

Chile to Search for Missing, Decades After They Vanished

Government Calls Finding Pinochet’s Victims ‘a Duty’

By PASCALE BONNEFOY

SANTIAGO, Chile — Thirty-six years after Fernando Ortíz’s abduction and disappearance, his family finally received his remains: five bone fragments in a box.

Mr. Ortíz, a 50-year-old professor, was kidnapped in 1976 during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, rounded up with other communist leaders in Chile and sent to a torture center so secret that no one knew of its existence for three decades.

No one came out alive from the black site named for the street it was on: Simón Bolívar. It was little more than a house in a rural area east of the capital run by the regime’s intelligence agency, DINA. There were no witnesses or survivors to shed light on the detainees’ fates. For decades, there was only deafening silence.

Mr. Ortíz was one of 1,469 people who disappeared under Chile’s military rule from 1973 to 1990. Only 307 of them have been found and identified.

Now, before the 50th anniversary of the coup that toppled one of Latin America’s most stable de-

mocracies and installed the 17-year dictatorship that imprisoned, tortured and killed thousands of its opponents, Chile has enacted a national search plan to track down the remaining disappeared.

“Justice has taken too long,” President Gabriel Boric of Chile said during a ceremony on Wednesday in which he signed a presidential decree to codify the plan. “This is not a favor to the families. It is a duty to society as a whole to deliver the answers the country deserves and needs.”

The measure marks the first time since the end of the Pinochet regime that the Chilean government has tried to find those who went missing — an effort that until now has largely fallen to the surviving family members, mainly women, who protested, went on hunger strikes and took their cases to court. So far, only through these judicial cases have burial sites been identified.

“The state took them away, and it is the state that has to be responsible for reparation, justice and sustaining the search,” Luis Cordero, Chile’s minister of justice and human rights, said in an interview with The New York Times.

Two of Mr. Cordero’s great-uncles were abducted in 1973 and never found.

Other South American countries under military rule in the 1970s and ’80s have had mixed success in recovering the remains of their disappeared. Forensics teams in Argentina recovered more 1,400 bodies and identified 800 of them. In Brazil, efforts to find 210 people who went missing have had scant results. The Paraguayan agency given the task of finding and identifying its 336 disappeared has discovered only 34.

The plan will centralize and digitize the enormous volumes of judicial case files and other archives scattered across government

Continued on Page A9



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From top, damage in Florida from Hurricane Idalia, which was downgraded to a tropical storm by Wednesday evening; Horseshoe Beach; Cedar Key, a group of tiny islands; and Crystal River.

Drones Explode Deep in Russia; Kyiv Is Hit, Too

By ANDREW E. KRAMER
and VICTORIA KIM

KYIV, Ukraine — A wave of exploding drones was launched in six regions of Russia overnight Wednesday, Russian officials said, damaging four military cargo planes at an airfield 30 miles from the border with Estonia, a NATO member, in an apparent sign that Ukraine was increasingly capable of striking back deep inside Moscow’s territory.

Around the same time, Russia unleashed an aerial assault on at least three regions of Ukraine, officials in Ukraine said, including one of the most significant barges the Kyiv region has experienced in months. Ukraine’s air force said it had shot down 43 of 44 incoming missiles and drones.

Explosions and the roar of air-defense missiles shook Kyiv, the capital, around 5 a.m. Serhiy Popko, head of the Kyiv regional military administration, said that two people in the city had been killed by falling debris.

The assault in Russia came after months of Moscow’s deadly missile and drone strikes on Ukrainian cities, infrastructure and military targets. While Ukrainian officials did not claim responsibility for the overnight strikes on Russian soil, in keeping with standard practice, they have made it increasingly clear that they view taking the war to ordinary Russians as a legitimate tactic against Moscow’s invasion.

