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Economist**

Afghanistan: a crushing defeat

Can Eric Adams revive New York?

Why life without parole is too long

How tea gets its flavour

JULY 10TH–16TH 2021

**THE
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THE FAULT LINES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

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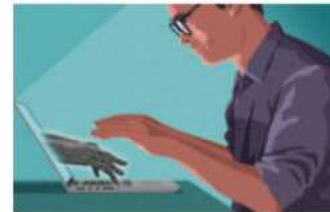
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Introducing ATEM Mini Pro

The compact television studio that lets you create presentation videos and live streams!

Blackmagic Design is a leader in video for the television industry, and now you can create your own streaming videos with ATEM Mini. Simply connect HDMI cameras, computers or even microphones. Then push the buttons on the panel to switch video sources just like a professional broadcaster! You can even add titles, picture in picture overlays and mix audio! Then live stream to Zoom, Skype or YouTube!

Create Training and Educational Videos

ATEM Mini's includes everything you need. All the buttons are positioned on the front panel so it's very easy to learn. There are 4 HDMI video inputs for connecting cameras and computers, plus a USB output that looks like a webcam so you can connect to Zoom or Skype. ATEM Software Control for Mac and PC is also included, which allows access to more advanced "broadcast" features!

Use Professional Video Effects

ATEM Mini is really a professional broadcast switcher used by television stations. This means it has professional effects such as a DVE for picture in picture effects commonly used for commentating over a computer slide show. There are titles for presenter names, wipe effects for transitioning between sources and a green screen keyer for replacing backgrounds with graphics.

Live Stream Training and Conferences

The ATEM Mini Pro model has a built in hardware streaming engine for live streaming via its ethernet connection. This means you can live stream to YouTube, Facebook and Teams in much better quality and with perfectly smooth motion. You can even connect a hard disk or flash storage to the USB connection and record your stream for upload later!

Monitor all Video Inputs!

With so many cameras, computers and effects, things can get busy fast! The ATEM Mini Pro model features a "multiview" that lets you see all cameras, titles and program, plus streaming and recording status all on a single TV or monitor. There are even tally indicators to show when a camera is on air! Only ATEM Mini is a true professional television studio in a small compact design!

ATEM Mini.....\$295
 ATEM Mini Pro.....\$495
 ATEM Mini Pro ISO.....\$795





Haiti's president, Jovenel Moïse, was shot dead at his private residence. The police said that they killed four suspects during a gun battle and had arrested two others. It was unclear who ordered the assassination, or why. Claude Joseph, the interim prime minister, who was due to be replaced this week, said he would take charge as interim president. The opposition had been seeking Mr Moïse's removal from office, saying his term had expired. In February the government claimed it had uncovered an attempted coup against him.

American forces left Bagram airfield, near Kabul, which had been their biggest base in Afghanistan. A small number remain in the capital, largely to protect the American embassy. After 20 years America has effectively given up on the war in Afghanistan, which now looks likely to intensify. The emboldened Taliban have been seizing territory. Some of the official Afghan army have surrendered without a fight. Local warlords are raising militias to resist the jihadists.

In Brazil the Supreme Court authorised an investigation into Jair Bolsonaro for failing to comply with his public duty. The case claims that the president overlooked irregularities in a deal on a covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin. A senate inquiry into the government's handling of the pandemic is also looking into allegations that one official asked for a \$1-per-dose bribe to purchase the AstraZeneca vaccine. Thousands of Brazilians took to the streets, the third mass protest in just over a month to call for Mr Bolsonaro's impeachment.

Jacob Zuma, a former president of South Africa, was taken into custody for contempt of court. He had refused to appear before a commission investigating the corruption that was rife during his time in office.

At least 50 people were killed by security forces in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) after protests against the rule of King Mswati, Africa's last absolute monarch. The protests began after the death of a law student, allegedly at the hands of the police. They say he died in a car crash.

