÁGINA 14

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LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » - M. de La Rochefoucauld


FIGARO scope

- **À la une** : Paris à pied, quatre itinéraires pleins de découvertes
- **Restaurants** : les nouvelles tables des Top chefs



BIATHLON
QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET,
PREMIÈRE MÉDAILLE D'OR
FRANÇAISE AUX JO DE PÉKIN **PAGE 13**

PRÉSIDENTIELLE
 Taubira cherche toujours un chemin à gauche **PAGE 4**

LIBAN
 Le clientélisme du Hezbollah prospère grâce aux dollars de l'ennemi américain **PAGE 8**

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RUGBY
 Antoine Dupont, le meilleur joueur du monde, a une marge de progression **PAGE 14**

CHAMPS LIBRES

- 79 ans après, « la patrie n'oublie pas » ses résistants
- Série : « Dix scrutins dans le rétroviseur », 2/10 : la présidentielle de 1969
- La tribune collective de cent professeurs d'Henri-IV et de Louis-le-Grand
- Un entretien avec Jean-Yves Camus
- La chronique de Bertille Bayart
- L'analyse d'Eugénie Bastié

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mardi :
 Faut-il rendre à nouveau les maths obligatoires en première et en terminale ?

OUI 90% NON 10%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 154 893

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
 La médiation d'Emmanuel Macron auprès de Vladimir Poutine a-t-elle été positive ?

ODD ANDERSEN/AFP

Commerce extérieur : les raisons d'un naufrage

Le déficit commercial s'est creusé l'an dernier et atteint le montant record de 84,7 milliards d'euros. Cette détérioration est la conséquence de la désindustrialisation de la France.

La France a publié mardi le pire déficit commercial de son histoire, à 84,7 milliards d'euros. C'est une vingtaine de milliards de plus qu'en 2020, une année déjà très noire pour le commerce extérieur. Le pays a subi une

hausse des importations, notamment des produits énergétiques, mais cette dégradation de la balance commerciale est surtout la conséquence de la perte de compétitivité des entreprises, qui nourrit une désin-

dustrialisation lente et profonde du pays. La part de marché de la France dans le commerce mondial ne cesse de fléchir au profit de l'Allemagne (plus de 200 milliards d'euros d'excédent commercial), de

l'Italie ou de l'Espagne. Pour restaurer la compétitivité, les grandes fédérations de l'industrie réclament une baisse massive des impôts de production et plaident pour la poursuite des baisses de cotisations sociales.

→ **L'HEXAGONE PEINE À SE REMETTRE DE PLUS DE QUARANTE ANS DE DÉSINDUSTRIALISATION**
 → **DES MULTINATIONALES FRANÇAISES POINTÉES DU DOIGT POUR MANQUE DE PATRIOTISME**
PAGES 22, 23 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

L'avenir des océans au cœur du sommet mondial de Brest



Annoncé par Emmanuel Macron en septembre, le One Ocean Summit lance un cycle de rencontres internationales destinées à préserver ce milieu essentiel, fragilisé par le réchauffement et la pollution.

PAGES 10, 11 ET 20

Ukraine : le bilan en demi-teinte de la médiation Macron

En deux jours de diplomatie à Moscou, Kiev et Berlin, le chef de l'État estime avoir enrayé « l'escalade » en Ukraine. Vladimir Poutine lui aurait promis de s'en tenir au déploiement militaire actuel et de retirer ses troupes de Biélorussie après de prochaines manœuvres. Mais la question la plus difficile, portant sur « une formule de sécurité qui puisse faire baisser la tension », n'a pas beaucoup progressé. **PAGES 2 ET 3**

ÉDITORIAL par Jacques-Olivier Martin jomartin@lefigaro.fr

Une envie d'usines

Rebond de la croissance, chômage en baisse, créations d'emplois au plus haut... Il y a les bonnes nouvelles économiques : elles montrent que la France, gonflée au « quoi qu'il en coûte », ne se sort pas si mal de la grande crise du Covid. Et puis, il y a les autres, celles qui rappellent cruellement que le malade est très loin d'être guéri. L'annonce d'un déficit commercial record (près de 85 milliards d'euros !) ne trompe pas sur l'état toujours inquiétant de notre économie. Il sanctionne son manque de compétitivité, qui freine la croissance, pousse aux délocalisations, désindustrialise tout un pays avec des conséquences pour le moins funestes. Faute de scieries, par exemple, les grumes de nos forêts partent en Chine pour être transformées et revendues partout (y compris en France) par des entreprises asiatiques qui empochent les bénéfices. Qui peut encore oser croire à l'« entreprise sans usines » ? Coûteux à produire et pas assez haut de gamme, le « made in France » a du plomb dans l'aile. En vingt ans, la part de nos exportations en Europe a reculé de 30 %, quand celle de nos concurrents s'est appréciée, qu'il s'agisse de l'Italie et plus encore de l'Allema-

