

WEEKLY REPORT



06/19/21

POLITICS

INVESTIGATION INTO MINISTERS TESTS THE POWER OF BRAZIL'S COVID CPI

Senators have decided to close in on names that may confirm the existence of a parallel cabinet that supported the president in misguided decisions that led to the neglect of the management of Covid-19 and increased the number of deaths in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S COVID INQUIRY PUTS BOLSONARO ON THE BACK FOOT

For the third time in a little over a month, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro this weekend rallied thousands of his conservative support base in a noisy motorcycle demonstration dubbed "accelerate for Christ". Observers had little doubt about the populist leader's motivation: he needed to show strength. Over the past two months, the former army captain's reputation has been battered by a stream of revelations over his government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, which have emerged in an official congressional investigation known as the CPI. [Read more.](#)

ARAS, MENDONÇA AND MARTINS MOVE IN THE FINAL STRETCH FOR A NEW SEAT ON THE SUPREME COURT

Brazil's attorney general, André Mendonça, is favored to be nominated by President Jair Bolsonaro (no party) to the Supreme Court to replace Minister Marco Aurélio, who will retire on July 5 at the age of 75. Other candidates intensified their campaigns, however. There is resistance to the Attorney General in the Senate and the vacancy will be open soon. [Read more.](#)

FIRING ARROWS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN BRAZIL PROTEST BILL CURTAILING LAND RIGHTS

Several hundred indigenous Brazilians protested outside the Congress building in Brasilia on Wednesday against a bill backed by the country's farm sector that would limit recognition of reservation lands. Protesters wearing feathered headdresses and body paint later tried to invade a downtown building to demand the ouster of the head of the government's indigenous affairs agency Funai for not defending their interests. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM SHOULD BE PASSED IN COMMITTEE IN AUGUST

The Chamber of Deputies may finally move forward in the processing of the administrative reform legislation. The chairman of the special committee, deputy Fernando Monteiro (PP-PE), said voting on the text in the committee may occur between August 15 and 20, and in September in the plenary of the lower house. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ANNOUNCES INCREASE OF BRAZIL'S FAMILY GRANT TO JUST OVER US\$60 PER MONTH

According to the Minister, once the payment of aid installments comes to an end, the government will implement a new, redesigned Bolsa Família (Family Grant). Economy Minister Paulo Guedes said on Tuesday, June 8, that the government should extend the round of emergency aid payments to the most vulnerable for another "two or three months," hoping to buy time to advance Covid-19 vaccination. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SENATE PRESIDENT CONCEDES POSSIBILITY OF PRINTED BALLOTS FOR 2022 ELECTIONS

Senate president Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), on Monday, June 14, accepted the possibility of printed votes in the 2022 elections, if technically feasible. The measure has the support of a majority in a special Chamber committee and will advance to the full Chamber. President Jair Bolsonaro's allies have joined other parties, such as the PDT, to create an auditable voting system in electronic ballot boxes starting with next year's presidential race. [Read more.](#)

VIRTUAL VOTING IN CONGRESS CAN BE RIGGED, AND HOUSE IS STUDYING CLOSING THE GAP IN THE SYSTEM

Brazil's congressional remote voting system, introduced in March 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic, can be defrauded, a possibility recognized by the House itself. The House says it is studying ways to eliminate the gap. In recent weeks, Folha has interviewed congress members who, in a reserved manner, claim that the quorums obtained in the virtual sessions have occurred without effective participation, with most voters spending all their time with the audio and video of their cell phones and computers turned off. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S GOVERNMENT WORKING TO AVOID ELECTRICITY RATIONING DURING DROUGHT

The Ministry of Mines and Energy said that energy sector institutions have been working "tirelessly" to curb risks of energy rationing in the country, due to the hydrological crisis. "Energy sector institutions continue to work tirelessly to provide energy security in the year experiencing the worst water crisis on record in 91 years," the Ministry said in a statement. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ECONOMY MINISTER POINTS TO TAX EXEMPTION OF LABOR AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR JOB CREATION

The Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, said again on Thursday that the Brazilian government must create conditions for broader job creation, citing the exemption of labor as one of the possible solutions. Participating in the Supply Chain Forum of the Brazilian Supermarket Association (Abras), Guedes also said that the government must support both supply and purchasing by small family businesses. [Read more.](#)

DOLLAR TRADES BELOW R\$5 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR BUT THEN RISES

The dollar posted a sharp decline against the Real (R\$) in early trading on Wednesday, June 16, falling below 5 reals for the first time in more than a year. After reaching the minimum of R\$4.994 at 1:30 p.m., it stabilized and then rose to R\$5,06 at the close. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO URGES ENTREPRENEURS TO HOLD DOWN FOOD PRICES

President Jair Bolsonaro appealed to entrepreneurs to hold the price of food. The request occurred during a meeting with several economic sectors in the state of Rio de Janeiro, on Thursday, June 17. The meeting was restricted and could not be followed by the press. [Read more.](#)

IN A TIGHT VOTE, SENATE OPENS DOOR TO THE ELECTROBRAS PRIVATIZATION

In a tight vote on Thursday (17), the Federal Senate approved a provisional measure that paves the way for the privatization of Eletrobras. With 42 votes in favor and 37 against, the government, especially Minister Paulo Guedes (Economy), won a victory in Congress. But to achieve this win, the proposal had to conform to several changes. [Read more.](#)

GUEDES CLAIMS THAT THE MIDDLE CLASS EATS TOO MUCH AND THAT THEIR LEFTOVERS COULD FEED THE POOR

Minister Paulo Guedes (Economy) defended this Thursday (17) that leftovers from restaurants should be destined for beggars and vulnerable people in order to make up for what he called "excesses" committed by the middle class. [Read more.](#)

UNDER BOLSONARO, ARMY DOMINATES LEADING POSITIONS IN DEFENSE MINISTRY

The Bolsonaro administration has altered the Ministry of Defense's composition, favoring the Army in high-ranking positions to the detriment of the Navy and Air Force. For the first time in history there is an imbalance at the top of the portfolio's triple structure, which last week completed 22 years. There are no longer any admirals or brigadiers in the main posts. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ALLIES IN BRAZIL COMPLAIN ABOUT SUDDEN LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF THEIR TWITTER FOLLOWERS

Allies of the Brazilian president, the far-right Jair Bolsonaro, complained on Monday about the sudden loss of thousands of his followers on Twitter, which reported that it conducted a routine procedure against suspicious accounts. [Read more.](#)

NEW PARTY AFFILIATION IS "QUITE ADVANCED" – BOLSONARO

President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday, June 17, said over his weekly live stream on social networks that negotiations to join a new party are advanced. On Wednesday, June 16, the president met with allied legislators at the Alvorada Palace to discuss the matter. [Read more.](#)

ONGOING SQUABBLES IN POLITICAL PARTY THAT MAY HARBOR PRESIDENT BOLSONARO

In yet another chapter of the Patriota party's internal struggle to affiliate President Jair Bolsonaro, the party's leader Adilson Barroso cancelled the call for a convention scheduled by his vice-president, Ovasco Resende, for June 24, at the request of the National Executive Committee and the National Directory. Patriota has been in this state of internal disagreements since early this year when the party split over its alignment with the Bolsonaro family. [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO GOVERNOR JOÃO DORIA CONFIRMS HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL IN 2022

São Paulo state governor Joao Doria confirmed Tuesday his intention to run for Brazil's Social Democracy Party (PSDB) in presidential elections set for October 2022. Doria, until the political rehabilitation of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was considered the main opposition candidate to oust President Jair Bolsonaro from the Alvorada Palace, said he would compete in the party's primaries to emerge victoriously. [Read more.](#)

