A week in the life of the world 19 March 2021

Inside



Grief in the UK, vaccine confusion and a mega-stimulus

Last Saturday evening in the UK, thousands of women gathered to mourn the life of Sarah Everard, who was taken from the street and killed while walking home at about 9pm on the evening of 3 March. Everard's abduction and the confirmation of her death prompted a wave of grief in Britain. Despair for the 33-year-old, combined with fury that violent men still make the streets a dangerous place to be a woman. It also prompted thousands on social media to share the heartbreaking truth that male harassment of women is a daily occurrence. Will this moment - and the anger felt by women - prompt men to change their behaviour?

We look back at the fallout from the case in the UK as well as at protests around the world: from the women taking fury about femicide to the heart of Mexican politics, to the women in Australia, roiled by two rape accusations, who also demonstrated last weekend in Canberra.

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Elsewhere this week, many European nations have suspended use of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine due to fears over blood clots. For many scientists, the decision by medical agencies to pause the jab during the middle of the pandemic is a baffling one. David Spiegelhalter, Britain's pre-eminent statistician, crunches the numbers to see if there is any reason to think blood clots are more common among people who have had the jab - and comes to the conclusion that there isn't. Spotlight Page 23

Also in this week's issue, Joe Biden has signed a \$1.9tn stimulus package into law to aid the US Covid recovery. Observer economics editor Phillip Inman looks at the global impact this mega-spend will have. And, as Rupert Murdoch prepares to launch a news channel in the UK, we profile the media mogul as he turns 90.

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SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS



An important note to Weekly subscribers in Europe

Please note, delivery to our subscribers in Europe should be expected within one full week of publication date, which is Friday. This follows significant changes to our delivery process caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and, more recently, the UK formally leaving the EU. We apologise for any inconvenience.



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