

WEEKLY REPORT



05/01/21

POLITICS

INVESTIGATION INTO PANDEMIC IS PEBBLE IN BOLSONARO'S SHOE

The Brazilian Senate this Tuesday formed a committee to investigate potential omissions by President Jair Bolsonaro's government in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic; the committee is controlled by the opposition and will be from now on a pebble in the president's shoe. The committee, with 11 full members and 7 alternates, has only 4 senators aligned with Bolsonaro and will determine whether the government has any responsibility in the worsening of the health crisis, when Brazil is nearing 400,000 deaths and has doubled in this year's first four months the total number of deaths in 2020. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SENATE OPENS PANDEMIC PROBE, ADDING TO PRESSURE ON BOLSONARO

A Senate inquiry into the Brazilian government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic kicked off on Tuesday, April 28, with lawmakers launching what may be a major headache for President Jair Bolsonaro ahead of next year's election. [Read more.](#)

CHAMBER PRESIDENT LIRA SAYS 100% OF IMPEACHMENT MOTIONS AGAINST BOLSONARO ARE "USELESS"

After demands from federal deputy Henrique Fontana (PT), the president of the Chamber said that "the time is of the Constitution." The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), on Tuesday evening, April 27th, said that 100% of impeachment motions against President Jair Bolsonaro are useless. [Read more.](#)

MOURÃO SAYS BOLSONARO WILL CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT IN 2022

Brazil's vice-president mentioned the possibility of running for a Senate seat in Rio Grande do Sul next year. On Monday, April 26th, vice-president Hamilton Mourão (PRTB) said that President Jair Bolsonaro should choose another name to compose the re-election slate in 2022. [Read more.](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES OF MEETING BETWEEN BOLSONARO AND BRAZILIAN RENEWAL LABOR PARTY

Jair Bolsonaro took another step towards the PRTB (Brazilian Renewal Labor Party) when on Tuesday late afternoon, April 27th, he welcomed members of the Fidelix family, which runs the party, at the Alvorada Palace. At the table, there was sugar cane juice, "pastel" and the future of the President of the Republic, who pledged to define where he will go until next Monday, May 3rd. In attendance were Levy Fidelix Filho, Lívia Fidelix and Karina Fidelix, all children of Levy Fidelix, the party's founder, who died last week. The conversation was friendly. Bolsonaro showed himself, in fact, willing to join the party, as long as he can take complete control of it, a requirement he makes to all those interested in joining him. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SENDS ATTACHMENTS TO BRAZIL-U.S. AGREEMENT TO NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL

On Monday, April 26th, President Jair Bolsonaro sent Congress attachments to the Brazil-U.S. Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (ATEC). Prepared jointly by the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs, the annexes, which constitute a protocol to the ATEC, deal with trade rules and transparency. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SEEKS CHANGES IN MERCOSUR RULES ON TARIFFS AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

Brazil and Uruguay have pressured the other MERCOSUR member countries (Argentina and Paraguay) to relax the bloc's rules. At a meeting of the bloc's Foreign Affairs and Economy Ministers yesterday, the Brazilian government, with the support of Uruguay, called for the approval of a proposal to immediately reduce by 10% the common external tariff (TEC) that is levied on imports of products from outside the bloc. In addition, both countries included on the agenda the granting of a waiver so that each bloc member may negotiate bilateral trade agreements with other nations, not only jointly with all other bloc countries, as is the rule today. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL INTENDS TO MODERNIZE MERCOSUR, TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS – TRADE SECRETARY

Brazil has made efforts to reform and modernize MERCOSUR so that members may benefit from greater integration and competitiveness in the global economy, the Ministry of Economy's special secretary of Foreign Trade and International Affairs Roberto Fendt Júnior said yesterday, April 28th. [Read more.](#)

OECD ACCESSION COULD BOOST BRAZIL'S PER CAPITA GDP GROWTH BY 0.4% PER YEAR – IPEA

Brazil's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) could boost per capita economic growth by 0.4% per year, according to a study published by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA). Brazil's accession to the OECD would encourage capital, investment, and international trade flows, boosting Gross Domestic Product growth by about US\$7 billion per year, IPEA said in a report. [Read more.](#)

