SPORTS
Bahrain book berth in FIBA Esports finals
SUNDAY
APRIL, 2021 Bahrainis defeat coun210 FILS terparts from Kuwait in best-of-three semi-final to advance to championship series in online basketball tournament | $\mathbf{P 1 2}$

WORLD
6 Myanmar's junta releases 23,000 prisoners in New Year's amnesty



## Queen Elizabeth stands alone to bid

 farewell to her 'strength' Philip

Individuals vaccinated
(First dose)
$59+764$

Last update -9:00 pm
17 April 2021

# Saudi, Bahrain shuras reject EU accusations 

TDT | Manama

Jamila Ali Salman, the Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council, yesterday Saudi Arabia for backing Bahrain's proposal to adopt a unified stance against the position of the European Parliament members on the rights situation in the Gulf States.
Jamila Ali Salman said the move by the Saudi Shura Council reflects the depth of the brotherly ties enjoyed by the two countries.
Bahr
Bahrain called for a unified stance on the issue during the fourth meeting of the Gulf-European Parliamentary Committee last March.
The European Parliament had

accused Bahrain of harassing which were all categorically re Bahrainenders and accused jected by the Kingdom. Bahrain of lifting a de facto mor- Dr Abdullah Mohammed Ibra
atorium on the death penalty,
(5)

The gulf legislative
council forms
a powerful
parliamentary force and will act together to confront repeated attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the GCC countries.

Jamla all salman, The second depuJAMLLALLISLLMAN, THE SEEOND DEPU-
TY SPEAKER O THE SHLRA COUNCIL
of the Saudi Shura Council, had categorically rejected the po liticisation of the human rights
issued and selectivity in dealing with it and exploiting it.
He also called on the European Parliament members to adhere to neutrality, objectivity, and non-selectivity and respect the cultural diversities of nations around the world in their work.
Dr Al Sheikh also called for confronting attempts to impose cultural hegemony on the socities in the Gulf.
Jamila Ali Salman said the gulf legislative council forms powerful parliamentary force and will act together to confront repeated attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the GCC countries.
She also refuted the inaccuwhich the positions of the Euro-
pean Parliament and other international organisations are based, especially in human rights. Ali Salman called on the Euopean Parliament members to emain aware of the advanced steps the Arab nations had made in this field.
The Deputy Speaker also emphasised that cooperation and integration between shura and representative councils of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations are one of the pillars of the Gulf Parliamentary world. "Gulf parliaments play an important role in highlighting the achievements of the Gulf during their participation in the regional and international parliamentary forums," Jamila Ali Salman said.

## Adhere strictly to COVID-19 measures: police tell citizens and residents

TDT | Manama

Police directorates and security urged the general public to adhere strictly to COVID-19 protocol citing a steady increase in existing cases. "Avoid gatherings, visits, and fol low precautionary measures while visiting mosques and other places," they said in a statement.
they said in a statement.
"What needed to overcome this pandemic is awareness and a sense of responsibility to society." Until April 15, the Interior minis
ry took 8,960 measures to maintain disinfection and sterilisation opsocial distancing standards, booked erations with the participation of 1,395 cases for not wearing face volunteers. masks in public places and shops, Civil Defence trained 1,230 people nd held 8,383 awareness campaigns. to sterilise mosques and conducted During this period, the General Ad- 107 disinfection and sterilisation opministration of Civil Defence carried erations in cooperation with cleanout 246,243 cleansing and sterilisa- ing companies. ion operations, trained 1,180 from Since the pandemic began, the Na1,051 from government offices and to 9,413 calls on the Coronavirus, as 6,062 volunteers on correct methods the Transport Department attended of sterilisation operations. $\quad 30,411$ calls. It included transferring fterilisation operations
The authority supervised $1,708 \quad 88,614$ cases.

## Vaccination must for visiting Salmaniya Medical Complex

\author{

- Visitors should have completed 14 days after the second dose <br> - Two visitors per patient <br> TDT | Manama
}

The hospital, in a statement, also said they would allow only those who had completed 14 days post the second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine. Those who have recovered from the Those who have recovered from the "BeAware" application to gain entry BeAware application to gain entry. days after the second dose. days after the second dose.
Visiting times are from 5 to 7 pm on Visiting times are from 5 to 7 pm on
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Sentry to visitors who are not vacci- $\begin{gathered}\text { Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. } \\ \text { Only two visitors are allowed per }\end{gathered}$ nated starting from the fourth day of patient.


Bahrainisation is getting more traction with more and more companies accepting Bahraini talents. Bahrain Precast Concrete Co, WestPoint Home, Anousheh, Physiorelax Physiotherapy Medical Center and Fib General Trading are some of the companies in which Bahrainis joined in various positions recently as part of the National Employment Programme launched in 2019. The programme helps Bahraini citizens improve their chances of being the top choice for employment in the labour market while maintaining the labour market's ability to attract talent. The programme employs Bahrainis and qualifies them for long-term jobs and equal opportunities based on the needs of the labour market. The deal allows employers and companies to register job vacancies with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to recruit job seekers enrolled in the National Employment Programme.


Police officers taking part in community service ensuring the practice of COVID-19 protocols recommended by the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus.

New Horizon School


[^0]
## Flashing green now in 173 traffic lights: works ministry


tem in May 2019 in coordination duce accidents
The ministry, Hamadeh said, implemented the green light flashing system on all main streets and in several other loations.
The system is operational at Khalifa Al Kabeer Street, Airport Street, Abdul Rahman Al-Fadil Street, all traffic lights on Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street and King Faisal Street, Sheikh Isa Street, Al Zubarah Street. Ad-
liya Street, King Faisal Street,

Airport Road, Zallaq Street, Sanabis Street, Muharraq Street, Hamoud Bin Sabah Street, Bab Bahrain Street, etc.
The system is ready for activaion in all of the optical signals in tages, Hamadeh added. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Works won the Smart Traffic Solutions Award during the Smart Cities Conference last year for the intermitint green light flashing system in traffic lights.

# Shura Council to discuss law for stem cells, small vessel registration, marine fishing and others 

The proposal aims at creating a regulatory framework for the pract TDT | Manama

Aclinical for a law on the cells", amending a law regarding fishing and others are up for ing fishing and others are up for today.
The proposal regarding stem cells was by Dr Ahmed Salim Al Arrayedh, Dr Ibtisam MuAl Arraye aleh Al-Dalal, Mona Yousuf Almoayyed, Abdul Rah Yousur Almoayyed, Abdul Rahman Mohammed Jamsheer, and Dr Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali. The proposal aims at creating a regulatory framework for the practice of regenerative medicine and the application of stem cells in the treatment, scientific research a
"This will lead to furter ress in medical research progress in medical research and gies and methods in treatment."
help reduce the Kingdom's dependence on nation
The council will today also discuss a draft law on reduc ing the consumption of energy

The draft law The draw observes that rgy drinks is creation of eneffects on the health of individ uals.



