

WORLD **6** Navalny team vows to fight on after 'extremism' ruling

THE DAILY tribune

Elizabeth Olsen confirms 'WandaVision' will not be getting a second season **9** **CELEBS**

BUSINESS **5** Most Gulf markets rise as oil rebounds; Egypt bucks trend



Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

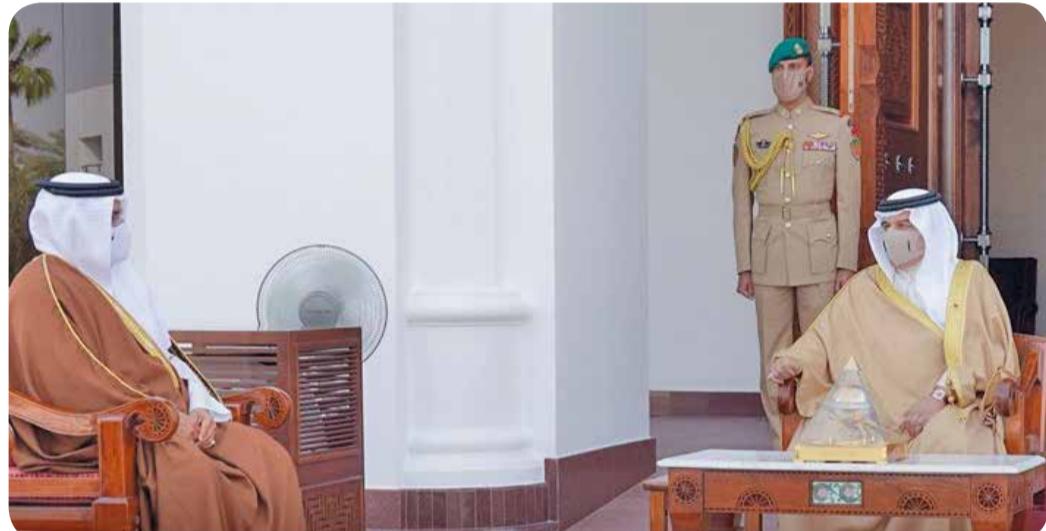
Getting vaccinated, booster shots and vaccines for 12-17 year olds protects everyone

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On the path to recovery: King



The health situation is stable and Bahrain is well on its path to recovery, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday, who also thanked the people of Bahrain for their commitment to the national vaccination drive. (Full story on page 2) **P2**



Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Last update - 9:00 pm
10 June 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

1017757

(Second dose)

852131



BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

4780224

ACTIVE CASES

16226

DEATHS

1188

DISCHARGED

238540

NEW CASES

1034

CRITICAL

300

210 fils (includes VAT)



Sputnik starts with a bang

Bahrain data shows 94.3% efficacy

TTT | Manama

Bahrain trials of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine returned a 94.3% efficacy fourteen days after the second dose.

The data also confirms that 98.6% of those infected 14 days after receiving the second dose of Sputnik V experienced only mild symptoms.

Besides, there were no serious adverse events, deaths or cerebral vein thrombosis cases after vaccination.

"This confirms the safety and high efficacy of the Russian Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine," said the Russian Direct Investment Fund, who recently sealed a deal with Mumtalakat Holding Company to set up a facility for manufacturing the vaccine for the GCC and MENA region.

(Continues on page 3)



Sputnik V continues to play an important role in the Kingdom's ongoing and successful vaccination campaign, with 81% of the eligible population vaccinated so far

FAEQA SAEED AL-SALEH



Use of Sputnik V is making a significant contribution in mitigating the spread of coronavirus, resuming normal life and economic activity.

KIRILL DMITRIEV, THE CEO OF RDIF



Named after the first space satellite of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Sputnik V was approved by the regulators in Russia back in August 2020. The vaccine is based on a weakened COVID-19 virus delivering parts of a pathogen that triggers an immune response in the body.

Sputnik V is one of the three vaccines in the world with efficacy of over 90%. The Vaccine's efficacy is confirmed at 91.6% based on the analysis of data on 19,866 volunteers, who received both the first and second doses of the Sputnik V vaccine or placebo at the final control point of 78 confirmed COVID-19 cases.



The cost of Sputnik V, in the international market, is \$10 per shot. The vaccine is required to be taken in two doses. It can be stored in dry form at temperature ranging from 2 to 8 degrees.



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Bahrain on the path to recovery, says HM King



His Majesty the King with HRH Prince Salman at Al Safriya Palace

TDT | Manama

The health situation is reassuring, and Bahrain is well on its path to recovery, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday, who also thanked the citizens and residents of Bahrain for their commitment to the national vaccination drive.

HM King further hailed the medical staff, frontline workers

and associated parties for keeping up their battle against the pandemic.

HM King Hamad was receiving His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at Al Safriya Palace in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Personal Representative, Supreme Council for the Environment President,

and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Their highnesses reviewed several issues, foremost being the latest developments in battling the COVID-19 outbreak.

King Hamad praised the diligent works of the Bahrain team, led by HRH the Crown Prince, in addressing the pandemic and affirmed that the measures are proving vital to reducing the case-

load of infections.

HM King praised the role played by the medical and health team and all frontline workers and support agencies, stressing that their noble humanitarian efforts are a source of pride and appreciation for everyone.

King Hamad called on all to continue working with determination and perseverance to ensure peace and safety for all in the Kingdom.

Proposal to amend Labour law



TDT | Manama

The parliamentary services committee yesterday approved in principle a proposal to amend a law concerning the labour market.

The committee, chaired by Ahmed Yousef Al Ansari, said they agreed to a proposal to amend Article (24) and Article (26) of Law No. (19) of 2006 of the labour market.

The approval followed a review of the views of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, the Ministry of Interior, and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The committee also approved a draft law to amend Article (99) of the labour law on the private sector, establish a Supreme Council for Medical Studies, amend some provisions of Law No. (74) of 2006

regarding the care, rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities, and establish a charitable drug bank.

The meeting also discussed bills for amending some provisions of the laws concerning pensions and retirement benefits of government employees, Social Insurance, pharmacy profession and pharmacy centres.

The committee also agreed on six proposals for allocating land for establishing a public events council, a university for petroleum, natural gas and minerals specialisations, developing a secondary school for boys in the Arad region, a proposal not to stop disbursing the extension allowance to teachers on non-school days, and a proposal to unify the working hours of workers with special needs to 6 hours per day.



Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, yesterday received Lieutenant-General Carl Mundy, the Commander of the United States Marine Forces, Central Command. HH Shaikh Nasser stressed the depth of the Bahrain-US relations and their steady growth at all levels, especially military and defence cooperation



Under the patronage of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BDF held the graduation ceremony of the second session of female university officer candidates yesterday. The commander-in-chief deputised Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi to attend the ceremony held at the Isa Military College.

Polytechnic offers minors in four academic programmes

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Polytechnic announced introducing several new minors in business, engineering technology, information and communication technology, and web media programmes.

The Acting CEO of Bahrain Polytechnic, Dr Reem Albauainain, said that they would offer these minors from the first semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.



Dr Reem Albauainain

To enrol, students should apply by the end of the current semes-

ters. The programme allows students to choose one of the minors along with their majors.

The Engineering Technology programme will offer a minor in control systems, specifically for mechanical engineering students.

As for the Information and Communications Technology programme, students can benefit from the 'data mining' minor.

In the web media programme,

the 'web media design' minor will benefit all students.

The Business Administration programme will also offer two minors in entrepreneurship - one for business and logistics students and another for non-business students. Students accepted in the academic year 2020-2021 (and beyond) are eligible to register for these minors after fulfilling the requirements of the majors.

Mosque closed for a week in Northern Governorate

TDT | Manama

COVID-19 infected person there.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments announced closing a mosque in the Northern Governorate for detecting a positive



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BDF Commander-in-Chief, during an inspection visit to a BDF unit. The commander-in-chief received a briefing on the unit's combat readiness and military preparedness, as well as its workflow. Shaikh Khalifa stressed that the BDF continues the march of military development thanks to the constant care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander.

RAP launches virtual summer camp

TDT | Manama



Chief of Public Security, Lieutenant-General Tariq Al Hassan

The Chief of Public Security, Lieutenant-General Tariq Al Hassan, yesterday announced launching the 12th summer camp of the Royal Academy of Police.

The three-week virtual camp, held in cooperation with the Labour Fund Tamkeen, is for 400 participants in the age group 12-17. The camp aims at enhancing leadership and life skills, prevent crimes, and get the participants ready for future challenges.

Focus on Iran nuke deal



TDT | Manama

Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, took part in a briefing on Iran nuclear deal yesterday by the US State Department with Robert Malley, the US Special Envoy to Iran.

Present were Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash, the Advisor to the President of the UAE for Diplomatic Affairs, Ambassador Raed Karmali, the Director of Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Dip-

lomatic Affairs in Oman, Ali bin Fahd Al-Hajri, the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Regional Affairs of Qatar, and Majdi Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Special Envoy explained the US policy regarding negotiations on the Iranian nuclear deal and its position on returning to the nuclear deal.

Dr Al Zayani conveyed the GCC countries' welcome to the announcement by Anthony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, that any new agreement with Iran will be "longer and stronger" than the previous agreement.

