

What's News

Business & Finance

China's economy stumbled in July as a two-month boost from easing lockdowns faded, prompting the country's central bank to unexpectedly cut two key interest rates in an effort to shore up faltering growth. **A1**

◆ The FTC is questioning mergers that likely would have gone unchallenged in years past, a change Chairwoman Khan has said is needed to prevent companies from building up too much power and stifling competition. **A1**

◆ Third Point has bought a new stake in Disney and is calling on the company to cut costs, buy the rest of Hulu, explore spinning off ESPN and refresh its board. **A1**

◆ Elliott Management has a large position in Cardinal Health and is seeking a handful of seats on the company's board, according to people familiar with the matter. **B1**

◆ U.S. stocks ended higher, with the S&P 500 and Dow both rising 0.4%, while the Nasdaq gained 0.6%. Commodity prices fell on worries about growth in China. **B1**

◆ Andreessen Horowitz is investing in Flow, a real-estate startup led by former WeWork executive and co-founder Adam Neumann. **B1**

◆ The Fed said it would adopt a tiered approach for determining whether to grant financial institutions access to its payment systems. **A2**

◆ An investigation by WWE's board into allegations of sexual misconduct against Vince McMahon is "substantially complete," the company said in a securities filing. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ Record numbers of migrants are being arrested while crossing the southern U.S. border with Mexico, a sustained surge of single men and families from across Latin America either seeking asylum or work, according to new figures from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. **A1**

◆ Garland deliberated for weeks over whether to approve the application for a warrant to search Trump's Florida home, people familiar with the matter said, a sign of a cautious approach that will be tested in coming months. **A3**

◆ Giuliani was named a target of a Fulton County, Ga., investigation into efforts by Trump and his supporters to overturn the 2020 election in the state, one of his lawyers said. **A3**

◆ Weisselberg, the Trump Organization's ex-CFO, is expected to plead guilty to criminal charges stemming from his indictment on tax-fraud offenses, according to people familiar with the matter. **A3**

◆ William Ruto was declared the winner of Kenya's presidential race, which descended into chaos moments before the national electoral commission announced the results. **A5**

◆ China's military responded to the surprise arrival in Taiwan of a new delegation of U.S. lawmakers by announcing a resumption of military drills around the island. **A7**

◆ Iran denied involvement in the attack on Salman Rushdie, saying the novelist was to blame for the stabbing that left him hospitalized. **A7**

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Taliban Mark One-Year Anniversary of Afghanistan Takeover



SHOW OF FORCE: Taliban fighters in Kabul Monday celebrate one year since they seized the Afghan capital. The Biden administration has decided it won't release \$7 billion in foreign assets held by Afghanistan's central bank on U.S. soil. **A16**

FTC's Antitrust Posture Spurs Companies to Rethink Mergers

By DAVE MICHAELS
AND RYAN TRACY

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration's antitrust enforcers are throwing sand in the gears of Wall Street's deal machine.

Under Chairwoman Lina Khan, the Federal Trade Commission is questioning mergers that likely would have gone unchallenged in years past—a change Ms. Khan has said is needed to prevent companies from building up too much power and stifling competition.

"In all too many areas of

our economy, including agriculture, airlines, healthcare, we've seen significant consolidation and reduction of competition," Ms. Khan said in an interview. "Mergers have played a role in that."

The FTC issued 42 letters of investigation over mergers or similar transactions during the 2021 fiscal year, according to the latest available data, almost double the number for 2020 and the highest in more than 10 years. Deal makers, antitrust attorneys and Republicans complain that in some cases the FTC is trying to slow

down deals where there isn't a credible threat to competition.

"The emphasis is on using process to make doing deals more expensive and to heighten the risk, delay and uncertainty of doing those deals," said Christine Wilson, a Republican commissioner who has been critical of Ms. Khan's management.

Bankers and boards of directors are now more aware of the risk that antitrust enforcers will investigate, which has sometimes led companies to postpone merger plans, said Eric Swendenburg, co-head of

the M&A practice at Simpson Thacher LLP.

"Boards are well aware of the aggressive antitrust enforcement regime right now," Mr. Swendenburg said. "You have to assume you're not going to get a pass on anything."

Companies will still pursue deals, Pfizer Inc. Chief Executive Albert Bourla said at a recent conference. "But I foresee challenges, particularly large-scale acquisitions," he said. Pfizer has agreed to a \$5.4 billion deal for another drugmaker, while Amazon.com Inc.

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Nexus of Airline Misery: Florida

Congestion there cascades across the U.S.

By MICAH MAIDENBERG
AND ALISON SIDER

Airlines flying in and out of Florida one recent weekend had a lot to navigate.

Over the Gulf of Mexico, military exercises restricted airspace for flights trying to go east and west. A thunderstorm encroached, threatening an important route over the Gulf. Short staffing at an air-traffic-control center near Jacksonville limited north-

south traffic. And a space rocket prepared to launch over the Atlantic, temporarily cutting off routes to the east.

Such is the Florida obstacle course, jamming up airspace over some of the most popular vacation spots in the U.S.—and cascading travel problems across the rest of the country.

Every major airline serves Florida, and some say more than a third of their flights

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INSIDE



JASON GAY
Little League
opponents set
example in moment
that goes viral. **A12**

Migrant Arrests at Border Hit Record

By SANTIAGO PÉREZ
AND MICHELLE HACKMAN

Record numbers of migrants are being arrested while crossing the southern U.S. border with Mexico, a sustained surge of single men and families from across Latin America either seeking asylum or work, according to new figures Monday from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Border Patrol agents have made about 1.82 million arrests at the southern border so far in the government's fiscal year, which runs from October to the

end of September. The number beats the record set last fiscal year, which was 1.66 million apprehensions in the year ending September 2021.

With about two months left in the agency's fiscal year, full-year arrests are expected to break the two million mark for the first time, analysts said.

"We're apprehending people left and right," said Border Patrol agent Jesus Vasalvilbaso, surveying a section of border fencing in downtown Nogales, Ariz., on a recent day.

The surge comes amid rising

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Super Contestants Hit the Fair

Repeat ribbon winners sweep competitions

By SCOTT CALVERT

This summer Larry Smith grew kohlrabi, lima beans, black cherry tomatoes, zucchini, five kinds of string beans, six types of peppers and more on a plot in Portland, Ore. Now he hopes the bounty is good enough to make him a champion gardener—once again.

The 65-year-old has won that title at the Clackamas County Fair every year since 1999, except for 2020 when the pandemic prompted the event's cancellation.

"Obsessiveness" explains his long-running success, he

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Third Point Buys Stake In Disney, Seeks Spinoff

By ROBBIE WHELAN

Activist investor Dan Loeb's Third Point LLC has bought a new stake in Walt Disney Co. and is calling on the company to cut costs, buy the rest of Hulu, explore spinning off ESPN and refresh its board.

Mr. Loeb said on Monday his firm, which liquidated a large Disney stake earlier this year, repurchased a "significant stake" in the company and sent a letter to Disney Chief Executive Bob Chapek urging the company to engage with Third Point on a number of issues.

Third Point's new stake consists of less than 1% of Disney's shares outstanding, valued today at around \$1 billion, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Mr. Loeb praised growth in Disney's streaming-subscriber base, but wanted Disney to more aggressively cut costs and consider a number of

steps to shake up its portfolio.

"We welcome the views of all our investors," Disney said in response to Third Point's letter. It said its board has been continuously refreshed, "with an average tenure of four years."

The investor's calls come at an inflection point for Disney and the streaming industry at large, which enjoyed explosive growth during Covid-19 but now face headwinds that include financial losses, domestic-subscriber saturation and churn as well as inflation pressures on consumers.

News of the new investment comes days after Disney reported strong earnings for its fiscal third quarter. It added 14.4 million subscribers to its Disney+ streaming service and flexed its pricing

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◆ Streamers see more switching by subscribers.... **B1**

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Future-proofing
How to encourage long-term thinking — STEPHEN BUSH, PAGE 16

Sinking chip
The UK is in danger of missing out in the semiconductor race — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Abuse at work
Who pays the price for sexual harassment? — SARAH O'CONNOR, PAGE 17

One year on Taliban trade on open roads

Taliban fighters chant victory slogans close to the US embassy in Kabul yesterday as they celebrate the first anniversary of their return to power in Afghanistan.

The end of the troubled nation's 20-year war last August has led to a drop in violence on the roads, if only because the Taliban — who as insurgents had long been the aggressor on Afghanistan's travel routes — are unchallenged militarily.