Some 140 children were kidnapped from a school in Nigeria, taking to more than 1,000 the number of students and scholars abducted since December.

Iran told the International Atomic Energy Agency, the world's nuclear watchdog, that it had begun the process of producing enriched uranium metal, which can be used in reactors—or to make bombs. European powers called Iran's action "a serious violation" of the multinational nuclear accord they signed in 2015. America, which left the pact in 2018, is trying to revive it.

Egypt agreed to a compensation deal with the owners and insurers of the *Ever Given*, which ran aground and blocked the Suez canal for six days in March, seriously disrupting global trade. The terms were not made public. Egypt, which had demanded \$550m, refused to release the vessel until a deal was reached.

Israel's parliament declined to extend a law that denies citizenship rights to Palestinians who marry Israelis. It was the first test of the new Israeli government, which supported the extension on security grounds.

Lebanon is days away from a "social explosion", said the country's caretaker prime minister, Hassan Diab. Mr Diab appealed for help with a long-

running economic crisis that has seen the value of the currency plummet and left much of the population short of food, fuel and medicine.

The state legislature in Texas prepared to meet in a special session. Republicans are trying to pass a bill on election procedures that critics say is intended to curb voting by blacks and Hispanics. The Republicans have the wind in their sails. The federal Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, recently limited the scope for challenging state voting laws on racial grounds.

Eric Adams was deemed to have won the Democratic primary for mayor of New York, maintaining a lead over his rivals in a ranked-choice tally. Mr Adams, a black former police captain, ran on a law-and-order ticket; he soaked up votes in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and north Manhattan.

Less than a week after it opened the resort island of Phuket to fully jabbed international visitors, Thailand recorded its first case of covid-19 in a tourist. Thailand hopes its "sandbox" model, where visitors can avoid quarantine if they stay in Phuket for 14 days, will allow it to reopen more parts of its tourism-dependent economy.

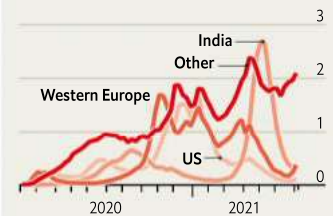
Indonesia's covid-19 outbreak worsened as daily cases doubled from a fortnight ago. Hospitals are approaching capacity and some have reported running out of oxygen.

Britain's prime minister, Boris Johnson, confirmed that covid-19 restrictions would end in England on July 19th. The vaccination campaign has gone well, and although cases are surging and hospital admissions rising sharply, the number of deaths remains low. Social distancing will end, as will the mandatory use of face masks, a controversial topic in Britain. The chief medical officer, when asked, named three situations where he would still wear a mask.

Coronavirus briefs

To 6am GMT Jul 8th 2021

Weekly confirmed cases by area, m



Vaccination doses

	Total '000	% of over-11s with	
		1st dose	2nd
Malta	690	93	83
Iceland	435	91	60
Mongolia	3,866	86	73
Israel	10,865	85	77
Uruguay	4,162	80	63
Chile	23,427	80	65
Canada	40,188	79	43
Bhutan	485	78	0
Britain	79,303	78	58
Bahrain	2,159	75	75

Sources: Johns Hopkins University CSSE; Our World in Data; United Nations

Luxembourg's prime minister, Xavier Bettel, was in a serious but stable condition in hospital after contracting covid-19.

In a reciprocal deal Israel said it would send 700,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that are about to expire to South Korea, where infections are rising. South Korea will return the same number of freshly produced jabs to Israel in September and October.

Sydney's two-week lockdown was extended for another week. Australia's vaccine programme is not going well.

A study found that men in England have been 30% more likely than women to test positive for covid-19 recently. It blamed football fans cramming into pubs to watch the Euro tournament. England beat Denmark 2-1 to reach its first international final since the World Cup in 1966, which, as one or two locals recall, England won.

→ For our latest coverage of the virus please visit [economist.com/coronavirus](https://www.economist.com/coronavirus) or download the Economist app.