OPPOSITION TO BOLSONARO CALLS FOR PROTESTS ON THE 19TH

Leaders of the national demonstration against Jair Bolsonaro (no party) scheduled for this Saturday (19) are resisting changes to their planned protest as a response to the political demonstration of motorcyclists that the president attended last Saturday (12) in São Paulo. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

GROWTH OF BIOSIMILARS CAN FACILITATE ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE THERAPIES

"The expansion of the use of biological medicines in Brazil depends on increased competition", says Elvin Penn, general manager of Amgen Brazil. According to him, biosimilars will mark the dispute for the market, causing prices to fall and expanding the population's access to modern drugs made from biotechnology. In the post-pandemic, says the executive, pharmaceutical laboratories will invest in similar products to adapt the offer to the budgets of the health sector,

devastated by the intensive fight against covid-19. "Everyone will look for alternatives to reduce costs. A study carried out in the United States estimates that the use of biosimilars could generate savings of more than US\$100 billion over the next five years." Penn was one of the participants in the live "Health advances with biosimilars", held by Valor Econômico on Friday (18). In the definition of the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), biological medicines are those obtained from biological fluids, tissues of animal origin, or by biotechnological processes - the group includes reference medicines (or originators) and biosimilars. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMAN PROPOSES A PUBLIC HEARING TO DEBATE BIOSIMILARS FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Deputy Pedro Westphalen (PP-RS) presented application 218/2021, proposing the holding of a public hearing to debate the high significance of biosimilar medicines for the sustainability of health systems and the importance of instituting the National Day of Biosimilars. For the deputy, Biosimilars are important alternatives for expanding access and greater sustainability of health systems, being, therefore, an important and relevant topic to be discussed with society. [Read More.](#)

URGENCY APPROVED FOR THE PROJECT AUTHORIZING BRAZIL TO IMPORT MEDICINES VIA PAHO

The Chamber of Deputies Plenary approved, on Tuesday (15), the request that requests urgency in the appreciation of Bill 4710/2020, which authorizes Brazil to import medicines through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Presented by deputy Captain Fábio Abreu (PL-PI), the proposal intends to authorize the Union, States, Municipalities, and the Federal District, to import medicines, supplies, personal protective equipment, medical and hospital equipment, laboratory tests, medical oxygen, automatic respirators, and intubation kits, via Opas. The text also suggests that the imported items have authorization for use by the National Health Surveillance Agency. [Read more.](#)

URGENCY APPROVED FOR THE PROJECT THAT ESTABLISHES CRITERIA FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE INCORPORATION OF TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SUS

The Plenary of the Chamber of Deputies approved, in a deliberative session held this Wednesday (16), the application 912/2021, presented by Congressman Hugo Mota (Republicans-PB), which requests urgency in the appreciation of Bill 1613/2021. The project is authored by former senator Cássio Cunha Lima (PSDB-PB), and intends to amend Law No. 8080, of September 19, 1990, to allow Conitec to authorize the use of medicines in the SUS with an indication different from that approved in the registry. In addition, it aims to include the provision of health technologies acquired through international multilateral organizations, for use in public health programs of the Ministry of Health. [Read more.](#)

PROJECTS DEALING WITH THE SUSPENSION OF THE READJUSTMENT OF MEDICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ANALYZED TOGETHER

The Consumer Defense Commission (CDC) of the Chamber of Deputies appended Bill 939/2021 to Bill 1542/2020. Both proposals come from the Federal Senate and deal with the suspension of the readjustment of medicines. Authored by senator Lasier Martins, Bill 939/2021 intends to amend Law No. 10,742 of October 6, 2003, which establishes rules for regulating the pharmaceutical sector, to suspend the annual adjustment of drug prices for the year of 2021. Before joining, the proposal was being processed under the rapporteurship of Deputy Gilson Marques (NOVO-SC), who did not issue an opinion on the matter. [Read more.](#)

"AN EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES", SAYS QUEIROGA WHEN ANNOUNCING THE EXPANSION OF THE TELEHEALTH PROJECT