The Taliban's tight control of the road network has become a vital way for them to consolidate their power, from directing trade and the economy to enforcing their draconian ideology by restricting women's freedom to travel.

Making routes secure page 3



Wahid Kharazi/AFP

China cuts lending rate as retail sales and factory output decline

◆ Sinking demand rattles Beijing ◆ Zero-Covid policy takes toll ◆ Housing sector in 'free fall'

WILLIAM LANGLEY — HONG KONG
EDWARD WHITE — SEOUL

China has cut a crucial lending rate in an effort to shore up growth as the world's second-biggest economy is buffeted by repeated Covid-19 lockdowns and a worsening property crisis.

The People's Bank of China yesterday made an unexpected reduction to its medium-term lending rate, for one-year loans to the banking system, by 10 basis points to 2.75 per cent, the first cut since January.

The decision highlighted deepening anxiety in Beijing as it tries to combat a decline in consumer demand triggered by its zero-Covid policy, as well as the fallout from cash-strapped property developers and slowing global growth.

Official statistics reflected worse than

expected consumer and factory activity and a rise in youth unemployment to a record 19.9 per cent, piling more pressure on Xi Jinping's administration to reinvigorate the economy.

Retail sales, an important gauge of consumption, rose 2.7 per cent year on year in July compared with economists' expectations of a 5 per cent rise, while industrial production increased 3.8 per cent against forecasts of 4.6 per cent.

Despite Beijing's plans to inject hundreds of billions of dollars of stimulus to boost growth, China's economy only narrowly escaped a contraction in the second quarter. Experts expect economic slowdown to prompt looser monetary policy and fiscal stimulus but some are pessimistic for the scale and speed of Beijing's response.

"China's growth in [the second half] will be significantly hindered by its zero-Covid strategy, the downward spiral of the property markets and a likely slowdown of export growth," said Ting Lu, Nomura's chief China economist. "Beijing's policy support could be too little, too late and too inefficient."

Analysts said the rate cut was a signal that Beijing would maintain efforts to stimulate the economy via monetary policy rather than pivoting to focus on rising prices, after the PBOC highlighted the risks of growing inflationary pressure in its quarterly report last week.

"I would say [the rate] cut is a way to pledge Beijing's continued support," said Jing Liu, chief economist for greater China at HSBC, adding that some had thought last week's report was "the



beginning of monetary tightening".

Société Générale described the July data as "simply bad", with deceleration across production, investment and consumption "under the crushing weight of the zero-Covid policy" and with the "housing sector in free fall".

"Policymakers have started to communicate their concerns about overstimulating the economy, while the real risk is exactly the opposite in our view: too little easing and too weak a recovery," Société Générale's analysts said. Xingdong Chen, chief China economist at BNP Paribas, added: "China is definitely in a very desperate situation."

Additional reporting by Gloria Li and Primrose Riddell in Hong Kong

Watchdog probes Evergrande page 6

Day in markets page 11

Industrial production rose 3.8 per cent year on year in July compared with economists' expectations of 4.6 per cent. Retail sales rose only 2.7 per cent.

Briefing

► **Evergrande unit faces Hong Kong probe**
The city's accounting watchdog has launched an investigation into Evergrande Property Services and its auditor PwC over a \$2bn loan scheme that led to an executive clear-out last month. — PAGE 6

► **Beijing announces new Taiwan exercises**
China has boosted its bid to isolate the island after a visit by a US delegation. Fears are rising that China seeks to impose a status quo in which foreigners are dissuaded from engaging with Taipei. — PAGE 4

► **Deputy president declared Kenya winner**
William Ruto has been declared the victor in the presidential contest but supporters of main rival Raila Odinga, and some election commissioners, disputed the result. — PAGE 4



► **Britain approves Omicron-tailored jab**
The UK has become the first country to authorise a Covid-19 vaccine formulated to combat the variant, setting the stage for boosters using Moderna's shot that targets it and the original strain. — PAGE 2

► **Andreessen Horowitz backs Neumann**
The venture capital firm has backed WeWork founder Adam Neumann's new real estate group, Flow, saying the entrepreneur had "fundamentally redesigned the office experience". — PAGE 6

► **European office market faces debt test**
Rising interest rates and a surge in building costs have presented the sector with its toughest test since the financial crisis as owners' debt servicing costs rise above their rental income. — PAGE 8

► **UK lender licensed for 50-year mortgage**
Perenna has been granted a licence to offer home loans with long terms in a move aimed at helping borrowers manage soaring inflation. The average price of a home in Britain is £365,173. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Global concerns



Gaming industry drops a level after pandemic

The belief that gaming is one of the most recession-proof forms of leisure has been challenged by the dip in demand shown in results from console producers, publishers and specialist chipmakers. The return to real-world pursuits after the pandemic drove the decline. But weak editions of the Call of Duty and Battlefield series also took a toll. One expert remarks: "You need compelling games. We are still waiting for the next must-have blockbuster."

Players press pause — PAGE 8

Third Point has second shot at Disney as Loeb lobbies for sweeping changes

CHRISTOPHER GRIMES — LOS ANGELES
SARA GERMANO — NEW YORK
JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — LONDON

Activist investor Dan Loeb is agitating for sweeping changes at Disney, including a spin-off of sports TV network ESPN, a board shake-up and aggressive cost-cutting after rebuilding a stake in the entertainment and media group.

The head of the Third Point hedge fund also recommended that the company take full control of streaming service Hulu by buying a minority stake from rival Comcast. Disney shares rose 2.8 per cent to \$125 after yesterday.

Disney's costs are "among the highest in the industry", Loeb wrote in a letter to Bob Chapek, the company's chief executive, adding that "a strong case can be made that the ESPN business should be spun off to shareholders" to reduce Dis-

ney's debt. ESPN broadcasts live sport in the US including the National Football League, National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball.

Disney has invested heavily to build its video streaming service, Disney Plus, and is expected to spend roughly \$18bn on content this year. Last week Chapek said Disney remained on track to reach its goal of achieving profitability at Disney Plus by 2024 as the company reported quarterly net profit of \$1.4bn.

Loeb said he did not mean to single out individuals to be removed from Disney's 11-member board but did say that Third Point had identified candidates.

Disney said it welcomed "the views of all our investors" but pushed back against Loeb's criticism. "Our independent and experienced board has significant expertise in branded, consumer-facing and technology businesses as well

as talent-driven enterprises," it stated.

Third Point previously took a position in Disney in the second quarter of 2020, not long after Disney Plus was launched as a rival to Netflix, and then sold it off as the stock rose. Shares in Disney increased 70 per cent from May 2020 until August 2021, when Third Point first disclosed the previous position.

Disney's shares had fallen 21 per cent this year, though they have risen 30 per cent over the past month before Loeb disclosed his new stake yesterday.

The billionaire hedge fund manager's move appeared friendly, as he praised Disney's shift to streaming and its recent third-quarter results, which topped Wall Street estimates. "Disney's complex transformation is succeeding and our confidence in Disney's current trajectory is such that we have... repurchased a significant stake," he wrote.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Aug 15	Prev	%Chg	Pair	Aug 15	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	Aug 15	Prev	Chg (bp)
S&P 500	4288.45	4280.15	0.19	\$/£	1.020	1.025	-0.5	0.961	0.976	0.015	-0.01
Nasdaq Composite	13099.08	13047.19	0.40	\$/€	1.208	1.212	-0.3	0.828	0.825	0.003	-0.03
Dow Jones Ind	33865.58	33761.05	0.31	£/¥	0.844	0.845	-0.1	1.195	1.193	0.002	-0.02
FTSE 100	7386.72	7376.57	0.14	¥/\$	132.965	133.705	-0.5	1.352	1.357	-0.005	-0.05
Euro Stoxx 50	3787.80	3778.81	0.24	\$/HK\$	160.647	162.018	-0.8	79.362	78.619	0.743	-0.10
FTSE 250	7500.15	7500.89	0.11	\$/N\$	0.962	0.967	-0.5	1.140	1.144	-0.004	-0.04
FTSE All-Share	4155.09	4148.90	0.15								
CAC 40	6649.95	6653.86	0.25								
Nikkei	12816.51	12798.85	0.13								
Hong Kong	29871.78	29848.98	0.14								
MSCI World	20040.86	20175.62	-0.67								
MSCI EM	2834.51	2802.23	1.15								
MSCI ACWI	1616.83	1614.29	0.25								
MSCI Asia	157.57	159.71	-1.36								
FT Volatility 2500	5586.63	5491.96	1.72								
FT Volatility 5000	43648.28	42997.39	1.75								

Prices are latest for edition
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Slowing China Adds to Plunge In Price of Oil

**But Market for Energy
Can Quickly Reverse**

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, energy experts were predicting that oil prices could reach \$200 a barrel, a price that would send the costs of shipping and transportation into the stratosphere and bring the global economy to its knees.

