

WEEKLY REPORT



07/03/21

POLITICS

BRAZIL VACCINE SCANDAL IMPERILS BOLSONARO AS PROTESTS SPREAD

The plot twists of a coronavirus vaccine kickback scandal that has rattled Brazil's capital have been worthy of a reality TV show. The main stage has been a congressional hearing room, where scores of witnesses have been shedding light on the government's chaotic response to the pandemic, which has killed more than 520,000 in the country. There has been plenty of yelling, a bit of crying and a fair amount of pearl clutching as the audacity and scope of a scheme by health ministry officials to solicit bribes from vaccine dealers has come into focus. The outrage drew tens of thousands of Brazilians to protest across several cities on Saturday, the third large wave of demonstrations in recent weeks. [Read more.](#)

STF ORDERS PROSECUTOR GENERAL TO OPEN INVESTIGATION AGAINST BOLSONARO IN COVAXIN CASE

The Prosecutor General's Office (PGR) on Friday, 2, requested the opening of an investigation at the Federal Supreme Court (STF) to investigate President Jair Bolsonaro for dereliction of duty after he was advised of possible irregularities in the R\$1.6 billion (US\$320 million) contract for the purchase of 20 million doses of the Indian vaccine Covaxin. The PGR also requested a delay before starting its investigation, seeking to begin only after the Covid CPI had finished its work. STF Justice Rosa Weber denied the request for delay and ordered the PGR to begin its investigation immediately. [Read more.](#)

NEWS OF VACCINE BRIBE PUTS PRESSURE ON BOLSONARO GOVERNMENT

Jair Bolsonaro's aides are strategizing how to shield the president from recent accusations against his government over vaccination contracts. The constant crises have hit one of his electoral promises—that there would be no irregularities in his administration. Bolsonaro ignored the accusation of offering bribes in the purchase of vaccine and stated this Wednesday (30) that lies will not get him out of the Planalto Palace, referring to Senate pandemic investigation in the Senate as "CPI of criminals." [Read more.](#)

"SUPER MOTION" CALLING FOR BOLSONARO'S IMPEACHMENT FILED IN BRAZIL'S CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Prompted by recent allegations of corruption in the purchase of vaccines, and other revelations of the Covid-19 committee, members of political parties, civil society representatives and former government allies submitted, on Wednesday, June 30, a "super motion" calling for the impeachment of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro to the Chamber of Deputies. The document recapitulates the content of 122 previously filed motions and points to more than 20 impeachable crimes committed by the president since the beginning of his mandate. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CHAMBER PRESIDENT SAYS IMPEACHMENT IS NOT DONE WITH SPEECHES

When leaving the chamber floor on Wednesday night, Chamber of Deputies president Arthur Lira (PP-AL) commented on the "super motion" for impeachment filed yesterday afternoon by members of several parties and social organizations. "Impeachment as a political move is not

done with speeches, it is done with material facts, which for the time being have not yet been evidenced," he said. When asked about the motion's consideration, Lira replied: "Let's wait for the CPI, which is doing a beautiful and impartial job." He recalled that there are "120 motions in line," filed before this one. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CHAMBER PRESIDENT SEES NO SUPPORT FOR BOLSONARO'S IMPEACHMENT "OUTSIDE OR INSIDE CONGRESS"

Opposition parties, Bolsonaro's former allies, social movements, and trade union centers filed a "super motion" for impeachment against him, listing 23 alleged "crimes of accountability" he has committed throughout his mandate. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO MOCKS PRESSURES FROM LEFT AND RIGHT FOR HIS IMPEACHMENT

On Thursday, July 1, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro mocked the pressure that left-wing parties and even right-wing groups have exerted for his impeachment and belittled the promoters, who he said, "have nothing to do". In his usual Thursday social media broadcast, Bolsonaro alluded to the petition for an impeachment trial submitted to Congress the day before by eleven progressive parties and several right-wing movements that supported the government at one time but now swell the opposition. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS HE WILL NOT BE TAKEN DOWN BY SENATE COVID CPI

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, under pressure over allegations of corruption in his government's vaccine procurement drive, said on Wednesday, June 30, that he would not be taken down by a high-profile Senate inquiry. [Read more.](#)