Police arrest a man for slapping a worker unconscious in viral video



A series of screenshots taken from a video posted online shows the shocking incident

● Police arrest the suspect soon after receiving an alert on the video

TDT | Manama

The shocking footage of a person fatally slapping another man unconscious while washing a car got the attention of the authorities here, landing the attacker in the dock.

The footage purportedly filmed from a building next to the scene was uploaded to social media and went viral in no time.

In the video, a man, an Asian national, is seen washing a car as another man in his shorts and T-shirt, standing next to him, starts yelling.

Soon, both the men enter into an altercation, following which the other person charges at the victim and slaps him hard in a fit of rage. The video also shows

the car owner forcing away the visibly shocked victim while also throwing away the man's work tools.

The video rolls on with the man continuing to yell at the victim as the victim makes staggered steps to his ride.

The video ends with the man lying unconscious near his bicy-

cle as the attacker walks away with bold steps.

However, soon after receiving a notification about the video, the Public Prosecution sprang into action and quickly opened an investigation.

Investigators, based on evidence collected, quickly got hold of the suspect and took him into

custody.

The Capital Governorate Chief Prosecutors charged the suspect with physically attacking a man. Tribune understands that the suspect is to undergo a trial before the High Criminal Court. No information is available regarding the condition of the victim.

94.3% efficacy from 5,000 subjects: RDIF

(Continues from page 1)

The Russian Direct Investment Fund said it reached the near 95% efficacy rate from data collected from 5,000 subjects during the Kingdom's national vaccination campaign between February and early May 2021.

The new data, confirmed by the Ministry of Health, is obtained as per the guidelines of the World Health Organisation, said the Russian sovereign wealth fund.

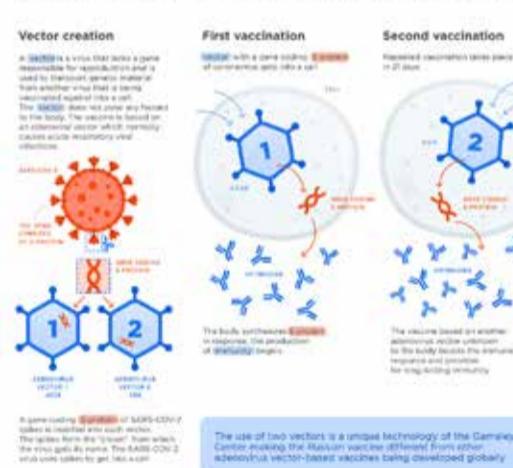
Confirming the efficacy rate, Faeqa Saeed Al-Saleh, the Minister of Health, said: "Our data has confirmed the high efficacy and safety of Sputnik V during its use in Bahrain."

"This vaccine is one of the approved vaccines made available free to charge to citizens and residents in the Kingdom."

"Sputnik V continues to play

- Efficacy of Sputnik V is 97.6% based on data collected from Russia from 5 December 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- The Sputnik V is based on human adenoviral vectors, which cause the common cold and have been around for thousands of years.
- Sputnik V uses two different vectors for the two shots, providing immunity with a longer duration.
- The safety, efficacy and lack of -ve long-term effects of adenoviral vaccines have been proven by more than 250 clinical studies over two decades. There are no strong allergies caused by Sputnik V.
- The storage temperature of Sputnik V at +2+8°C means it can be stored in a conventional refrigerator.
- The price of Sputnik V is less than \$10 per shot

Two-vector vaccine against coronavirus



an important role in the Kingdom's ongoing and successful vaccination campaign, with 81% of the eligible population vaccinated so far."

Kirill Dmitriev, the CEO of

RDIF, said the high safety of Sputnik V confirms the "data collected in many other countries where it is used to protect the population against coronavirus."

He added: "The Russian vaccine is an important part of Bahrain's diversified national portfolio. Use of Sputnik V is making a significant contribution in mitigating the spread of

coronavirus, resuming normal life and economic activity."

The estimated time to get a Sputnik vaccine jab, after registering, according to the Health Ministry, is one day.

Bahrain also offers AstraZeneca and Pfizer jabs with a waiting period of a day, while those opting for the Sinopharm vaccine will face a waiting period of two days.

COVID-19 violations: Health Ministry inspects 162 restaurants, press charges against 32

TDT | Manama

Health Ministry announced charging 32 restaurants for violating coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

Judicial officers, who inspected 162 restaurants and cafes yesterday, took necessary actions against the violating restaurants.

The ministry also announced holding awareness campaigns on precautionary measures as instructed by the National Taskforce Combating



the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Inspectors also alerted some of the owners corrected im-

Inmate passed away after battling his COVID-19 infection, confirms NIHR

TDT | Manama

The passing away of inmate Hussein Ahmed Issa Baraka at Salmaniya Medical Complex was after a severe bout of COVID-19 infection, the National Institution for Human Rights said.

Baraka, NIHR said, succumbed to the complications arising from the infection, despite receiving two doses of antiviral vaccine in February and March 2021.

After finding infected with the virus, authorities transferred Baraka to SMC on 29

May 2021. However, despite receiving intensive care, his condition worsened. He was on respiratory support until he breathed his last.

NIHR said they reviewed the statements issued by the General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation in this regard.

Bahrain, the rights watchdog said, is doing all it can to prevent the spread of the virus and is supporting all its citizens and residents, including all inmates and detainees, with all needed medical care.

The Ministry of Health had said that the deceased was in

regular touch with his family members via video and voice calls.

The preventive measures at the centre follow strict protocols set by the National task force for combatting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

NIHR called on all to respond positively to the efforts to combat the COVID-19 virus, "as this disease does not differentiate between a citizen and a resident, race, religion, inmate or a member of society."

NIHR offered condolences to the family members of the deceased.

Crowd, Crowd everywhere, but vanishes as cops arrive



As the Covid-19 rages on, Tribune clicked these pictures from Shaikh Hamad Avenue, Road 231, Manama 302, and Hamad Town Souq.

TDT | Manama

Crowds are considered a fertile ground for transmission of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

Despite this knowledge and the government cautioning people not to let their guard down, people are crowding the streets of Bahrain, also making it hard for authorities to enforce the restrictions.

By extending the nationwide restrictions to another two weeks until June 25, authorities had made it clear that the battle is far from over.

According to the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all the COVID-19 measure are to stay in place until June 25.

However, people are yet to get the hang of it.

Tribune found people flouting COVID-19 norms in several areas here.

Cops carrying out their rounds on the streets too voiced their concerns.

It seems like they are also unsure how to deal with this menace.

"The moment we reach the spot, people vanish into thin air and springs back five to ten minutes after we are gone," said two officers when our reporter approached them with the pictures of the crowd.

"They keep on coming back, no matter what we do."

This incident also points fingers at the enormous burden the frontline police officers are bearing, whose activities are much broader and not just limited to enforcing social distancing.

Not to mention the enormous pressure people are putting on



them with their irresponsible behaviours.

Seen here are people grouping in large number, keeping all

social distancing norms at bay, despite knowing that the disease primarily spreads from one person to another through respira-

Booster dose ready: Dr Al Qahtani

TDT | Manama

As all this turmoil goes on, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) had announced starting efforts to administer booster doses to people.

Dr Manaf Al-Qahtani, the Infectious Disease Consultant & Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and Member of the National Medical Taskforce, said the third dose of vaccines are for high-risk groups, who had completed three months after receiving the second dose.

People over 50 years of age, those who are obese, those suffering from immunodeficiency and those battling in the frontline are eligible to receive the booster dose now.

However, Dr Manaf Al-Qahtani also clarified that all the vaccine types as having their booster doses.

The government, he said, would announce this at a later stage.

He also revealed that the Kingdom is in touch with vaccine companies for making available booster doses.

Refuting reports that Sinopharm vaccines are weak against COVID-19, Dr Al-Qahtani said there is no basis for such allegations.

"Bahrain's decision to vaccinate those inoculated with Sinopharm is aimed at further en-

hancing immunity, not because the vaccine is ineffective."

Besides, the World Health Organisation had approved the Sinopharm shot for emergency use. The WHO has also said a Phase III trial had shown that its two doses, administered at an interval of 21 days, had an efficacy of 79% against symptomatic infection, 14 or more days after the second dose.

Tribune reported earlier that Bahrain is allowing peo-

ple to register for booster shots through the 'BeAware' mobile app for either the Pfizer or the Sinopharm jabs.

The Pfizer shots, an "mrna vaccine," contain a piece of genetic code that trains the immune system to recognise the spiked protein on the virus. On the other hand, the Sinopharm vaccine is an "inactivated" shot made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it.

As the Covid-19 rages on, Tribune clicked these pictures from Shaikh Hamad Avenue, Road 231, Manama 302, and Hamad Town Souq.



Ali bin Sheikh Abdul-Hussain Al-Asfour, the Northern Governor, attends the second dose vaccination campaign at Abdul Rahman Kanoo Social Club for Parents as part of a campaign 'Hand-in-hand to defeat the Corona pandemic'. Out of the 202 members, 44 members took part in the inoculation drive. Ali bin Sheikh Abdul-Hussain Al-Asfour, the Northern Governor, praised the club members for supporting the national campaign to vaccinate citizens, especially the elderly, through mobile units. Billed as the world first service of its kind, Bahrain began delivering and administering coronavirus vaccines at people's homes in January.

