

DJIA 34395.01 ▼ 194.76 0.6%

NASDAQ 11482.45 ▲ 0.1%

STOXX 600 443.96 ▲ 0.9%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 1 15/32, yield 3.525%

OIL \$81.22 ▲ \$0.67

GOLD \$1,801.10 ▲ \$55.10

EURO \$1.0527

YEN 135.34

What's News

Business & Finance

The Senate voted to intervene to prevent a strike by railroad workers while rejecting a proposal to give them expanded paid sick leave, with lawmakers saying they reluctantly heeded Biden's call to resolve the labor dispute. **A1**

◆ American households ramped up spending in October headed into the holiday season, taking advantage of a jump in income and a slight easing of inflation. **A1**

◆ Blackstone shares fell 7% after the investing giant's real-estate fund aimed at wealthy individuals said it would limit redemptions. **B1**

◆ Blackstone has agreed to sell its 49.9% stake in two Las Vegas hotels in a deal that values the properties at \$5.5 billion. **B2**

◆ Twitter is offering advertisers incentives to increase their spending on the platform, according to people familiar with the matter. **B1**

◆ U.S. stock indexes ended mixed, with the S&P 500 and Dow losing 0.1% and 0.6%, respectively, while the Nasdaq rose 0.1%. **B11**

◆ Austan Goolsbee, who served as a top economic adviser to Obama, will succeed Charles Evans as president of the Chicago Fed. **A6**

◆ The Fed's Barr signaled plans to beef up big-bank capital requirements, potentially revisiting financial rules that were eased during the Trump administration. **A6**

◆ Kroger's CEO said food inflation in the U.S. is starting to moderate, though prices have yet to broadly fall across supermarket aisles. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ The executive body of the EU has asked its 27 member countries to cap the price of Russian oil at \$60, officials and diplomats involved in the discussions said, part of an effort to crimp Moscow's ability to wage war in Ukraine while keeping global crude prices steady. **A1, A8**

◆ Vessels linked to Russia's largest grain trader shipped thousands of tons of stolen Ukrainian grain to global buyers, according to an investigation by The Wall Street Journal. **A1**

◆ An appeals court ordered an end to the "special master" process for reviewing documents seized from Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, delivering a major boost to the Justice Department. **A4**

◆ The Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the Biden administration can cancel student-loan debt for millions of Americans, putting the matter on a fast-track timeline. **A2**

◆ Biden is suggesting a shake-up in the order of states that hold the first Democratic presidential nominating contests, proposing that South Carolina instead of Iowa be placed first in 2024. **A5**

◆ The CFTC's chairman told a Senate committee that lawmakers should pass legislation that would impose strict rules on cryptocurrency exchanges. **A4**

◆ China is planning a Covid-19 vaccination campaign for the elderly in December and January, part of its effort to ease its zero-Covid policy. **A16**

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Tête-à-Tête in Washington Aims to Ease U.S.-France Tensions



DIALOGUE: French leader Emmanuel Macron and President Biden discussed a range of issues Thursday, including the Ukraine war, relations with China and possible changes to U.S. subsidies for North American manufacturers that have rankled allies. **A7**

Deal to Avert Railroad Strike Passes Senate, Heads to Biden

By KATY STECH FERREX
AND ESTHER FUNG

WASHINGTON—The Senate voted to intervene to prevent a nationwide strike by railroad workers while rejecting a proposal to give them expanded paid sick leave, with lawmakers saying they reluctantly heeded President Biden's call to resolve the long-running labor dispute. In an 80-15 vote, with one senator voting present, lawmakers agreed to force unions to adopt an earlier labor agreement mediated by the adminis-

tration. The measure now goes to the White House, and Mr. Biden said he would sign it as soon as it got to his desk.

The move is expected to end the standoff between Union Pacific Corp., CSX Corp. and other freight railroads and more than 115,000 workers. Under the Railway Labor Act, Congress can make both sides accept an agreement to prevent harm to the U.S. economy.

Mr. Biden as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers said they didn't like getting in the middle of the dispute but

that they couldn't risk a strike.

"Many in Congress shared my reluctance to override the union ratification procedures," Mr. Biden, a Democrat, said after the Senate vote. "But in this case, the consequences of a shutdown were just too great."

At the start of the week, Mr. Biden had pressed for urgent action by Congress and warned that a labor agreement needed to be set well before Dec. 9, when a cooling-off period expires and a strike could have begun.

Freight railroads and unions

representing engineers, conductors, machinists and other workers have been in labor negotiations for more than two years. The White House appointed a mediation panel over the summer. Eight unions ratified a proposed contract that came out of those talks, while four didn't.

The main sticking points involved work schedules and paid sick time.

The five-year agreement, which replaces a contract that covers the period from 2015 to

Please turn to page A4

Consumers Spend More As Inflation Cools a Bit

By HARRIET TORREY

U.S. households ramped up spending in October headed into the holiday season, taking advantage of a jump in income and a slight easing of still-high inflation.

Consumer spending increased a seasonally adjusted 0.8% in October compared with the prior month, the Commerce Department said Thursday, the strongest gain since June. Households spent more on essentials such as rent and food, as well as new vehicles.

Adjusted for inflation, spending rose 0.5%, the biggest increase since January. But the personal saving rate, a measure of how much money people have left over after spending and taxes, hit its lowest level since 2005, a sign that rising prices are squeezing household budgets.

Inflation remained high in October but cooled a little. The personal-consumption expenditures price index rose 6% in October compared with the same month a year ago, marking an easing from 6.3% in September. Stripping out volatile food and energy costs, core inflation was up 5% in October compared with a year ago, down from 5.2% the prior month.

The figures leave the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates by a half percentage point at its next meeting, stepping down from an unprecedented series of four 0.75-point rate rises. The Fed has aggressively raised rates this year to slow the economy and bring down inflation from its highest levels in four decades. Households continue to have

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◆ White-collar workers take brunt of recent layoffs..... **A6**

INSIDE



SPORTS

Japan upsets Spain at the World Cup, sending Germany home in the process. **A12**

BUSINESS & FINANCE

A Disney plan to restructure, on McKinsey's advice, spurred dissent. **B1**

Maine Lobster Row Pinches White House Dinner With France

Some 200 lobsters were sent in for event with Macron; claws come out

By KRISTINA PETERSON
AND JON KAMP

WASHINGTON—It wasn't the cheese selection that became the most contentious item on the menu at President Biden's first state dinner Thursday night with French President Emmanuel Macron. Instead, the butter-poached Maine lobster landed the White House in hot water.

The state's lobster fishery has been at the center of legal and regulatory fights over whether its equipment harms endangered North Atlantic right whales—a political battle that began boiling over after two conservation groups warned consumers against buying Maine lobsters. Last month,



Surf and tiff

Ships Tied to Russian Trader Moved Stolen Ukraine Grain

Vessels linked to Russia's largest grain trader shipped thousands of tons of stolen Ukrainian grain to global buyers, using a sophisticated system

By Jared Malsin,
Anna Hirtenstein
and Alistair MacDonald

tem of feeder vessels and floating cranes, according to an investigation by The Wall Street Journal.

The ships are linked either through their management or ownership to companies controlled by Russian businessman Peter Khodykin, who in turn owns RKF Trading House

LLC, the country's largest grain exporter, according to corporate and legal documents reviewed by the Journal.

The Journal previously reported widespread theft of grain and land in Russian-occupied Ukraine, including detailing an intricate system by which smugglers trucked out large amounts of stolen grain from newly occupied farms in eastern Ukraine to Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.

The next step in the smuggling process: moving that stolen Ukrainian grain from Crimea to buyers. A fleet of small vessels ferry smuggled grain, typically from the Crimean port

of Sevastopol, to larger cargo ships waiting at sea, where they transfer their cargo with the help of crane-equipped vessels, according to the Journal's investigation. Those larger ships then set sail for far-flung ports.

Such at-sea transfers can hide the true provenance of the ships' cargoes, which buyers might shun if they suspected the grain came from Russia-occupied eastern Ukraine. The transfers allow big container ships, which can be easily recognized in port or from satellite

Please turn to page A8

◆ Russian strikes aim to slow arms deliveries..... **A7**

Fraudulent Claims Muddle Credit Scores

False reports of identity theft add to concerns about credit-reporting system

By ANNA MARIA ANDRIOTTIS

The consumer credit-scoring system has long been opaque and confusing. One change intended to help people navigate the system has created a whole new set of problems.

In recent years, a government website has made it easier for people to file claims of identity theft so they can remove fraudulent accounts from their credit reports. Those reports are the basis of credit scores sold by Equifax Inc., Experian PLC and TransUnion to banks as they make lending decisions.

That has smoothed the claims process for people who have fallen victim to identity theft. But the credit-

reporting industry says it is also being hit by illegitimate claims, facilitated by companies that promise to help customers fix low credit scores for a fee. These companies file false identity-theft claims on items that bring down customer's credit scores, like delinquent credit-card debt, often without that person's knowledge.

The move often removes that information from the consumer's credit reports while the claim is investigated. The practice is known in the industry as credit washing, since a person's credit reports can look better than they really are, at least temporarily, and so can their scores.