RISING POLITICAL RISK IN BRAZIL MAKES DOLLAR RISE ABOVE R\$5 LEVEL AGAIN

The commercial dollar is trading higher on Wednesday and has returned to the US\$5 level, with the domestic political scene in focus. At 10:44 AM, the U.S. currency was 1.13% higher at R\$4.9975, reaching R\$5.0109 at the maximum. The focus of attention of financial agents is the emergence of a new accusation against the government in the purchase of vaccines after the "Folha de S.Paulo" reported that a director of the Ministry of Health demanded a bribe to close the deal for 400 million doses of vaccine. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL HAS 14.7% UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, SAYS IBGE

The unemployment rate in Brazil remained at 14.7% in the trimester ended April 2021, according to the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Continuous Pnad) released Wednesday, June 30 by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Thus, this rate and the vacancy contingent maintain the record from the quarter ended in March, the highest in the series since 2012. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY AID CAN BE EXTENDED FOR 2 OR 3 MONTHS AFTER AUGUST

President Jair Bolsonaro said Thursday that the pandemic emergency aid provided by the federal government to those vulnerable due to the Covid-19 pandemic can be extended for another two or three months after August, when the benefit currently provided will end. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ECONOMY MINISTER CONFIRMS 2 NEW JOB RECOVERY PROGRAMS

The government is leaning toward setting a more ambitious inflation target of 3% for 2024 in an attempt to signal a commitment to anchoring expectations, according to three people familiar with the discussion. The final decision has not yet been made and some members of the economic team still advocate maintaining the target at 3.25%, the same level established for 2023. [Read more.](#)

NEARLY 70% OF BRAZILIAN FAMILIES ARE IN DEBT, HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN MORE THAN A DECADE

Brazil has reached the end of the first half of this year with the highest percentage of indebted families in more than a decade, according to the National Confederation of Commerce of Goods, Services, and Tourism (CNC). [Read more.](#)

CONGRESS CREATES PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST "BRAZIL COST"

Brazil's Congress on Wednesday, June 30, will establish the Parliamentary Front for a Competitive Brazil (FPBC), with over 200 members among senators and legislators. The Front will work to reduce the so-called "Brazil Cost" and has as its priorities tax and administrative reforms. The launch will occur at 11 AM, at the National Confederation of Industry (CNI). [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS GOVERNOR CAME OUT AS GAY TO PROMOTE HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Friday that a Brazilian governor who declared himself openly gay in a television interview is using that announcement to promote his candidacy for next year's presidential elections. Eduardo Leite, governor of the state of Rio Grande do Sul and presidential pre-candidate for the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB), decided to come out of the closet on "Converse com Bial", a famous talk show aired weekly in the early hours of Friday morning on Rede Globo. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: BRAZILIAN GOVERNOR MAKES "HISTORIC" GESTURE BY COMING OUT, SHOULD BE REWARDED IN COMING ELECTIONS

Founder and director of the consulting firm Atlas, which specializes in electoral research, political scientist Andrei Roman says that the governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Eduardo Leite (PSDB), was the protagonist of a "historic moment" in Brazil, declaring that he is gay. The gesture represents "a maturation of society" and could even bring electoral benefits for the politician. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN "3RD WAY" GROUP PROPOSES "RANKED-CHOICE VOTING" MODEL FOR 2022 ELECTION

Ranked-choice voting is a system in which voters use a ranked (or preferential) ballot to select more than one candidate and rank their choices in sequence, e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. It is designed to avoid highly polarized races between two candidates. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL RISES 53 PLACES IN UN CYBERSECURITY RANKING IN 2020

Brazil has risen 53 places in a global digital security ranking compiled by the International Telecommunications Union, the UN agency for the technology sector. The 2020 edition of the study, called the Global Cybersecurity Index, was released this week, and showed that the country rose from 71st to 18th among 193 countries. [Read more.](#)

HIGHER ELECTRICITY BILL IN BRAZIL: ANEEL READJUSTS RED FLAG 2 BY 52%

The National Electric Energy Agency (ANEEL) on Tuesday, June 29, approved a red flag 2 tariff rise. The extra charge increased the charge from R\$6.24 (US\$1.26) to R\$9.49 per 100 kWh consumed. The tariff flag stood at level 2 in June, the most expensive, but ANEEL decided to raise the tariff amid a crisis in hydroelectric reservoirs. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO OBSTRUCTS ENVIRONMENTAL FINES KEY TO PROTECTING AMAZON

Under a presidential decree issued by Bolsonaro shortly after assuming office, those individuals and companies accused of environmental crimes after October 2019 are entitled to "reconciliation hearings" that can reduce or cancel penalties. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