Unlock new possibilities with Batelco's upgraded business broadband

Speeds upgraded by more than 12 times

TDT | Manama

Batelco has unveiled upgraded Business Broadband Packages targeted at entrepreneurs, SMEs and large corporations to offer an enormous boost in speed and usage to support their evolving business requirements.

The full range of Batelco's new Business fibre Broadband packages feature unlimited us-



age and speeds up to 500Mbps. The top package represents a significant speed upgrade and cost-saving on the previous top package, which featured a speed of 40Mbps only. New value-added benefits are a key feature of the packages with the introduction of unlimited Batelco on-net calls and up to 700 free minutes to other operators.

Commenting, Batelco Enterprise General Manager Abder-

rahmane Mounir said, "We are delighted that Batelco is offering speeds that are more than 12 times the previous speed for the top package, while also delivering cost savings. Batelco's redesigned Business Broadband packages, which are available for both existing and new customers, promise unbeatable performance and support our customers in focussing on the growth of their businesses."

BD 150 million Government Development Bond opens for subscription: Bahrain Bourse

The bond offers a return of 3.60%



TDT | Manama

The 25th issue of BHD 150 million Government Development Bond has opened for subscription, Bahrain Bourse announced.

The BHD 150 million Bond, issued at a par value of BHD 1 each on 17th June 2021 for five years, matures on the 17th June 2026.

The annual fixed return on these securities is 3.60% and will be paid bi-annually on 17th June and 17th December every year throughout this issue.

Holding and a 0.1% gain in lender First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB).

Elsewhere, Abu Dhabi state investor Mubadala said on Tuesday it has joined a consortium led by U.S.-based EIG Global Energy Partners that had agreed to buy a 49% equity stake in Aramco Oil Pipelines Co.

Boosted by financials shares,

Qatar's index also rose 0.3%.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index ended 0.6%

lower as the country's largest lender, Commercial International Bank slid 1.7%, and tobacco monopoly Eastern Company fell 0.8%.

Development Bond on behalf of the Government of Bahrain. The Government of Bahrain directly guarantees the Bond securities.

The subscription, which began yesterday, is open for Bahraini and non-Bahraini investors, who can directly subscribe to the bond through the primary market of BHB.

Investors could trade the bond on the secondary market at BHB after listed on the 1st July 2021.

Bahrain Bourse specified that the subscription period through the registered brokers is effective yesterday, starting from 9:30 am until Tuesday, 15th June 2021.

The subscription will be open on Thursday until Monday from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm and on Tuesday from 9:30 am until 10:15 am.

Most Gulf markets rise as oil rebounds; Egypt bucks trend

Reuters

Major stock markets in the Gulf ended higher yesterday, supported by a rebound in oil prices, but the Egyptian index bucked the trend to close lower.

Brent crude oil futures LCOI were up 18 cents, or 0.25%, at \$72.40 a barrel by 1024 GMT, holding just shy of a high not seen since May 2019.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index edged up 0.1%, extending gains for the fourth consecutive session, with Al Rajhi Bank rising 0.6% and Riyad Bank end-

ing 1% higher. Separately, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund, said on Tuesday it has established two deputy governor roles to support the \$430 billion fund's continued growth and expansion.

The fund is expected to inject at least \$40 billion annually into the local economy until 2025, and increase its assets to \$1 trillion by then.

In Dubai, the index gained 0.4%, driven by a 1.1% rise in its top lender Emirates NBD Bank and a 0.4% increase in sharia-compliant lender Du-

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.1% to 10,796 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.1% to 6,716 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.4% to 2,842 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.3% to 10,723 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.6% to 9,978 pts
BAHRAIN	■ at 1,546 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.3% 4,030 pts
KUWAIT	■ at 6,847 pts

bai Islamic Bank. Abu Dhabi's main share index added 0.1%, extending gains to a fifth day in a row, helped by a 0.4% hike in aquaculture firm International

Holding and a 0.1% gain in lender First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB).

Elsewhere, Abu Dhabi state investor Mubadala said on Tuesday it has joined a consortium led by U.S.-based EIG Global Energy Partners that had agreed to buy a 49% equity stake in Aramco Oil Pipelines Co.

Boosted by financials shares,

Qatar's index also rose 0.3%.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index ended 0.6% lower as the country's largest lender, Commercial International Bank slid 1.7%, and tobacco monopoly Eastern Company fell 0.8%.

PIF anchors ASIIP's new regional infrastructure fund

TDT | Manama

A new regional infrastructure fund by Aberdeen Standard Investcorp Infrastructure Partners, a joint venture between Investcorp and Aberdeen Standard Investments, has received a capital commitment from the Saudi Public Investment Fund.

"The commitment is for up to 20% of the total size of the fund in advance of its anticipated first



Sami Neffati



Hazem Ben-Gacem

closing," Investcorp said.

The Aberdeen Standard Investcorp Infrastructure Partners' fund has also received approval from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to commit US\$90 million.

Other global institutional investors, including pension funds, insurance companies, endowments, family offices and private clients, are expected to join the fund.

ASIIP aims to participate in the economic transformation in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Middle East and North Africa region by investing in sustainable core infrastructure projects.

Hazem Ben-Gacem, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Investcorp, said, "We believe that investing in infrastructure is critical for supporting long-term economic growth and we are proud that our joint venture with Aberdeen

Standard Investments has secured this commitment from PIF and will now look to drive sustainable value for all stakeholders."

Sami Neffati, the Managing Partner of ASIIP, said: "PIF is one of the largest and most impactful sovereign wealth funds in the world and a driving force in Saudi's economic transformation in line with Vision 2030, we are thrilled by our partnership."

Huawei opens its largest global cyber security centre in China

TDT | Manama

Huawei announced opening its largest Global Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Transparency Centre in Dongguan, China yesterday, with representatives from GSMA, SUSE, the British Standards Institution, and regulators from the UAE and Indonesia speaking at the opening ceremony.

Along with the opening of the new centre, Huawei also released its Product Cyber Security Baseline, marking the first time the company has made its product security baseline framework and management practices available to the industry as a whole.

"Cybersecurity is more important than ever," said Ken Hu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, at the opening of the Dongguan centre. "As an industry, we need to work together, share best practices, and build our collective capabilities in governance, standards, technology, and verification. We need to give both the general public and regula-



Dr Mohamed Hamad Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cyber Security, UAE



Ken Hu, Rotating Chairman, Huawei



Huawei's Global Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Transparency Center in China

tors a reason to trust in the security of the products and services they use daily. Together, we can strike the right balance between security and development in an increasingly digital world."

Over the past few years, industry digitalization and new technologies like 5G and AI have made cyberspace more complex than ever, compounded by the fact that people have been

spending a greater portion of their lives online throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These trends have led to a rise in new cybersecurity risks.

Huawei opened the new Global Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Transparency Center in Dongguan to address these issues, providing a platform for industry stakeholders to share expertise in cyber governance and

work on technical solutions together. The centre is designed to demonstrate solutions and share experience, facilitate communication and joint innovation, and support security testing and verification. It will be open to regulators, independent third-party testing organizations, and standards organizations, as well as Huawei customers, partners, and suppliers.

During the opening, Dr Mohamed Hamad Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cyber Security, UAE, delivered a keynote on the importance of cyber cooperation for a resilient and vibrant digital future.

"This is the first time we've shared our security baseline framework with the entire industry, not just core suppliers," said Sean Yang, Director of Hua-

wei's Global Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Office. "We want to invite all stakeholders, including customers, regulators, standards organizations, technology providers, and testing organizations, to join us in discussing and working on cybersecurity baselines. Together, we can continuously improve product security across the industry."

News in brief

Child labour swells for first time in two decades: UN	◆ The world has marked the first rise in child labour in two decades and the coronavirus crisis threatens to push millions more youngsters toward the same fate, the United Nations said. In a joint report, the International Labour Organization and the UN children's agency UNICEF said the number in child labour stood at 160 million at the start of 2020 -- an increase of 8.4 million in four years.
Argentine president forced to apologize for 'jungle' comment	◆ Argentina's president apologized after going viral for stating that modern-day Mexicans originate from indigenous peoples, Brazilians "from the jungle" and his own country's inhabitants come from Europe. "I am a Europeanist. I am someone who believes in Europe," Alberto Fernandez said as he and visiting Spanish leader Pedro Sanchez met with business leaders in Buenos Aires. Fernandez said he "did not mean to offend anyone" but to anyone who was, "my apologies."
Guatemalan court charges retired soldiers for Civil War killings, disappearances	◆ A judge in Guatemala on Wednesday charged six ex-military members for their alleged participation in the death and forced disappearance of at least 183 civilians during Guatemala's civil war in the 1980s. Judge Miguel Galvez said there was sufficient evidence to bring the retired soldiers to trial for the 1983-1985 crimes, part of a conflict between leftists and the government from 1960-1996 that killed 200,000 people. About 45,000 people are thought to have been forcibly disappeared after they were kidnapped.
Colombia top cocaine producer despite shrinking coca fields: UN	◆ Colombia in 2020 managed to reduce by seven percent its land surface under coca cultivation, but remained the world's largest producer of cocaine, a UN report said. The country last year had 143,000 hectares of illegal coca plantations, down from 154,000 hectares in 2019, said the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Production of cocaine hydrochloride was estimated at 1,228 metric tons in 2020, an eight percent rise from 2019, said the UNODC.
US blacklists four Nicaraguans, including Ortega's daughter	◆ The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on four Nicaraguans, including a daughter of President Daniel Ortega, and Washington warned it would continue to use diplomatic and economic tools against members of the leftist government that it accused of undermining democracy. Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Ortega to release detained presidential candidates as well as other civil society and opposition leaders arrested over the past week in what he called a "wave of repression."