Shura Council will also discuss ing the terms of reference and a report by the Public Facilities tasks for each of the ports and and Environment Committee maritime affairs at the Ministry regarding Decree-Law No. (32) of Transportation and Commusafety and control rules of small vessels.
The discussion aims at filling legislative void regarding the registration, safety, inspection and control of small vessels. The decree-law, recommend-
ed for approval, aims at defin-
 nication, Coast Guards at the
Ministry of Interior to prevent Ministry of Interior
overlapping of jobs. The move of jobs.
The move also aims at updat ing the regulations related to small vessels on par with the international standards to attract investment and competition in the sectors.

The discussion will focus on bringing more clarity and transparency regarding the procedure and requirements for registerin vessel in the Kingdom.
The council will also discuss a recommendation by the Pub-
lic Utilities and Environment Committee to approve a draft law amending some provisions of Decree-Law No. (20) of 2002 regarding the regulation of fish egarding the regulation of fish ng, exploitation and
marine wealth.
The draft law calls for compensating anglers who hold lienses in the event of loss and protecting marine wealth by aising the penalties for some iolations and deny the impor fioned in Article (20) of thent tioned in Article (20) of the law. Also up for discussion will be report by the Financial and conomic Affairs Committee egarding the House of Repreentatives' decision on a draf law amending Article (24) of Decree-Law No. (39) of 2002
related to the general budget.


Regenerative medicine is the branch of medicine that develops methods to regrow, repair or replace damaged or diseased cells, organs or tissues. It includes the generation and use of therapeutic stem cells, tissue engineering, and the production of artificial organs.


## Breaking Ramadan etiquettes attract jail terms, fine

## - As one of the five

 pillars, or duties, of Islam, fasting during the month of Ramadan is mandatory for all healthy adult Muslims Meaning they have to abstain from eating, drinking and smoking from dawn to sunset.
## TDT | agencies

Public consumption of food hours of the Holy Month of Ramadan is considered offensive and will attract jail terms of up to a year and hefty fines.
If an individual wants to eat or drink in daylight hours during Ramadan, it should be done indoors and out of sight.
As one of the five pillars

duties, of Islam, fasting during the month of Ramadan is man- lims. Meaning they have to ab- smoking from dawn to sunset.


What is Eid, and why are there two?

Eid al-Fitr translates as the festival of breaking he fast and happens immediately after Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the second celebration of the year and translates as the 'festival of sacrifice'. Traditionally during this time, animals like sheep and goats are slaughtered. It's around 70 days after the end of Ramadan and marks the end of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

ommended to people who suf- that speaking out during fer from medical conditions breaking fast also constitutes or women who are pregnant. an insult to a ritual of religion However, the same rules apply during the month of Ramadan. to them as well - not to eat or drink in public places.
Breaking it in public is con- Article 309 of the Penal code sidered disingenuous to true Is- applies when a person speaks lamic religion and the law. Fur- loudly or eats, drinks or smokes thermore, articles 309 and 310 in public during fasting hours. of the Penal Code criminalise The rule of law, the statement insulting a recognised religious says, applies to Muslims and community, its rituals, or reli- non-muslims, and residents, gious symbols- with a term of citizens and foreigners. imprisonment up to one year or Offences in this regard, the a fine not exceeding $\$ 265$ or 100 statements said, will attract jail Bahraini dinars. terms between three months Fasting during Ramadan and a year and fines not exceedmeans abstinence from all food ing 100 dinars. or drink, including water and or drink, including water and chewin
sunset. After sundown, Muslims break their fast with iftar, with a meal which usually starts a meal which usually oralk,
with dates and water or milk with dates and wat
followed by dinner.
A statement released by the
A statement released by the

## Useful phrases

Ramadan Mubarak $=$ Blessed Ramadan
Ramadan Kareem = Happy / generous Ramadan Iftar shahy = Have a good iftar
Mubarak aleik al Shahr = May you get the blessings of
the month
Kil aam wa inta fee Kheir = May each year pass and you be well

## Let's not go ‘a-stray’ in canine matters <br> 

Too an animal-lover, the fear that a person unfamiliar
with animals feels is difficult to understand. This is especially true in the case of dogs which are honoured as 'man's best friend' and have a long history of being kept as pets, as security support to sniff out drugs and explosives, as guard dogs and as guide dogs for the blind or deaf. With such an admirable background, canine-lovers argue fiercely that any move to catch strays and move them to safe sanctuary or even trap and neuter them to break the chain of new strays is not correct.
Howev-
nine-lovers
would agree
that being
confronted If you are a by a pack of pet-owner, do hostile dogs not abandon friendly dogs your pet to the running in a street when be terrifying. you tire of it You are out- and if you want and stray to OWn a pet, dogs are of- think carefully ten creatures about the reverted to responsibilities their wilder that are attached hunting and to the ownership. attacking in a pack. One
false move
in injury.
Little wonMarch 2021 alone over
185 com plaints were received and 133 stray dogs were caught and taken off the streets for neutering. Cashstrapped municipal councils are now looking for a permanent shelter to house the dogs.
As responsible citizens, there is plenty that we too can do to tackle the stray dog menace. There are so many dog-lovers who think they are doing good and feed the dogs in their neighbourhood and even other localities. While this is commendable, it means that the size of the pack increases with ready availability of food and soon becomes unmanageable. If you truly care for the strays in your street, why not invest in supporting a Trap \& Neuter programme and the upkeep of the dog in shelters away from residential and industrial areas where they are subject to traffic and the vagaries of an uncared-for life?
If you are a pet-owner, do not abandon your pet to the street when you tire of it - and if you want to own a pet, think carefully about the responsibilities that are attached to the ownership. We are world and all its creatures for
(Captain Mahmood AI Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)


Northern Governor Ali bin Al Sheikh Abdulhussein Al Asfoor yesterday held a Ramadan majlis remotely in the presence of lawmakers and citizens. Al Asfoor extended Ramadan wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa AI Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad AI Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. During the majlis, Al Asfoor stressed the importance of raising community awareness and joining participation in the second editso of thed pational mployment programme which ams to provide 25,000 jobs and 10,000 training opporturitios Several communty rititiatives were launched during the majlis including COVID-19 vaccination the elderly at the Abdulrahman Kanoo Social Centre.