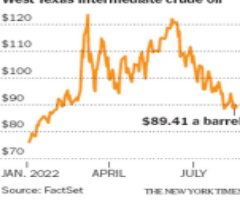
Now oil prices are lower than they were when the war began, having dropped more than 30 percent in barely two months. On Monday, news of a slowing Chinese economy and a cut in Chinese interest rates sent prices down further, to less than \$90 a barrel for the American benchmark.

Gasoline prices have fallen every day over the last nine weeks, to an average of less than \$4 nationwide, and prices of jet fuel and diesel are easing as well. That should translate eventually to lower prices for things as diverse as food and airline tickets.

But it would be premature to celebrate. Energy prices can spike as easily as they can plummet, unexpectedly and suddenly. China, where Covid-19 lockdowns remain widespread, will eventually reopen its cities to more commerce and traffic, increasing demand. Withdrawals of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve will end in November, and it will need to be refilled. And a single unexpected event — say, a hurricane flooding the Houston Ship Channel and taking several Gulf of Mexico refineries out of commission for weeks or even months — could send fuel prices soaring.

That sort of catastrophe could

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WAR'S COURSE Nikopol, Ukraine, after a Russian rocket strike. Ukraine chipped away at Russia's hold in a southern region. Page A5.

Six Weeks of 'Hell': Life as a Prisoner of Russia

By CARLOTTA GALL

KHARKIV, Ukraine — It was a particularly dangerous time for a military-age man in Russian-occupied northern Ukraine, where Russian troops were losing ground before a ferocious Ukrainian counterattack this past spring. That was when soldiers from the occupying forces seized a young auto mechanic while he was walking in his home village with his wife and a neighbor, blindfolded him, bound his hands and shoved him into a bus.

It was the beginning of six weeks of "hell," said Vasily, 37, who like most people interviewed for this article declined to give his surname for fear of reprisals. Shunted from one place of detention to another, he was beaten and repeatedly subjected to electrical shocks under interrogation, with little understanding of where he was or why he was being held.

He was far from the only one. Hundreds of Ukrainian civilians, mainly men, have disappeared in the five months of the war in

Beatings and Electrical Shocks for Civilians of Ukraine

Ukraine, detained by Russian troops or their proxies, held in basements, police stations and filtration camps in Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine and ending up incarcerated in Russia.

Thousands have passed through this sprawling, ad hoc screening system in the war zone, but no one knows exactly how many have been sent to Russian jails. The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has documented 287 cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions of civilians by Russia and says the total is almost certainly more, but probably in the hundreds, rather than the thousands.

Vasily is one of a small number of people detained in Russia who have returned to Ukraine. He was

released after about six weeks and eventually made his way back through a long, roundabout journey after a total of three months away. Back at work in an auto repair shop in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, he said he was just glad to have survived.

"It was shaming, maddening, but I came out alive," he said. "It could have been worse. Some people were shot."

Russian forces have been detaining Ukrainians since the invasion began in February, but the experiences of most of the civilians have remained opaque. Interviews with men who were detained, and with families of men who are missing, provide new details of one of the enduring horrors of the war.

Interrogators had asked for information on Ukrainian positions and military groups, Vasily said, but the interrogations had often been pointless, as the next blow came before he could answer a question. "They don't believe anything you say, even if you're telling

Continued on Page A6

In Kenya, Vote For a President Ends in Turmoil

This article is by Declan Walsh, Abdi Latif Dahir and Matthew Mpoke Bigg.

NAIROBI, Kenya — On a continent where military coups and rubber-stamp elections have proliferated in recent years, Kenya stands out.

Despite its flaws and endemic corruption, the East African nation and economic powerhouse has steadily grown into a symbol of what is possible, its democracy underpinned by a strong Constitution and its hard-fought elections an example to other African nations seeking to carve a path away from autocracy.

But Kenya has just hit a speed bump.

On Monday, a winner was declared in its latest presidential election, ending an unpredictable battle that had millions of Kenyans glued to their televisions and smartphones as the results rolled in. William Ruto, the president-elect, beamed as he addressed a hall filled with roaring supporters, lauding the "very historic, democratic occasion."

But the losing candidate, Raila Odinga, rejected the result even before it was announced. A fracas erupted in the hall where Mr. Ruto had been speaking, and where the votes had been counted, sending

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Echo of Violence From Afghanistan Rattles New Mexico Muslims

This article is by Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan, Ava Sasaki and Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs.

ALBUQUERQUE — Five years ago, Muhammad Syed was eyeing a new life with his family in a new land. They had fled war-torn Afghanistan and resettled as refugees into a small duplex near the airport in Albuquerque. Mr. Syed found work as a truck driver. But then the troubles began.

Coming from a culture where women largely stayed at home, he grew enraged with his wife as she was learning how to drive, grabbing her hair and kicking her out of the car, according to one of several reports of domestic violence the police were called to investigate.

A security camera showed him slashing the tires of another woman's car outside Albuquerque's largest mosque, and he was banned from coming back to their place of worship.

When his daughter enrolled in college, he tried to force her to bring her brother to class as a chaperone. And when she became romantically involved with an Afghan man from a different branch of Islam — a Shiite, while Mr. Syed and his family were Sunni — he attacked the young man and threatened to kill him, the man later told



A Sunni and Shiite solidarity event on Friday at the Islamic Center of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

the police. "Syed was explosive, violent, always seeking revenge," said Sharif Ahmad Hadi, an Afghan immigrant who, together with his brother, opened a halal market serving Albuquerque's growing

Muslim community and knew the Syed family. "We left Afghanistan to get away from people like him. But they followed us here."

Now Mr. Syed has been identified as the leading suspect in the harrowing string of murders of

four men, including Mr. Hadi's younger brother, three of them Shiite Muslims, and the authorities said on Monday that Mr. Syed's son, Shaheen Syed, purchased weapons with his father

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States Blame Federal Mix-Ups As Monkeypox Shots Are Lost

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

Roughly 5,000 doses of monkeypox vaccine intended for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., left the national stockpile's warehouse in Olive Branch, Miss., on July 19. They somehow ended up in Oklahoma.

Then Tennessee. Then Mississippi again. Then, finally, Florida. In Idaho, a shipment of 60 vaccine doses disappeared and showed up six days later, refrigerated rather than frozen, as needed. Another 800 doses sent to Minnesota — a significant portion of the state's total allotment — were unusable because the shipment was lost in transit for longer than the 96-hour "viability window."

The federal government's distribution of monkeypox vaccine

has been blemished by missteps and confusion, burdening local officials and slowing the pace of immunizations even as the virus spreads, according to interviews with state health officials and documents obtained by The New York Times.

Officials in at least 20 states and jurisdictions have complained about the delivery of the vaccine, called Jynneos. (More than half are led by Democrats, including California, Washington, Connecticut and Michigan, suggesting that their grievances are not politically motivated.)

"This is happening everywhere," said Claire Hannan, executive

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INTERNATIONAL A19-4
A Church Fire's Brutal Toll
At least 41 people, including 18 children, died from a blaze in a Coptic Orthodox church in Egypt on Sunday. PAGE A9

China's Dream for Taiwan
Beijing has seized on recent tensions over the island to push a far-reaching vision for unification. PAGE A4

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Doubts in Alaska About Palin
Voters have debated Sarah Palin's motives in staging a comeback — whether she's interested in public service or in seeking more fame. PAGE A13

Urging Calm Amid Polio Fear
As concern about the virus rises, doctors said children who are up-to-date on vaccinations should be safe. PAGE A17

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One Court, Two Passions
A columnist who grew up playing tennis in Seattle finally decided to see what the pickleball fuss was about. PAGE B8

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Gig Market Is Thriving
Conventional employment opportunities abound, but online platforms still have appeal, for flexibility as well as additional income. PAGE B1

Out of Juice, and No Charger
An electric car revolution seems around the corner, but malfunctioning public chargers could slow things up. PAGE B1

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Star of Films of the 1990s
Anne Heche, who gained prominence in movies like "Donnie Brasco" and "Wag the Dog," was 53. PAGE B10



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In some ecosystems, endangered predators are making hearty meals out of new animal visitors. PAGE D1

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As babies born with birth defects from Zika grow older, the world's attention has turned away to Covid. PAGE D1

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Indigenous American artists are making some of the country's most engaging experimental music. PAGE C1

Stage Fright? Forget About It.
In the comedy show "Hypnotic," audience members are hypnotized into performing sketches. PAGE C1

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Laura Vanderkam PAGE A18





A VISITOR takes pictures at dusk from an overlook above Horseshoe Bend on the Colorado River near Page, Ariz. Arizona is one of the Lower Basin states negotiating with other states over allocation of the river's water. **LOUIS SINCO** Los Angeles Times

Tensions over a water deal

Federal officials told states that depend on the Colorado River to plan for big cuts. Negotiations have yet to produce an agreement.

