

WEEKLY REPORT



03/20/21

POLITICS

IN LETTER TO BOLSONARO, BIDEN STRESSES OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. AND BRAZIL TO JOIN EFFORTS

The Planalto Palace this morning released excerpts from a letter sent by the President of the United States, Joe Biden, in response to Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro's greetings on the occasion of his inauguration at the White House. In the document, dated February 26th, the American highlights the opportunity for the countries to join efforts in order to reach an agreement. [Read more.](#)

BIDEN "CHANGED STYLE" IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL, SAYS ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE US

In an interview with DW Brazil, Nestor Forster, the Brazilian representative to Washington, criticized the report submitted by NGOs to the US president and said that the countries are discussing projects to fight deforestation in the Amazon. [Read more.](#)

PRESIDENT BOLSONARO FACES RISING DISAPPROVAL RATING OVER COVID-19 – DATAFOLHA POLL

Bolsonaro's current disapproval rating of 54% puts him in the middle of the pack internationally. Emmanuel Macron, Pedro Sanchez, Moon Jae and Yoshihide Suga all have a lower rating than the Brazilian president. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CENTRÃO VOTING BLOC USES HEALTH CRISIS AND BOLSONARO'S UNPOPULARITY FOR FURTHER POWER GRAB

The health crisis combined with President Jair Bolsonaro's growing unpopularity has boosted the Centrão's appetite for five new ministries. On Wednesday, March 17th, a Datafolha poll showed that 40% of respondents consider Bolsonaro's government bad or terrible, while his management of the covid-19 pandemic is disapproved by 54% of Brazilians, and 56% believe he is unfit to lead the country. [Read more.](#)

LULA'S CASE FILES REMANDED BUT LAVA-JATO JUDGE MAINTAINS FREEZE ON THE EX-PRESIDENT'S ASSETS

Curitiba's 13th Federal Court Chief Judge Luiz Antonio Bonat has referred the 4 Lava-Jato lawsuits against ex-president Lula to the Federal District Court but decided to maintain the former president's assets frozen. [Read more.](#)

DESPITE PROMISING GROWTH PROSPECTS, BRAZIL'S 2021 GDP TO REMAIN BELOW 2019 LEVEL – UNCTAD

According to a report by the United Nations Agency for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), by the end of 2021, the Brazilian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be nearly 10% lower, compared to the pre-pandemic growth trend. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S GOVERNMENT CHOOSES FAUSTO RIBEIRO AS BANCO DO BRASIL'S NEXT PRESIDENT

The federal government on Thursday, March 18th, announced the appointment of Fausto de Andrade Ribeiro as the next president of Banco do Brasil, following the not-unexpected resignation of André Brandão, the current president of the state-owned bank. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN SENATOR MAJOR OLÍMPIO CONFIRMED BRAIN DEAD DUE TO COVID-19

Senator Major Olímpio, 58 years old, was confirmed brain dead this Thursday, March 18th, after several days hospitalized with Covid-19. He was admitted to the ICU at São Camilo Hospital in São Paulo earlier this month and required intubation for the second time two days ago. [Read more.](#)

DEFORESTATION IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON DROPS 34% IN FEBRUARY, REPORTS SECOM

Operation Verde Brasil 2 continues to show significant results in the fight against deforestation in the Amazon. In February, the warnings in the region dropped 34% compared to the same month last year. In the last seven months, the accumulated reduction reached 21%, reports the Presidency's Special Secretariat of Social Communication SECOM. [Read more.](#)

"WE WARNED THE PRESIDENT THAT INTERFERING IN PETROBRAS WOULD HAVE A HEAVY ECONOMIC COST", SAYS ECONOMY MINISTER

Minister Paulo Guedes (Economy) said on Tuesday (16) that the interference of President Jair Bolsonaro (no party) in Petrobras came with a "heavy economic cost" and that the problems created with the government-owned company is still "an open question." "What we told the president is that this has a heavy economic cost. If the objective was to lower the price of fuel, what happened was that the markets started to raise the exchange rate, Petrobras lost value," said the minister in an interview to CNN Brasil. [Read more.](#)

LULA ASKS BIDEN FOR VACCINES FOR BRAZIL IN AN INTERNATIONAL INTERVIEW

Former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) said he is asking the President of the United States, Joe Biden, for an emergency G20 meeting to discuss the distribution of vaccines against Covid-19 to Brazil and poorer countries. He expressed this desire to journalist Christiane Amanpour, from CNN Internacional, in an interview that had excerpts released on Wednesday (17). The full text will be shown on Thursday (18). [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

U.S. PRESSURED BRAZIL NOT TO BUY SPUTNIK V, TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENT SHOWS

The Brazilian government announced on Saturday the purchase of 10 million doses of the Russian vaccine. A US government report prepared during the Trump administration claims that the country persuaded Brazil not to buy the Sputnik V, the vaccine against the novel coronavirus developed by Russia. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SURPASSES U.S. IN MOVING AVERAGE OF COVID-19 DEATHS