## COVID-19 violations: Four mosques closed


they took the closure decision following consultations with the National Medical Taskforce.
The one week time is for carrying out contact tracing and the sanitisation process A dedicated team is on it. "A team will also make sure that the mosques are properly following the preproperly following the preministry said.
As per the decision, mosques will open for Frifore prayer time and close 25 minutes after the prayer. The ministry also specifies hat the duration of the ser mon should not exceed 10 minutes.
Worshippers are also re quired to leave the mosque mmediately after prayers. wever, is denied der the age of 15
The allowed duration for sha and Tarawih prayers are 0 minutes.
Waiting time between the
call to prayer and the evening


The decision followed the laxity of those in charge of the mosques in implementing the required precautionary measures, especially those related to examining the vaccination certificates and keeping a safe distance between those performing the prayers MIIISTRY OF JUSTICE, ILLAMIC AFFAIRS AND ENDOWMENTS

## 138 fundraising licenses issued so far: official

| Names of those licensed to collect money for religious purposes are available on www.rfr.bh |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| TDT \| Manama |  |
| $T$ he Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and En- |  |
| 138 licenses to raise funds |  |
|  | the hashtag \#Collectin |
| Kingdom, said a top official. " 126 of the licenses were | nations_Commitment and Responsibility' for the pur- |
| for collecting money from | 位. |
| within the Kingdom, and the remaining were for sending | The of |
|  | ing licenses to individuals |
| abroad," said Dr Mohammed | for religious purposes. "Issuance of all other licenses |
| Taher Al Qattan, Assistant | are by the Ministry of Labour |
|  | and Social Development," he |
| Affairs. <br> Explaining the roles and | added. |
|  | The ministry also address- |
| functions of the office of | es requests for fundraising |
| Registration of Applications | licenses by associations and |
| for a License to Collect Mon- | institutions, whether for |
| ey for Religious Purposes, he said the licencing system is | charitable, social, educa- |
| for ensuring transparency, accountability and boosting | purposes. |
|  | The Ministry of Youth and |
| donor confidence. | Sports Affairs issues licenses |
| The system verifies the | to private bodies working in |
| purpose for which the money is collected and reassures | the youth and sports sector |
|  | to collect money. |
| its correct use. | To receive a license, Dr |
| The ministry, Dr Al-Qat- | Al-Qattan said, the applicant |
| an said, had carried out an | must be a Bahraini, a natura |

If the collection value exceeds 100 Bahraini dinars, it is necessary to obtain a license to collect money, and according to the law, the license period does not exceed one year. It is permissible to extend for another three months upon request
DR muHammad taher al-aattan, assistant undersecretary for ISLAMIC AFFAIRS
ls, excluding association and institutions), should have good conduct and behaviour. He should not have received any final judgments in felony or misdemeanour cases for violating honour, trust or public morals. Regarding document required, he said the appli cared, statement of the bank account opened to collect money (showing: bank name account name, Iban account number, account balance).
"The applicant must fil p an application form pro vide all details and contact numbers, and should speci fy the purpose of collecting the money, determine the period for collecting money, and plans for disbursing the funds."
"Details of a beneficiary
cense period does not exceed one year. It is permissible to extend for another three months upon request." On the types of licenses, he said there are four types. The first is for raising funds from inside the Kingdom for up to a year. The second is for receiving a donation, the third is for receiving money

and the fourth is for transferring mon e
abroad.
Violations
will attract life imprisonment or a jail and fines. "Whoever colection@moia.gov.bh." Al-Qattan also revealed sages of launching licens ng processes online through WWW.RFR.BH, where all the WWW.RFR.BH, where all the ecessary steps for registration and
available.
"If the collection value ex eeds 100 Bahraini dinar it is necessary to obtain a license to collect money, and license to collect money, and thir
lects funds for a terrorist purpose or public
purposes without a license purposes without a license
shall be punished with imprisonment and fines of up to five hundred thousand dinars," he said.

To find the names of those licensed to collect money for religious purposes, visit www.rfr.bh, or call the office at 17812622, or message or via email money_collection@moia govbh
prayer is limited to five minutes. Taraweeh prayers should commence after the sha prayer.
Worshippers are required to wear masks and ensure

Power companies urge Biden to implement policies to cut emissions 80\% by 2030


Reuters
and Talen Energy Corp, said in a letter to Biden.

Acompanies wrote to President Joe Biden this week saying it will work with his administration and Congress to design a broad set of policies to reach a near-term goal of to reach a near-term goal of emissions by 2030 .
Washington should implement policies, including a ment policies, including a clean energy standard, or CES, to ensure the electricity indusry cuts carb levels by 2030 the elow 2005 levels by 2030 , the including generators Exelon tomers" said the letter, sent to Corp (EXC.O), PSEG(PEGPP.UL)
maintain reliability, an

The letter, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, did not mention Biden's goal to fully decarbonize the power secto
by 2035 as part of his strategy to fight climate change. But it said the 2030 timeline is con sistent with Biden's wider goal of decarbonizing the entir economy by 2050
"A federal policy framework can be designed to support the power sector's deployment of strategies that are technically feasible, ensure reliability and Biden on Friday

20 smart seats this month


TDT | Manama

The Capital Municipality will complete the installation of 20 smarts seats this month
The multi-use seats are equipped with solar energy panels, LED lights and USB ports for charging smart devices. The project is in cooperation with Bahrain Petroleum Company.
The seats are currently available at Saud Al-Faisal Walkway, Sitra Bridge Walk and Al-Aker Western Park.
Juffair and other areas will get it by later this month. The municipality said it is planning to install the multi-use seats in parks and public places in the next stage

NBB announces special offers for properties in Diyar Al Muharraq

TDT | Manama
 1 rain announced providing tailored financing solutions on lands and homes located in Diyar al Muharraq, in a step to offer its customers additional mortgage solutions across a wider area of the Kingdom.
The new mortgage offer on lands and homes at Diyar Al Muharraq area will enable customers to receive extremey competitive interest rates starting from $4.75 \%$, for up to 25 years and up to $90 \%$ of the property value. Furthermore, NBB customers can also enjoy faster and more convenient processing times for their loan applications.

$\square$
We have tailored a special offer for customers seeking to move into newly developed domestic cities, such as Diyar Al Muharraaq, to cater to their property buying needs, be
it land or villa,
with cost-efficient solutions subah alzayani Subah AlZayani, Chief Exec- support Real Estate projects in from free fire insurance for all utive of Retail at NBB, said: "In the Kingdom, we have tailored real estate financing services line with our commitment to a special offer for customers from NBB.
seeking to move into newly developed domestic cities, such as Diyar Al Muharraq, to cater to their property buying needs, be it land or villa, with cost-efficient solutions."
In addition to the bank's previous mortgage solution offers, NBB has extended its housing solutions to all its customers by introducing bespoke real estate financing products such as Mazaya Finance and Joint Housing Finance, along with delivering more value by introducing interest-free land regstration and life insurance repayments throughout the loan. Additionally, customer's benefit estate financing services