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,271,103	613,736	175,401,190
2 India	29,273,338	363,097	Deaths
3 Brazil	17,125,357	479,791	3,783,300
4 France	5,729,967	110,270	Recovered:
5 Turkey	5,313,098	48,524	158,955,851
6 Russia	5,167,949	125,278	New cases
7 UK	4,542,986	127,867	+227,712
8 Italy	4,239,868	126,855	New deaths
9 Argentina	4,038,528	83,272	+6,501
10 Spain	3,729,458	80,465	
11 Germany	3,718,577	90,281	
12 Colombia	3,635,835	93,473	
13 Iran	2,990,714	81,519	
14 Poland	2,876,667	74,447	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	270,292		15,471		198,632	56,189
Saudi Arabia	462,528	+1,286	7,503		444,792	10,233
UAE	589,423		1,710		568,828	18,885
Kuwait	323,357	+1,709	1,810	+4	306,232	15,315
Oman	230,219	+1,640	2,467	+19	207,795	19,957
Qatar	219,281	+143	574	+1	216,301	2,406

I sincerely apologise to the victims, their families, the injured, and citizens in Gwangju -- I feel a heavy sense of responsibility

11 dead in Mumbai building collapse



Rescuers clear the debris after a three-story building collapsed in Mumbai
AFP | Mumbai

A dilapidated building collapsed following heavy rains in the western Indian city of Mumbai, killing at least 11 people and injuring seven others, police said yesterday.

Heavy monsoon rains during the day Wednesday had flooded several parts of the city that is India's financial and entertainment capital.

The three-story building collapsed late Wednesday night, and police officer Ravindra Kadam said dozens of rescuers were clearing the debris to find any residents possibly still trapped.

The New Delhi Television channel said the building collapsed onto another structure in a slum in the Malad West area of Mumbai.

Residents joined the fire and police officers in rescuing people and they took the seven injured to a hospital in the suburban Kandivali area.

Mumbai recorded 222 millimeters (8 inches) of rain in 12 hours Wednesday. Tidal waves that reached up to 4.6 meters (13 feet) prevented the rainfall from being drained, and roads, rail tracks and neighborhoods were left waterlogged.

Building collapses are common in India during the June-September monsoon season when heavy rains weaken the foundations of structures that are poorly built.

In 2019, a three-story building collapsed in a hilly area in the northern Indian town of Solan following heavy rains, killing 14 people. A four-story building collapsed in Mumbai the same year and killed 10 people.

Navalny team on after 'extre

Russian court brands jailed Kremlin critic Alexe

● The United States and Britain denounced the ruling, which comes a week before US President Joe Biden meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva

AFP | Moscow

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's anti-corruption group vowed yesterday to fight on after a court branded it an "extremist" organization and ordered its closure.

Western countries and the European Union were quick to condemn Wednesday's late-night ruling, but senior Russian officials doubled down, describing Navalny as an agent collaborating with Washington.

The court decision was the latest move against critics of President Vladimir Putin. Some of his loudest opponents have fled the country and several prominent activist groups and independent media have closed.

The ruling bans Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and a network of regional offices from operating and, under a recently passed law, prevents those previously associated with the groups from running in parliamentary elections.

The FBK was defiant, saying in a Twitter post: "We woke up, smiled with destructive intent and knowing that we are a 'danger to society' will continue to fight corruption!"



It is another Kafka-esque attack on those standing up against corruption and for open societies, and is a deliberate attempt to effectively outlaw genuine political opposition in Russia

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY DOMINIC RAAB

What exactly it will be able to do is unclear in the wake of the ruling, which followed a hearing behind closed doors.

Navalny's key allies still in Russia are under close law enforcement supervision, some under house arrest, and other prominent aides have gone into exile.

Navalny was jailed for more than two-and-a-half years in February after he returned from Germany where he had been convalescing following a poisoning attack in Siberia that he blamed on the Kremlin.

South Korea building collapse kills nine

AFP | Seoul



South Korean rescue workers search for survivors in the debris of a collapsed building in Gwangju



I sincerely apologise to the victims, their families, the injured, and citizens in Gwangju -- I feel a heavy sense of responsibility

CHUNG MONG-GYU, THE CHAIRMAN OF HCD HYUNDAI DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

"I feel a heavy sense of responsibility," he said, bowing before reporters.

"Our company will do its best so that the victims and their families can recover from the damages as soon as possible," added Chung, who is also president of the Korea Football Association.

President Moon Jae-in offered consolation to those affected by the disaster, calling for a "thorough investigation" into the case.

Man who slapped M the president embodied

Reuters | Paris

The medieval martial arts enthusiast who slapped President Emmanuel Macron across the face told a court he was a right-wing sympathizer who had acted because the president represented all that was rotten with France, BFM TV reported.

Damien Tarel, 28, told the court in Valence that several days ahead of Macron's visit to the southeastern Drome region, he had thought about throwing an egg or a cream tart at the president, the news channel reported.

"I think that Macron represents very neatly the decay of our country," he told the court according to BFM TV. "If I had challenged Macron to a duel at sunrise, I doubt he would have responded."

Macron later described the attack as an isolated incident and said violence and hate were a threat to democracy.

Tarel faced a charge of assault against a public official, an offence which carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail and a 45,000 euro fine.

He struck Macron on Tuesday after the president came over to

1184 BC

Trojan War: Troy is sacked and burned, according to calculations by Eratosthenes

1776

Continental Congress creates committee to draft a Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston as members

1963

US President JFK says segregation is morally wrong and that it is "time to act"

1978

Margaret Thatcher is 1st British Prime Minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term



vows to fight 'extremism' ruling

rei Navalny's political organisations 'extremist'



uring a court hearing (file photo)
Russia's most prominent opposition leader, who is in a penal colony outside Moscow, acknowledged supporters would now have to alter their strategy.

'We will not retreat'

"But we will not retreat from our goals and ideas. This is our country and we have no other," the 45-year-old said on Instagram.

The European Union yesterday condemned the court ruling as the latest effort to "suppress" the opposition.

"It is an unfounded decision that confirms a negative pattern of a systematic crackdown on human rights and freedoms which are enshrined in the Russian constitution," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the 27 member states.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab had described the ruling as "perverse" and "Kafka-esque," while the United States called on Moscow to end the crackdown and release Navalny.

US President Joe Biden has



Navalny's foundation, started 10 years ago, has relentlessly targeted senior government officials with colourful and widely watched videos that detail corruption allegations against them. One of its latest productions, which has received 117 million views on YouTube, claimed that a lavish palace on the shores of the Black Sea was built for Putin through an elaborate corruption scheme. The Kremlin has denied any links to Putin

promised to raise the issue of human rights with Putin when the two meet next week for a summit in Geneva.

The spokeswoman for Russia's foreign ministry said the international outcry suggested Navalny was working with foreign governments.

"This means that they are politically involved in the story," Maria Zakharova said, adding that Washington, with its response, was exposing "agents".

acron tells court he died France's decay



French President Emmanuel Macron gets slapped by a member of the public

greet a small crowd of onlookers after visiting a professional training college during a trip to take the country's pulse as it emerges from the pandemic and ahead of presidential elections in 2022.

Macron reached out Tarel who was standing behind a security barrier, Tarel then shouted "Down with Macron!" ("A Bas La Macronie") and slapped Macron on the left side of his face.

He could also be heard shouting "Montjoie Saint Denis", the army's battle cry when France was still a monarchy.

US to donate 500 million Pfizer doses to poor nations

Reuters | Washington

The United States will spend \$3.5 billion to buy and donate 500 million doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to some of the world's poorest countries, it said yesterday, urging other G7 nations to follow suit.

The vaccine donation - the largest ever by a single country - was announced before US President Joe Biden meets leaders of the Group of Seven advanced economies in western England.

The 500 million doses are destined for the world's 100 poorest countries. A senior Biden administration official described the gesture as a "major step forward that will supercharge the global effort" with the aim of "bringing hope to every corner of the world."

"We really want to underscore that this is fundamentally about a singular objective of saving lives," the official said, adding that Washington was not seeking favours in exchange for the doses.

The Biden administration expects other G7 members to come up with contributions as



Empty vials of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine are seen at The Michener Institute, in Toronto, Canada

part of a comprehensive road map to end a pandemic that has killed more than 3.9 million people, the official added.

US drugmaker Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech had earlier said they would provide 200 million doses in 2021 and 300 million doses in the first half of 2022.

The shots, which will be produced at Pfizer's US sites, will be supplied at a not-for-profit price.

"Our partnership with the US government will help bring hundreds of millions of doses of our vaccine to the poorest countries around the world as quickly as possible," said Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla.

'Drop in the bucket'

Anti-poverty campaign group Oxfam called for more to be done to increase global production of vaccines.

"Surely, these 500 million

vaccine doses are welcome as they will help more than 250 million people, but that's still a drop in the bucket compared to the need across the world," said Niko Lusiani, Oxfam America's vaccine lead.