gne, dont l'excédent commercial représente près de la moitié de nos exportations. Il faudra beaucoup plus que des Airbus, des bons vins et des produits de luxe pour inverser la tendance. Pour vaincre ce « mal français », comme l'a nommé le chef de l'État, il n'y a pas d'autre solution que de réindustrialiser la France. Car tout est bon dans l'industrie : elle offre des salaires plus élevés qu'ailleurs, nourrit les territoires et produit de l'innovation. Et, surtout, tout est encore possible. Les révolutions industrielles rebattent les cartes. Notre pays peut donc revenir dans la course. À condition de réduire dès maintenant les impôts de production pour permettre aux entreprises de retrouver très vite de la compétitivité et d'investir dans les meilleurs outils. Autre priorité : former massivement des techniciens et des ingénieurs (rétablir les maths au lycée), sans lesquels il n'y aura pas de reconquête. Et plus que tout : inscrirons l'industrie au cœur du récit national des décennies à venir. Il est temps de faire campagne pour nos usines ! ■

Le malade est très loin d'être guéri

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Tory MPs accused of trying to drag climate fight into new culture war

Exclusive
Matthew Taylor
Helena Horton

A group of Conservative politicians and their allies are on the "frontline" of a new climate war and are attempting to derail the government's green agenda, according to claims by leading climate scientists.

Tory MPs and peers in the Net Zero Scrutiny Group have gained widespread media coverage in the past month, attempting to link the government's net zero agenda to the cost of living crisis and calling for cuts to

green taxes and an increase of fossil fuel production.

Some members claim the government's plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 have been dreamed up by out-of-touch elites and would impoverish working people, "making them colder and poorer". The 19 Conservatives confirmed to be in the group say they do not dispute climate science or the need to decarbonise.

Two leading members have links to an organisation, often described as "climate sceptic", that was founded by the long-term climate denier Lord Lawson. The group's chair, the

MP Craig Mackinlay, has also been accused by a leading climate institute of using misleading and inaccurate information.

Michael Mann, one of the world's leading authorities on climate and author of *The New Climate War*, said the group appeared to be trying to drag climate policies into a culture war, which he described as a "dangerous new tactic being used by those opposed to addressing the ecological emergency".

"This is where the frontline of the battle is now, and yes, we do have to push back fiercely on this sort of pernicious disinformation," he told

'We must push back on this ... pernicious disinformation'

Michael Mann
Leading authority on climate

the Guardian. Tory MPs involved in the Net Zero Scrutiny Group (NZSG) include the Brexit campaigner Steve Baker, the former work and pensions secretary Esther McVey, Robert Halfon, a former schools minister, and Peter Lilley. There are also several

"red wall" MPs elected in 2019. Baker is a trustee of the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF), launched by Lawson in 2009.

The organisation - which recently rebranded its campaigning arm to "net zero watch" - is characterised by its opponents as being one of Britain's biggest sources of climate science denial, a claim it denies.

It and the NZSG of Conservative politicians have recently turned their attention to the costs of the government's decarbonisation plans.

Lord Lilley and Baker were at the thinktank's annual lecture at the end of November last



Is Judi Dench set for her second Oscar win at 87?

Dame Judi Dench has been nominated for an Oscar for best actress in a supporting role for her performance in the film *Belfast*. She would be the oldest actor to win the category. **News Page 17 →**

Johnson in cronyism row over Harri firm

Rowena Mason
Deputy political editor

Boris Johnson is facing questions over his support for a company that employed Guto Harri, his new communications chief, after it emerged the firm signed a £150m deal in Downing Street with the endorsement of the prime minister.

Harri, a former adviser to Johnson as London mayor, was a director of Hydro Industries when he accompanied a team from the firm to No 10 in February 2020. While in No 10, a press release from Hydro Industries revealed, they signed a \$200m (£150m) deal with an Egyptian gas company and were provided with a supportive quote by the prime minister, with Johnson saying it was "exactly the type of contract in the post Brexit era that showcases the best of UK industry".

The Hydro Industries team also attended a St David's Day reception at No 10 that day,