## Ant explores ways for Jack Ma to exit

Reuters

At Group is exploring options for founder Jack Ma to divest his stake in the financial technology giant and give Chinese regulators signalled to the company that the move could help draw a line under ould help draw a line unde Beijing scrutiny of its busi mess, according to a source fa miliar with regulators' thinking and two people
the company
The Wall Street Journal pre viously reported that Ma ha Tously reported that Ma had (PBOC) People's Bank of China ffered in a November meeting tor China financial regula

## Potential Boeing 737 MAX issue affects more of plane: report

 the manufacturing process, re quires "verification that a suf ficient ground path exists for a component of the electrical power system."But The Wall Street Journal, citing Boeing, reported Friday that the manufacturing issue affects "more areas of the flight

with regulators to hand ove parts of Ant to the Chines ernment.
Officials from the central tor China Banking and Insur
ance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) held talks between January and March with Ma and Ant separately, where the possibility of the tycoon's exit from the company was discussed, according to accounts provided regulators' thinking and one of regulators' thinking and one of the sources with close ties to
the company. Ant denied that a divestment of Ma's stake was ever under consideration. "Divestment of Mr. Ma's stake in Ant Group has never been the subject of discussions with anyone," an Ant spokesman said in a statement.

deck than previously known." Boeing did not directly comment on The Wall Street Journal report, but said it plans to develop guidelines with Fed eral Aviation Administration versight. "Boeing is working with cus-
omers on service bulletins that will be submitted to the FAA for approval," a Boeing spokesman said.
"The bulletins focus on ensuring a sufficient ground path in the flight deck of affected airplanes," he added

Bahrain Chamber holds webinar on the prospect of higher education TDT | Manama

$T$ he Bahrain Chamber 1 announced holding a webinar themed "The Prospect of Higher Education" tomorrow at 11 am The webinar aims at identifying challenges curbing higher education in Bahrain, particularly in light of the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic, and mulling overcoming the hurdles and the future outlook of higher education.
The webinar will also share the findings of the UNESCO Global Survey Report titled "The Impact of cov-ID-19 on Higher Education Around the World."
The Chamber invites members to take part in this webinar in Arabic via the zoom application.
To participate, complete a registration form on the following URL: https://bit. $l y / 3 \mathrm{mWl5e}$. Registration is also available on the Chamber's website and mobile application.

Chery gets Kudosfrom global fans for technology-driven smart mobility

WI ore than a century after automobile industry is moving automobile industry is moving towards intelligent vehicles. Technologies as autonomous driving, the Internet of Vehiles (Iov), and voice interaction have become a mass-production reality. Cars are evolving from mobile space.
Recently, Chery initiated Recently, Chery initiated
TechOrNot on social media for TechOrNot on social media for users to share the impact of car technologies on their lives and their expectations of intelligent vehicle technologies. The event has been liked and supported by users from across the globe. By now, thousands of netizens in Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Algeria and another dozen of countries participated in the

iscussion. The discussion received a lot of likes from many Chery users, who expressed their recognition of Chery's technologies and driving experience. Some users praised their Chery cars as the best ones they have ever owned and recommended Chery to their friends. Some users said
that a Chery car was a reliable buddy. Its intelligent features enable easier and worry-free trips. A Brazilian user said: "Chery cars are ideal for me. I am very interested in the new Tiggo8 and its practical tech features".
What kind of amazing features will future intelligent vehicles

bring? The soon-to-come Auto April 19. As China's leading technologies. The models will Shanghai 2021 will present the auto brand, Chery will show- be gradually launched in globlatest models and technolo- case its new models endowed al markets to bring brand new gies of global automakers from with state-of-the-art intelligent intelligent experience to users.

## 慮tribune

## News in brief



Russian plans to block parts of the Black Sea would be "unjustified", nato said, caliing on Moscow "to ensure free access allow freedom of navigation". Russian allow freedom of navigation". Russian
state media have reported that Moscow intends to close parts of the Black Sea to foreign military and official ships for six foreign military and official ships for six the United States and the European Union.

- Peru's Congress voted to ban former president Martin


## Peru's ex-president

 ovid-19 vaccicat in a scandal over ublic vacinations, from holding public office for 10 years. The president has been accused of being part of a group of 470 people who were secretly vaccinated against the coronavirus before the official start of the country's immunization campaign. Vizcarra says he was taking part in a clinical trial.

Three astronauts return from

- Three members of the Space Station's crew returned safely to Roscosmos space agency reported The Soyuz MS-17 space afraft carring NASA soyuz MS-17 spacecraft carrying NASA astronaut Kate Rubins, a microbiologist who in 2016 became the first person to seque Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov anded in Kazakhstan at 0455 GMT. The
three had been at the space station since mid-October 2020.

| A large <br> blast rocked the <br> northern Chilean <br> mining city of Calama afternoon <br> following an explosion in a storage <br> rocked by blast at explosives factory |
| :--- |
| warehouse belonging to Enaex, <br> which produces explosives for <br> the mining industry. The explosion <br> shook buildings and set off car alarms <br> up to 25 kilometers from the plant <br> and generated a massive column of smoke that stretched high into the sky. As <br> firefighters rushed to the scene, police cordoned off the area. <br> Eritrea told the United Nations Security Council that it has agreed to <br> start withdrawing its troops from Ethiopia's Tigray region, acknowledging <br> publicly for the first time the country's involvement in the conflict. The <br> admission in a letter to the 15-member council - and posted online by Eritrea's <br> Ministry of Information - comes a day after u.N. aid chief Mark Lowcock said the <br> world body had not seen any proof that Eritrean soldiers have withdrawn. |

## Middle East

| country | Total cases | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \text { new } \\ \text { cases } \end{array}$ | Total deaths | New Deaths | Total recovered | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \begin{array}{l} \text { Active } \\ \text { cases } \end{array} \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Egypt | 214,639 |  | 12,653 |  | 162,170 | 39,816 |
| Saudi Arabia | 404,054 | +948 | 6,810 | +9 | 387,795 | 9,449 |
| UAE | 495,224 | +1,958 | 1,550 | +3 | 478,063 | 15,611 |
| Kuwait | 254,472 |  | 1,436 |  | 237,667 | 15,369 |
| Oman | 176,668 |  | 1,821 |  | 156,845 | 18,002 |
| Qatar | 214,639 |  | 12,653 |  | 162,170 | 39,816 |

The junta is planning to reprisoners nationwide, an offiprial said Saturday, even as the cial said Saturday, even as the mind issue arrest warrants for anti-coup dissidents.
Myanmar typically grants an Myanmar typically grants an prisoners to mark its traditional Buddhist New Year holiday which in previous years have which in previous years have been joyous affai
ide water fights
But this year, with the military back in power after ousting civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, anti-coup activists have used the holiday as an opportunity to protest the
growing death toll and mass growing death toll and mass
arrests.
It remains unclear whether anti-junta protesters or journalists jailed covering
the coup will be among those the coup will be among those freed
A prison official told AFP on condition of anonymity that jails across the country will start freeing more than 23,000 people on Saturday.
"We will release more than 800 prisoners from Insein prison" in commercial hub Yangon, he added, declining to elaborate.
In February, the junta re leased a similar number of prisoners, with some rights groups at the time fearing the move was to free up space for opponents of the military as well as cause chaos in communities.
On Wednesday a rebel group executed a man who had been freed in that amnesty, who it said had subsequently raped and killed a five-year-old girl. $\qquad$ es Day, the regime also freed around 900 jailed demonstra-