BY IAN JAMES

Two months ago, federal officials took the unprecedented step of telling the seven states that depend on Colorado River water to prepare for emergency cuts next year to prevent reservoirs from dropping to dangerously low levels.

The states and managers of affected water agencies were told to come up with plans to reduce water use drastically, by 2 million to 4 million acre-feet, by mid-August.

After weeks of negotiations, which some participants say have at times grown tense and acrimonious, the parties have yet to reach an agreement.

The absence of a deal now raises the risk that the Colorado River crisis — brought on by chronic overuse and the West's drying climate — could spiral into a legal morass.

Interior Department officials have warned they are prepared to impose cuts if necessary to protect reservoir levels. Managers of water

agencies say they have been discussing proposals and will continue to negotiate in hopes of securing enough reductions to meet the Biden administration's demands, which would mean decreasing the total amount of water diverted by roughly 15% to 30%.

But some observers worry the talks could fail, saying they see growing potential for federal intervention, lawsuits and court battles.

"There are a lot of different interests at loggerheads.

And there's a lot to overcome, and there's a lot of animosity," said Kyle Roerink, executive director of the Great Basin Water Network.

The latest round of closed-door talks occurred Thursday in Denver. Participants said they wouldn't publicly discuss the offers of water reductions made, but they acknowledged those offers have amounted to far less than 2 million acre-feet. For comparison, the total annual water use of Los Angeles is nearly 500,000 acre-

[See Water, A7]

George Gascón survives second recall campaign

The effort against the L.A. district attorney fails to get enough valid signatures.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

A second effort to force Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón into a recall election fizzled out Monday after officials determined that the campaign to boot him from office failed to obtain enough valid signatures.

To put Gascón's job on the ballot, the campaign seeking his ouster needed to gather 566,857 valid signatures by mid-July; the figure reflects 10% of the people who were eligible to vote in the election cycle when he won office in November 2020. The L.A. County registrar-recorder/clerk's office said Monday that about 530,000 of the signatures submitted were valid.

While the campaign submitted roughly 715,000 signatures, some were inevitably going to be disqualified

if they were signed by people who were not properly registered to vote in L.A. County or if a registered voter's signature didn't match the one on file with the registrar. In California, most recall drives see at least 20% of collected signatures disqualified, said Joshua Spivak, an expert on recall elections and senior research fellow at UC Berkeley Law School's California Constitution Center.

On Monday, the registrar's office said 195,783 of the signatures submitted — roughly 27% — were invalid. Most that were tossed out were either duplicates or submitted by people who were not registered to vote, officials said.

In the final weeks of its signature drive, the recall campaign sought signatures through a mass mailing blitz, sending petitions to roughly 3.6 million L.A. County voters. Some observers expressed concern that this might lead to a surge in duplicate signatures, a fear that was borne out Monday. The recall failed by about 46,000 signatures. [See Gascón, A5]

Open, safe space of their own at Queer Mercado

BY HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO

Diana Diaz grew up making pillows and blankets to sell with her family at swap meets. On the weekends, she'd see those same vendors at family parties. Some of the kids became dates to weddings and high school prom.

Her own family paid off their house and cars through selling at swap meets. She lived for those intimate interactions and wanted to re-create them. "We became family," said Diaz, 49. "We became a community."

Diaz wanted a space that would help LGBTQ+ Latinos and Latinas find footing in their communities — someplace that would make them more visible and, perhaps, offset the ongoing gentrification in East L.A.

Although there are LGBTQ+ bars, restaurants and clubs scattered across

Los Angeles, they are few and far between east of downtown.

"That's power," Diaz said. "By being more visible, we increase tolerance and eventually gain more acceptance."

The Queer Mercado, held the third Saturday of each month, draws merchants who pitch their tents across the parking lot of the Hilda L. Solis Learning Academy.

On a recent July morning, 15 minutes before the gates opened, Ryan Montez, 43, was still staring at the vendor map — pieces of a puzzle he'd been putting together for weeks.

The Queer Mercado would be celebrating its one-year anniversary. Everything needed to be perfect.

"So many moving pieces," said Montez, another founding member who serves as the mercado's social media coordinator. "That's what makes it fun." [See Mercado, A10]

Shifting stories in trial over Bryant photos

Sheriff's deputy and retired fire captain claim memory lapses.

BY ALENE TCHEREDYIAN AND MICHAEL FINNEGAN

When he took the stand Monday in the trial over photos of the helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Rafael Mejia said he didn't know whether victims' bodies had been visible in photos sent to him by another deputy.

That uncertainty didn't jibe with an interview Mejia gave sheriff's investigators two years ago, when he described in detail body parts he'd seen in the photos.

A second deputy followed Mejia on Monday and gave similarly conflicting testimony.

And the day also featured retired Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Brian Jordan, who claimed under oath that he did not remember being at the crash site at all. In an earlier deposition, Jordan recounted walking amid the crash scene.

The shifting stories and sudden amnesia were among several inconsistencies and contradictions that lawyers for Bryant's widow, Vanessa Bryant, and Christopher Chester — whose wife, Sarah, and daughter, Payton, were killed in the Jan. 26, 2020, crash — seized [See Trial, A5]



RESIDENTIAL construction in Shanghai. The ramifications of the home-building crisis in China threaten to spill over into the global economy. **QILAI SHEN** Bloomberg

Home sweet home ideal sours for buyers in China

Owners boycott mortgages as thousands of partially paid-for housing units sit unfinished.

BY STEPHANIE YANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Last November, hundreds of angry homeowners in Nan-chang, the capital of China's Jiangxi province, gathered on the roof of an unfinished apartment building. From their perch, they unfurled red and white banners along the outer walls and chanted demands for completion of the homes they had already partially paid for. On the dirt below, workers inflated a large airbag to catch anyone who jumped.

Nearly 500 miles away in Shanghai, a 26-year-old interior designer watched video of the protest on social media, and saw her life plan falling apart. The woman and her husband, who re-

quested anonymity to avoid retribution, had purchased a three-bedroom unit in the sprawling Xinli City project presale in August 2019. Just a few hours' drive from both their hometowns, the development was touted as a "750,000-square-meter city of ideal life," with a day-care center for the couple's young child. It should have been finished that November. It wasn't until she saw the video that she learned construction had stopped three months earlier.

Like the vast majority of Chinese home buyers, they had begun making payments before construction was completed. For years, this type of arrangement, which accounts for more than 80% of China's home sales, gave developers easy access to funds and fueled rapid expansion as home prices soared.

But with financing drying up and debts coming due, the resulting cash crunch has left thousands of units unfinished and owners boycotting their mort-

[See China, A10]



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

LEARNING TIME

Liam Hutchison enters kindergarten at Vena Avenue Elementary in Arleta as classes began in L.A. Unified School District. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Georgia inquiry targets Giuliani

Prosecutors inform the Trump lawyer he could be charged in probe of 2020 vote. **NATION, A4**

Nipsey Huddle, Hollywood star

Fans throng the unveiling of a plaque on the day he would have been 37. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather

Mostly sunny and hot. L.A. Basin: 91/68. **B6**



BUSINESS INSIDE: An \$800-million studio project is planned for L.A.'s Arts District. **A6**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Shower 82/66 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 82/66 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022 • \$2

Conditions deteriorate at Ukraine nuclear site

Workers from captured plant recount explosions and fear of catastrophe

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS,
LEVENIA SIVOKA
AND JOHN HUDSON

ZAPORIZHZHIA, UKRAINE — There's no warning when incoming fire slams into the grounds of Europe's largest nuclear plant, sending workers scrambling for cover.

