

WEEKLY REPORT



02/13/21

POLITICS

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO NAMES NEW CITIZENSHIP MINISTER IN CABINET RESHUFFLE

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday named Congressman João Roma as citizenship minister, replacing Onyx Lorenzoni who will become the presidential secretary general, according to a notice in the official government gazette. The reshuffle had been expected as part of Bolsonaro's political horse trading to shore up support in Congress around the election this month of new leadership in both houses of the federal legislature. [Read more.](#)

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYS BRAZIL WILL NOT WITHSTAND ANOTHER IMPEACHMENT

Brazil's Federal Supreme Court (STF) Chief Justice Luiz Fux said he was against President Jair Bolsonaro's impeachment. In an interview with Estado de S.Paulo newspaper on February 7th, he stated that Brazil will not withstand a third such process. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO PRAISES THE MILITARY AND SAYS THAT BRAZIL UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP WAS NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM TODAY

President Jair Bolsonaro (no party) extolled the five military presidents that Brazil had from 1964 to 1985 and classified the military dictatorship, a period marked by violations of democracy and human rights, as a regime "not too different from what we have today". [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CONGRESS PASSES LAW GIVING CENTRAL BANK AUTONOMY

(AFP) Brazil's Congress passed a bill on Wednesday, February 10th, giving autonomy to the Central Bank, as President Jair Bolsonaro moved to start delivering on a long-delayed agenda of economic reforms. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL WAS THE COUNTRY THAT REFORMED THE MOST TRADE IN SERVICES IN 2020 – OECD

Brazil continues to impose relatively high restrictions on trade in services, but it has made progress and was the country that most reformed in 2020 in this segment among the economies examined, says the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). OECD recognizes that in recent years Brazil has been successful in introducing reforms, thereby easing conditions for trade and investment in several service segments, such as air transport and financial services. [Read more.](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK OF THE BOLSONARO GOVERNMENT HALTS BRAZIL'S ENTRY INTO THE OECD

The OECD's environmental policy committee canceled a planned discussion about upgrading Brazil's status in the international body. Brazil is a guest on the committee but claims the status of member. This typically accelerates the process of adhering to the institution's environmental guidelines, a mandatory part of the entry into the agency. [Read more.](#)

WHITE HOUSE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH BRAZIL, WHILE SPEAKING OUT ON CONCERNS

The Biden administration is closely following developments in Brazil with regard to human rights and the environment but aims to keep strengthening U.S. economic ties and trade with the South American country, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Monday, February 8th. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS DEFORESTATION EFFORTS ON 11 CRITICAL MUNICIPALITIES – BRAZIL'S VP MOURÃO

Vice-President Hamilton Mourão said on Wednesday, February 10th, that 70% of environmental crimes in the Amazon region occur in 11 municipalities, located in four states, and that these will be the government's priority areas for inspection in the region after the Armed Forces' military operations are completed on April 30th. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO WITHDRAW MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THE AMAZON AND LIMIT ENFORCEMENT TO 11 CITIES IN 4 STATES

After a year of deploying the Armed Forces to fight against deforestation in the Amazon, the federal government decided to withdraw the military from the region as of May 1 and limit enforcement to 11 cities in four states. Data shows that deforestation increased in the Amazon forest. Vice President Hamilton Mourão made the announcement on Wednesday (10). Mourão chairs the Amazon Council, responsible for coordinating ministries' activities in the environmental area in nine states. According to the vice president, after a transition period between April 15 and 30, the inspection will be carried out with Ibama, ICMBio, Funai, Incra's own staff, in addition to the Federal Police and the Federal Highway. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT EXPECTS US\$ 590 MILLION A YEAR FROM PRIVATE INITIATIVE TO ADOPT PARKS IN THE AMAZON FOREST

The federal government signed on Tuesday (9) a program for which it hopes to raise R\$3.2 billion (US\$ 590 million) per year from the national private initiative for the preservation of parks in environmental reserves in the Amazon. The project had been unofficially announced - and even used politically - in July 2020. [Read more.](#)