## Myanmar's junta releases 23,000 prisoners in New Year's amnesty



Buddhist monks visit Shwedagon pagoda following the Thingyan festival that marks the Burmese New Year in Yangon

tors.
But since the February 1 coup, more than 3,100 people -- the bulk of them anti-coup protestdetained activists -- have been detained, according to local
monitoring group Assistance

Association for Political Pris-

## oners

The junta has issued nightly arrest warrants on state-run media, targeting celebrities, influencers, journalists and
prominent activists with large prominent activists with large
social media followings. social media followings. By Friday night, they totalled 380.

Some 80 doctors have also been named as wanted fugitives for attempting to "deteriorate peace and stability".
Myanmar's healthcare workers have been at the forefront of a nationwide civil disobedience movement, refusing to return to work under a military regime. Their absence has left many of the country's hospitals unstaffed during the pandemic.
The country has been under the junta's control for 11 weeks. The military has consistently justified the putsch by alleging widespread fraud in November's elections, which Suu Kyl's
landslide.

## 'Narcocat' intercepted with drug delivery for Panama prison

AFP | Panama City
Alhorities in Panama on AFriday intercepted an unlikely smuggler, a fluffy white cat, bearing an assortment
of drugs in a pouch tied to of drugs in a pouch tied to its body as it tried to enter a prison.
The feline felon was stopped outside the Nueva Esperanza jail, which houses more than 1,700 prisoners, in the Caribbean province of Colon, north of the capital Panama City.
"The animal had a cloth tied around its neck" that contained wrapped packages of white powder, leaves and "vegetable matter", according to Andres Gutierrez, head of the Panama Penitentiary System.
They were likely cocaine,
crack and marihuana, according to another official.
This is not the first such attempted critter crime.
Prisoners use food to lure animals to them, once the crea-
tures had been loaded with drugs by people on the outside.

a white cat in a cage after being intercepted bearing an assortment of drugs in a pouch tied to its body

The office of the drugs prosecutor of Colon said on Twitter it had opened an investigation into the use of animals for smuggling illegal substances into the Nueva Esperanza Prison.


On previous occasions, authorities have intercepted attempted drug deliveries using homing pigeons and even drones

## It posted photographs of the

 drugs, and of the cat caught in the act.The animal will be taken to a pet adoption center, according to prosecutor Eduardo Rodriguez.

Panama has some 18,000 inmates in 23 prisons, most of them overcrowded.
On previous occasions, authorities have intercepted attempted drug deliveries using homing pigeons and even drones.

## Queen alone a

William and Harry ta

- There were just 30 mourners inside the chapel because of continuing coronavirus restrictions in Britain

Reuters | London

Qeen Elizabeth bade fare well to Prince Philip at a funeral yesterday that celeorated his seven decades o service and gave grandsons Wil-
liam and Harry the chance the liam and Harry the chance to talk in public for the first time since claims of racism threw the family into crisis.
Elizabeth, dressed in black and in a white trimmed black face mask, stood alone, head bowed as her husband of 73 years wa lowered into the Royal Vault of St George's Chapel in a service at tended by senior royals including heir Prince Charles.
Prince Harry, who flew from the United States to attend the funeral, walked and talked with his brother William and wife Kate at the end of the service - the first time they have spoken in public since Harry and his wife Meghan gave an explosive interview
Oprah Winfrey last month
That crisis came as Philip lay hospital. Officially known as the Duke of Edinburgh, Philip died aged 99 on April 9.
"We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the Nation and age, fortitude and faith" Dean Windsor David Conner said

CIA planned to a:

The plot came to light as Raul Castro, the 89-year-old brother of Fidel Castro, prepares to leave Cuban politics by stepping down as head of the all-powerful Community Party of Cuba

AFP | Washington

TWhe CIA made its first known
attempt to assassin leader of the Cuban revolution 1960, offering $\$ 10,000$ to flying Raul C $\$ 10,000$ to a pilot Havana to Castro from Prague to Havana to arrange an "accident, according to declassified documents published Friday.
Pilot Jose Raul Martinez, who had been recruited by the CIA, asked for -- and received -- as surance from the agency that it would provide university educations to his two sons if he died during the operation, according to the documents published by the Washington-based National Se curity Archive research institute. After Martinez left for Prague, CIA headquarters in the United

## Elizabeth stands 15 Philip is laid to rest

k to one another after Prince Philip's funeral


Philip, who married Elizabeth ing the Danish coat of arms, the in 1947, helped the young queen Greek cross, Edinburgh Castle adapt the monarchy to the chang- and the stripes of the Mountbating times of the post-World War ten family.
Two era as the loss of empire and A wreath of white roses, lilies the decline of deference chal- and jasmine from the queen also lenged the world's most promi- adorned the coffin. nent royal family.
In 1997, the queen described Philip as her "strength and stay" over their decades of marriage Now 94, she has reigned for 69 years.

Her husband's coffin was borne to the chapel on a bespoke Land Rover Defender TD 130 in military green that Philip himself helped to design, as a minute gun fired eight times.
Philip's children and grandchildren followed behind on foot evoking memories of the 1997 funeral of Diana when William and Harry - then just 15 and 12 - walked behind their mother's coffin.

His naval cap and sword lay on top of the coffin, which was covered with the Duke of Edin

There were just 30 mourners inside the chapel because of continuing coronavirus restrictions in Britain. As the service began at 3 p.m.( 1400 GMT ), Prime Minister Boris Johnson observed a minute's silence, along with millions of Britons.

Before the procession, military bands spaced out across the quadrangle of Windsor Castle in brilliant sunshine to play the prince's chosen music, including "I Vow To Thee My Country", "Jerusalem" and "Nimrod"

## Harry and William

The four-person choir sang a sailors' hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save". Shortly before the coffin was lowered into the Royal of the Departed", a hymn of the

We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the Nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith
Dean of wnosor david comer
Orthodox and Eastern churches, echoed around the ancient church.
There were no eulogies, just brief words of praise for the prince from the dean of Windsor and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in their prayers. Elizabeth has been widowed just as she grapples with one of the gravest crises to hit the royal family in decades - allegations of racism and neglect by it from Harry and Meghan, his Ameri-can-born wife.
In last month's interview the couple, who quit royal duties and moved to California last year, laid bare their perceptions of the fam ily's attitudes in what amounted to a critique of the old-fashioned customs of an ancient institution. They accused one unnamed royal of making a racist comment, and said Meghan's pleas for help when she felt suicidal were ignored.
Meghan said she had been si lenced by "the Firm" while Har y said his father, Charles, had refused to take his calls. Harry said both Charles and his brother William were trapped in the royal family.