Credit washing has slowed

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New York's worsening economic divide

GILLIAN TETT, PAGE 17

India's effort to rival China's Belt and Road

BIG READ, PAGE 15

Blackstone caps outflows from \$125bn property fund

- Investors rush for exit as mood dims
- Stakes sold in two Las Vegas casinos

ANTOINETTE GARA AND SUJEET INDAAP
NEW YORK

Blackstone has limited withdrawals from its \$125bn real estate investment fund following a surge in redemption requests, as investors clamour to get their hands on cash and concerns grow over the long-term health of the commercial property market.

The private equity group approved only 45 per cent of redemption requests in its Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust fund in November, according to a notice it sent to investors yesterday. Shares in Blackstone fell as much as 8 per cent.

The withdrawal limit underscores the risks that rich individuals have taken by investing in Blackstone's mammoth private real estate fund, which — after accounting for debt — owns \$69bn in net assets, spanning logistics facilities, apartment buildings, casinos and medical office parks.

About 70 per cent of redemption requests have come from Asia, according to people familiar with the matter, an outsize share considering non-US investors account for only about 20 per cent of BREIT's total assets.

One partner in the fund told the Financial Times the poor recent performance of Asian markets and economies may have put pressure on investors who now need cash to meet their obligations. In the US, commercial property is under pressure from rising inflation and interest rates, according to a recent report from the National Association of Realtors. Globally, the mood in property has darkened and some high-profile investors have warned of a lack of finance in parts of the sector.

The surge in redemption requests came as Blackstone announced the sale of its near 50 per cent interest in the MGM Grand Las Vegas and Mandalay Bay Resort casinos in Las Vegas for \$1.27bn. Including debt, the deal valued the properties at more than \$5bn.

Proceeds from the sale, which was agreed at a premium to the carrying values of the properties, will help with liquidity for BREIT as it meets redemption requests — or will be reinvested in faster-growing property assets, said a person familiar with the matter.

In October, BREIT received redemption requests worth \$1.8bn, or about 2.7 per cent of its net asset value, and has already received requests in November and December exceeding the quarterly limit.

It allowed investors to withdraw \$1.3bn in November, or just 43 per cent of the redemption requests it received. Blackstone would allow investors to redeem just 0.3 per cent of the fund's net assets this month, it added in the notice.

Private capital managers have turned to retail investors, arguing that rich investors should have the same ability as pension and sovereign wealth funds to diversify away from public markets. Part of the pitch that money managers make is that by giving up some liquidity rights, higher returns can be achieved.

"Our business is built on performance, not fund flows, and performance is rock solid," said Blackstone in a statement sent to the FT that emphasised the fund's concentration in rental housing and logistics in fast-growing areas of the US and its predominantly fixed rate liabilities.

Markets pages 10 & 11

Bonhomie Macron and Biden stand united on Russia but waver over US green subsidies act



Ludovic MARIN/AP

Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron warmly clasp hands at a welcoming ceremony at the White House on the first day of the French president's state visit to Washington yesterday.

The US president welcomed France as "our oldest ally, our unwavering partner in freedom's cause" in opening remarks at the ceremony.

Pointing to Russia's "brutal war" against Ukraine, he added that the US

and France were "once again defending the democratic values and universal human rights [at] the heart of both our nations".

Macron said the two nations needed to become brothers in arms again in the wake of the Russian invasion. "Our new frontiers are there, and it is our shared responsibility to respond to this," he said. However, despite the bonhomie between the two world lead-

ers, Macron criticised Washington over its new climate law that subsidises US companies to the detriment of European industry, warning it risked "fragmenting the west".

There is growing anxiety in Europe over the so-called Inflation Reduction Act that offers \$400bn worth of incentives to fund green energy.

EU seeks gas price cap deal page 2
Laws dividing the west page 3

Briefing

► **Quinn denies China is behind HSBC break-up** calls HSBC's chief has denied that Ping An's push to break up the bank is Beijing-led, and said the Chinese insurer's demands are not backed by other big shareholders. — PAGE 6

► **Trump tax returns ceded** Donald Trump's tax returns have been made available to Congress, handing a victory to a Democratic-led panel after a long legal battle with the former president. — PAGE 4

► **FTX head denies fraud** Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of the FTX crypto exchange, said that he "never tried to commit fraud" before the recent collapse of his \$32bn empire. — PAGE 8

► **EU presses Xi on protests** The European Council's president stressed to China's Xi Jinping the human right to peaceful assembly amid Beijing's crackdown on anti-Covid lockdown protests. — PAGE 4

► **Lloyds fire sale revealed** The bank's pension scheme sold billions of pounds of assets to meet collateral calls during September's crisis, one of the largest known sales by a corporate plan. — PAGE 8

► **Credit Suisse cash returns** Axel Lehmann, chair, said clients had started to return after pulling tens of billions of dollars of assets following a "social media storm" at the start of October. — PAGE 6

Datawatch

Downturn doldrums



Sources: Apollo, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

If the US is pushed into recession next year it will be the most anticipated in history, a survey run by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank says. The "Anxious Index" is currently at double what it was in anticipation of the 2008 recession.

Ramaphosa's presidency under threat after probe into sofa stuffed with cash

JOSEPH COTTERILL — JOHANNESBURG

Cyril Ramaphosa was under mounting pressure to resign as South Africa's president last night after a parliamentary report concluded that he abused his office in the fallout from the theft of more than \$500,000 in cash stuffed inside a sofa on his private game farm.

Ramaphosa would not be "rushed" into a decision and was keeping all options open, his spokesperson said, as delays to a planned address to the nation and a series of consultations within the ruling African National Congress indicated that his presidency was on the line.

Ramaphosa's authority has been left hanging by a thread after a panel found he may have broken an anti-corruption law over the farm robbery scandal and should be probed for impeachment.

He cancelled a planned appearance

before the upper house of South Africa's parliament yesterday, adding to the sense of crisis. The rand tumbled against the US dollar and government bonds sold off sharply.

"President Ramaphosa must now resign or face impeachment without further delay," said Herman Mashaba, leader of ActionSA, South Africa's third-biggest opposition party.

John Steenhuisen, leader of the main opposition party Democratic Alliance, said the panel findings were a "seismic shift in South African politics... Ramaphosa is not a helpless victim in all this. The collapse of his presidency is entirely his own doing."

"The vultures are circling," said Judith February, executive officer of Freedom Under Law, a legal watchdog. Ramaphosa, one of South Africa's richest men, has always denied wrong-

doing over the robbery at his Phala Phala farm. Ramaphosa told the panel that the money was proceeds from selling buffalo to a Sudanese businessman for \$580,000, and that he had reported the theft to his head of presidential security. But the panel said the law required him to report it to the police directly.

The investigation concluded that he failed to properly report the 2020 heist to police and wrongly sought his Namibian counterpart's help in the matter. The panel said: "The president abused his position as head of state to have the matter investigated."

It added there were "a number of important questions relating to this transaction that remain unanswered", such as why the buffalo that were sold remained on Ramaphosa's farm more than two years later and why the money was hidden inside a sofa.



Apple's supply chain woes laid bare by Chinese curbs

While managers at the world's largest iPhone factory breathed a sigh of relief this week when Chinese authorities in the city of Zhengzhou lifted a five-day lockdown, their woes are far from over. Taiwan's Foxconn, which runs the site, is struggling to staff assembly lines at the peak of Apple's pre-holiday season. The chaos has uncovered weaknesses created by the US giant's reliance on a model that turned it into the most valuable listed group.

Covid revolt ► PAGE 9

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World Markets											
STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Dec 1	Prev	%Chg		Dec 1	Prev	%Chg		Dec 1	Prev	%Chg
S&P 500	4071.16	4080.11	-0.22	\$/£	1.049	1.030	1.8%	US 2 yr	4.29	4.53	-0.25
Nasdaq Composite	11463.17	11468.00	-0.04	\$/¥	1.227	1.191	3.0%	US 10 yr	3.57	3.77	-0.21
Dow Jones Ind	34301.44	34309.77	-0.02	€/£	0.855	0.865	-1.2%	US 30 yr	3.66	3.81	-0.15
FTSE 100	1754.46	1741.56	0.74	\$/₹	126.590	126.540	0.04%	UK 2 yr	3.30	3.31	-0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3877.38	3864.72	0.32	\$/₹	166.744	166.170	0.34%	UK 10 yr	3.10	3.16	-0.06
FTSE 100	7550.49	7573.05	-0.19	\$/₹	0.985	0.981	0.4%	UK 30 yr	3.40	3.43	-0.03
FTSE All-Share	4141.94	4138.85	0.03	\$/₹	0.03	0.03	0.00%	JPN 2 yr	0.03	0.04	0.00
CAC 40	6753.97	6738.55	0.23	\$/₹	0.25	0.25	0.00%	JPN 10 yr	0.25	0.25	0.00%
Nikkei 225	14490.30	14397.84	0.65	\$/₹	1.51	1.51	0.00%	JPN 30 yr	1.51	1.51	0.00%
Hong Kong	28226.08	27969.99	0.92	\$/₹	2.01	2.11	-0.10	GER 2 yr	1.81	1.93	-0.12
Shanghai	18736.44	18597.23	0.75	\$/₹	1.81	1.93	-0.12	GER 10 yr	1.81	1.93	-0.12
MSCI World	2720.89	2663.25	2.16	\$/₹	1.71	1.82	-0.10	GER 30 yr	1.71	1.82	-0.10
MSCI EM	972.23	962.84	0.97								
MSCI ACWI	650.92	617.84	5.19								
FT Wilshire 2500	5296.47	5141.03	3.08								
FT Wilshire 5000	41380.36	40147.30	3.07								

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BIDEN IS WILLING TO TALK TO PUTIN, WITH CONDITIONS

STANDING WITH FRANCE

Says He Won't Push Any
Deal Ukraine Finds
Unacceptable

By ROGER COHEN
and ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

WASHINGTON — Standing beside the French leader who has championed the need for dialogue with Moscow, President Biden said he would talk to President Vladimir V. Putin, but only in consultation with NATO allies and only if the Russian leader indicated he was "looking for a way to end the war."