"It's kaboom — then everybody runs," said one employee, messaging from Enerhodar, the Russian-held town on the banks of the Dniester River that is home to Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Another employee, who sometimes works suspended off the ground to service equipment, said the vibrations are often so strong from outgoing Russian artillery fire that managers make him stop working.

The workers were among six from the Zaporizhzhia plant who spoke to The Washington Post, describing the daily terror of working at the nuclear facility that Russia has used as a shield for its attacks in recent weeks.

Five of them had fled to Ukrainian territory in recent days and weeks as engineers and operational staff members join columns of cars leaving, adding to shortages to a long list of concerns about the plant's functioning.

Their accounts provide a window on the deteriorating security situation at the plant, which has triggered global concerns about the potential for a nuclear catastrophe. Some Ukrainian officials say stirring panic could be precisely Moscow's aim, in the hope

SEE UKRAINE ON A24

One year after Afghanistan's fall



LORENZO TUGNOLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Taliban militants celebrate in the square in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Monday. One year earlier, after a chaotic withdrawal by the United States, the group swept into the Afghan capital and completed its takeover of the country, ending a long, brutal war and upending the lives of millions. **Stories, A14-16**

Trump allies copied voting data in multiple states

BY EMMA BROWN,
JON SWAINE,
AARON C. DAVIS
AND AMY GARDNER

A team of computer experts directed by lawyers allied with President Donald Trump copied sensitive data from election systems in Georgia as part of a secretive, multistate effort to access voting equipment that was broader, more organized and more successful than previously reported, according to emails and

Lawyers paid firm to access county systems in Ga., other battleground

other records obtained by The Washington Post.

As they worked to overturn Trump's 2020 election defeat, the lawyers asked a forensic data firm to access county election systems in at least three battleground

states, according to the documents and interviews. The firm charged an upfront retainer fee for each job, which in one case was \$26,000.

Attorney Sidney Powell sent the team to Michigan to copy a rural county's election data and later helped arrange for it to do the same in the Detroit area, according to the records. A Trump campaign attorney engaged the team to travel to Nevada. And the day after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol the

team was in southern Georgia, copying data from a Dominion voting system in rural Coffee County.

The emails and other records were collected through a subpoena issued to the forensics firm, Atlanta-based SullivanStrickler, by plaintiffs in a long-running lawsuit in federal court over the security of Georgia's voting systems. The documents provide the first confirmation that data from Georgia's election system was

SEE BREACHES ON A21

Election deniers on brink of power

CHOSEN BY GOP IN CRUCIAL STATES

Winners could wield authority over outcomes

BY AMY GARDNER

First came Kristina Karamo, a community college instructor from Detroit who claimed without evidence that she witnessed fraud as a 2020 election observer — and who in April became her party's pick for secretary of state. Michigan's top election official, after repeatedly touting those claims.

Next was Doug Mastriano, the firebrand state lawmaker from Pennsylvania who urged his colleagues to throw out Joe Biden's 2020 victory. In May, Mastriano secured the GOP nomination for governor, a position with the power to certify the state's slate of presidential electors.

Finally, this month, Arizona Republicans nominated Kari Lake for governor and Mark Finchem for secretary of state. Both are outspoken election deniers who have pledged that they would not have certified Biden's victory in their state.

The winners fit a pattern: Across the battleground states that decided the 2020 vote, candidates who deny the legitimacy of that election have claimed nearly two-thirds of GOP nominations for state and federal offices with authority over elections, according to

SEE DENIERS ON A8

Mar-a-Lago affidavit: Department of Justice opposes its release. **A4**

Campaign trail: Democrats ask if they can ignore Donald Trump. **A5**

ELECTION 2022

Cheney looks beyond Tuesday to national future

Facing defeat in primary, she could work to defeat Trump — or run herself

BY PAUL KANE

JACKSON, WYO. — The two-minute video, meant ostensibly as the closing appeal to voters here, probably served much more as the launching point of a campaign that will last for years to come.

"No matter how long we must fight, this is a battle we will win," Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) says to the camera, promising to lead "millions of Americans" of all ideological stripes "united in the cause of freedom."

"This is our great task and we will prevail. I hope you will join me in this fight," Cheney concludes.

Cheney is looking far beyond Tuesday's Republican primary for this

SEE CHENEY ON A7



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Rep. Liz Cheney, the vice chairwoman of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, is an underdog in Tuesday's Wyoming Republican primary.

Alaska election: Familiar names will compete in an unusual voting system. **A6**

Ga. prosecutors target Giuliani in 2020 probe

Judge tells Sen. Graham to testify in same case on efforts to overturn results

BY TOM HAMBURGER
AND EUGENE SCOTT

Prosecutors in Fulton County, Ga., have told Rudy Giuliani's lawyers that he is a target of their ongoing criminal probe into efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, a Giuliani lawyer said Monday.

Attorney Robert Costello said lawyers for the former New York mayor were told by the office of Fulton County District Attorney Paul T. Willis on Monday that Giuliani is a target of the ongoing probe, signaling that he could be indicted if the case moves forward. Giuliani has served as a lawyer for former president Donald Trump and was one of the

leaders of the effort to overturn the 2020 vote.

Costello said he and Giuliani "plan to be in Atlanta on Wednesday" to testify as scheduled before the special grand jury that has been hearing the case. Giuliani is considered a key witness in the sprawling inquiry.

The targeting of Giuliani is just the latest example of Willis moving aggressively with her probe. Willis also won a federal court victory Monday in a related matter involving Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S-C.), who a judge ruled must testify in the case.

In recent weeks and months, Willis has pushed to get high-profile witnesses to appear under oath in an inquiry that might represent the most immediate legal threat to Trump among a thicket of interconnected federal, state, local and congressional probes.

Giuliani had sought to delay or avoid travel to Atlanta to testify, according to

SEE GIULIANI ON A4

IN THE NEWS



SIMA DAB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Looking for answers Families of those killed in a church fire in Egypt criticized what they said was a slow emergency response. **A10**

Climate change As Congress funds high-tech climate solutions, it also bets on a low-tech one: Mother Nature. **A19**

THE NATION A mysterious boom heard over Salt Lake City was probably a meteor, satellite technology data found. **A3**

THE WORLD Norwegian authorities euthanized a widely popular 1,300-pound walrus who drew on-lookers around Oslo. **A9** **Saudi Arabia** in the first half of 2022 executed nearly double the number of people put to death in all of last year, despite promises to reduce capital punishment. **A11** **Amid hope** and tension,

India celebrated 75 years since its independence from Britain. **A12** **A majority** of Kenya's electoral commission said they could not stand by William Ruto's victory in last week's presidential election. **A13**

THE ECONOMY Employees at Amazon's air hub in San Bernardino, Calif., abandoned their posts mid-shift over wage and safety issues. **A18** **China's central bank** unexpectedly slashed rates, sending oil prices down sharply and reigniting concerns of a

global downturn. **A19**

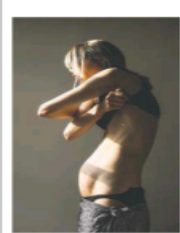
THE REGION Scientists warned that salt used to de-ice roads in winter might be running off into streams and contaminating drinking water. **B1** **A planned seaplane** service with flights from New York to the Washington area launches next month. **B1**

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia voted in the fall to spend \$10 million on reparations, but advocates say a new phase of difficult questions awaits. **B1** **Virginia agencies** repeated mistakes from a 2018 snowstorm in a similar incident on

Interstate 95 in January, according to an audit. **B1** **Maryland elections** officials decided to seek emergency legal action to allow mail-in ballots to be counted early in the general election. **B5**

OBITUARIES **Anne Heche**, 53, starred in films including "Donnie Brasco" and "Six Days Seven Nights" and broke ground with Ellen DeGeneres as a celebrity same-sex couple in the 1990s. **B6** **Pete Carril**, 92, a Hall of Fame college basketball coach, propelled his undersized Princeton teams to heroic performances in the NCAA tournament. **B6**

INSIDE



HEALTH & SCIENCE **'This Is Endometriosis'** Photographer Georgie Wieman documents her life, and those of others, with chronic disease. **E1**

STYLE **A new chapter in author's life** A Christian parenting blogger turned feminist icon chose honesty, and fans followed suit. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS — A18
COMICS — C6
OPINION PAGES — A22
LOTTERIES — B3
OUTDOORS — B6
TELEVISION — C4
WORLD NEWS — A30

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The Washington Post / Page A5, No. 254

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Rent payments becoming top inflation concern

While gas prices are easing, rent continues to squeeze consumer wallets. **In Money**

Latest romantic comedies keep summer days sizzling

Roundup of August's best books includes titles from Julia Whelan and Alexis Hall. **In Life**

Winners, losers so far this NFL preseason

First week featured a few star turns from rookies and veterans, including Panthers' Baker Mayfield, as well as missteps elsewhere. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022



NICK WASS/AP

ELECTIONS

Trump critics face voters

Alaska, Wyoming host high-profile GOP races today

Dylan Wells
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Alaska and Wyoming will hold high-profile primary elections on Tuesday in contests where Republican grudges over the Jan. 6 insurrection and former President Donald Trump's desire to unseat his GOP critics loom over the races.