"We need a transformation toward more distributed vaccine manufacturing so that qualified producers worldwide can produce billions more low-cost doses on their own terms, without intellectual property constraints," he added in a statement.

Biden has backed calls for a waiver of some vaccine intellectual property rights but there is no international consensus on how to proceed.



Our partnership with the US government will help bring hundreds of millions of doses of our vaccine to the poorest countries around the world as quickly as possible

PFIZER CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALBERT BOURLA

TOP
4
TWEETS
01



I believe we are at an inflection point in history. A moment where it falls to us to prove that democracies will not just endure — they will excel as we rise to seize the enormous opportunities of this new age.

@POTUS



To end this pandemic, each and every one of us has a role. Go get vaccinated.

@VP



A head of the #G7UK meeting, a new report shows that no major G7 stock index is aligned with the #ParisAgreement. Governments must incentivize ambitious science-based #ClimateAction.

@antoniofuteres

TOP
4
TWEETS
04



As the Myanmar junta keeps piling criminal charges on Aung San Suu Kyi, it's important to keep in mind a key possible motive: a conviction could bar her from running for office if the junta ever decides to hold an election again.

@KenRoth

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Twelve killed in Myanmar military plane crash

Plane loses communication in bad weather as it was making landing approach

● The plane was carrying six military personnel in addition to two monks and six devotees

Reuters | Yangon

Twelve people were killed when a Myanmar military plane carrying a senior monk and several donors to a religious event crashed in a central region of the country, a junta spokesman said yesterday.

The plane, which was carrying six crew and eight passengers, crashed shortly before it was due to land in the city of Pyin Oo Lwin, spokesman Zaw Min Tun said in a statement, blaming "bad weather".

Footage broadcast by local media showed wreckage strewn around the twisted body of a plane lying on open ground near overhead pylons, and a small plume of smoke billowing upwards. AFP was unable to verify the footage.

Emergency responders had been able to rescue a boy and a sergeant from the plane's crew, the statement said, adding they had been sent to a nearby military hospital for treatment.

Kavisara, a prominent monk from the Zay Kone monastery near the capital Naypyidaw, and seven donors had been on board, travelling to Pyin Oo



military and locals stand beside the wreckage of a Myanmar Air Force Beechcraft 1900 that crashed in Pyin Oo Lwin

Lwin to open a religious event, it said.

Pyin Oo Lwin is home to the Defence Services Academy, where the military's top brass are trained. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing is a graduate.

He visited the monastery and paid homage to its chief monk on February 3, state media reported, two days after ousting civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power in a coup.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since, with mass protests convulsing daily life and sending its economy spiralling.

The country's Buddhist monkhood led an earlier strug-

gle against military rule but is split on the coup that ended the country's nascent democracy, with some prominent religious leaders defending the new junta.

The military has sought to quell mass anti-coup protests with bloody crackdowns that have killed more than 800 civilians, according to a local monitoring group.

This has prompted civilians in some townships to form "defence forces", while some of Myanmar's ethnic rebel armies have stepped up offensives against the military.

Last month, the Kachin Inde-



Myanmar's Buddhist monkhood led an earlier struggle against military rule but is split on the coup that ended the country's nascent democracy in February

pendence Army -- an ethnic rebel group that has waged a decades-long insurgency against the military -- downed an army helicopter during fierce clashes.

Plane crashes are common in Myanmar, which has an underdeveloped aviation sector, and the country's monsoon season has caused problems for commercial and military flights in the past.

A military plane crashed into the Andaman Sea in 2017, killing all 122 people on board in one of the deadliest aviation accidents in the country's history. Authorities blamed bad weather.

And in 2015, an Air Bagan passenger plane veered off the runway amid bad weather and heavy rain. A passenger and a person on the ground were killed.

Regime shelling kills 10 in northwest Syria: monitor



Syrians on a motorbike drive past the carcass of a charred car

AFP | Beirut

Syrian regime shelling on the opposition-held Idlib enclave killed 10 people yesterday, one of the deadliest violations of a 15-month-old ceasefire, a war monitor said.

An AFP correspondent in the area saw the remains of a house destroyed by the rocket fire as well as a charred vehicle parked outside.

The bodies of several victims were lined on the floor and covered with blankets.

The incident started with rocket fire near the village of Iblin, which lies around 25 kilometres (15 miles) southwest of the city of Idlib.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said three civilians, including a man, a woman and her child, were killed in the shelling, which occurred near the line separating regime forces from the opposition-held enclave.

A second attack killed seven people who had gathered at the site of the first, said the monitor.

They were all members or affiliates of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance, a jihadist organisation that includes ex-members of Syria's former



The attack was one of the deadliest since a March 2020 ceasefire, which was brokered by the conflict's main Russian and Turkish brokers and has largely held since

Al-Qaeda franchise, the Observatory said.

The attack was one of the deadliest since a March 2020 ceasefire, which was brokered by the conflict's main Russian and Turkish brokers and has largely held since.

An HTS spokesman and an HTS media coordinator were among the seven killed, added the Observatory.

In a statement sent to local journalists over WhatsApp, HTS confirmed that three of its members were among those killed.

From village to conservation forest, Indonesian orangutan finds a new home

Reuters | Jakarta

An adult male orangutan has been released into an Indonesian national park by conservationists and the government after he was caught eating a villager's coconut plants on Borneo island.

As the orangutan habitat diminishes due to land use, conflicts between communities and the great apes have increased. Indonesia has designated several areas in Kalimantan as safe havens for Borneo orangutans, which are on the World Wildlife Fund's endangered list.

Conservationists found Jala eating a villager's coconut plants after residents reported seeing the orangutan near their gardens in March.

They monitored the ape, whom they estimated to be about 15 years old, for a month before transporting him to the Tanagupa conservation forest in the Gunung Palung National Park, in west Kalimantan.

At the end of the lengthy journey, including a boat ride into the jungle, Jala bounded out of the transport crate and climbed nimbly up a tree.

Karme L. Sanchez, director of the International Animal Rescue Indonesia conservation programme, thanked the village residents for reporting the orangutan rather than taking



Jala, a male adult orangutan, climbs a tree after leaving a cage



We are very happy that people are aware and understand how to deal with potential conflicts of this nature

KARME L. SANCHEZ DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE INDONESIA

action themselves.

"We are very happy that people are aware and understand how to deal with potential conflicts of this nature," she said.

Jala's arrival marks the second relocation of an orangutan to the national park this year, a park official said.

Survey results and habitat feasibility studies have deemed Tanagupa forest a suitable area to resettle orangutans, as it is far from human settlements, has an abundance of foraging plants and a low density of resident orangutans.

Conservationists hope the dedicated habitats will help sustain Indonesia's orangutans. There are an estimated 104,700 Bornean orangutans, less than half the 230,000 a century ago, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Former PM nicknamed 'Fist' wins Mongolia presidential election

AFP | Seoul

Mongolia's new president Khurelsukh Ukhnaa is a macho character who has been photographed topless on horseback Putin-style, and became known as "Fist" after punching a parliamentarian.

The former prime minister won nearly 70 percent of the vote in the presidential election, preliminary results showed yesterday, with historically low voter turnout for the third election in two years.

The country went to the polls Wednesday to replace populist businessman Battulga Khaltmaa -- a former world champion on the martial art of sambo who cannot run for a second presidential term under constitutional rules.

In the early hours of yesterday, Khurelsukh declared a decisive victory after getting nearly 70 percent of votes cast.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank my fellow Mongolians," he said.

Enkhbat Dangaasuren, his main rival, gathered only around a fifth of the votes and conceded defeat.

Khurelsukh has cultivated a macho persona, complete with photos of him posing shirtless with a hunting gun -- similar to the famous images of Russian



Mongolia's newly elected president Khurelsukh Ukhnaa delivers a speech



Khurelsukh Ukhnaa got the nickname "Fist" after a video of him punching a member of parliament went viral in 2012

ment went viral in 2012.

Khurelsukh has since tried to clean up his image, and this is the first presidential win in 12 years for his Mongolian People's Party -- but voter turnout was just 59 percent out of around two million eligible voters.

He resigned as prime minister in January following protests and public outrage over the treatment of a coronavirus patient and her newborn baby.

Landlocked Mongolia, wedged between China and Russia, has struggled with political instability since it became a democracy. Its first constitution was passed in 1992 after decades of communist rule.

Celebs

Elizabeth Olsen confirms 'WandaVision' will not be getting a second season

ANI | Washington

American actor Elizabeth Olsen has weighed in on the future of the popular series 'WandaVision', and sadly, fans shouldn't expect there to be a second season.

As per People magazine, the actor confirmed the news during a recent conversation she had with actor Kaley Cuoco for Variety's 'Actor on Actor' session.

When asked by the 'Big Bang Theory' alum about whether the

popular show will come back, Olsen said "no" and added, "It's definitely a limited series."

Clarifying her comments, the 'Ingrid Goes West' star further said, "I mean, I'm saying that. I don't know. I mean, with Marvel, you can never say no. People die, people come back to life."

Olsen then explained that she "would be shocked" if the series were to get renewed.

"The thing that I did learn through [my Facebook Watch series] Sorry for Your Loss and

WandaVision is I love doing television," she explained.

The actor added, "I do miss, I think, the four-five week experience of making a film and that just feels so exciting and like camp for a little bit. But I think this six-month experience of really hard work with the same people [on a show], it's exhausting [and] it just feels really good."