DOLLAR CLOSES BELOW R\$5.40 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE FEBRUARY AFTER FED DECISION TO KEEP INTEREST RATES LOW

In a day of optimism in the international market, the dollar dropped significantly and closed on Wednesday, April 28, below R\$5.40 for the first time since February. The stock market, on the other hand, recovered from the drop on Tuesday, April 27, and closed at its highest level in almost two weeks. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 14.4% IN FEBRUARY – IBGE

The unemployment rate in Brazil was 14.4% for the period ended February 2021, according to the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Pnad Contínua), released on Friday (30) by IBGE. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CLASS C SINKS BY THE MILLIONS AND FALLS INTO POVERTY

Brazil's so-called class C is being pushed quickly back to classes D and E. This is the biggest novelty of the Brazilian economic landscape at the beginning of this century. People in class C find themselves headed to poverty due to the consequences of Covid-19 and the disorganization of the Jair Bolsonaro government's (no party) pandemic mitigation policies. Research from different agencies reveals not only that tens of millions of Brazilians are going back to more precarious situations since last year but that their lives may continue to get worse in 2021. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES FUNDING CUTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS

Carlos Alberto França, Brazil's minister of foreign affairs, denied on Wednesday (28) that Brazil cut the money allocated for environmental inspection. In his assessment, President Jair Bolsonaro did not break a promise made at the Leaders' Summit on Climate. The minister participated Wednesday morning in a public hearing whose purpose was to address Itamaraty's priorities this year. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL JOINS INDIA, CHINA, AND SOUTH AFRICA TO DEFEND FINANCING FROM CLIMATE-RICH COUNTRIES

To prepare for the Climate Summit, Brazil met on April 8 with China, India, and South Africa to advocate that rich countries finance projects against global warming. At the meeting, a conference of Environment ministers from the Basic forum, which brings together the four countries, the Brazilian government helped to draw up a declaration to mark a joint position on climate change. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH DEFENDS THE END OF THE RULE THAT EXTENDS THE TERM OF PATENTS FOR MEDICINES

The Ministry of Health is in favor of ending the extension of the duration of patents for health products in Brazil. More: it assesses that the extension of patents in the medication sector directly impacts SUS sustainability by increasing spending on the purchase of drugs, in addition to affecting the national pharmaceutical industry. This is the content of the manifestation that the ministry sent today (April 28) to the Supreme Court. [Read more.](#)

TOFFOLI PROPOSES TO BLOCK THE EXTENSION OF THE TERM FOR ALL PATENTS BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Justice of the Supreme Federal Court (STF), Dias Toffoli, reaffirmed this Thursday (29), his position contrary to the rule that provides for the extension of the term of patents granted by the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). Although the reading of his vote is expected to end only next week, the Justice has already anticipated how he will position himself. Toffoli suggests extending the effects of the decision and blocking the forecast for an extension for all patents, and not just pharmaceuticals and equipment for health use. Under the current rule, invention patents, for example, last 20 years from the date of filing with the INPI, or at least 10 years after the grant date. That is, if there is a delay in the concession, the delay is compensated with more years of monopoly over the invention - which prevents the reproduction or commercialization of the product during a certain period, in which the owner receives so-called royalties. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL SENATE APPROVES POSSIBILITY OF COMPULSORY PATENT LICENSE FOR VACCINES

With 55 votes in favor and 19 against, the Senate Plenary approved on Thursday (29) a proposal that authorizes the Brazilian government to decree the temporary compulsory license of vaccines patents, diagnostic tests, and medicines for coping with covid-19 . The goal is to speed up the immunization process. PLs 12/2021 and 1,171 / 2021 were joined and voted together, with a report by Senator Nelsinho Trad (PSD-MS). The proposal, consolidated with the substitute text of the rapporteur, now goes to the analysis of the Chamber of Deputies. [Read more.](#)