The share prices of China's tech giants swooned after regulators stepped up their offensive against the industry. The focus this time is on **Didi Global**, a ride-hailing service, which was ordered to pull its app from app stores because it is being investigated for a non-specified misuse of users' personal data. Only a few days before, Didi had completed a successful IPO in New York raising \$4.4bn, the most for a Chinese company since Alibaba, which is also in the cross-hairs of officials in Beijing for becoming too powerful.

Another way that China is trying to defang its tech tigers is by cracking down on **Chinese companies** that have listed their shares in America or intend to do so, this week promulgating a broad review of the rules that allow them to tap foreign capital markets. China's actions increase the uncertainties for investors. Those who piled in to Didi's New York offering saw the value of their stock drop by a quarter in subsequent days.

A bidding war was on the verge of breaking out for **Morrison's**. Britain's fourth-biggest supermarket retailer has accepted a £6.3bn (\$8.7bn) proposal from Fortress Investment, but other American private-equity firms are circling. This comes amid the fastest pace of private-equity buyouts in Britain for two decades, which some decry as a raid on companies that are undervalued on London's stockmarket.

Wise, a company providing currency and banking services, avoided an IPO and listed its shares directly on the London Stock Exchange, a novelty for the City. The successful flotation of the fintech was a relief for the LSE following the disastrous IPO of Deliveroo in March, which left some wondering if tech firms should avoid the bourse.

A consortium of investors in infrastructure submitted a proposal to take over **Sydney**

airport. At A\$22bn (\$17bn) it is one of Australia's biggest-ever buyout offers.

Questions were raised about the future of **OPEC** after the cartel and its partners failed to reach an agreement on increasing oil production. Saudi Arabia and Russia want to raise output, but they were blocked by the United Arab Emirates, which wants the way its output quota is calculated to change. The White House hopes for a compromise. Without a deal, oil prices will rise, pumping up petrol prices and other inflationary pressures, hot political topics in America.

Officials from America and the European Union held talks on the EU's proposed levy on digital companies, which America says unfairly targets its tech giants. Instead America is championing the push for a **global corporate tax** of at least 15%, which 130 countries agreed to on July 1st. Ireland was one of only nine countries that did not sign up.

A **ransomware attack** targeting users of network-management software made by Kaseya, an American firm, hit hundreds of medium-sized companies in the United States and elsewhere. It was the most

widespread incident in a number of recent cyberattacks on business and governments. **REvil**, a ransomware gang thought to be operating in Russia, said it was responsible and demanded \$70m in bitcoin to provide a universal decryptor that would unlock the affected computers.

Dozens of American states sued **Google**, alleging that the firm overcharges companies that sell software through its Play Store. A ruling in a similar (private) lawsuit against Apple is expected soon.

The Mexican government again signalled its dislike of private investment in the energy industry by awarding to **Pemex**, the state oil company, control of an oilfield that had been discovered by a private consortium. The consortium, headed by **Talos**, which is based in Texas, has invested \$325m in the Zama field, one of Mexico's biggest oil finds to date. Pemex, the world's most indebted oil company, may lack the technical expertise to exploit the field.

The Pentagon scrapped a \$10bn upgrade to its cloud-computing systems, saying it no longer met its needs. The **Joint Enterprise Defence Infra-**

structure project (**JEDI**) had been bogged down in legal uncertainty ever since the contract was awarded to Microsoft, after Donald Trump let it be known that he did not want Amazon to get the job (Mr Trump has a long-standing feud with Jeff Bezos). The Defence Department now wants an entirely new system and will solicit proposals from both Amazon and Microsoft.

Heading for the cloud



Jeff Bezos stepped down as Amazon's chief executive (he is now the executive chairman). Mr Bezos still owns around 11% of the company he founded in 1994 and had led as CEO ever since. The boost to Amazon's share price when news broke that it would once again bid for lucrative work at the Pentagon added \$8.4bn to his personal fortune, taking it to \$211bn, according to Bloomberg.



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