INFLATION PROJECTION FOR BRAZIL RISES FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK – CENTRAL BANK SURVEY

Brazil's central bank weekly FOCUS survey of some 100 economists and financial institutions indicated that the outlook for inflation in the country rose for the fifth consecutive week and is getting closer to the bank's target for the year. [Read more.](#)

EU DIPLOMATS SAY IT IS UP TO BRAZIL TO SAVE MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL

The free-trade treaty reached between the European Union and the South American bloc Mercosur will not get signed if Brazil does not show concrete steps toward reducing deforestation in the Amazon, European ambassadors said on Wednesday, February 11th. [Read more.](#)

5G WILL HAPPEN IN BRAZIL IN 2022, SAY ERICSSON AND HUAWEI

5G Internet will be accessible to Brazilian consumers in 2022, but the reach of the new technology hinges on the installation of more base stations across the country, said on Wednesday, February 10th, Ericsson's CEO for Latin America's Southern Cone, Eduardo Ricotta, and Huawei's cybersecurity director, Marcelo Motta. [Read more.](#)

COMEBACK OF THE OLD BOYS: HUAWEI CONTRACTS EX-PRESIDENT TEMER, BOLSONARO COURTS EX-PRESIDENT COLLOR

The interest towards Senator Collor, whose government was economic opening and reduction of the State, occurs in the midst of Bolsonaro's estrangement with his vice-president, retired

general Hamilton Mourão, whom Bolsonaro's supporters and the president's children brand as a traitor. [Read more.](#)

WITH NO CARNIVAL PARTY IN BRAZIL, VENDORS LOSE YEAR'S BIGGEST PAYDAY

Beyond disappointing revelers, the cancellation of Brazil's annual Carnival celebrations amid a resurgence of COVID-19 also means that street vendors living on the margins will miss out on what for many is the biggest payday of the year. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY AID SHOULD RETURN IN MARCH, FOR 4-MONTH PERIOD

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday, February 11th, that a new round of emergency aid should begin to be paid in March, for a period of up to four months. The chief executive said that this is the alternative currently under discussion between the executive branch and Congress. However, he stated that the amount of each payment has not yet been determined. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL EMERGENCY AID: CHAMBER PRESIDENT PRESSURES ECONOMY MINISTER FOR IMMEDIATE SOLUTION

President of the Chamber of Deputies Arthur Lira (PP-AL), on Thursday, February 11th, called on Economy Minister Paulo Guedes to find an 'immediate' solution for a new emergency aid within the parameters set by the federal government. [Read more.](#)

PANDEMIC SPENDING CAN'T BE PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, SAYS BRAZILIAN ECONOMY MINISTER

Spending to tackle the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic cannot be passed on to future generations, said today, February 10th, Economy Minister Paulo Guedes. He argued that discussions on reinstating the emergency aid should be coupled with fiscal responsibility, seeking a source of funds to finance the recreation of the benefit. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL WILL EXTEND EMERGENCY AID BUT ONLY WITH COST-CUTTING MEASURES: ECONOMY MINISTER

Brazil will extend pandemic emergency cash transfers to the poor and vulnerable, Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said on Thursday, February 11th, but added that the payments must come with compensating cost-cutting measures to avoid ruin to the public finances. [Read more.](#)

DOES BRAZIL NEED A NEW VERSION OF EMERGENCY AID IN 2021? THREE ECONOMISTS' OPINIONS

The year 2021 did not begin well in Brazil. The number of Covid-19 infections has risen again. The rolling average of deaths again exceeds one thousand a day. This situation, coupled with the federal government's poor assertiveness in purchasing vaccines, has created a scenario of instability. Restrictions imposed in some major cities, such as São Paulo, Manaus, and Belo Horizonte, are impacting the economy. Tendências Consultancy projects that GDP will grow by 0.3% in the first quarter and close to zero in the second quarter. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL REPORTS 51,546 NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES, 1,288 DEATHS