HOUSE PASSES BILL WITH CHANGES TO PATENT LAW

The Chamber of Deputies approved this Tuesday (29) a bill that changes rules for patent registration and adjusts the text to allow Brazil's adhesion to the Madrid Protocol (international agreement that allows registration in all countries of the treaty with a single order). The bill goes to the Senate for analysis. The opinion of Deputy Efraim Filho (DEM-PB) exempts people domiciled abroad from having an attorney in Brazil for possible lawsuits. In these cases, the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) will contact the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) so that the trademark owner can provide the power of attorney within 20 days. In addition, it will be possible for the INPI to consider searches and preliminary examinations already concluded of patent applications of the same family carried out and published by international authorities and the registration with documents in English and simple translation. The project also establishes the mechanism for provisional patent application, which will last up to 12 months and will have to be submitted exclusively in Portuguese. The intention is to speed up registration. [Read more.](#)

COMPULSORY LICENSE FOR VACCINES CAN BE VOTED NEXT WEEK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Paulo Paim (PT-RS) celebrated the inclusion of PL 12/2021, of his authorship, in the voting agenda of the Chamber of Deputies for next week. The proposal, approved by the senators at the end of April this year, makes it possible to grant a compulsory and temporary license for the exploitation of patents on vaccines and medicines during periods of national emergency, public interest or recognized state of public calamity nationwide. [Read more.](#)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES BILL TO EXPAND ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY ACCESS ON HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

The Plenary of the Chamber of Deputies approved, on Thursday (1), the favorable opinion of Congresswoman Silvia Cristina (PDT-RO) to Bill 6330/2019, which amends Law No. 9,656, of June 3, 1998 (Health Plans Act), to expand access to oral home antineoplastic treatments by users of health care plans. [Read more.](#)

APPROVED BILL THAT CREATES THE STATUTE OF THE PERSON WITH CANCER

The Plenary of the Chamber of Deputies approved, this Wednesday (30), the replacement of Deputy Igor Timo (Pode-MG) to Bill 1605/2019, which institutes the Statute of the Person with Cancer in order to promote equal conditions access to treatments. The proposal is authored by former deputy Eduardo Braide. [Read more.](#)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES BILL AUTHORIZING IMPORT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES THROUGH PAHO

On Thursday (1), the Chamber of Deputies approved PL 4710/2020, by Deputy Captain Fábio Abreu (PL-PI), which authorizes Brazil to import medicines, supplies and equipment through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The matter will be sent to the Senate. [Read more.](#)

BILL INTENDS TO INCLUDE IMMUNOTHERAPY IN PCDT OF CANCER

Congressman Bibó Nunes (PSL-RS) presented the Bill 2371/2021, proposing the amendment to the Organic Health Law (Law No. 8080, of September 19, 1990), to include immunotherapy in clinical protocols and therapeutic guidelines of the cancer, when it is the most effective treatment option. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDIAN COVAXIN VACCINE

The Ministry of Health suspended negotiations to purchase the Indian vaccine Covaxin, which has become the focus of corruption allegations against the Jair Bolsonaro government. The measure follows the guidelines of the Comptroller General of the Union (CGU) and is “preventive” in nature, informed the Ministers of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, and the head of the CGU, Wagner Rosario, in a press conference at Planalto Palace. [Read more.](#)

FIOCRUZ DETECTS IMPROVED TREND IN BRAZIL’S ICU BED OCCUPANCY DUE TO COVID-19

The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) found an improvement in the trend of intensive care bed occupancy due to Covid-19 for adults in the country’s Unified Health System (SUS). The improvement found by the foundation’s researchers was published in the latest issue of Fiocruz’s Covid-19 Observatory Bulletin, an information bulletin on the evolution of the disease in Brazil covering the period June 20-26. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL EXCEEDS 100 MILLION DOSES OF VACCINE APPLIED AGAINST COVID-19

According to official data from Vacinômetro – the Ministry of Health’s data tool that tracks the pace of vaccination against covid-19 in Brazil – the country surpassed today (30) the mark of 100 million doses applied. According to the Vacinometer, the country registers 135,060,376 doses distributed to the states and the Federal District, with 101,476,804 doses applied. Of these, 74.3 million are related to the first dose, while 27.1 million correspond to the second or single dose (in the case of the Janssen vaccine). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL’S FIOCRUZ PROJECTS ANOTHER 70 MILLION ASTRAZENECA DOSES BY YEAR-END

After closing a deal in June for the purchase of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) to produce 50 million doses, a new agreement signed this week will enable the manufacture of an additional 20 million vaccines. The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) projects the production of 70 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses by the end of the year. [Read more.](#)

Relações Governamentais