"There is no doubt that telehealth greatly expands access to health." Thus, summed up the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, on the importance of the project headed by the Ministry of Defense with the collaboration of Health and six other portfolios. Walter Souza Braga Netto (Defense) and deputies of the Parliamentary Front in Defense of Telehealth, Queiroga reinforced

the importance of improving Primary Care, during a visit to the program's pilot unit this Thursday (17), in Cristalina (GO). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SET TO PASS HALF A MILLION COVID-19 DEATHS

Brazil's death toll from COVID-19 is expected to pass 500,000 on Saturday as experts warn that the world's second-deadliest outbreak may worsen due to delayed vaccinations and the government's refusal to back social distancing measures. Only 11% of Brazilians have been fully vaccinated and epidemiologists warn that, with winter arriving in the southern hemisphere and new variants of the coronavirus circulating, deaths will continue to mount even if immunizations gain steam. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS BRAZIL MIGHT BE ONE OF THE COUNTRIES WITH THE LOWEST COVID DEATH RATES

The president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, insisted on Wednesday that the number of deaths from covid-19 in Brazil is "inflated" and argued that, in fact, the country might be "one of the countries with the lowest rate of deaths per inhabitant" in the world. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS HE WILL VETO "VACCINE PASSPORT" BEING DISCUSSED IN BRAZIL'S CONGRESS

Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro increasingly becomes an opponent of compulsory vaccination, claiming to fight the lessening of civil rights for non-vaccinated people. On Tuesday morning, June 15, he told supporters waiting for him outside the Alvorada Palace that he will veto the so-called "vaccine passport" bill for Covid-19 – the Certificate of Immunization and Health Security – should the bill be passed by Congress. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 SITUATION IN BRAZIL CRITICAL AND MAY WORSEN IN WINTER – FIOCRUZ

Answering a request by Federal Supreme Court (STF) Justice Edson Fachin, the federal government justified the violations of restrictive measures committed by President Jair Bolsonaro during the pandemic. [Read more.](#)

EXPERTS CRITICIZE BRAZILIAN CITIES VACCINATING TEENAGERS

Betim (MG) and Cacoal (RO) this week began using Pfizer doses to immunize people over 12 years of age; The measure is not recommended by the Ministry of Health and is considered a "mistake" and "waste" by doctors. [Read more.](#)

SÃO PAULO HAS 19 CORONAVIRUS VARIANTS IN CIRCULATION, P.1 ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST 90% OF CASES

There are 19 coronavirus variants circulating in São Paulo and the P.1, originated in Manaus, is predominant in the state, accounting for 89.9% of cases, according to the Network of Variant Alerts coordinated by the Butantan Institute, the São Paulo institute reported Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVERNMENT ADVANCES 7 MILLION PFIZER VACCINE DOSES TO JULY

After putting off negotiations with Pfizer last year, the Ministry of Health on Wednesday evening announced the advance shipment of 7 million doses of the U.S. laboratory's Covid-19 vaccine, thereby increasing the expected supply of this immunizer to Brazil to 15 million doses next month. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN HOSPITAL STUDY POINTS TO ARTHRITIS DRUG REDUCING RISK OF DEATH FROM COVID BY 37%

A study conducted by researchers at the Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein with a drug for rheumatoid arthritis from Pfizer pharmaceutical company showed that the medication, able to modulate the immune system, reduced by 37% the risk of death or respiratory failure in

patients with moderate symptoms hospitalized with Covid-associated pneumonia. The findings were published on Wednesday, June 16, in The New England Journal of Medicine. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S HEALTH REGULATOR AUTHORIZES EXCEPTIONAL SPUTNIK V IMPORT BY ANOTHER 7 STATES

According to the institution, in epidemiological weeks 22 and 23, which cover the May 30 to June 12 period, coronavirus transmission in the country remained at a high plateau, with a small increase in incidence rates (new cases) and mortality. [Read more.](#)



CONSULTORES

Relações Governamentais