

# Vaccine questions; Navalny jailed and Bezos in the back seat

The efficacy of the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid vaccine continued to dominate the news in the UK and beyond this week. Results from a small trial in South Africa seemed to suggest that the vaccine only offers limited protection from mild disease against the South African strain of the virus - though it will likely still stop severe illness and death. This seems like bad news, as the cheap, low-maintenance vaccine was seen as a workhorse that could be used across the developing world. For the UK, which is relying on the Oxford jab for its so-far excellent vaccine deployment, it means a mad scramble to contain the other variants of the virus. Will it mean a wider change in how the world tackles the next stage of the crisis? Sarah Boseley reports. **The big story** [Page 10](#) →

After a swift "trial" in Moscow, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison last week. But despite that and a previous near-fatal poisoning attempt, Navalny appears resistant to efforts to break him. The risk for Vladimir Putin is that Navalny will become an almost Mandela-like figure for Russians sick of state corruption, and a symbol for democrats around the world. As Luke Harding and Andrew Roth report, the battle between the two men for the soul of a nation looks set to continue - no matter what happens to Navalny in the future.

**Spotlight** [Page 15](#) →

Last week also saw the announcement that Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos was moving himself upstairs to become the company's executive chairman. The writer Mark O'Connell looks at how his own life has been transformed by Bezos's dedication to seamless, relentless consumption - and what the erstwhile world's richest person's legacy will be.

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### On the cover

It's a smile worth \$149,000 ... that is how much Jeff Bezos, the founder and outgoing chief executive of Amazon makes per minute. After the news that Bezos is stepping down from leading the online retail mega-corp, we look at how the 57-year-old Princeton graduate has reshaped the way we consume.

*Photograph: Clemens Bilan/EPA*



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