Biden drops promise for quick expansion in refugee admissions


A woman holds her four-month son as she prepares to get in the back of a pickup truck for transport after crossing the Rio Grande River into the United tates from Mexico in Penitas
AFP | Washington
Dresident Joe Biden's administration announced pledge for a rapid expansion in the number of refugees allowed into the United States, but seemed to backtrack later in the day after fierce blowback from within his Demoratic Party.
The outcry came after a senior administration official said Biden would maintain the historically low ceiling of 15,000 people resettled a year, a number set by predecessor Donald Trump who had imposed hardline border policies. The Biden administration refugee aid groups slammed had recently stated it wanted Biden's target as "appallingly to allow in about 60,000 ref- low" and "deeply disappointugees annually, ramping up ing," the White House issued to double the following year. a statement later Friday saying That aim had been part of the the number was provisional. Democrat's broader promise Noting that Biden has to end harsh anti-immigrant green-lighted settlement of and anti-refugee sentiment refugees from previously whipped up by Trump.
Instead, the White House will keep the strict 15,000 limit so that it can "rebuild" a broken program and deal with pandemic-related complications, said the official, who asked not to be identified. After a top Democrat and


LIRS, one of the chief organizations helping refugees in the United States, said that as of this month, only 2,000 refugees have been resettled in the current fiscal year refugees from previously blocked regions and signed off on flights from those areas to begin within days, the White House said it expected Biden to set a final, increased refugee cap for the remainder of this fiscal year by May 15 ," bu added that "his initial goal of
ssassinate Raul Castro in 1960: declassified documents


Raul Castro speaks as the Communist Party of Cuba opens a historic congress in Havana
States told its Havana station to the 89 -year-old brother of late cancel the mission.
"Do not pursue," the cable said. "Would like to drop matter.' At that point, the pilot was already out of contact. When he returned to Cuba, Martinez told his handler that "he had no opportunity to arrange an acc
such as we had discussed."

The plot came to light as Castro, 60-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel,

638
assassination plots were survived by Fidel Castro World Records
who has served as Cuba's presi dent since 2018.
"These documents remind us of a dark and sinister past in US operations against the Cuban revo lution," National Security Archive analyst Peter Kornbluh told AFP. "As the Castro era officially comes to an end, us policymakers have the opportunity to leave this historical baggage behind and engage Cuba's post-Castro future." Fidel Castro defied 11 Ameri can presidents and survived numerous assassination plots -- 638 according to Guinness World Re cords -- as well as a failed 1961 attempt by 1,400 anti-Castro Cubans, who were trained and financed by the CIA, to land at the Bay of Pigs in an attempt to overthrow the communist regime.

## Moscow prosecutor moves to outlaw Kremlin critic Navalny's activist network

 keutersState prosecutors in MosCow asked a court to label jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's anti-corruption group and regional headquarters "extremist" organisations, move that woul. ban them nd open up activists to lo ail terms.
The move, if approved, would mark one of the most serious steps taken by authorities yet to target the network of groups set up by the staunch critic of President Vladimir Putin who is on hunger-strike as he serves a two-and-halfyear jail term.
Activists caught organising the activity of such groups can be jailed for up to 10 years, people taking part in them an be held criminally liable and the groups themselves are prohibited from any kind of banking activity.
The Moscow state prosecutor said it had decided to appeal to the court after studying Navalny's Anti-corruption Foundation and campaign groups that he has built up in


Alexei Navalny attends a court hearing in Moscow
regions across the country "Under the guise of liberal slogans, these organisations are engaged in forming the conditions to destabilise the social and social-political situation," the prosecutor said in a statement on its website. "Effectively the goal of their activity is to create the conditions to change the basis of the constitutional order, including by using a 'colour revolution' cenario," it said.
An outspoken Putin critic for years, Navalny has organised nationwide anti-Kremlin street protests and carved out a following online with investigations alleging corruption by senior Russian officials.
was honored to welcome Prime Ministe Suga to the White House today as we usher in new era of friendship between the U.S. and Ja pan. Both Pacific nations, we are also united by ou the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.
@POTus
02


66 Forestry and bioener gy criteria have moved from being science-based to being Sweden-based Being referred to as the opposite of science is clear sign that you're doing something wrong... @GretaThunberg

## 03



Twant to express my the people of Saint Vinthe people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
following the volcano following the volcano has released \$1 million USD to assist the million usd to assist the emergency response. We staditional supporovide additional support to th commendable
@antonioguterres


The junta's"drive 1 to take Myanmar back to dictatorship, isolation and poverty reveals its desperation. It has no objective beyond self-preservation and few tools aside from brutality. It has virtually no political base.
@KenRoth

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

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## Ramadan and its Benefits

Islamicity
he holy month of Ramadan is once again upon us.
While most of us will be fasting and praying and seeking Allah's blessings in this month some would be spending even more time in extra prayers and remembrance of Allah. Every year Ramadan offers a kind of transcendental experience for many Muslims.
Fasting has many benefits for the body as well as for the mind. It gives the body some needed It gives the body some needed indulge in the night And the rigorous discipline and code of rigorous disciphe and code of daily as part of fasting and for daily as part of fasting and for as long as thirty days contribund overall wellbeing These are nd overallues peing. These are fasting.
But beyond that we should also strive for spiritual benefits. This month should bring out the best in us despite the controversy surrounding moon sighting. We should be kind to one another in our dealings, no matter what our differences. We must respect each other no matter what our status. We should try to inculcate these qualities in us during this month as much as possible so that it becomes part of our nature for the rest of the year.
Backbiting, attaching labels, insulting one another by nick names, spreading rumours and suspicions about others are maor sins in Islam (49:11-12). So, we must always try to avoid them at every level: individual, social, or political. But since in this month we are in a heightened spiritual state of God-consciousness we must be extra careful not to go near them. This is how we achieve self-purification - one of the important goals of fastof those who offer short cuts to Heaven in this month. According to the Qur'an there are no short cuts to Heaven (2:214). So, we must be careful of the merchants of salvation.
Life has a serious purpose. Ou time is very precious. Therefore, we should not engage in trivial talk. But it is not easy to shun it. It pervades everywhere. Without realizing we get sucked into it. So, it requires deliberate conscious effort to avoid it. Fasting helps us in this direction because we are more God-conscious in this month than any other month. Fasting is not just for the stomach but also for the tongue. If someone wants to engage in loose talks one should simply point to fasting
Islam is about giving and this month is especially about show-