'WandaVision' premiered on Disney+ in January and received an overwhelming response from both fans and critics alike.

The nine-episode series follows Wanda Maximoff (Olsen) and Vision (Paul Bettany) as they begin to suspect that something is awry in their idyllic suburban neighbourhood.

Along with Olsen and Bettany, Kathryn Hahn (Agatha Harkness), Teyonah Parris (Monica Rambeau), Randall Park (Jimmy Woo), Kat Dennings (Darcy Lewis) and Evan Peters (Ralph Bohner) are also in the cast.

Elizabeth Olsen



Bill Skarsgård in talks to join Keanu Reeves-starrer 'John Wick 4'

ANI | Washington

Actor Bill Skarsgård is in talks to star in the upcoming 'John Wick' film.

As per The Hollywood Reporter, the fourth installment in the Lionsgate franchise will see actor Keanu Reeves return as a formerly retired hitman who finds himself stripped of the protection from a shadowy international assassins guild.

Chad Stahelski is returning to helm the upcoming project from a script by Shay Hatten and Michael Finch.

If finalised for the role, Skarsgård will join Reeves, Donnie Yen, and Japanese-British pop star Rina Sawayama in the fourth chapter.



Stahelski, Reeves will serve as an executive producer along with Louise Rosner.

The movie will start production later this year with filming on locations in France, Germany, and Japan. The first three movies have generated over USD 579 million worldwide.

Skarsgård is best known for playing Pennywise the Dancing Clown in the hit horror film 'It' and its 2019 follow-up.

The actor will next star in 'Naked Singularity', co-starring John Boyega and Olivia Cooke, and period adventure thriller 'Emperor'.

Bill Skarsgård

Jennifer Lopez excited for 'a fresh start' and is moving to LA from Miami amid Ben Affleck romance

Fox | Los Angeles

Jenny's moving to a brand new block.

According to multiple reports, Jennifer Lopez is looking to move from Miami to Los Angeles after splitting from Alex Rodriguez and rekindling her romance with L.A.-based actor Ben Affleck.

A source told E! News that Lopez, 51, "is packing up her Miami rental" with plans to move west with her 13-year-old twins, Max and Emme, who she shares with ex-husband Marc Anthony.

"She will be between L.A. and the Hamptons this summer, but L.A. will be her base," the insider explained. "She is looking at schools for her kids in the fall."

The move would put the "Hustlers" star closer to Affleck, 48, which she's looking

forward to.

"She is excited about a fresh start and pursuing things with Ben," said the source. "They will be at their L.A. home soon."

It seems that the happy couple has been planning an exciting season, as a source previously told People magazine that they've been "discussing summer plans," as they "want to spend as much time together as possible."

"They also want to take a trip," added the insider, who also

noted that the "Dance Again" singer "is incredibly happy" to have resumed her romance with the "Justice League" star.

"They are both acting very comfortable in their relationship," they said.

Fox News has reached out to Lopez's reps for comment.

Of course, a move to Los Angeles could make work easier for Lopez, who recently signed a multi-year first-look deal with Netflix.

Through the deal, she and her producing partner Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas will be developing feature films, TV series, and unscripted content. Benny Medina is also a partner in the deal.



Leighton Meester to star in Netflix thriller adaptation of 'The Weekend Away'

ANI | Washington

Good news for all the Leighton Meester fans as the actor is set to return with her first lead film role in years. The 'Gossip Girl' actor has been roped in for the upcoming Netflix thriller 'The Weekend Away', an adaptation of the novel by Sarah Alderson.

As per Variety, along with Meester, the cast includes

'Batwoman' actor Christina Wolfe, Ziad Bakri and Luke Norris. Alderson is adapting the screenplay, with Kim Farrant set to direct.

Speaking about the upcoming film, Alderson said, "I am so excited to see 'The Weekend Away' make it to the screen. To have adapted my own novel makes it even more special, and I am thrilled that Leighton will be bringing this character to life."

The psychological thriller

takes place amid a weekend getaway to Croatia that goes awry when a woman is accused of killing her best friend. As she attempts to clear her name and uncover the truth, her efforts unearth a painful secret.

Ben Pugh, Charlie Morrison and Erica Steinberg will produce 'The Weekend Away' for 42 as part of their overall deal with Netflix. Kari Hatfield of 24 is executive producing the film.

A prolific author, Alderson has published 20 books

throughout her career such as the best-selling young adult novels 'Hunting Lila', 'Losing Lila', 'The Sound' and 'Out of Control'. Her other works include the mind-bending thrillers 'In Her Eyes', 'Friends Like These' and 'The Stalker'.

Netflix's 'The Weekend Away' will mark Meester's first film role in some time. Her recent feature credits include the 2019 crime drama 'Semper Fi' and the 2014 indie drama 'By the Gun'.

Leighton Meester

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

8			6					
	4			3				1
9		1	6					
9	5	8		1	2			
	6				3			
1	2			9	8	7		
	8	1				4		

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

Across

1- Brazilian ballroom dance; 6- Mornings, for short; 9- Weaned pig; 14- Actor Delon; 15- Spy org.; 16- One of the two equal sections of a cone; 17- Songfest; 19- Mindlessly stupid; 20- Foy, Quebec; 21- Operatic solo; 22- Apple centers; 23- City on the Rhine; 25- Japanese dog; 26- Zealot; 29- Charge per unit; 31- Missouri feeder; 32- Typical; 36- Can't stand; 37- Holiday start; 38- Ready to eat; 40- A bit reddish; 43- Place for a lace; 45- Basics; 46- Names; 47- Alert, knowing; 50- Bamboozle; 51- Dexterity; 52- Call for; 54- Cock and bull; 57- Vive...!; 58- Patronage; 61- Coeur d'...; 62- Former nuclear agcy.; 63- Clear the boards; 64- Stork, e.g.; 65- Good hole card; 66- Electrician, at times;

Down

1- Lip; 2- Dismounted; 3- Long luxuriant hair; 4- Large; 5- Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"; 6- Future oak; 7- Prefix for small; 8- Narrative of heroic exploits; 9- Giggle; 10- Capital of Vietnam; 11- Dizzying designs; 12- Sleep disorder; 13- Driving aids; 18- Cavalry weapon; 23- Seizes with teeth; 24- Porridge plant; 25- Packed away; 26- Dashboard abbr.; 27- Chemical used on trees; 28- Defense grp, since 1949; 29- Great reviews; 30- Maria; 33- Aggregate of qualities that make good character; 34- Fish feature; 35- Pentathlon need; 37- And so on; 39- Aliens, for short; 41- Prior; 42- Actor Vigoda; 43- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 44- Peke squeak; 47- Pack leader; 48- Caffeinated, slangily; 49- Isolated; 50- Thaw before takeoff; 51- Dell side; 52- Final Four org.; 53- Util. bill; 54- Listed; 55- Different; 56- Clairvoyant; 59- Original; 60- Part of TNT;

Yesterday's solution

A	B	C	S	A	R	O	N	C	A	P	E
L	S	A	P	D	I	O	D	E	O	B	E
P	E	R	U	A	D	M	I	T	E	N	K
S	U	B	T	Y	P	E	L	E	T	E	D
N	A	T	H	E	S	E	T	E	N	L	E
S	T	R	I	K	E	S	P	I	P	P	E
T	E	A	K	R	I	F	L	E	T	H	A
R	E	N	L	E	A	O	S	S	O	S	S
I	N	C	A	S	K	E	I	N	S	N	E
A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	N	I	C	K	E
E	X	T	I	N	T	E	T	P	R	O	T
G	R	A	M	A	R	T	A	C	U	L	E
C	A	L	E	S	T	O	A	T	H	R	A
E	Y	E	S	M	E	E	S	E	Y	E	Y

Classifieds

THE DAILY tribune

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

BAISAN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER , suitably qualified applicants can contact 17712303 or CORP@DADABAI.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD , suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or info@batsco.net

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Djokovic gears up for big battle with historic rival Nadal



Novak Djokovic hits a return

Reuters | Paris

Novak Djokovic predicted a "great battle" when he continues tennis's most prolific rivalry in Friday's French Open semi-final against clay-court king Rafa Nadal. The pair have faced off 57 times with Djokovic leading 29-28. But Nadal has been his nemesis at Roland Garros winning seven of their eight clashes there including last year's final which turned into a demolition job.

Unusually they are meeting in a semi-final rather than a final, courtesy of Spaniard Nadal having dropped down to world number three and being placed in the same half of the draw as top seed Djokovic. Should Djokovic manage to get the better of Nadal on Friday he will be favourite to take only his second French Open title having won it in 2016 when Nadal abandoned the tournament because of a wrist injury.

Since then Nadal has been unbeatable, extending his record title haul to a jaw-dropping 13. "Obviously it's a well-anticipated semi-final," Djokovic, who has 18 Grand Slam titles, two behind the men's record shared by Nadal and Roger Federer, told reporters after beating heavy-hitting Ital-

It's not like any other match. Let's face it, it's the biggest challenge that you can have playing on clay against Nadal on this court. It doesn't get bigger than that

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

ian Matteo Berrettini 6-3 6-2 6-7(5)-7-5 in an intense duel on Wednesday.

"It's not like any other match. Let's face it, it's the biggest challenge that you can have playing on clay against Nadal on this court. It doesn't get bigger than that."