Cheney



Murkowski

In Alaska, voters will select nominees in primaries for Senate, governor and the state's sole House seat. There will also be a special election to fill the remainder of the term of Rep. Don Young, who died in March.

In Wyoming, all eyes are on Rep. Liz Cheney, an outspoken critic of Trump who now faces a competitive primary challenge she is not expected to survive.

Alaska Senate primary

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski faces a Trump-backed challenger after voting to convict the former president during his second impeachment trial, which centered on his alleged incitement of the Jan. 6 assault by a pro-Trump mob on the Capitol.

"I want him to resign. I want him out. He has caused enough damage,"

See **PRIMARIES**, Page 6A

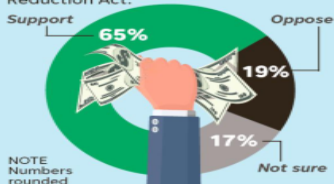


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USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS

2 in 3 back new corporate tax

Americans' views of a law requiring corporations earning over \$1 billion to pay at least a 15% tax on their profits — a component of the Inflation Reduction Act:



SOURCE: The Economist/YouGov poll, Aug. 7-9
AMY BARNETTE, BILL CAMPLING/USA TODAY

DAILY DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS ...

Dining Deals
USA

PAGE 2A

FALL OF AFGHANISTAN ONE YEAR LATER



Smoke rises from a suicide bombing Aug. 26, 2021, near the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. WALI SABAWOON/AP



JIM WATSON/AP

Chaotic withdrawal is still a cloud over Biden's presidency

Francesca Chambers
and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's vast foreign policy experience was supposed to be his most significant asset.

Then came the horrifying video of civilians clinging to a U.S. military plane as it lifted off from the Kabul airport, the collapse of Afghanistan's government, and a terror attack that killed 13 American soldiers and at least 170 Afghans less than seven months into his presidency.

The chaotic U.S. exit from Afghanistan, ending a 20-year conflict, undercut Biden's pledge to restore competence to the White House. One year

See **BIDEN**, Page 2A

Scope of terrorist threat reexamined

Al-Qaida, ISIS-K operations in Afghanistan lead officials to ask if US approach is enough

Tom Vanden Brook and Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — For President Joe Biden and his allies, the CIA drone strike that killed al-Qaida's top terrorist vindicated Biden's decision a year ago to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan and proved that the U.S. can attack militants from afar.

To skeptics, it highlighted the vacuum created by the U.S. withdrawal and the perils of a Taliban-led Afghanistan where Islamic terrorist groups continue to operate and even thrive.

The July 30 operation eliminated one of the world's most-wanted terrorists, Ayman al-Zawahri, an architect of the 9/11 attacks.

The strike came almost one year after the last U.S. troops left Afghanistan, at Biden's direction, ending the 20-year war triggered by 9/11.

"When I ended our military mission in Afghanistan almost a year ago, I made the decision that after 20 years of war, the United States no longer needed thousands of boots on the

ground in Afghanistan to protect America from terrorists who seek to do us harm," Biden said. "I made a promise to the American people that we would continue to conduct effective counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan and beyond. We've done just that."



al-Zawahri

Indeed, no U.S. troops were put in harm's way to kill al-Zawahri. The U.S. launched two Hellfire missiles at the balcony of a safe house in Kabul where al-Zawahri had been living, according to a senior U.S. official. No Americans were on the ground in the capital, the official said.

Yet Biden's "over-the-horizon" approach to combating terrorists in Afghanistan faces renewed questions among former counterterrorism officials and the government's own assessments of the threat from al-Qaida and ISIS-Khorasan, also known as ISIS-K, a once obscure offshoot of the militant Islamic State terrorist group.

See **TERROR**, Page 3A

THE SEARCH OF MAR-A-LAGO

Troubles dog Trump like no one before

Other presidents have faced scandals, but 'there's never been anything like this'

David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — There has never been a set of presidential scandals like this one.

Of course, there has never been a president like Donald Trump.

While predecessors like Richard Nixon, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Warren Harding and Bill Clinton faced their share of allegations, no president has been the subject of such an array of inquiries as Trump, ranging from the handling of classified material to accusations of inciting an insurrection.

Just this week, Trump became the first former president to have his home searched. Two days later, he became the first to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, when he gave a deposition in a New York state inquiry into past business practices.

See **TRUMP**, Page 6A



Former President Donald Trump has faced a thicket of political and legal problems — even almost two years after leaving office.

JULIA NIKHONSON/AP

espectáculos**De la mano de Suar,
el cine nacional volvió
al podio tras dos años**

El fin de semana largo, 30 noches con mi ex
llevó 200.000 espectadores y es la más vista.

**BENEDETTO ESTÁ
EN EL CENTRO DE LA
TORMENTA EN BOCA**

—deportes

El delantero cada día es más noticia
por sus conflictos y desplantes que por
sus goles; malestar en la intimidad del
vestuario xeneize por su alto perfil.

1926-2022

**ALBERTO ROEMMERS.
UNO DE LOS GRANDES
EMPRESARIOS DEL PAÍS**

—economía

Su laboratorio fabrica muchos de los
medicamentos más vendidos. **Página 18**

LA NACION

MARTES 16 DE AGOSTO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno anuncia hoy el alcance de los aumentos de luz y gas, y se suma el agua

FACTURAS. Dará precisiones sobre la segmentación; la suba de AySA será desde noviembre

Tras varias semanas de incertidumbre política y económica, que incluyeron cambios en los equipos de gestión, el Gobierno ofrecerá hoy los detalles del impacto final que tendrá la segmentación de tarifas de la luz, el gas y el agua en las facturas que deberán pagar los consumidores.

El Ministerio de Economía ya

había señalado que hubo más de 10 millones de usuarios anotados para mantener los subsidios a la energía y cuatro millones —que no se inscribieron— que los perderán. En el primer grupo, la novedad que introdujo el ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, es que retirará el subsidio al consumo que supere el tope

de 400 kWh para la luz. Para el gas, ese límite sería de 93 m3.

AySA presentará hoy su propia segmentación, que comenzará a aplicar desde noviembre. Será según las zonas geográficas y en cuotas, aunque no para todos los segmentos. Se abrirá un registro para mantener el subsidio. **Página 17**

La CGT rechaza los incrementos por decreto que impulsa Massa

Página 11

El bloqueo que mantiene en vilo a un pueblo

economía—MOCTEZUMA.—Amenazas, presiones y tensión. Esta pequeña localidad, en el partido de Carlos Casares, está en vilo por el bloqueo a las operaciones que impuso hace casi un mes el gremio lechero a Lácteos Vidal, la principal empresa de la zona. **Página 19**



Sindicalistas del gremio Atilra y trabajadores, frente a las puertas de Lácteos Vidal, en Moctezuma, Carlos Casares

SANTIAGO FILIPUZZI

Exámenes más exigentes para poder conducir en la ciudad

TRÁNSITO. El práctico será en la calle y harán más preguntas; cambia el plazo de validez. **Página 22**

Sobres con dólares y el culto en torno al líder, los secretos de “la secta del horror”

INVESTIGACIÓN. Se acumulan pruebas contra Percowicz y otros 18 detenidos

Tres fiscales federales sostienen que la Escuela de Yoga de Buenos Aires no era “un grupo de personas que se juntaban a estudiar filosofía”, sino una secta que cimentó un culto al

líder para acumular dinero y poder. Creen que hay suficientes pruebas de que, bajo la promesa de “la elevación espiritual” y la “búsqueda de la felicidad”, captaban a personas a las que

utilizaban —incluso sexualmente— y desapoderaban económicamente. Cada mes, los “alumnos” debían entregar el “sobre” con una contribución de hasta 10.000 dólares. **Página 25**

Un nuevo arrepentido complica a Milagro Sala por lavado

CORRUPCIÓN. Confirmó datos de cuentas y dinero negro, tras la denuncia de “Shakira” Guerrero