NOTICE

## TRADING COMPANY is looking

 for a HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER with Hiab experience, should be currently in Bahrain. Interested may contact 33373675 or email: kvrecruitment2019@gmail.com

Muslim worshippers perform the evening Tarawih prayer around the Kaaba in the Grand Mosque complex in the holy city of Mecca
ing that commitment. As our must work hard towards this duty to Islam we must help the goal especially during this poor and the needy, as much as month of Ramadan.
we can and by all means at our Instead of indulging in luxdisposal: by our wealth, by our urious life styles the well to do knowledge, by our labour. As the among us should follow the Fold Prophet (PBUH) said we should Sunnah of our Prophet (PBUH) give until it hurts. If all the for- by living modestly. Living comtunate Muslims whom Allah has fortably does not mean excessive
blessed sincerely practiced this indulgence. Caliph Othman (R) blessed sincerely practiced this indulgence. Caliph Othman ( R ) world will be oreatly reduced should serve as a role We are supBut our Prophet (PBUH) also posed to practice the injunction established a system for this giv- of the Quran: "They ask thee ing. No amount of giving will how much they are to spend;
help in the long run until we Say: "What is beyond your needs. have a unified system in place. (2:219)." [Translation: Yusuf make smooth for him the path to This is a challenging task and we Ali]


Muslims pray as they await the sighting of the moon that marks the start of th holy month of Ramadan on the Sea Point promenade in Cape Town

Determining our need must it him when he falls headlong bas pain and suffering of our fellow and not on our capacity to use (into the Pit). Verily We take human beings in the spirit of and not on our capacity to ac- upon Ourselves to guide, And Caliph Abu Bakr (R) who kept umulate or on our capacity to verily unto Us (belong) the End his daily allowance equal to an fulfil socially induced desires. and the Beginning. Therefore average worker. On being asked Following verses further amplify do I warn you of a Fire blaz- as to why he was doing this he his situation very clearly: ing fiercely; None shall reach Verily, (the ends) ye strive for it but those most unfortunate e diverse So he who gives and ones Who give the lis ones Who give the lie to Truth periered that he wanted to experience himself directly how an average worker was meeting his daily needs; and that if he (Abu $\operatorname{Bakr}(\mathrm{R})$ ) were to find that it was hard to meet his daily needs then he would raise the allowance of the workers and that would automatically raise his allowance as well. He showed by this example what it means to be a true servant of Allah. What a beautiful world would be for Muslims - and a shining model or others - if our Muslim rulers were to emulate his example even partially?
This is the spirit of Ramadan. This is what Ramadan is all about: feeling directly for a month what millions of human beings are going through daily hroughout the year, and trying our best to change their situaion for the better in the long term. This requires that we prepare and train ourselves for this important task. The month of Ramadan is supposed to provide that training. So why not tart with this Ramadan? Who nows what will happen until nows what will next Ramadan?

## Ramadan cooking

## Makes about 15

## Ingredients

1 kg potatoes
oil, for frying
$1 / 2$ onion, peeled and minced 1 jalapeæo, minced 1 clove garlic, peeled and minced $1 / 4 \mathrm{~kg}$ minced lamb or beef $2 g$ mixed ground spices salt, to taste
chopped coriander leaves, according to your preference 1 egg, beaten
breadcrumbs, for coating oil, for frying

## Catlix (stuffed potato balls)

## Method

Boil the potatoes in water until they are soft. Peel and mash them with a fork till smooth, and season to taste.
Place some oil in a pan, and sautee the onion jalapeno and garlic till fragrant. Add in the minced meat, and stir-fry lightly till cooked. Add the spices and season to taste.
Remove from the heat and stir the coriander leaves through.
Form the mashed potato into small balls. Make an indentation in the middle of each ball and fill with a little of the minced meat mixture.
Coat each ball with beaten egg, then roll in the breadcrumbs till fully-coated.
Place some oil into a heavy-bottomed saucepan or wok and deep-fry the potato balls till golden brown. Serve hot


# Hamilton earns 99th career pole at Emilia Romagna GP 

Lewis Hamilton takes pole position ahead of Sergio Perez in a thrilling qualifying session

## Hamilton was just 0.035 seconds clear in the Mercedes as Perez outqualifies teammate Verstappen

AFP | Imola

Lwis Hamilton claimed his 99th career pole poday for the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, with Red Bull's Ser gio Perez starting alongside the Mercedes at Imola.
Max Verstappen, runner-up to Hamilton at the season-opening race in Bahrain last month, the other Red Bull as the top three were separated by less than one-tenth of a second.
" said Hamilton. "I definitely ly," said Hamilton. "I definitely
didn't expect us to be ahead of didn't expect us to be ahead of
the two Red Bulls. They've been the two Red Bulls. They'v
so quick this weekend.
"There were times when they were six-tenths ahead and we were six-tenths ahead and we
didn't really know where we'd didn't really know where we'd
be. But the car was already feelbe. But the car was already feel-
ing a lot better from the begin-


Lewis Hamilton launches off a raised kerb

## "I this weekend."

and especially that last lap it was going to take something "pecial," he added.
"It really had to be the most perfect lap and a little bit more to beat the Red Bulls because they really have been so fast all weekend. And I didn't honestly know whether we could do it." Ferrari's Charles Leclerc qualified in fourth ahead of do and Lando Norris, who was heading for second but had his lap time deleted for exceeding track limits.

## (5)

The day's been great obviously, I definitely didn't expect us to be ahead of the two Red Bulls. They've been so quick this weekend Lewis hamilton
but I should have been on pole - I did a mistake on my final corner, but tomorrow is what matters," said Perez, after securing his best qualifying position to date ahead of a 193rd Grand Prix start.

Verstappen a
"Not so good in Q3. I went off at Turn Three, so a bit messy, not a good lap," he said. "You can't be good every time, so we'll see what went wrong. It's still P3, which is a good starting position."
Japanese rookie Yuki Tsunoda, who impressed by coming ninth on his F1 debut in Bahrain, planted his Alpha Tauri into the wall coming out of a chicane in Q1 and will set off from the back on Sunday.