Jair Bolsonaro's government maintains its stance against restrictive measures to contain the spread of the disease but the country has intensified its efforts on the vaccination front. [Read more.](#)

SURVEY: 81% OF BRAZILIANS CONSIDER VACCINATION SLOW; 62% SEE MASS COVERAGE ONLY IN 2022

Brazil, which on Monday, March 15th, reached the mark of 10 million people vaccinated, about 5% of the population, registers a slow and unsatisfactory vaccination rate, in the opinion of 81% of Brazilians, while a five times smaller portion, 16%, is satisfied. This is the result of a survey ordered by the Brazilian Federation of Banks (FEBRABAN) and conducted in the first

week of March by IPESPE, which interviewed about 3,000 people from all regions of the country. [Read more.](#)

NEW HEALTH MINISTER SAYS BRAZIL WILL BEGIN THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AGAINST COVID-19

The nominee for the Health portfolio, physician Marcelo Queiroga, said that Brazil "will begin the largest immunization program against covid-19 in the country." He made the comment at an event on March 17th in Rio de Janeiro. Along with the current Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello, Queiroga is attending the ceremony to receive the first doses of the Oxford vaccine, manufactured by Fiocruz at the Bio-Manguinhos facility in Rio de Janeiro. Also present are Fiocruz president Nísia Trindade and Bio-Manguinhos director Mauricio Zuma. [Read more.](#)

NEW BRAZILIAN HEALTH MINISTER MARCELO QUEIROGA VOWS TO "FOLLOW SCIENCE" AND PROMOTE "GREAT NATIONAL DIALOGUE"

Appointed to the position of Health Minister, physician Marcelo Queiroga said on Thursday, March 18th, that he will try to build "a great national dialogue" with states, municipalities, and civil society on the fight against covid-19. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S NEXT HEALTH MINISTER VOWS TO CONTINUE BOLSONARO'S POLICIES

The nominee for Brazil's health minister, who will represent the ministry's third change of leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic, said on Tuesday, March 16th, that he plans to continue the policies of right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro. [Read more.](#)

MAYORS OF SÃO PAULO CITIES ENFORCE COMPLETE LOCKDOWN AND WARTIME-LIKE SCENARIOS

Among the restrictions, even the purchase of fuel is being controlled - people can only fill up if they prove they work in the health system or in some essential activity in operation, such as energy and water services. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL FACES THE GREATEST HEALTH AND HOSPITAL COLLAPSE IN ITS HISTORY – FIOCRUZ REPORT

Brazil's Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) considered one of the world's main public health research institutions, on Tuesday released a study that finds that Brazil is currently facing the greatest health and hospital collapse in its history. The finding is in the Extraordinary Covid-19 Fiocruz Observatory Report. According to the institution, the study points to an extremely critical situation nationwide. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SHOULD RECEIVE OVER 560 MILLION VACCINE DOSES THIS YEAR

Health Minister Pazuello added that the transfer of the vaccine technology developed by the British Oxford University and by the Anglo-Swedish AstraZeneca to Fiocruz is at an advanced stage. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: BOLSONARO CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORT

President Jair Bolsonaro appealed to international financial organizations for more actions that support the efforts of South American countries "in a decisive and coordinated way" in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and its social and economic effects. He participated today, March 16th, in the 6th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of the Forum for the Progress of South America (PROSUL). An exclusive survey conducted by Behup startup points out that, in one year, fear of the coronavirus gave way to concern and sadness. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIANS WERE MORE FEARFUL OF COVID-19 A YEAR AGO THAN TODAY – BEHUP SURVEY

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the low number of cases, deaths and hospitalizations contrasted with the Brazilian population's great fear of the coronavirus. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO RECEIVE FIRST BATCH OF VACCINES FROM COVAX FACILITY

Brazil will receive this Sunday (21st) the first batch of vaccines against covid-19 from the Covax Facility consortium. There will be 1,022,400 doses that will arrive in the country at 6pm. The shipment will be of the AstraZeneca vaccine, manufactured in South Korea. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: BRAZIL RECORDS 2,815 DEATHS AND 90,570 NEW CASES (MARCH 19TH)

The number of deaths by covid-19 in Brazil rose to 290,314. In 24 hours, 2,815 deaths were registered. According to the figures published by the Ministry of Health, today (19) was the day on which the second-most deaths have been recorded since the start of the pandemic. Read more. [Read more.](#)

SUPPLY OF MEDICINES USED TO INTUBATE COVID-19 PATIENT WILL LAST 20 DAYS

The stock of painkillers, sedatives and muscle blockers used for the intubation of patients in ICUs will last just another 20 days in Brazil, creating an additional problem for hospitals: how to help patients if they run out of medicines. [Read more.](#)



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