Tras la confesión de su excolaboradora Mirta “Shakira” Guerrero, el fiscal de Jujuy Sergio Lello confirmó ayer que existe un nuevo arrepentido, cuyo nombre se mantiene en reserva, en la causa por lavado de dinero contra Milagro Sala, la líder de la agrupación Tupac Amaru. Este nuevo testimonio refuerza las revelaciones de Guerrero sobre movimientos de dinero en negro, cuentas bancarias, viajes al exterior y propiedades atribuidas a Sala. La investigación es un desprendimiento de la causa Pibes Villeros, que está en la Corte. **Página 14**

Fuerte retraso en el uso de préstamos para obras

DÓLARES. El Estado registra fuertes retrasos en la ejecución de los préstamos que le otorgaron distintos organismos de crédito internacionales para obras, pese a la escasez de dólares y el intento del Gobierno de pedir nuevos créditos. Informes de la Auditoría General de la Nación (AGN) revelan que varias de estas subejecuciones van de la mano de importantes gastos de consultoría. **Página 10**

Vuelo. El nexo entre el avión venezolano y los narcos

En Paraguay vinculan la escala en Ciudad del Este con el asesinato de un fiscal a manos de un cartel

Página 16

Ilustrada C1 a C3

A ferro e fogo

Estreia nesta semana "A Casa do Dragão", história derivada da série "Game of Thrones", da HBO. A nova produção promete retomar violência, intrigas e sexo, marcas da original.

Comida C8

Restaurante peruano Mil utiliza apenas ingredientes achados na altitude andina

Esporte B7

Novata no futebol, 1ª mulher a presidir a Premier League fez carreira em finanças



Rhaenyra Targaryen, papel de Milly Alcock em 'A Casa do Dragão' Dillie Upton/HBO Max

52% das chapas estaduais têm mulheres, mas maioria é vice

Apesar de cota em fundo eleitoral, elas só estão no topo em 17% dos casos

As mulheres atingiram em 2022 sua maior representação na disputa por governos estaduais ou distrital. Embora perfaçam 53% do eleitorado brasileiro e estejam em 52% dessas chapas, porém, elas só encabeçam a candidatura em 17% dos casos, mesmo com o impulso da cota feminina no fundo eleitoral, definida em 2018.

Foram lançadas até este domingo pelo menos 217 chapas completas nas disputas pelo Executivo dos estados, das quais pouco mais da metade inclui uma ou mais mulheres. Mas há somente 37 candidatas a governadora nos 26 estados e no DF, ante 180 candidatos. Entre vices, a representatividade delas sobe para 85 (ou 39%).

O avanço no campo de vice consolida a tendência iniciada em 2018 e tem o impulso da decisão do Supremo Tribunal Federal, que virou emenda constitucional neste ano, de deixar 30% do fundo eleitoral para mulheres. Como as legendas definem a distribuição, a verba muitas vezes é direcionada a chapas encabeçadas por homens.

Análise dos dados parciais do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral indica ainda que a proporção de candidaturas de pessoas negras e mulheres em eleição federal deve ser recorde neste ano. O prazo de inscrição no pleito terminou ontem, e os dados devem ser atualizados com os últimos registros nos próximos dias. Política A4 e A5

Presidenciáveis declararam de R\$ 197 a fortuna de R\$ 97 mi AS

Lula lidera com 44%, ante 32% de Bolsonaro, aponta Ipec A10

Hospital A.C. Camargo deixará de atender pelo SUS

Referência em pesquisa e tratamento de câncer, o hospital A.C. Camargo, em São Paulo, deixa de atender pelo sistema público a partir de dezembro. A instituição argumenta que precisa fazer aportes anuais para conseguir fechar as contas devido à defasagem da tabela SUS. Saúde B1

Enxaqueca atinge mais as mulheres, e pesquisas são subfinanciadas

Equilíbrio B3

Giuliani é alvo de investigação sobre ingerência eleitoral

A defesa do ex-prefeito de Nova York Rudolph Giuliani, importante aliado de Donald Trump, foi informada de que ele é alvo da investigação sobre suposta interferência no resultado eleitoral da Geórgia, em 2020. Giuliani deve se recusar a falar em interrogatório amanhã. Mundo A14

Giovana Madalosso O recado da caravela

Minha menina foi queimada por uma caravela numa praia da Bahia. Descobri que, graças ao aumento da temperatura do mar pela mudança climática, elas têm se reproduzido mais. A natureza não para de soar alarmes. Opinião A2

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje
30° 16°
Hoje Amanhã
Rio 14° 32° 15° 32°
Brasília 15° 30° 16° 31°
Ribeirão 17° 34° 20° 34°
Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



Sala de espera do setor de quimioterapia do hospital A.C. Camargo, na capital paulista, inaugurado em 1953 Karime Xavier/Folhapress

Petista e presidente devem ir à posse de Moraes no TSE

O ministro do STF Alexandre de Moraes assume hoje a presidência do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral e se consolida como peça central nas eleições. A posse deve marcar o primeiro encontro de Jair Bolsonaro (PL) e de Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), que confirmaram presença. Política A11

Joel P. da Fonseca Bolsonaro guarda trunfo nas redes?

A fluência bolsonarista nas redes sociais não foi igualada por ninguém, nem por Lula, cujo vínculo com o eleitor é de outra era. Pode até bastar para se eleger, mas, quando vai às redes, fica claro que o petista está defasado. Política A8

Petrobras reduz preço da gasolina em 4,8%

A Petrobras anunciou corte de 4,8% no preço da gasolina nas refinarias. É a terceira redução em menos de um mês, acompanhando a queda das cotações internacionais do petróleo. A estatal estima R\$ 0,13 a menos por litro na bomba. Jair Bolsonaro (PL), que aposta no combustível mais barato como arma eleitoral, comemorou medida. Mercado A15

Cresce previsão do mercado para inflação até 2024

Mercado A16

EDITORIAIS A2

Risco paternalista
Acerca de papel do TSE na regulação da campanha.

Tragédia afegã
Sobre situação depois de um ano da saída dos EUA.

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Um debate fundamental sobre os novos tratamentos e a qualidade de vida do paciente oncológico

HOJE 15h

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Saiba mais na página A11

Parceiros:

Bristol Myers Squibb

HOSPITAL SÍRIO-LIBANÊS

Pfizer

FOLHA

Instó a los cristianos que trabajan en ambas instituciones a cambiar su accionar

Iglesia señala que Fiscalía y el PJ no combaten la corrupción

Durante las festividades por el 15 de agosto, el arzobispo de Asunción, monseñor Adalberto Martínez, lamentó que en la sociedad reine el crimen organizado en sus diversas modalidades.

[illegible]

Exigen a las autoridades corregir los errores

Los gremios empresariales piden golpe de timón ante delicado momento político

[illegible]

Intendente fue abucheado en festival

Asuncenos mostraron que están hartos de gestión de Nenecho

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COMPLA ESPECIAL 2
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 (Wax: C. 30-4000)

Ex presidente también está vetado por los EEUU

Wiens pide que Cartes renuncie a su candidatura para la Junta

FIGURE 3

En la cima del tenis juvenil
Daniel Vallejo es
el orgullo guaraní
al ser N° 1 júnior
en el ránking ITF

Figure 4a

Quiere al FG como aliado
**Alegre anunciará
hoy a Soledad
como su dupla
presidencial**

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Ministerio Público ignoró pedido de informe sobre alquileres



Sede. Las oficinas de la Unidad de Lucha contra el Crimen Organizado fueron alquiladas de una empresa vinculada a HC.

10/10/2010

ETIOS MÁS POR
DESCUBRIR

145 USD

2. John Burrows



CARPANO TITOVIC & JONES 1991

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L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO

**SUR LES TRACES
D'ANTOINE BLONDIN**
UN JEUNE HOMME
SUR UN QUAI
PAGE 22

POMPIERS

INCENDIES, ACCIDENTS...
CES VOLONTAIRES QUI SE PORTENT
AU SECOURS DES AUTRES PAGE 11



**LES MYSTÈRES
DES MONTRES
DE LÉGENDE**
ELVIS
PRESLEY,
LE MIDAS
DU TEMPS
PAGE 15

**LES GARDIENS
DES TRADITIONS**
CORRIDA :
TRANSMETTRE
L'ART D'ÊTRE
TORERO
PAGE 19

**CAPITALES
RENAISSANTES**
LE DÉCOLLAGE
FULGURANT DE
PHNOM PENH
EFFACE
POL POT
PAGE 27

JEUX D'ÉTÉ PAGE 17

PARLEMENT
La rentrée politique
s'annonce tendue
PAGE 5

ÉTATS-UNIS
Acculée par
les pro-Trump,
Liz Cheney joue
sa réélection PAGE 8

EUROPE
Le Rhin à sec
sape l'économie
allemande PAGES 24 ET 25

CHAMPS LIBRES
• Hommage
à Sempé :
les tribunes
de Philippe
Delerm
et de Benoît
Duteurtre
• La chronique
de Renaud
Girard
• La tribune de
Pascal Brukner
PAGES 20 ET 21

**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de samedi :**
Faut-il supprimer
la règle du non-cumul
des mandats ?