"There's that extra tension and expectations. The vibes are different walking on the court with him. But that's why our rivalry has been historic I think for this sport."

"I'm confident. I believe I can win, otherwise I wouldn't be here. Let's have a great battle."

Wednesday's clash with Berrettini was played in front of a raucous 5,000 crowd, until the 11 p.m. curfew kicked in midway through the fourth set and the fans departed.

Friday's match will no doubt be played in a similar atmosphere as the two warriors go head to head yet again.

Patient Pavlyuchenkova reaches major final at 52nd attempt

Reuters | Paris

Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova held steady to beat an erratic Tamara Zidansek in straight sets on Thursday and reach the French Open final at her 52nd Grand Slam tournament.

The 29-year-old's 7-5 6-3 win made her the woman with the most attempts ever needed to reach the final of one of the sport's four majors.

It was reward for her patience throughout a career that has earned her 12 titles but none on the biggest of stages, and for her calmness against a player who blew hot and cold.

"I am so tired and so happy, it is very emotional," Pavlyuchenkova said on a sunlit Court Philippe Chatrier.

"It was difficult, I tried to fight very hard and to work on the tactical side. It is important to stay focused and in the right zone for the final on Saturday."

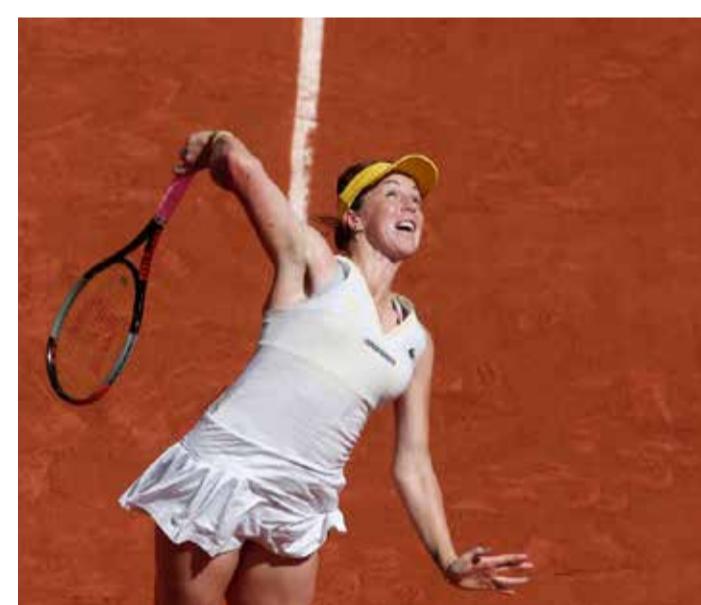
While 31st seed Pavlyuchenkova had reached the quarter-finals at six Grand Slams, Zidansek had only managed three match wins at Grand Slams before arriving in Paris.

Yet the 23-year-old Slovenian has flourished after knocking out former U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu in round one.

Her destructive forehand worked well initially and she broke Pavlyuchenkova's opening service game before holding to love. But she missed a smash at 2-1 as the Russian got back on level terms and then broke for a 5-3 lead.

Zidansek produced an incredible improvised lob volley and crunching forehand winners to break back and was 15-40 when Pavlyuchenkova served at 5-5 but could not convert the chance.

Pavlyuchenkova calmly absorbed Zidansek's best shots and was gifted the first set with a double-fault.



Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in action during her semi final match against Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek



It was difficult, I tried to fight very hard and to work on the tactical side. It is important to stay focused and in the right zone for the final on Saturday

ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA

Attempted comeback

The Russian forged 4-1 ahead in the second set and snuffed out an attempted Zidansek comeback, clinching victory when her opponent blazed a backhand wide, her 33rd unforced error.

There was little by way of celebration for Pavlyuchenkova who looked relieved more than anything as she became the first woman to require 50 or more attempts to reach a Grand Slam final and the first Russian woman to make one since Maria Sharapova lost to Serena Williams at the 2015 Australian Open.

"Definitely, trying to soak this in and enjoy as much as possible this very special moment for me," Pavlyuchenkova, who took six more Grand Slam appearances to reach a final than previous record holder Roberta Vinci (who reached the U.S. Open final in her 44th in 2015), told reporters.

"I didn't feel great today. I actually felt I was a bit negative on myself because I thought I expected myself playing better. I just didn't feel like I was playing good."

Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli, who won her first Slam at Wimbledon in 2013, aged 28, said Pavlyuchenkova would be a worthy champion if she can triumph on Saturday.

"Not everyone can win their first Grand Slam at 19 or 20 years of age. If she can grab the moment and make that title hers she will deserve it entirely," she told ITV Sport.

Zidansek was left to rue missed opportunities.

"The fact that I managed to play this well, got this far, just shows me that I can play on the big stage," she said.

Goretzka out of Germany's opening Euro 2020 clash against France

Reuters | London

Leon Goretzka has been ruled out of Germany's opening Euro 2020 match against world champions France, it was confirmed Thursday.

The 26-year-old Bayern Munich midfielder is back in training after a leg injury, but will sit out Germany's Group F match against the French on Tuesday.

Scotland to stand rather than kneel in anti-racism gesture



Scotland's players gather for the national anthem ahead of a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Scotland players will take a stand in an anti-racism gesture ahead of their three Euro 2020 group matches rather than taking the knee, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) announced yesterday.

The Scotland squad switched to standing for the start of their World Cup qualifying campaign in March after head coach Steve Clarke claimed the knee gesture had become "a little bit diluted".

The move followed several Scottish Premiership clubs switching gestures in a bid to reinforce the anti-racism message in the aftermath of the racial abuse suffered by Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara in a Europa League match against Slavia Prague.

Slavia defender Ondrej Kudela received a 10-match ban from UEFA for the comments he made to Kamara in March, ruling him out of the tournament for the Czechs.

England players and staff have committed to keep taking the knee as a sign of protest against racial prejudice during the tournament despite being



The move followed several Scottish Premiership clubs switching gestures in a bid to reinforce the anti-racism message in the aftermath of the racial abuse suffered by Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara in a Europa League match against Slavia Prague

booed by some of their own supporters during warm-up friendlies against Austria and Romania.

Scotland captain Andy Robertson said: "It is important we continue to tackle the issue of racism and raise awareness of the need to change people's mindsets but also their behaviours."

"I think it's very good," she

Shevchenko praises BRAVE CF for world-class offering

MMA superstar Valentina Shevchenko commends BRAVE CF's work in production and promotion of athletes

Shevchenko points out several characteristics that separate BRAVE CF from its competitors

TDT | Manama

The biggest names in sports and entertainment were in attendance for the historic BRAVE CF 51: THE FUTURE IS HERE in Minsk, Belarus last Friday, June 4th, and one of them who watched the event at cageside was mixed martial arts (MMA) superstar Valentina "Bullet" Shevchenko.

Considered the No. 1 women's flyweight in the world today, the 33-year-old native of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan has been competing in the sport for nearly two decades and has a wealth of experience under various promotions on her resume.

Shevchenko, who was personally invited by the Bahrain-based organization to be one of the honorary guests that evening alongside Brazilian actor Caio Castro and football legend Alexander Hleb, commended BRAVE CF's work in its production and promotion of athletes in its maiden venture on Belarusian soil.

"I think it's very good," she



Valentina Shevchenko with BRAVE CF's Carlos Kremer

said. "They did well to showcase not just the fight itself, but also to show the different side of the fighters. This is one of the most overlooked aspects in the lead-up to the fight because it resonates with the feeling and their spirit heading to the fight."

"It's very important because professional sport is not just about technique, but it's also about the charisma of the fighter and their character. Side events such as press conferences and open training help in discovering the personalities of the fighters," Shevchenko added.

Keenly observing how the company operated during the week-long festivity, Shevchenko pointed out several characteristics that separate BRAVE CF from its competitors.

"I think the most important thing is a good spirit, the spirit of sportsmanship. I loved seeing the respect and definitely being an example of a good organization," the UFC women's flyweight titleholder stated.

"It's all in the details. If it works like a clock, then you can tell that it's a good organization. And for me to be here for four to five days, I can tell that they worked very smoothly," she continued.

The protagonists of BRAVE CF 51: THE FUTURE IS HERE put on a stunning show this past Friday, showcasing heart, determination, and warrior spirit. There were thrilling performances from beginning to end, which made the aforementioned spectacle one of the most entertain-

ing MMA cards of 2021. Belarusian hometown hero Denis Maher kept his immaculate professional record unscathed by authoring a first-round stoppage victory over previously-unbeaten standout Rinat Sagyntay of Kazakhstan to extend his outstanding winning streak to eight bouts.

Meanwhile, Englishman Sam "The Future" Patterson raised his stock in BRAVE CF's stacked lightweight division by toppling Ylies "Tukek" Djiroun of France via unanimous decision.

On the other hand, Maher's compatriot Vadim Kutsyi put the entire super welterweight bracket on notice by defeating fellow debutant Daniyar "Doni" Abdibaev of Kyrgyzstan by way of unanimous decision.



They did well to showcase not just the fight itself, but also to show the different side of the fighters. This is one of the most overlooked aspects in the lead-up to the fight because it resonates with the feeling and their spirit heading to the fight

VALENTINA SHEVCHENKO

Inter Miami in talks over Messi move

AFP | Miami

Lionel Messi could move to Inter Miami as part of a new 10-year deal the Argentinian superstar is negotiating with Barcelona, the owner of the Major League Soccer side said.