Mr. Biden's public expression of conditioned willingness to reach out to Mr. Putin gratified French officials and provided unexpected support for President Emmanuel Macron's outreach. Mr. Biden noted that Mr. Putin had shown no interest yet in ending his invasion, but said that if that changed, "I'll be happy to sit down with Putin to see what he has in mind."

Evidently determined to present a united front during a White House news conference that at times resembled a love fest, Mr. Macron said that France would increase its military support for Ukraine and "will never urge Ukrainians to make a compromise that will not be acceptable for them."

In effect, the two leaders met each other halfway, with Mr. Biden showing more openness to a negotiated settlement and Mr. Macron more unequivocal support for the Ukrainian cause. If partially choreographed, the meeting of minds appeared to exceed expectations on both sides.

It was a significant show of trans-Atlantic unity on the eve of a winter that will put immense strain on the Ukrainian people, as well as pressure on Western economies, especially European states scrambling to find new sources of energy as prices rise sharply.

French officials said that during a three-hour closed meeting, Mr. Biden and Mr. Macron agreed that more Ukrainian battlefield gains would constitute important leverage in any talks with Moscow. In practice, the idea of negotiation seems far-fetched at a time when Mr. Putin has nothing he can call victory, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian president, has military momentum.

"I'm not going to do it on my own," Mr. Biden said of the possibility of talking to Mr. Putin, whose actions in Ukraine he called "sick."

Mr. Macron was effusive in his support of Ukraine and its right to recover its full sovereignty, and there was no hint of his earlier calls for the need to avoid "humiliating" Russia. "If we want sustainable peace, we have to respect the Ukrainians to decide the moment and the conditions in which they will negotiate about their territory and their future," Mr. Macron said.

The very friendly tone of the two leaders throughout reflected the ease they have established in

Continued on Page A9



LE BROMANCE Behind the backslapping of President Biden and President Emmanuel Macron of France, there is a strategy. Page A8.

California Contemplates Billions in Reparations

By KURTIS LEE

LOS ANGELES — In the two years since nationwide social justice protests followed the murder of George Floyd, California has undertaken the nation's most sweeping effort yet to explore some concrete restitution to Black citizens to address the enduring economic effects of slavery and racism.

A nine-member Reparations Task Force has spent months traveling across California to learn about the generational effects of racist policies and actions. The group, formed by legislation signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2020, is scheduled to release a report to lawmakers in Sacramento next year outlining recommendations for state-level reparations.

"We are looking at reparations on a scale that is the largest since Reconstruction," said Jovan Scott Lewis, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who is a member of the task force.

While the creation of the task force is a bold first step, much remains unclear about whether lawmakers will ultimately throw their political weight behind reparations proposals that will require vast financial resources from the state.

"That is why we must put forward a robust plan, with plenty of options," Dr. Lewis said.



Kindergartners in 1949 in Russell City, Calif., a town bulldozed to make way for an industrial park.

So-Called Blight Laws Destroyed Black Communities

The effort parallels others on a local level, in California and elsewhere, to address the nation's stark racial disparities and a persistent wealth gap. The median wealth of Black households in the United States is \$24,100, compared with \$188,200 for white households, according to the most recent Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finances.

In a preliminary report this year, the task force outlined how enslaved Black people were forced to California during the Gold Rush era and how, in the 1950s and 1960s, racially restrictive covenants and redlining segregated Black Californians in many of the state's largest cities.

Californians eligible for reparations, the task force decided in March, would be descendants of

Continued on Page A17

Court Removes Special Master In Trump Case

By ALAN FEUER
and CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Thursday removed a major obstacle to the criminal investigation into former President Donald J. Trump's hoarding of government documents, ending an outside review of thousands of records the F.B.I. seized from his home and freeing the Justice Department to use them in its inquiry.

In a unanimous but unsigned 21-page ruling, a three-member panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta shut down a lawsuit brought by Mr. Trump that has, for nearly three months, slowed the inquiry into whether he illegally kept national security records at his Mar-a-Lago residence and obstructed the government's efforts to retrieve them.

The appeals court was sharply critical of the decision in September by Judge Aileen M. Cannon, a Trump appointee who sits in the Southern District of Florida, to intervene in the case. The court said Judge Cannon never had legitimate jurisdiction to order the review or bar investigators from using the files, and that there was no justification for treating Mr. Trump differently from any other target of a search warrant.

"It is indeed extraordinary for a warrant to be executed at the home of a former president — but not in a way that affects our legal analysis or otherwise gives the judiciary license to interfere in an ongoing investigation," the court wrote.

Continued on Page A16

BILL TO PREVENT RAILROAD STRIKE CLEARS CONGRESS

IMPOSES LABOR DEAL

Biden Expected to Sign
Measure After Senate
Rushes to Act

By EMILY COCHRANE

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to impose a labor agreement between rail companies and their workers who have been locked in a stubborn stalemate moving with uncommon speed to avert a potential holiday season rail strike that would jeopardize shipping across the country.

Passage of the measure cleared it to be signed by President Biden, who just days ago made a personal appeal for Congress to act to impose a labor agreement that his administration helped negotiate earlier this year but that had failed to resolve the dispute. He was expected to sign the bill quickly, racing to stave off any economic fallout that could come from a work stoppage in the coming days.

It was the first time since the 1990s that Congress has used its power under the Constitution's commerce clause, which allows it to regulate interstate commerce, to intervene in a national rail labor dispute to head off a strike. The step was a remarkable one for Mr. Biden, who vowed to be "the most



Supporters of railroad unions protesting at the Capitol.

pro-union president you've ever seen," and for Democrats in control of Congress, who court organized labor among their most loyal constituencies.

In recent days, Mr. Biden and his allies on Capitol Hill have pushed those considerations in favor of a resolution that they have argued is needed to prevent painful consequences for Americans.

"I know that many in Congress shared my reluctance to override the union ratification procedures," Mr. Biden said in a statement after the vote. "But in this case, the consequences of a shutdown were just too great for working families all across the country."

The action came a day after the House overwhelmingly approved the measure, which would force the companies and their workers to abide by the tentative agreement reached in September. That deal includes a 24-percent increase in wages over five years,

Continued on Page A13

Superyacht in Plain View, but Out of U.S. Reach

This article is by Kate Kelly, Michael Forsythe and Julian E. Barnes.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — On a clear morning in late October, the jewel-blue hull of the Madame Gu, one of the world's most luxurious superyachts, gleamed, its aluminum rails shimmering in the sun. Workers on the pier said they had recently seen people painting, cleaning and generally keeping the ship with its helipad

Vessel Tied to Oligarch Is Shielded by Dubai

and six guest staterooms in pristine condition.

In past years, such a scene would not have been noteworthy. Many superyachts come and go from Dubai's Mina Rashid Marina, best known as the home of the Queen Elizabeth 2, the trans-

Atlantic ocean liner-turned-hotel that dominates the waterfront.

But Russia's war in Ukraine has turned an otherwise routine tableau into a diplomatic battleground between the United States and the United Arab Emirates, an important American ally that has established itself as a safe haven for Russian money and assets out of the reach of U.S. sanctions.

The \$156 million Madame Gu epitomizes the problem. In June,

Continued on Page A5

Smothered Under Xi, Dissent Roars Back to Life

By CHRIS BUCKLEY

Striding out to speak to the Chinese nation just under six weeks ago, Xi Jinping exuded regal dominance. He had just won what was likely to be another decade in power. His new team of subordinates stood out as unbending loyalists. A Communist Party congress had cemented his authoritative agenda and promised a "new era" when China's 1.4 billion people would stay in ever-loyal

A Sign That the Young Want a Freer China

step with him and the party.

But a nationwide surge of protest has sent a stunning signal that even after a decade under Mr. Xi's rule, a small and mostly youthful part of the population dares to imagine, even demand, another China: more liberal, less control-

ling, politically freer. A murmur of dissent that has survived censorship, detentions and official damnation under Mr. Xi suddenly broke into a collective roar.

"I can regain my faith in society and in a generation of youth," Chen Min, an outspoken Chinese journalist and writer who goes by the pen name Xiao Shu, wrote in an essay this week. "Now I've found grounds for my faith: Brainwashing can succeed, but ultimately, it will fail."