BILL ABOUT COMPULSORY LICENSE OF COVID VACCINE PATENTS MUST BE SHELVED IN THE CHAMBER

Approved in the Senate on the night of this Thursday, 29, the bill that authorizes the breaking of patents on vaccines and medicines against covid-19 in Brazil must be shelved in the Chamber. The Estadão found that the President of the House, Arthur Lira (Progressive-AL), deals with the subject as the last of his priorities and has warned that it "will not even look" for that matter. With the exception of opposition names, most party leaders refrain from declaring support. Jair Bolsonaro 's government is against it. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S HEALTH MINISTER ASSURES ENTIRE POPULATION WILL BE VACCINATED BY THE END OF THE YEAR

Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga on Friday said that it is possible to assure that the Brazilian population that needs to be vaccinated against Covid-19 will be immunized by the end of this year. While attending remotely a World Health Organization (WHO) press conference in Geneva, Queiroga also said that the directors of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA) are capable of withstanding political pressures, in response to a question about the regulatory body's decision to reject a request to import the Russian Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CUTS BY 30% NUMBER OF VACCINES TO BE DELIVERED THROUGH APRIL

The Brazilian government cut by nearly 30% the number of Covid-19 vaccines expected to be delivered between January and April, according to a new calendar released by the country's health minister on Saturday. Last month, former health minister Eduardo Pazuello said Brazil would receive roughly 103 million doses in the first four months of the year. But the latest calendar released by minister Marcelo Queiroga showed only 73 million doses. The government said the reduction was due to lower-than-expected volume of active ingredients received and also because some vaccines are pending a permit to be used in the country. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO ONCE AGAIN PROMOTES CHLOROQUINE TREATMENT AND RULES OUT BEING VACCINATED

On Wednesday, April 28th, President Jair Bolsonaro again contested the focus of the Senate's Covid CPI (Parliamentary Inquiry Committee), established to investigate the federal government's actions and omissions of in the pandemic, as well as federal transfers to states and municipalities. When speaking to supporters outside the Alvorada Palace, Bolsonaro once again promoted chloroquine treatment and said that he wants to be the last Brazilian to be immunized. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S HEALTH REGULATOR DENIES SPUTNIK V VACCINE IMPORT REQUEST

On Monday, the agency voted on the import, distribution and administration of the Russian immunizer following a request by 10 states. In an extraordinary meeting of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency's (ANVISA) board of directors on Monday, April 26th, the agency denied the exceptional and temporary import of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine. The exceptional and temporary import authorization was requested by the states of Bahia, Acre, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Piauí, Ceará, Sergipe, Pernambuco and Rondônia. This release would allow the immunizers to be bought, distributed, and administered to the population. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL APPEALS FOR DONATIONS OF COVID-19 VACCINE AT WHO

Brazil's Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga made an international appeal on Friday (Apr. 30) urging governments with extra vaccine doses to share jabs in a bid to speed up the vaccination campaign in Brazil. The minister spoke at a presser on facts and figures regarding the global sanitary crisis, attended by summit members of the World Health Organization (WHO). [Read more.](#)

BUTANVAC: BRAZIL'S HEALTH REGULATOR REQUESTS ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO AUTHORIZE TRIALS

The request was made on Monday, April 26th. In a note, the agency said that the "Butantan's authorization request, sent on April 23rd, and the clinical trial protocol sent last Friday, April 23rd, are still incomplete and do not meet the technical requirements for authorizing clinical trials of vaccines in humans." [Read more.](#)

CHINA SUPPLIES 95% OF BRAZIL'S VACCINES, SAYS AMBASSADOR AFTER GUEDES' SPEECH

Albeit not mentioning the economy minister, Yang Wanming spoke of China's importance for vaccination in Brazil. China's ambassador to Brazil, Yang Wanming, used social networks to talk about the importance of the country in vaccination in Brazil, after Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes accused China of having "invented the coronavirus" and then apologized. [Read more.](#)

PFIZER'S FIRST BATCH OF VACCINES AGAINST COVID ARRIVES IN BRAZIL WITH 1 MILLION DOSES

On the same day that Brazil reached 400 thousand Covid-19 deaths, the first doses of the vaccine against the disease produced by the American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and German laboratory BioNtech arrived in Brazil on the same day that the country reached 400 thousand Covid-19 deaths. This first batch has 1 million doses (enough to immunize 500 thousand people)—1% of the 100 million doses that manufacturers must deliver by the end of September—and will be distributed equally to the states. [Read more.](#)



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