Brazil recorded 51,546 additional confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, along with 1,288 more deaths from COVID-19, the Health Ministry said on Friday. Brazil has registered more than 9.7 million cases of the virus since the pandemic began, while the official death toll has risen to 237,489, according to ministry data. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PASSES BILL CRIMINALIZING CUTTING IN LINE FOR VACCINATION

The Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, February 11th, passed a bill that criminalizes jumping the queue for vaccination. The text will now be examined by the Senate. The bill introduces a new type of crime, called "infraction of the immunization plan", which is currently not covered by the Criminal Code. [Read more.](#)

"NOBODY IS DOING ANYTHING WRONG", SAYS BOLSONARO ABOUT BRAZIL'S CHLOROQUINE PRODUCTION

President Jair Bolsonaro (no party) said in his live on Thursday (11) that no one did anything wrong and that there was no waste of resources in the production of chloroquine tablets. He explained that, in addition to Covid-19, a disease for which the medicine there is no scientific proof of effect, there are other diseases treated with the substance, such as malaria and lupus. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL MINISTER SAYS AMAZON CORONAVIRUS VARIANT THREE TIMES MORE CONTAGIOUS

A coronavirus variant identified in the Brazilian Amazon may be three times more contagious but early analysis suggests vaccines are still effective against it, the country's health minister said on Thursday, without providing evidence for the claims. [Read more.](#)

PAHO: EVIDENCE GROWING THAT BRAZILIAN CORONAVIRUS VARIANT INCREASES CONTAGION

The director general of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Carissa Etienne, said ongoing studies are providing growing evidence that some of the novel coronavirus strains, such as the one first detected in Manaus, northern Brazil, have a higher transmission capacity than the virus' original strain. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ELITE ARE ONCE AGAIN MAKING NEGATIVE HEADLINES, SEEKING VACCINATION PRIORITY

Brazil's private health clinics try to bypass government procurement plans hoping to buy quick vaccines for the wealthy. Large companies try the same for their own employees. [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO STATE TO VACCINATE ALL ADULTS IN SMALL TOWN TO CHECK EFFICIENCY OF MASS VACCINATION

The S project, kept secret until now, will be put into practice by the Butantan Institute and the São Paulo state government. Some 30,000 people in Serrana will be immunized, which represents the municipality's entire adult population. [Read more.](#)

SCIENTISTS FORECAST 3RD WAVE OF COVID-19 IN MANAUS UNLESS FULL LOCKDOWN DECREED

The State of Amazonas could spread the health crisis across the whole national territory. The same team of scientists that last August predicted the second collapse in Manaus' healthcare system because of Covid-19 in an article published in Nature magazine, now points to a third wave of the disease in the region. According to the researchers, the State of Amazonas could spread the health crisis to the whole of Brazil unless authorities impose a lockdown with at least 90% of the population isolated and a faster mass vaccination than in the rest of the country. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO HAVE AT LEAST 90 MILLION VACCINE DOSES BY APRIL

According to the main vaccine developing laboratories in Brazil, the country will have at least 90 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines available by April. According to the count, 46 million doses of the CoronaVac – developed by Sinovac Life Science in partnership with the Butantan Institute – should be delivered to the Ministry of Health over these first four months of the year. Starting in March, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) will also be actively involved in

the National Immunization Program. The first delivery is expected to take place in March, with 15 million doses. Another 27 million should be supplied the following month. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESS'S POSITION ON 5-DAY VACCINE APPROVAL IS "CRIMINAL" – FORMER ANVISA PRESIDENT

Public health physician Gonzalo Vecina, ex-president of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA) today classified Congress's position as "criminal" and "disastrous", referring to the approval of a Provisional Measure (MP) ordering the agency to authorize the use of vaccines approved in other countries within five days. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: 8 BRAZILIAN CAPITALS SHOW DROP IN SEVERE CASES OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Fiocruz explained that, at a national level, research suggests that reported SARS cases in Brazil as a whole are showing evidence of long-term decline over the past 6 weeks, and short-term decline over the past 3 weeks. [Read more.](#)



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