Continued on Page A6



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Rescuing a Village in Italy
Livemmo won millions in relief funds to reverse its decline, a windfall that has some locals fearing change. PAGE A7

Demise of a Migrant Worker
The inequality and vulnerability that Nepali laborers face overseas stalk them even in death. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A10-18

Justices to Weigh Student Debt
The Supreme Court said it would hear the case, but kept an injunction blocking President Biden's plan to forgive up to \$20,000 per borrower. PAGE A10

Democratic Primary Shake-Up
Aiming to give voters of color a larger voice in the process, President Biden is pushing his party to start off with South Carolina instead of Iowa. PAGE A13

Germes in the Marijuana
A medical cannabis trade group reported contaminants such as E. coli and salmonella in products bought at unlicensed dispensaries. PAGE A16



WEEKEND ARTS C1-18

A Museum Puts Down Roots
The Bronx Children's Museum, which for years put its exhibits inside a bus, is opening a permanent home. PAGE C18

The Refugees of 'Casablanca'
The 80-year-old classic was made by dozens of Jewish and anti-Nazi exiles who found safety in Hollywood. PAGE C1

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A.I.'s Link to a Crypto Crash
The collapsed crypto exchange FTX had been funding an unusual effort to investigate the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-10

Shake-Up at the World Cup
Belgium and Germany, two powerhouses in the FIFA world rankings, are out, while the upstarts Japan and Morocco advance to the final 16. PAGE B6

OPINION A22-23

Paul Krugman PAGE A23



OBITUARIES A19-21

Pitcher With Guile and Grease
Gaylord Perry was a five-time All-Star who won 314 games, but he was known as much for his acknowledged, and illegal, spitball. He was 84. PAGE A19



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

Biden welcomes Macron but backs 'Buy American'

Allies try to reaffirm their bond despite trade disputes

BY COURTNEY SUBRAMANIAN AND TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — President Biden conceded there are "glitches" in his signature climate law that harm America's European allies, but refused to apologize for his administration's support for U.S. manufacturers.

"The United States makes no apology and I make no apology since I wrote the legislation we're talking about," Biden said Thursday during a White House news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. "There are tweaks that we can make that fundamentally make it



FIVE PLAYERS in Colonial garb march during an arrival ceremony for Macron at the White House.

easier for European countries to participate and/or be on their own."

The president welcomed Macron for a diplomatic spectacle that featured a 21-gun salute during a morning ceremony and a glittering evening gala for more than 300 people on the South Lawn of the White House. Macron is the first foreign leader to make an official state visit to the U.S. since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention loosened COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in August.

But before Biden and Macron sat down for Maine lobster and an American wine-and-cheese pairing, the two presidents tried to

Virus surge could revive mask order

L.A. County's case rate is soaring, and hospitalizations have tripled in a month.

BY RONG-GONG LIN II

Coronavirus case and hospitalization rates have risen dramatically in Los Angeles County, which on Thursday reentered the medium COVID-19 community level for the first time since the end of the summer Omicron wave.

The increasing rates of hospitalization — which are so rapid they are coming as a surprise to officials — raise the prospect of a return to an indoor mask mandate in L.A. County in the coming weeks, based on previously established criteria by local public health officials. But it remains uncertain whether that threshold will be met.

L.A. County's coronavirus case rate has been increasing since late October, triple what it was in the autumn low. For the week that ended Thursday, L.A. County was recording 2,710 cases a day — or 188 cases a week for every 100,000 residents. A case rate of 100 or more is considered high. The autumn low was a weekly rate of 60, set on Oct. 21.

Hospitalizations also are up dramatically. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 1,196 new admissions of coronavirus-positive patients for the week that ended Tuesday — triple the rate from the beginning of November.

That's 11.9 new weekly hospitalizations for every 100,000 residents. A rate exceeding 10 is enough to send L.A. County to the medium COVID-19 community level. "These numbers clearly demonstrate that COVID is still with us," L.A. County

Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Thursday. "We feel like we're seeing a much more rapid acceleration than we want to be seeing at this point."

Should hospital metrics worsen, L.A. County could be on track for the return of a mandatory mask mandate in indoor public settings. But that threshold — if it were to be reached — would probably be a few weeks away.

To get there, the case rate would need to top 200 a week for every 100,000 residents. L.A. County could hit that threshold next week.

But before a mask mandate were triggered, the percentage of hospital beds used by coronavirus-positive patients also would need to exceed 10%, a level reached only during the two prior COVID-19 winter surges, the deadliest of the pandemic. The current figure is 5.6%, which is up from around 2% at the start of November.

Ferrer said she doesn't expect L.A. County to hit that hospitalization rate anytime soon. "I don't think it'll be there next week. I'd be

[See Virus, A12]

Luna's vision: Rebuild, repair, reform

Lawman discusses his challenges, priorities for post-Villanueva Sheriff's Department.

BY CONNOR SHEETS

Robert Luna has wasted no time since he was elected sheriff of the largest department in the country.

Among his biggest challenges will be repairing the damage outgoing Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva wrought in a single term in office, rebuilding relationships with jilted county leaders and restoring the public's faith in a law enforcement agency in turmoil.

In the first three weeks after election day, Luna met or spoke with many of the men and women who were the focus of the outgoing sheriff's ire: the five members of the Board of Supervisors, with whom he warred for the last four years; Dist. Atty. George Gascón, whose recall Villanueva loudly supported; California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta; and county Chief Executive Pesa Rivera.

"There are, unfortunately, fractured relationships that need to be fixed," Luna said in a wide-ranging interview Tuesday, four days before he is scheduled to be sworn in. "Sometimes," he added, "the way you approach governing makes a huge difference."

Luna's outreach to leaders who clashed with Villanueva has also included a "very positive" post-election meeting with county Inspectors.

[See Luna, A12]

Can a nice guy lead as sheriff?

Columist Gustavo Arellano lists the pros and cons of Luna's strategy for the agency. CALIFORNIA, B1

Russia aims to use winter as weapon

Ukraine struggles to keep power on and counter Kremlin effort to regroup amid cold.

BY LAURA KING AND TRACY WILKINSON

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — On the desolate battlefronts of southern and eastern Ukraine, the clinging, clay-like mud of late autumn is beginning to congeal into iciness. As snow flurries and freezing temperatures set in, the last thing this country's leaders want is for the war's front lines to harden in place as well.

Any wintertime lull in combat operations, Ukrainian officials believe, would give Russia's beleaguered army a chance to rest, regroup and try to seize momentum that has eluded Moscow's forces throughout more than nine months of fighting. So even during the coming cold months,

Ukraine is determined to keep up military pressure on a numerically superior but faltering foe.

But Russia is employing a pressure tactic of its own: deliberate destruction of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, with civilian morale as an indirect target. Waves of bombardment that began in earnest in early October, aimed at targets such as thermal plants and electrical substations, have brought the national power grid to the brink of collapse just as temperatures are plummeting.

Ukrainian officials and Western allies have taken to calling it the weaponization of winter.

"This war has knocked on the door of each and every Ukrainian home," Iryna Maruniak, who oversees utility issues for the municipality of Lviv, western Ukraine's biggest city, said last week, citing power cuts that have left millions of households across the

[See Ukraine, A4]

Review of Trump records blocked

Appeals court rejects use of a special master, giving investigators access to materials from his estate. NATION, A6

Weather
Cool, with rain early.
L.A. Basin: 62/51. B6

Brown lawns not going away soon

State warns that severely reduced water allocations are likely in 2023. CALIFORNIA, B1

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JOHN MINICILLO Associated Press

OUTREACH personnel approach a person sleeping in the New York subway system. The city is moving more aggressively to treat the mentally ill.

Bold moves to help the homeless mentally ill

Should California follow New York's lead?

ANITA CHABRIA

At 13, Maddie Delaney was first chair viola in the orchestra at her San Leandro middle school, keeping rhythm for the violins as her mother, Jennifer Williams, puts it — until she began to have delusions.

Three weeks ago, at 38, Delaney died while sleeping in a dirt lot, her head run over by a big-rig wheel, a victim as much of a brutal hit-and-run as she was of her schizoaffective disorder and our unwillingness to help her live a life of dignity and safety.

"I am angry that I couldn't get help for her," Williams told me, deep in mourning for a daughter she loved for her wit and humor. And I hope when you hear more about Delaney, you'll be angry too.

Recently, California and New York City have made bold moves to help people like Delaney — those with serious mental illness chronically living on the streets — because it has become painfully obvious that for a small set of homeless people with psychosis, it is cruel and dangerous to pretend they are acting

[See Chabria, A9]

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

Sunny 52/44 • Tomorrow: Showers 61/36 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022 • B3

Biden pushing primaries shake-up

Requests DNC make S.C. first, elevate Georgia and Michigan in 2024

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND TYLER PAGER

President Biden has asked leaders of the Democratic National Committee to make South Carolina the nation's first primary state, followed by New Hampshire and Nevada a week later, and hold subsequent weekly primaries in Georgia and Michigan, according to Democrats briefed on the plans.

The tectonic decision to remake his party's presidential nominating calendar for 2024 came as a shock to party officials and state leaders who had been lobbying hard in recent weeks to gain a place in the early calendar, which historically attracts millions of dollars in candidate spending and attention. While many in the party had long anticipated changes, the specific order Biden proposed had generated little if any chatter in Democratic circles. Much of the talk among Democrats had not focused much on either South Carolina going first or Georgia joining the early mix.