“We all went through these attacks by Russia,” Oleksandr

Continued on Page A8

Inflation Cools, But Slow Pace Creates Pitfalls

By JEANNA SMIALEK

President Biden has openly celebrated recent inflation reports, and Federal Reserve officials have also breathed a sigh of relief as rapid price gains show signs of losing steam.

But the pressing question now is whether that pace of progress toward slower price increases — one that was long awaited and very welcome — can persist.

The Fed’s preferred inflation measure, the Personal Consumption Expenditures index, is expected to tick up to 4.2 or 4.3 percent in a report on Thursday, after volatile food and fuel costs are stripped out.

That would be an increase from 4.1 percent for the core measure in June. And while it would still be down considerably from a peak of 5.4 percent last summer, such a reading would underscore that inflation remains stubbornly above the Fed’s 2 percent goal and that its path back to normal is proving bumpy.

Most economists are not hugely concerned. They still expect inflation to ease later this year and into 2024 as pandemic disruptions fade and as consumers become less willing to accept ever-higher prices for goods and services. American shoppers are already feeling the squeeze of both shrinking savings and higher Fed interest rates.

But as price increases slow in fits and starts, they are keeping economic officials wary.

Big uncertainties loom, includ-

Continued on Page A12

Built on Rainbows, an Ice Cream Sensation Teeters Under a Cloud

By JULIA MOSKIN

It was all rainbows and unicorns for a while. But like many fun ideas, Big Gay Ice Cream has wound up in debt and in court.

With a rollicking rise that leveraged queer identity as a brand strategy, the New York City-based soft-serve chain opened seven shops in the Northeast and landed

its products in supermarkets nationwide. The company now is down to just one location.

On Friday, a founder and partner, Doug Quint, filed a lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court accusing another partner, Jon Chapski, of mismanaging the company and fraudulently collecting government loans during the pandemic.

On Tuesday afternoon, through

A Legal Fight to Control the ‘Big Gay’ Brand

a spokesperson, Mr. Chapski said only that he was reviewing the lawsuit with his lawyer and would respond “when appropriate.”

In 2009, when the Big Gay Ice

Cream Truck first rolled into the annual Brooklyn Pride parade, it caught a wave of pop culture that included hits like “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way” and “Orange Is the New Black,” and marked a national shift that culminated in the legalization of marriage for same-sex couples across the country in 2015.

Continued on Page A16



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Dying Fish in a Storied River

The biggest die-off in living memory on the Cowichan River in Canada might be traced to climate change.

PAGE A4

Gabon’s Military Declares Coup

President Ali Bongo Ondimba was detained hours after being declared the winner of a disputed election.

PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-17

Biden Explains the Benefits

President Biden is putting a policy that lowers drug costs at the center of his re-election campaign. It’s effective — if people know the policy exists.

PAGE A12

Racing to Tap Clean Energy

The U.S. has enough geothermal energy to power the entire country. Some are trying to unlock it by using techniques from the fracking boom.

PAGE A13

Concerns About McConnell

For the second time this summer, Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, froze in front of reporters, intensifying questions about his future.

PAGE A12



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Drenched in Fashion

Designers like to create the illusion of wetness in their creations, as with the necklace and earrings above.

PAGE D4

Sharing the Spotlight

Morgan Riddle draws a lot of attention at pro tennis matches, where she cheers for Taylor Fritz, her boyfriend.

PAGE D5

BUSINESS B1-5

Creating Power and Confusion

Many carmakers are abandoning the current charging systems for their electric vehicles and shifting to the Tesla plug. Why are they doing that, and what will it mean?

PAGE B1

A Lift for Sagging CNN

Mark Thompson, who oversaw periods of growth at The New York Times and the BBC, has been named the network’s new chairman and editor in chief as it enters a pivotal period.

PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Nicholas Kristof

PAGE A19



SPORTS B6-8

What You Don’t See on TV

The commute, the fight for court time and the sponsorship commitments make the life of a tennis player demanding during the U.S. Open.

PAGE B6