The Miami Herald newspaper reported that Inter owner Jorge Mas and co-owner David Beckham have had "serious talks" with Messi about joining the Florida franchise for a short-term stint built into his new Barcelona contract.

Reports in Spain have said that under the new deal proposed by Barcelona, Messi will play two more seasons with the La Liga giants through to the end of the 2022-2023 campaign before ending his playing career with two seasons in Miami.

He would then return to Barcelona for six years in a "global ambassador" role.

Inter owner Mas told the Herald on Wednesday that he was optimistic that Messi would eventually play in Miami.

"David and I have been working really hard, we have aspirations of bringing the best players here and Leo Messi is a generational player, arguably the best player of all time," Mas said.

"I am optimistic Messi will play in an Inter Miami shirt because I think it will complete the legacy of the greatest player in our generation and will



Colombia's Wilmar Barrios (Bottom) and Argentina's Lionel Messi vie for the ball during a match (file photo)



We always want to bring in great players. Miami is a great pull for anyone and those kinds of players (Messi and Ronaldo) are the kind we aspire to bring here

INTER CO-OWNER DAVID BECKHAM

meet with the ambitions of the owners of Inter Miami to build a world class team."

Speculation about Messi's future has intensified with the 33-year-old out of contract with Barcelona at the end of this month.

The six-time Ballon D'Or winner told Spanish television last December he hoped to play in MLS eventually.

"I always had the dream of being able to enjoy and have the experience of living in the United States, experience what the league there is like," Messi told the La Sexta channel in an interview.

Inter co-owner Beckham meanwhile said in February the club was working to entice star players of the calibre of Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to the club.

"We always want to bring in great players," Beckham said.

"Miami is a great pull for anyone and those kinds of players (Messi and Ronaldo) are the kind we aspire to bring here."

Ronaldo scores as Portugal breeze past Israel

AFP | Paris



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his 104th international goal

AFP | Lisbon

Cristiano Ronaldo was on the score-sheet as European champions Portugal beat Israel 4-0 on Wednesday in their final warm up for the defence of their title.

Manchester United star Bruno Fernandes bagged twice as Ronaldo and Joao Cancelo added for a comfortable win in Lisbon.

Ronaldo's 44th minute strike was his 104th international goal in 175 matches, and leaves him five short of the record held by Iran's Ali Daei.

"We put things right from the match against Spain," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said regarding the 0-0 draw with Spain in their previous match in Madrid.

"I know what we have to do to win, and I have great confidence in this team," he said.

PSG sign Georginio Wijnaldum from Liverpool

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain have completed the signing of Dutch international midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum from Liverpool on a three-year deal, the French club announced yesterday.

Wijnaldum, 30, is a free agent with his contract at Anfield expiring at the end of this month, meaning there will be no transfer fee involved.

Barcelona had been keen to sign the former Feyenoord, PSV Eindhoven and Newcastle United player, and are understood to have been close to completing a deal before PSG persuaded him to move to the Parc des Princes instead.

"Signing for Paris Saint-Germain is a new challenge for me," Wijnaldum, who is currently with the Netherlands squad preparing for Euro 2020, said in a statement published on PSG's website.

"I'm joining one of the best squads in Europe and I want to bring all my desire and commitment to this ambitious project."

Wijnaldum has spent the last five seasons at Liverpool and was a key player in the side that won the Champions League in 2019 as well as the Premier League title last year.

He is the first signing made by PSG since they missed out on the Ligue 1 title last month to Lille.



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World Cup-Asian Cup qualifiers to hot up

Group C leaders Iraq take on Hong Kong while Iran face off with Cambodia this evening in a pair of crucial games, as Bahrain watch intently from the sidelines

● Iraq currently lead Group C with 14 points while Iran are second with 12 points, each with two matches still to play

● Bahrain are idle tonight but continue to train under the supervision of head coach Helio Sousa ahead of final qualifier on Tuesday

TDT | Manama

Iraq and Iran will be looking to strengthen their stranglehold of the top two places in Group C tonight in joint-qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023, while Bahrain watch intently from the sidelines.

Iran take on Cambodia at 5.30pm at the National Stadium in Riffa, to be followed by Iraq facing Hong Kong at 7.30pm at the Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium at Muharraq Club in Arad.

Iraq will be hoping to maintain their lead on the group table where they currently have 14



Bahrain national team players during training

points, but cannot be complacent against Hong Kong who are fourth in the group with five points.

The Iraqis won their previous meeting against Hong Kong 2-0 in October of 2019.

Iraq's Slovenian head coach Srecko Katanec said yesterday that his team is ready for the match and that they know what they have to do. "The goal

is always to win and maintain our lead," he was quoted as saying.

Hong Kong midfielder Chan Shinchi expressed the players' pride each time they take to the pitch, which will be no different tonight. "We will definitely not give up in the next two matches, because the opportunity to wear the Hong Kong jersey is a rare opportunity," he said on the-



Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa, left, during training

afc.com. "As a player, you will cherish it, and you will fight for it when you are on the pitch."

The game will be the penultimate match for both Iraq and Hong Kong in qualifying.

Meanwhile, Iran will be hoping for a repeat of their 14-0 drubbing of Cambodia last October of 2019.

Iran have 12 points on the standings and are fresh from a 3-0 win over Bahrain in their previous game earlier this week. Cambodia lost 1-4 against Iraq that same evening and tonight's clash will be their final fixture in joint-qualification.

The Cambodians have just one point from their seven games so far, having lost six of them and drawing once. Iran are tied on points with Bahrain but have a superior goal difference.

The Bahrainis are not in action tonight but have continued to train under the supervision of head coach Helio Sousa at Al Ahli Club in Zinj.



There are eight groups in all in this round of joint-qualifiers, with the group winners and four best runners-up advancing to the third round of World Cup qualifying while also securing their berths in the Asian Cup

and the four best runners-up advance to the third round of World Cup qualifying, and also secure their berths in the Asian Cup.

The next best 24 teams will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the Asian Cup.



Iraq national team players warming up during practice

Today's games

5.30pm
Cambodia vs Iran
National Stadium, Riffa

7.30pm
Hong Kong vs Iraq
Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium, Arad

Group C standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Iraq	6	4	2	0	+10	14
Iran	6	4	0	2	+19	12
Bahrain	7	3	3	1	+7	12
Hong Kong	6	1	2	3	-4	5
Cambodia	7	0	1	6	-32	1

Najma all set for Asian clubs handball championship

● Bahraini champions to begin tournament tomorrow with first match against Al Arabi of Qatar

● Other Group A opponents include NZS Kazerun of Iran, Alsalmiya of Kuwait and Mudhar of Saudi Arabia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Najma get their campaign underway tomorrow in the 23rd Asian Men's Club Handball League Championship in Jeddah.

The Bahrainis take on Al Arabi of Qatar in their first encounter, scheduled for an 8pm start as the last game of opening night.

Both teams are in Group A of the tournament's first round, along with NZS Kazerun of Iran, Alsalmiya of Kuwait and Mudhar of Saudi Arabia.

Group B consists of Al Wehda of Saudi, Al Qatten of Yemen, Mes Kerman of Iran, Al Duhail of Qatar, Al Kuwait



Al Najma's Komail Mahfoodh in action for the team (file photo)

Club of Kuwait and AGMK of Uzbekistan.

Najma, who are back-to-back league champions and winners of the first-ever Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup, will play their next game against Kazerun on Monday, before taking on Mudhar on Wednesday. Their last group fixture will be against

Alsalmiya on Thursday.

The top two squads in each pool move on to the semi-finals, while the remaining teams play in classification matches on June 19. The bronze and gold medal games are then scheduled for June 21.

Najma have strengthened their side for the championship

with the signing of Bosnia Herzegovina star Neven Stjepanovic as the team's professional. The right back is a key player of European pro handball club RK Eurofarm Pelister, which competes in the Macedonian Handball Super League.

They will also be relying heavily on their deep roster of Bahraini internationals, who include Mohammed Abdulhussein, Mahdi Saad, Belal Basham, Hassan Al Fardan, Ali Eid, Mohammed Mirza, Mohammed Habib Nasser and Komail Mahfoodh, among others.

Najma head into the tournament as the only Bahraini side. They are the only club from the Kingdom to have won the championship in past editions, having taken the 2017 title when the event was played in Hyderabad, India. Najma have also won the silver and bronze medals once each.

Other Bahraini teams to taste some success in the competition are Al Hilal Club, who have won bronze twice before; and Al Ahli and Barbar, who had both one third place once each.

The clubs championship was supposed to be played last year, but was postponed by the AHF due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ineos' Carapaz makes Tour de France statement at Swiss summit



Richard Carapaz celebrates as he crosses the finish line

AFP | Zurich

Fuglsang on the final ascent and edged a two-man dash for the line.

Thanks to his stage win, Carapaz now leads the race by 26 seconds from Fuglsang, with world champion Julian Alaphilippe in third at 33sec.

Carapaz is being supported at the Tour de Suisse by Ineos teammates Rohan Dennis, Luke Rowe and Eddie Dunbar.

Ineos have yet to name their final line-up for the Tour, but Carapaz as co-captain with Geraint Thomas looks likely.