The proposal is likely to win approval from the Democratic officials, given the support from the leader of the party. By breaking with decades of tradition, Biden's

SEE DNC ON A7

THE COVID MONEY TRAIL

Pandemic aid fraud was fueled by fintech

BY TONY ROMM

"The faster the better," the workers were told at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, as the little-known financial technology company Bluecorn raced to review small businesses that sought federal loans.

Speeding through applications, Bluecorn employees and contractors allegedly began to overlook possible signs of fraud, according to interviews and communications later amassed by investigators on Capitol Hill. The company weighed whether to prioritize "monster loans that will get everyone paid," as the firm's co-founder once said. And investigators found that Bluecorn collected about \$1 billion in processing fees — while its operators may have secured fraudulent loans of their own.

The allegations against Bluecorn and several other firms are laid out in a sprawling, roughly 120-page report released Thursday by the House Select Committee

SEE FRAUD ON A16



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

At Lake Powell, river circles the drain

Strangulation of the Colorado threatens power for millions

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

PAGE, ARIZ. — The first sign of serious trouble for the drought-stricken American Southwest could be a whirlpool.

It could happen if the surface of Lake Powell, a man-made reservoir along the Colorado River that's already a quarter of its former size, drops another 38 feet down the concrete face of the 710-foot Glen Canyon Dam here. At that point, the surface would be approaching the tops of eight underwater openings that allow river water to pass through the hydroelectric dam.

The normally placid Lake Powell, the nation's second-largest reservoir, could

suddenly transform into something resembling a funnel, with water circling the openings, the dam's operators say.

If that happens, the massive turbines that generate electricity for 4.5 million people would have to shut down — after nearly 60 years of use — or risk destruction from air bubbles. The only outlet for Colorado River water from the dam would then be a set of smaller, deeper and rarely used bypass tubes with a far more limited ability to pass water downstream to the Grand Canyon and the cities and farms in Arizona, Nevada and California.

Such an outcome — known as a

SEE CLIMATE ON A5

Officials predict Lake Powell's water levels could drop low enough by July that Glen Canyon Dam's massive energy-generating turbines would have to shut down.

Senate adopts railroad deal to avert strike

BIPARTISAN VOTE SENDS MEASURE TO BIDEN

Workers to see raises, no additional paid sick leave

BY TONY ROMM AND LAUREN KAORI GURLEY

The Senate on Thursday adopted a measure that forces a deal between warring national freight railroads and their unions, averting a potential Dec. 9 strike that could have crippled U.S. travel and commerce ahead of the busy holiday shopping season.

The overwhelmingly bipartisan 80-15 vote sends the measure to President Biden's desk, as he requested earlier this week — though lawmakers were unable to provide rail workers with any of the paid sick leave benefits that union leaders vigorously sought in recent months.

Under the agreement, rail workers are set to see a roughly 24 percent pay increase by 2024 while gaining more flexibility to take time off for doctor's appointments. The measure also grants them one paid personal day, though that does not include any

new, dedicated time off for illnesses.

The deal mirrors the terms the White House brokered with railroads and union leaders this September, clinching what many at the time thought was an end to the standoff. Initially, eight of the country's 12 rail unions approved the arrangement, hoping to avert a strike. But four other rail labor organizations opted in November to reject the proposal — opposition that constituted slightly more than half of all rail workers.

The outcome landed the negotiations in the lap of Congress, where some Democrats and Republicans seemed reluctant to wade into the talks — but resigned to the reality that inaction could cripple the economy. In both the House and Senate, Democrats led last-minute efforts to add additional paid leave days to the deal, while Republicans tried to create a "cooling off period"

SEE DEAL ON A17



TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

President Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron embrace Thursday. Biden said he's open to talks with Russia to end the war.

Leaders fortify bonds as Macron honored in D.C.

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB, RICK NOACK AND TOLUSE OLOKUNNIPPA

President Biden said Thursday he is prepared to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin about ending the war in Ukraine, though he stressed that such a discussion is not imminent because Putin has not shown a willingness to seek a peaceful resolution and has employed horrific tactics against Ukrainian civilians.

"I have no immediate plans to contact Mr. Putin," Biden said during a news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. "I'm prepared to speak with Mr. Putin if there is an interest in him deciding he's looking for a way to end the war. If that's the case, in consultation with my

French and NATO friends, I'll be happy to sit down with Mr. Putin to see what he has in mind. He hasn't done that."

Biden made his remarks during a ceremony-filled state visit by Macron, which was also marked by the French president's complaint that some of Biden's signature initiatives, particularly the Inflation Reduction Act, are boosting U.S. industries at the expense of European firms. Biden, seeking to smooth over the tensions, conceded there are "glitches" in the Inflation Reduction Act

SEE MACRON ON A12

At the Pentagon: Officials weigh expanded training for Ukraine. A13

3-year hiatus: State dinner marks a return to D.C.'s fancy rituals. C1

IN THE NEWS



GEORGI LOVCHEV/EPH/SHUTTERSTOCK

World Cup Chaos and drama reigned on a day that saw Germany and Belgium exit in the group stage while Japan and Spain advance. D1

Mar-a-Lago files An appeals court halted special master Raymond J. Dearie's review of documents seized from the Florida resort. A6

THE NATION

Former President Barack Obama returned to Georgia to rally support for Sen. Raphael G. Warnock in a runoff vote against Republican Herschel Walker. A3

The governing board of an Arizona county certified the results of the Nov. 8 election after a judge's order, ending a standoff that threatened to unleash chaos. A4

Many federal judges consider race when hiring law clerks, according to a study released as the Supreme Court weighs the issue in college admissions. A6

THE WORLD

In Britain, the resignation of a royal courtier after her interaction with a Black charity leader has prompted dueling allegations of racism and ageism. A10

Letter bombs were mailed throughout Spain, including to the prime minister's office and the embassies of Ukraine and the United States. A11

The protests in China are frustrating President Xi Jinping's agenda of increased control and undermining his credibility as a policymaker. A14

THE ECONOMY

Sponsors of a measure to regulate some cryptocurrency trading stand by the proposal after FTX's collapse. A16

The Supreme Court said it will expedite review of President Biden's student loan forgiveness program and will hear arguments in February. A16

THE REGION D.C. proposed free Metrobus service within the city along with expanded routes in new legislation. B1

Fairfax County schools have repeatedly failed students with disabilities amid the pandemic, the U.S. Education

Department said. B1

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser moved to dissolve and reconfigure the embattled housing authority board. B1

People are struggling to find over-the-counter medication for their sick children, as a spike in respiratory illnesses pushes care providers to the limit. B1

A Metro train video is central to the attempted murder trial of an FBI agent who shot a panhandler in 2020. B1

OBITUARIES Gaylord Perry, 84, acquired a reputation as baseball's king of the spitball in his Hall of Fame career. B6

INSIDE



WEEKEND

Saved by the Ghostburger A couple turned their pandemic pop-up, which exceeded expectations, into a full restaurant.

STYLE Christine McVie's cosmic serenity The singer, who died Wednesday at 79, held together a tumultuous Fleetwood Mac. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A16
COMICS.....A16
OPINION PAGES.....A19
LOTTERIES.....B3
OBITUARIES.....B6
TELEVISION.....B8
WORLD NEWS.....A10

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USA TODAY WEEKEND

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | DECEMBER 2-4, 2022

Country legends' tragic love story

Michael Shannon and Jessica Chastain sing from their hearts in "George & Tammy." **In Life**

College Football Playoff expanding

After agreement with Rose Bowl, 12-team format will begin during 2024 season. **In Sports**



CINNAMON ROLL, POT ROAST AND TAMALE BY GRATEFUL, GETTY IMAGES AND MINERVA ORDUÑO RINCÓN

Whip up a delicious December at home

Find recipes for holiday fare, hearty entrees, elegant desserts and more. **In Weekend Extra**

Migrant workers died for World Cup

Glittery event in Qatar takes a human toll

Grace Hauck
USA TODAY

From his home in Bangladesh, Emran Khan watches on his laptop as World Cup teams face off in Qatar's Lusail Stadium.

But he doesn't think of the players or the tens of thousands of cheering fans. Instead, he remembers heaving hundreds of 20-pound concrete blocks for up to 16 hours a day in the scorching sun. He remembers his colleagues vomiting and fainting when the temperature soared to 122 degrees. And he remembers those who died.

"We die for work," Khan said via video call from Dhaka, shaking his head. "We are human beings at the end of the day. We are not machines."

Khan, 34, is indebted and traumatized by his two years in the oil-rich emirate. He's just one of the millions of migrants who worked in the Persian

See **WORLD CUP**, Page 6A



Laborers head for Lusail Stadium, one of the 2022 World Cup venues, in Lusail, Qatar, in December 2019. HASSAN AMMAR/AP

Chesapeake, Va., is 'rocked' to its core after mass shooting

Chris Kenning and Paul Bibeau
USA TODAY

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — Monica Atkins understands her community's grief and anger in her bones.

Atkins, 49, lost a son to gun violence in 2014 — and in the last week, she watched it engulf the Virginia city where she lives, a place still reeling and raw. One week earlier, a gunman at a Chesapeake Walmart killed six employees and made this city — for a moment — the scene of America's latest deadly mass shooting.

Across the municipality of about 250,000 near Norfolk, which includes middle-class suburban neighborhoods and extends into the Great Dismal Swamp, the fallout has unspooled in all-too-familiar scenes.