OUI 44% NON 56%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 68 882

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Faut-il attribuer le prix
Nobel de littérature
à Salman Rushdie ?

UPI/AFP; PASCAL GUYOT/AFP

Refus d'obtempérer : les forces de l'ordre défiées au quotidien

Depuis le début de l'année, 70 faits, parmi lesquels des barrages forcés, sont enregistrés chaque jour. Au-delà du danger, ils reflètent une grave crise de l'autorité.

Il y a quelques jours, à Toulouse, un voyou de 24 ans a percuté délibérément deux agents de la BAC avant de tenter de prendre une autoroute à contresens et d'être stoppé par

les tirs d'une seconde patrouille, sur laquelle il s'apprêtait à foncer. C'est désormais un risque permanent : qu'ils interviennent à la campagne ou en ville, policiers et gendar-

mes savent qu'à tout moment un contrôle peut dégénérer. Selon les dernières statistiques disponibles, 26 320 refus d'obtempérer ont été enregistrés en 2021. Un peu plus de la moitié

concernaient des conducteurs de véhicules. Spécialiste des questions de sécurité, l'avocat Thibault de Montbrial voit dans ce phénomène le symptôme d'une crise profonde de l'auto-

rité, qui concerne les délinquants mais aussi les citoyens lambda. Elle sera rétablie, estime-t-il, le jour où l'État « assumerait les conséquences de l'emploi de la force légale ».

→ CES CAS D'ABSOLUE NÉCESSITÉ OÙ LES FORCES DE L'ORDRE DÉGAÏNENT → THIBAUT DE MONTRIAL : « LES DÉLINQUANTS ONT COMPRIS LA FAIBLESSE POLITIQUE DERRIÈRE LES UNIFORMES » → LES FORCES DE L'ORDRE CONFRONTÉES À CE DANGER DE TOUS LES INSTANTS PAGES 2, 4 ET L'EDITORIAL

Tentative d'assassinat de Salman Rushdie : les ambiguïtés du régime iranien

HERBERT HUBAUER / AFP

Trente-trois ans après la fatwa de l'ayatollah Khomeyni condamnant à mort l'auteur des *Versets sataniques*, les autorités iraniennes démentent « catégoriquement » tout lien avec la tentative d'assassinat qui l'a visé vendredi. PAGES 6 ET 7

EDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythread@lefigaro.fr

Ensaucagement

Entre les forces de l'ordre et les voyous, la diffusion d'une vidéo sur les réseaux sociaux est-elle susceptible de faire changer la peur de camp ? Spectaculaire, elle montre une voiture de police qui tamponne celle d'un chauffard qui vient de commettre un refus d'obtempérer. La scène a eu lieu la semaine dernière, en plein Paris. Le récalcitrant, extirpé de son véhicule, a été arrêté sur-le-champ. Depuis, la justice l'a condamné à deux ans de prison, dont un ferme, peine qui sera toutefois aménagée.

Sans se faire d'illusions, on aimerait que cette séquence, qui redonne des couleurs à l'autorité publique, provoque un électrochoc, qu'elle soit le signal d'un retour en force de l'État de droit. Un coup de sifflet qui mette fin à l'impunité des fauteurs de troubles en tous genres, à la haine antifices, aux territoires perdus de la République... La liste est longue de tous les stigmates qui témoignent d'un ensauvagement de notre société. N'en déplaise au garde des Sceaux, qui en contestait la réalité il y a peu, celui-ci est une plaie qui gagne du terrain dans tout le pays, dans les campagnes comme

dans les villes et les banlieues. On l'a constaté aux pires moments du feuilleton des « gilets jaunes ». On l'a vécu à un rythme effréné depuis le début de l'été. Un refus d'obtempérer a lieu toutes les trente minutes en France. L'outrage à agent relève de la même fréquence.

Ce climat de déliquescence ne se justifie par aucune excuse sociale. Il est le fruit de dizaines d'années d'inaction, d'absence de courage politique et d'un défaut d'anticipation de l'évolution du corps social. Il est aussi le reflet des outrances proférées par certains responsables. Quand Jean-Luc Mélenchon affirme que « la police tue » ou qualifie un syndicat policier de « fac-tieux », il fait, avec ses camarades Insoumis, le jeu des ennemis de l'ordre républicain.

Quand des politiques font le jeu des ennemis de l'ordre républicain. Lui qui aime à citer les grands auteurs devrait se rappeler ce que disait le penseur allemand Wilhelm von Humboldt : « La sûreté, c'est l'assurance de la liberté légitime. » ■

Les derniers soldats français de l'opération Barkhane ont quitté le Mali

Plus de neuf ans après avoir été accueillis au Mali comme des « sauveurs » face aux groupes djihadistes qui menaçaient Bamako, les militaires français ont achevé lundi leur retrait du pays dans un climat d'acrimonie avec les colonels au pouvoir et d'hostilité grandissante de la population locale. Ce retrait avait été annoncé le 17 février dernier par Emmanuel Macron. PAGE 9

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tensions géopolitiques

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'Job cuts on the cheap': ministers accused as civil servants face sack

Fury over plan to slash redundancy pay while cutting 91,000 posts

Exclusive
Rowena Mason
Deputy political editor

Ministers are planning to slash redundancy pay for civil servants while cutting 91,000 Whitehall jobs, setting up a bitter confrontation that unions

warned may lead to legal and industrial action.

The proposals could result in average packages being cut by a quarter at a time when the minister for Brexit opportunities and government efficiency, Jacob Rees-Mogg, is aiming to shrink the civil service by a fifth.

The plans are set out in a consultation document that highlights how changes to redundancy payments would "create significant savings on the current cost of exits".

The Cabinet Office insisted the

proposed redundancy pay cuts would have happened regardless of the planned "headcount reductions", which could result in the civil service being scaled back to the size it was in 2016. However, the consultation comes after reports that the Treasury was concerned about a 91,000 cut in the number of civil servants after a review found it could cost at least £1bn and lead to a loss of public services.

Unions said relations between the government and civil service were already at "rock bottom", with

'These proposed cuts to members' terms add insult to injury'

Mark Serwotka
PCS general secretary

Whitehall suffering low morale and a brain drain as a result of the cuts.

The proposed changes also come on top of anger over pay increases of less than half the current 7% rate of

inflation, the Cabinet Office drive to get staff back into the office and overwork from Covid backlogs. Unions have been infuriated by the refusal of ministers to meet to discuss the 91,000 reduction; one senior source said this lack of engagement was "unparalleled in my experience".

Civil servants reacted angrily on Friday when Tory leadership frontrunner Liz Truss's campaign suggested Whitehall had a "woke" culture "that strays into antisemitism".

A previous effort to cut civil service redundancy

6 →

Dual-strain Covid jab approved for boosters

Nicola Davis
Science correspondent

A vaccine designed to target two different forms of Covid will be offered as part of the autumn booster programme, after the jab was approved by the UK's regulator.

Manufactured by the US firm Moderna, the jab not only attacks the original coronavirus – as is the case for vaccines currently in use – but is designed specifically for the Omicron variant BA.1, which fuelled a wave of the virus in the UK last winter.

The UK is the first country to approve the bivalent vaccine, known as "Spikevax bivalent Original/Omicron", giving the green light for its use as a booster for people over the age of 18.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) said the vaccine would be used in the planned autumn booster programme. This is expected to begin in September, in advance of what could be a difficult period for the NHS with an expected

2 →



Umbrellas are out at last, but now brace for storms

Women in Glasgow take cover from rain yesterday as the heatwave broke. The Met Office said much of the UK now faces thunderstorms and there could be flash flooding and power cuts. **News Page 11** →

PHOTOGRAPH BY WATTE CHEUNG