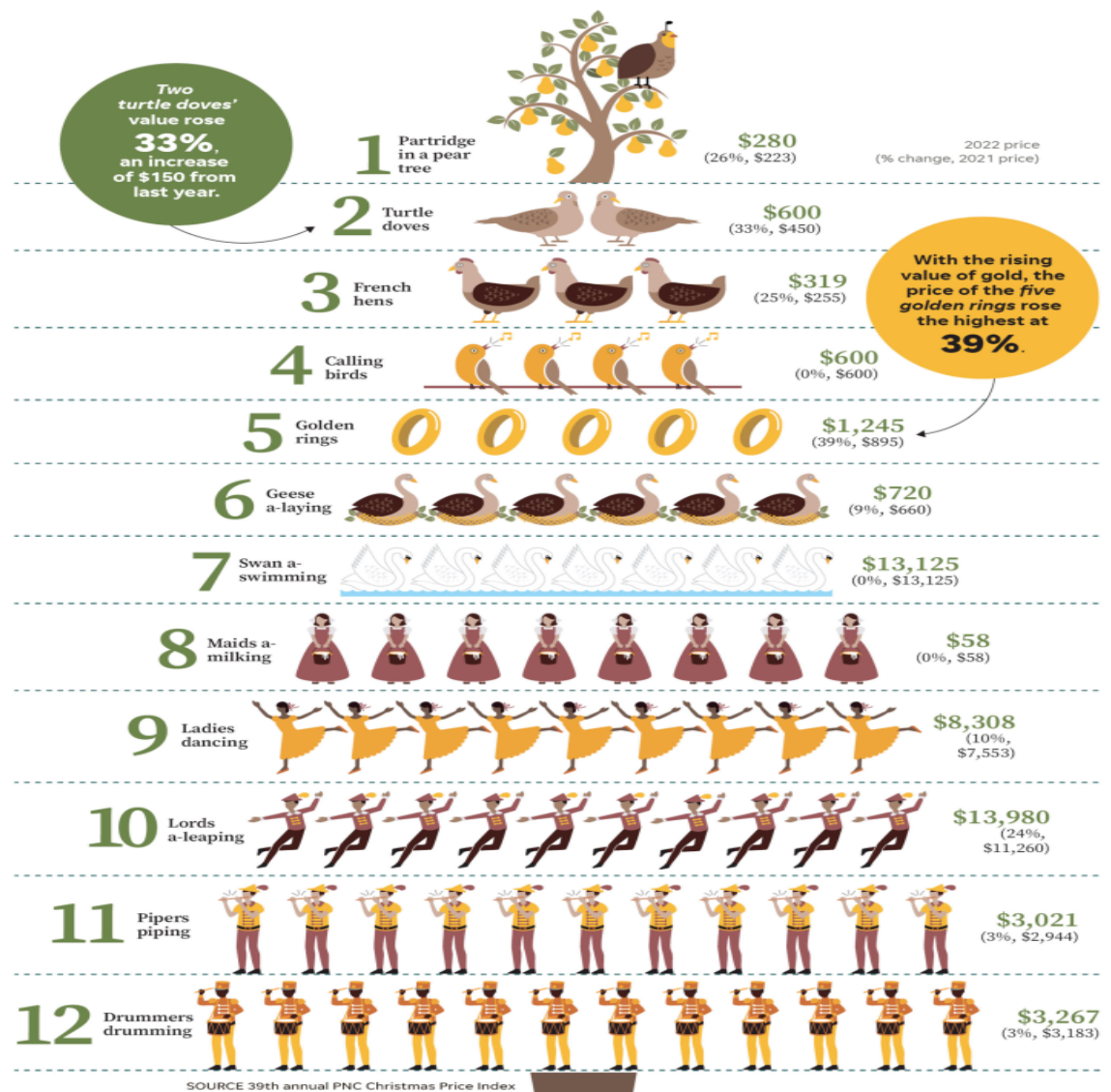
A mother mourning her son. A survivor grappling with searing trauma. Candlelight vigils. Calls for, and

See **CHESAPEAKE**, Page 5A

'12 Days of Christmas' just got more pricey

Janet Loehrke USA TODAY

Holiday shopping this year comes with a drawback: The cost of buying your true love all the gifts from "The Twelve Days of Christmas" rose nearly 26% this year. • The combined cost for the dozen gifts featured in the final verse of the famed Christmas carol totals \$45,523. That's an overall 10.5% increase, or \$4,317 higher than last year's price tag, according to the 39th annual PNC Christmas Price Index. • The expense of some of the index's birds is a major contributor. Swan, calling bird and partridge prices didn't change from last year, but those of turtle doves, French hens and geese soared by 20%. The quality of the services has also surged, boosting the overall increase.



"This is a disquieting development for many, as pandemic-related supply chain disruptions and elevated energy and commodity prices continue to impact the cost of goods and services," said Amanda Agati, chief investment officer for PNC Asset Management Group, in a statement released with the roundup. "Despite True Loves' generous intentions, the gifts that make up the PNC CPI are not well-insulated from what is being experienced across the broader economy."

SOURCE PNC Financial Services

Price of all gifts from 1984 to 2022



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Carlos III, ante su primera crisis por el episodio de racismo

Después de la denuncia del príncipe Harry y Meghan Markle de 2021, otro escándalo provoca un terremoto en la casa real británica; los desafíos de diversidad del rey. **Página 2**



EL JUICIO A PACHELO LLEGA A SU FIN ENTRE POLÉMICAS Y RUMORES

—seguridad

Los fiscales enviaron un escrito al tribunal por los trascendidos sobre un presunto fallo que absolvería hoy al principal acusado del crimen de García Belsunce. **Página 26**

ARGENTINA, 1985, EN LA RUTA DE LOS PREMIOS INTERNACIONALES

—espectáculos

Quedó nominado al Goya como mejor film iberoamericano y sueña con un lugar entre los finalistas del Oscar internacional, que se conocerán el 21 de este mes.

LA NACION

VIERNES 2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

En medio de un escándalo, el oficialismo no pudo reelegir a la presidenta de Diputados

CONGRESO. La oposición le quitó el apoyo a Cecilia Moreau por la maniobra en la Magistratura

Laura Serra
LA NACION

El conflicto abierto por el Consejo de la Magistratura hizo ayer que fracasara la sesión en la que el oficialismo pretendía reelegir a Cecilia Moreau como presidenta de la Cámara de Diputados. El Frente de Todos inten-

tó luego tomarse revancha y, con el apoyo de un sector del interbloque Federal y de la izquierda, logró agónicamente alcanzar el *quorum* en el recinto para debatir la creación de nueve universidades nacionales. Sin embargo, tras un escándalo que incluyó gritos, forcejeos y acusaciones, la sesión se cayó y la discusión

fracasó, en un doble revés para la bancada oficialista.

En medio de los gritos de los diputados opositores, el oficialismo había festejado como un triunfo el efímero *quorum* conseguido. En ese momento, hizo acto de presencia el ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, quien, en un gesto de apoyo a su bancada y

a Moreau, ocupó un lugar en la bandeja, al costado de la presidencia. A su lado, se ubicó Malena Galmarini, su esposa, titular de AySA. Pero los diputados Cristian Riondo y Silvia Lospennato, tal vez previendo lo que ocurriría, habían advertido que la sesión, de alcanzar *quorum*, iba a ser inválida. **Continúa en la página 8**

Exigen que se levante el secreto por la compra de vacunas

COVID. JxC pidió tener acceso a los informes que ocultó el oficialismo

Una veintena de diputados de Juntos por el Cambio presentó una nota al presidente de la Auditoría General de la Nación, el radical Jesús Rodríguez, para que levante el secreto que los auditores kirchneristas impusieron sobre el dictamen con el que aprobaron los contratos que el gobierno de Alberto Fernández suscribió por la compra de vacunas contra el Covid. Ayer, para justificar el secreto, la ministra de Salud, Carla Vizzotti, argumentó que había sido un pedido de los laboratorios. **Página 13**



Süle, Kimmich, Klostermann y Füllkrug son la imagen de la frustración alemana; detrás, la referi histórica: Stephanie Frappart

GETTY

Alemania se derrumbó y quedó otra vez afuera; Japón dio la sorpresa

El cuádruple campeón también fue eliminado en la primera etapa en 2018

El Mundial de Qatar suma impactos. De los que hacen mucho ruido, como la eliminación, por segunda vez consecutiva en la etapa de equipos, de Alemania, cuádruple campeón del certamen. Le pasó en Rusia 2018 y ahora, pese a vencer

4-2 a Costa Rica. Quedó afuera por diferencia de gol y producto de la caída de España con Japón, que sorprendió al ganar el grupo tras su éxito por 2-1. Ayer también se despidió Bélgica y Marruecos pasó a octavos. **Deportes Mundial**

● **Scaloni no se irá igual de Qatar: ya es un técnico diferente**
Diego Morini. **Página 4**

● **La selección está recuperando la memoria, y además está Leo**
Javier Zanetti. **Página 5**

PARTIDOS DE HOY

12 HS.

R. Corea Portugal

Ghana Uruguay

16 HS.

Camerún Brasil

Serbia Suiza

Salen a tomar la calle los piqueteros kirchneristas

ASISTENCIALISMO. Los piqueteros oficialistas agrupados en la UTEP, que encabeza el kirchnerista Juan Grabois, se movilizarán hoy contra el Gobierno. La protesta es una reacción ante el anuncio de que darán de baja a beneficiarios de planes sociales, luego de detectarse que algunos compraron dólares y vehículos nuevos. **Página 10**

DESDE ADENTRO

Sin pesos ni dólares, Massa está forzado a recalcular

Florencia Donovan

—PARA LA NACION—

Página 19

copa 2022

Japão vira, bate Espanha e tira a Alemanha

Na mais dramática decisão de grupo até aqui, o Japão bateu os espanhóis de virada, por 2 a 1, passou em primeiro no grupo E e deixou a Alemanha fora do Mundial pela 2ª vez seguida na primeira fase. A Espanha se classificou em segundo. Japão pode pegar Brasil nas quartas. p.1 e p.2

Marrocos passa em 1º e despacha Bélgica, que foi terceira em 2018

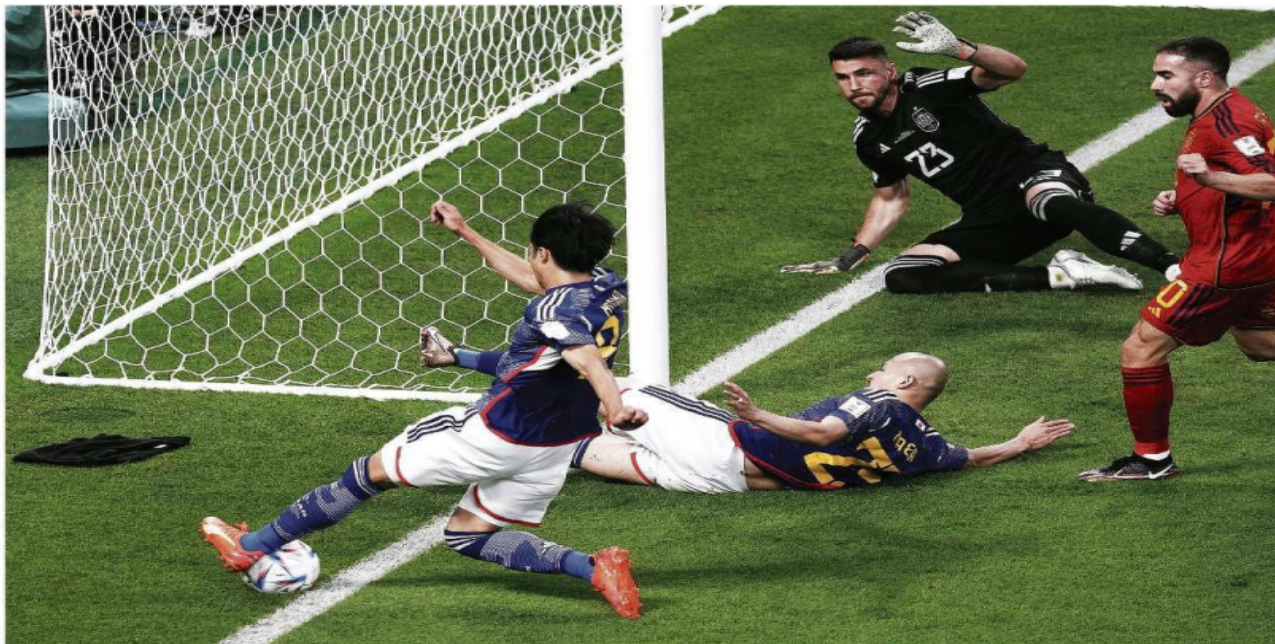
Aos 39 anos, Dani Alves comanda time reserva hoje contra Camarões p.6

Marcelo Damato

O VAR semiautomático não é auditável p.5

Paulo Vinícius Coelho

Situação de Neymar já lembra Zico em 1986 p.5



Mitoma, do Japão, toca na bola no lance do gol que virou jogo contra Espanha; VAR apontou que linha de fundo não foi totalmente ultrapassada Chen Cheng/Xinhua

Jogos de ontem

CRO x BEL	0 x 0
CAN x MAR	1 x 2
JAP x ESP	2 x 1
CRC x ALE	2 x 4

Jogos de hoje

CDS x POR	12h*, SPORTV**
GAN x URU	12h*, GLOBO**
CAM x BRA	16h*, GLOBO**
SER x SUI	16h*, SPORTV**

Dimas nega ter saído do Butantan por causa de gastos

O médico Dimas Covas negou ter deixado a direção do Instituto Butantan devido a investigação sobre gastos na Fundação Butantan —cujo conselho ele já chefiava. Segundo Dimas, o objetivo é focar o comando executivo da fundação e evitar mudanças bruscas com a troca no Governo de São Paulo. Cotidiano B3

Governo chinês alivia restrições contra a Covid

Em Pequim, idosos e quem faz trabalho remoto serão dispensados de testes diários. Sem citar protestos, vice-premiê prometeu abordagem nova e "humana" contra vírus. Mundo A15

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje	31° 19°
Rio	21° 33° 21° 32°
Brasília	18° 27° 19° 25°
Ribeirão	21° 33° 21° 31°

ISSN 1414-5723 3 4 2 1 1 9 771414 572063



Corpo de Bombeiros de Santa Catarina/Reuters

CHUVA EM SC MATA AO MENOS DOIS

Bombeiros fazem resgate em São Pedro de Alcântara, em Santa Catarina, que decretou estado de emergência com cidades submersas e quase 900 desalojados. Temporais abrem crateras e paralisam rodovias também no Paraná. B4

Tarcísio sugere vender parte de ações da Sabesp

Mercado A22

EDITORIAIS A2

PIB a cultivar

Acerca de resultados da economia no 3º trimestre.

Governo recua e libera recursos para as federais

Cotidiano B2

Dúvidas no Butantan

Sobre gastos investigados e saída de Dimas Covas.

PIB cresce 0,4% no 3º trimestre, mas perde ritmo

Mesmo com desaceleração, atividade econômica alcança recorde da série iniciada em 1996, aponta IBGE

O PIB (Produto Interno Bruto) avançou 0,4% no terceiro trimestre deste ano, na comparação com os três meses imediatamente anteriores, informou ontem o IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística). O resultado é o quinto positivo em sequência, mas representa uma perda de ritmo da atividade econômica em um cenário de juros altos e de desaceleração global.

Na visão de analistas, o fôlego menor também deve ser observado no quarto trimestre. Assim, o PIB tende a ficar mais próximo da estagnação (0%) ou até negativo nos três últimos meses de 2022. A variação de 0,4% veio abaixo das expectativas do mercado financeiro. Especialistas consultados pela agência Bloomberg projetavam avanço de 0,6%.

Mesmo aquém do esperado, o desempenho alcançou o maior patamar da série histórica, iniciada em 1996. Após revisão, o IBGE concluiu que o indicador já superara, no 2º trimestre de 2022, o nível pré-recessão do início de 2014. Mercado A17

Análise Vinícius Torres Freire

Recuperação econômica foi melhor do que se previa A18

STF aprova revisão da vida toda do INSS por 6 votos a 5

O Supremo Tribunal Federal decidiu ontem a favor da chamada revisão da vida toda do INSS (Instituto Nacional do Seguro Social), por 6 votos a 5. A medida validada pela corte inclui salários antigos, pagos em outras moedas, no cálculo das aposentadorias.

A correção, porém, é limitada, pois beneficia apenas os aposentados que recebiam salários maiores antes de julho de 1994. Ela só pode ser solicitada em um prazo de até dez anos, contados a partir do mês seguinte ao primeiro pagamento do benefício. Mercado A21

Vinícius Sassine

Conivência e delírio

O ânimo golpista só perdura porque existe conivência por parte dos militares em posições de comando, especialmente no Exército. A legitimação a esses atos ocorre pela inação. Ou por recados e dubiedades expressos em textos mal escritos. Opinião A2

Pix deixa de ter limite e poderá pagar aposentados

Mudança de regras anunciada pelo Banco Central passa a vigorar em 2 de janeiro. Limite de valor por transação deixará de existir, mas valerá restrição por período de tempo. Governo poderá pagar com ele salários, aposentadorias e pensões. Mercado A20

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RESERVA
CIDADE JARDIM
IRREPLICÁVEL

Veja nas páginas A8 e A9.



Ministro se resiste a renunciar tras el escándalo que afecta a su familia

El Congreso acorrala a Fretes para que deje Corte Suprema

La Cámara Alta aprobó una resolución por la cual le retira su confianza y pide a la Cámara de Diputados que inicie en la brevedad posible el proceso para el juicio político.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Canciller alerta de riesgo para otros proyectos
El convenio con la UE ya fue ejecutado por 10 ministros de Educación

PÁGINAS 4 y 18

Legisladores dejaron sin quórum la sesión
Senado no trató el veto a indemnización a ex obreros de IB y quedaría firme el 4

PÁGINA 9

Lamenta afianzamiento de corrupción
Cardenal pide no hipotecar un futuro digno votando a quien ofrece prebendas

PÁGINA 17

SENTÍ Qatar HOY

12:00 HS
EN VIVO

 **vs** 

Ghana vs Uruguay





ANDRÉS CATALÁN

Aumentan las enfermedades transmitidas por el Aedes

Limpiar para prevenir. Ante el auge de la chikungunya y la vigencia del dengue, Salud insiste en eliminar focos como residuos que acumulan agua.

PÁGINA 19

Siniestro consumió máquinas de votación
Pericia dictaminó que el incendio en el TSJE fue por una falla eléctrica

PÁGINA 6

Eventos serán solo hasta las 01:00
Municipalidad de San Ber canceló arrendamiento del Anfiteatro José A. Flores

PÁGINA 23

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REPORTAGE
À KHERSON, COMMENT LES
RUSSSES AVAIENT PLANIFIÉ
LE RAPT DES ENFANTS **PAGE 10**

FRANÇOIS SUREAU
LES LEÇONS DE COURAGE DE THOMAS
MORE, AUGUSTE SCHEURER-KESTNER,
ANDRÉ GIDE ET JEAN CAVAILLÈS **PAGE 18**

LE FIGARO scope

• **Paris**: les tables des grands magasins au banc d'essai • **Metz**: un week-end de culture et de bien-vivre à la lorraine • **Caen**: les bons bistrots entre terre et mer
PAGES 38 À 41

OPPOSITION
Reconquête! met le cap sur les européennes **PAGE 6**

LFI
François Ruffin: « Nous vivons un temps d'indécence! » **PAGE 7**

ENTREPRISES
La French Tech sous tension
PAGES 22 ET 23

DISPARITION
Mylène Demongeot, la touche-à-tout
PAGE 33

CHAMPS LIBRES
• Sous le soleil d'Austerlitz, brille toujours la victoire française
• Derrière Anna Karénine, le visage de Gengis Khan
• Le bloc-notes de Laurence de Charette
• L'analyse de Martin Couturié
PAGES 16, 17 ET 19

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de jeudi:
Êtes-vous favorable au rétablissement de la double peine pour les étrangers condamnés en France?

OUI 93% NON 7%
TOTAL DES VOTANTS: 44 597

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Approuvez-vous la grève des médecins généralistes?

ILLUSTRATION: FABIEN CLAIREFOND - WOJCIECH GRZEDZINSKI/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES

Coupures d'électricité : la grande peur de janvier

Le gouvernement a envoyé aux préfets une circulaire organisant les plans de délestage ponctuel, qui, en cas d'hiver rigoureux, seraient nécessaires pour éviter le black-out.

« Délestage tournant », « coupures temporaires »... Après la sémantique du Covid et de ses privations, la France apprend cet hiver le lexique de la grande panne électrique. Le gou-

vernement prépare doucement les esprits à ce risque, en le qualifiant de « périmètre », en certifiant qu'il y a « des leviers pour faire face », en écartant « le scénario du black-

out » qui « est un grand fantasme ». Reste que les Français s'inquiètent de devoir vivre ces heures de délestage dans le noir, sans chauffage ni téléphone ou internet. Les préfets

seront à la manœuvre pour veiller à la permanence du fonctionnement des secours, hôpitaux, services de sécurité, transports et écoles, considérés comme prioritaires. Les

gestionnaires du réseau électrique sont sur le pied de guerre depuis des mois, tandis que les industries et les entreprises anticipent pour gérer les pics de consommation.

→ SECOURS, TRANSPORTS, ÉCOLES : LES FRANÇAIS INQUIETS POUR LEUR VIE QUOTIDIENNE → DES DÉLESTAGES POUR ÉVITER LE « CHAOS TOTAL » D'UN BLACK-OUT → LES INDUSTRIELS DÉJÀ RODÉS À LA GESTION DES PICS DE CONSOMMATION **PAGES 2, 4 ET L'EDITORIAL**

Malgré leurs différends, Macron et Biden affichent la solidité de l'alliance franco-américaine



Le président français a été reçu, jeudi, à la Maison-Blanche par son homologue. Les deux dirigeants ont réaffirmé leur unité pour soutenir l'Ukraine, sans dissimuler les frictions nées de la politique économique des États-Unis. **PAGE 8**

Éric Trappier: « Un accord Dassault-Airbus pour l'avion de combat de futur »

Dassault Aviation et Airbus ont réglé leur différend, qui avait stoppé le projet européen de Système aérien de combat du futur. L'accord conclu jeudi, qui est « gagnant-gagnant pour toutes les parties », selon Éric Trappier, PDG de Dassault Aviation, ouvre la voie au lancement d'une nouvelle étape. Son objectif : développer un démonstrateur qui devrait voler en 2029. **PAGE 9**

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

La France en berne

Décidément, on n'arrête pas le progrès! Cette formule pleine d'ironie va comme un gant à notre époque. Qui aurait cru qu'au XXI^e siècle la France serait mise à l'arrêt par une pandémie puis plongée dans le noir, faute d'énergie? C'est pourtant la réalité. On croyait avoir le meilleur système de santé au monde et on a vu qu'il pouvait être vite débordé. On pensait aussi que notre indépendance électrique était garantie grâce à notre industrie nucléaire et on se rend compte qu'il n'en est rien.

À l'instar d'un pays pauvre, la sixième puissance économique mondiale a manqué de masques et s'apprête désormais à vivre au rythme des coupures de courant. S'il fait très froid cet hiver, il faut s'attendre à devoir se passer d'école, de trains, de téléphone pendant quelques heures... Sans parler, bien sûr, de la lumière et du chauffage. Pour faire face, le port du col roulé et de la doudoune est recommandé par les autorités. La probabilité est telle que les préfets viennent de recevoir une circulaire de la première ministre pour leur donner le mode d'emploi des rationnements. Très ac-

tifs lors de la crise sanitaire, les cabinets de conseil ont-ils été sollicités pour gérer notre misère énergétique et nous préparer à un Noël austère?

Cette pénurie qui se profile est révoltante. Elle en dit beaucoup sur l'état de notre pays. Ses causes ne sont qu'en partie dues aux tensions nées de la guerre en Ukraine. Elles sont aussi, et surtout, à chercher dans les politiques menées par nos gouvernements successifs. Depuis des années, la production électrique française est la cible d'un sabotage

planifié. Sous la pression intimidante d'un écologisme de combat et pour des raisons basement électoralistes, notre appareil nucléaire, à la pointe du progrès dans les années 1980, a été négligé. Résultat, seule la moitié de notre cinquantaine de réacteurs fonctionne à ce jour. On ne forme plus d'ingénieurs pour les entretenir et on s'approprie, à prix fort, chez nos voisins. La France est en berne : cette crise énergétique en apporte une nouvelle preuve. ■

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NHS union chiefs meet to plan joint Christmas strike

Exclusive Action comes amid below-inflation pay offers and staffing crises

**Daniel Boffey
Denis Campbell
Pamela Duncan**

The NHS will grind to a halt on 20 December under plans being discussed for a coordinated Christmas strike in England and Wales by

nurses, ambulance workers and hospital staff.

The unprecedented day of industrial action would leave NHS bosses struggling to keep even the most basic services running to standards patients expect, with many reduced to Christmas Day levels of staffing.

Intensive talks are understood to have taken place between union representatives and the government about how to "avoid loss of life".

Pay offers substantially lower than the rate of inflation at a time of a cost of living crisis and dangerously low

staffing levels in some areas are part of the rationale for industrial action, unions say. No 10 urged them to consider the impact on patients.

The prime minister's spokesperson said: "We are concerned about the impact strikes by multiple unions will have on the people of this country as we head into the Christmas period. We recognise that these are challenging economic times, but public sector pay awards must be affordable for the taxpayer."

Three unions - GMB, Unite and Unison - have announced support

for strikes but are yet to make public the dates. It is understood the three are holding talks about a coordinated effort. One source said they had expected an announcement as early as today about a strike date from GMB and Unite, but it is understood negotiations are yet to be finalised.

Discussions were continuing yesterday but it is believed that there is growing consensus that striking on 20 December would create maximum impact by joining ambulance workers with more than 100,000 nurses. Unison is

Call for PM to suspend Mone over PPE claims

Aletha Adu
Political correspondent

Rishi Sunak is facing calls from the main opposition parties to withdraw the Conservative whip from Michelle Mone in the House of Lords after the Guardian revealed that she appears to have gained millions from the profits of a PPE company.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have both criticised the prime minister's "staggering" refusal to do so, claiming his pledge to lead a government that acts with "integrity and professionalism" has become an "empty promise".

A Tory spokesperson in the Lords confirmed that Lady Mone would not have the whip suspended while a National Crime Agency investigation into the company, PPE Medpro, and a Lords standards committee inquiry into the allegations were in progress. "The decision has been made that she will retain the whip," the spokesperson said.

However, Labour claimed that Sunak's refusal to act was another failure of integrity. Anneliese Dodds, the party chair, said that "for the many people who lost loved ones during the pandemic, the idea that the Conservatives

Soaring rents making life 'unaffordable'

Private tenants across UK facing increases of up to 60%, Guardian research reveals

News Page 4 →



Game changers: referees make history in Qatar

Neuza Inês Back, Stéphanie Frappart and Karen Díaz Medina - the first all-female referee team to officiate at a men's World Cup match - before last night's Costa Rica v Germany game **Sport Page 49** →