## Klopp admits Liverpool under pressure in top four race

Jurgen Klopp admits Liverpool are under pressure as they try to salvage a troubled season by finishing in the mier League's top four.
Klopp's side have failed to defend the Premier League we they won last term and Champions League by Real Madrid on Wednesday. That quarter-final exit means Liverpool's only route back into Europe's elite club competition next season is via a top-four finish in the league. The sixth-placed Reds have been outside the top four since early February and they slipped as low as eighth before winning their last three leagues games to get back in the race.
Fourth-placed West Ham's 3-2 defeat at Newcastle yesterday was a major boost to Liverpool's hopes.
With seven pressure-packed games left, they would go
(5)

We are of course under pressure as we want to finish in the top four but we don't know in the moment if we will. We have seven games to prove that and we will try JURGEN KLOPP


Jurgen Klopp
above the Hammers on goal difference with a victory at Leeds on Monday.
We just go for it, go and go and go and play our best football," Klopp said.
We are of course under pressure as we want to finish in the top four but we don' know in the moment if we will. We have seven games to prove hat and we will try."
Leeds are coming off an impressive victory at leaders Manchester City last weekend where they played half the Klopp is well aware of the threat posed by Marcelo Biel sa's side and he said: "We should not forget the oppo nents we face. We won the last three and that's why we're still around still in the fight for th Champions League spots. "It's clear we have to win football games. It would be football games. It would be best to win all of them, bu they are tough opponents and
we have to respect all of them.

## Diaz to formalize Tokyo Olympic appearance

 TDT | ManilaThe ticket to this year's To1 kyo Olympics is already in the bag for Filipino ace weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz
The 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist Diaz will lead eight other Filipinos when they compete in the 2021 Asian Weightlifting Championship which is scheduled for today in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
The tournament is the region's qualifying tournament for the quadrennial international sporting competition slated on July 23 to August 8 in Tokyo, Japan.
However, regardless of winning a medal or not in Tashkent, Diaz's stint in the Asian weightlifting event will only formalize her fourth straight Olympic outing as she will complete the International Weightlifting Federation's requirement of competing in five tournaments to get a slot in Tokyo
Diaz, currently ranked no. 5 in the IWF world rankings in the women's 55 kilogram catego will see action tomorrow.
In front of Diaz in the world ranking are four Chinese lifters, Jiang Huihua (4,667.8878), Liao Qiuyun (4,288.9622), Zhang Wangqiong $(4,212.6639)$ and Li Yajun (4,099.0223)
However, as per the IWF guidelines and Tokyo Olympics rules, it appears that only Jiang will advance because only one weightlifter is allowed to compete per
Games.
"I've been waiting for so long "I ve been waiting for so long for this event, and I am happy that it's finally happening," said the 30-year-old Diaz, who will
become the first Filipino athlete become the first Filipino athlete
to reach four straight trips to


Diaz ... first Filipino athlete to reach four straight trips to the Olympics

the Olympics.
Originally set in April of last year in Kazakhstan, the event organizers canceled it due to
a country pandemic national acclaim saw its prayers
answered when the then Zambeold weightlifter from Zamboanga City, the hotbed took home a silver medal from the Brazil Games.
She particularly made history for the Philippines when she finished second best in the $53-\mathrm{kg}$ division of the women's $53-\mathrm{kg}$ division of the women's
weightlifting competitions to end the country's 20 -year medal drought in the Olympics. Diaz - the country's lone athlete to Rio to win a medal for lete to Rio to win a medal for
the country - also became the the country - also became the
first Filipina to win an Olympic first Filipina to win an Olympic
medal and the first who finmedal and the first who finished at the podium after Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco won the silver for the boxing event in the
1996 Atlanta Games. 1996 Atlanta Games.
A three-time Olympic campaigner, Diaz initially said that the Rio Games was to be her last Olympic stint, only to have a change of heart.
She is setting her sights at winning the Philippines' first ever Olympic gold medal. "It's still the Olympics. That's my target," said Diaz. "I will be back to try and win the gold
medal."

## Dy, Lausa seek redemption at BRAVE 51

 TDT | ManilaThe Philippines' Rolando 1 "The Incredible" Dy and Jenel "The Demolition Man" Lausa are bent on redeeming themselves and hoisting the country's flag aloft by competing at brave Combat Federation 51.
Although the Bahrain-based promotion has yet to announce the bout lineup for its maiden venture on Belarusian soil, the two Filipino mixed martial artists have already thrown in their names as willing participants on the card.
The 29-year-old Dy, son of boxing legend Rolando Navarrete, bowed to Kyrgyz powerhouse Abdisalam "Omok" Kubanychbek via second-round corner stoppage in the headliner of BRAVE CF 47: Asian Domination last month.
On the undercard of the same event, the 32-year-old Lausa was dealt a unanimous decision setback by Ryskulbek Ibraimov, also of Kyrgyzstan.
Despite their respective defeats, the Filipino fighters are in high spirits and determined to bounce back on BRAVE CF 51 to be held at the state-of-the-art Falcon Club Arena in Minsk, Belarus on June 4 .
Dy, the 2020 BRAVE CF Fighter of the Year, remained optimistic despite falling to Kubanychbek in the world lightweight title in the world
eliminator. "I have no other options but
to get back up. I know the loss to get back up. I know make me to Kubanychbek will make me
a better fighter. I learned a lot from this loss more than I learned from my wins," said Dy. learned from my wins," said Dy.
"I will be ready for the next one. "I will be ready for the next one. I hope I will be back in action I hope I will
very soon.


Dy, left, and Lausa are eager to get back on the winning track


Despite their respective defeats, the Filipino fighters are in high spirits and determined to bounce back on BRAVE CF 51 to be held at the state-of-the-art Falcon Club Arena in Minsk, Belarus on June 4
"I haven't been to Europe ye and it's enticing to fight over there. Belarus is a great starting point of my road to redemption. won't think twice about taking added Dy, who holds a 14-10

Lausa, for his part, also threw his name in the card, saying that he is not discouraged at all after yielding to Ibraimov in his much-awaited mixed martia arts comeback.
"I want to fight as soon as possible. Winning and fight ing again will motivate me" h declared.
The Filipino former UFC fighter cited Octagon veteran Andrei "The Pitbull" Arlovski a Belarusian-American himself, as one of his mma idols.
Arlovski is known for giving a name to Belarus by bagging the interim UFC heavyeigh the interim UFC heavyweigh him as the undisputed worl him as the undisp hampion in 2005.
"He's one of my idols. I admire how he (Arlovski) fights in the cage because he's exciting and gives it all in every fight It will be a dream come true i get to fight where he starte hausa, who

Al Hakam wins Ministry's Golf Cup


Sultan Al Hakam, right, receives the champion's trophy from Ayman bin Tawfeeq Almoayyed in the presence of Lt Gen Diab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi

## TDT | Manama

Association (BGA) vice-presi-
Ber ahrain international golfent Lt Gen Diab bin Saqr Al Ber Sultan Al Hakam was players.
crowned champion of the Almoayyed praised the great Ministry of Youth and Sports role played by the BGA in proAffairs Golf Cup. moting the game of golf in Youth and Sports Affairs the Kingdom. He highlighted Minister Ayman bin Taw- the wide participation of elite feeq Almoayyed presented Al players from across Bahrain in Hakam the winner's trophy, in the competition, and congratu-

## Musiala nets twice as Bayern Munich go seven-points clear

 afpl MunichEric Maxim Choupo-Moting. Wout Weghorst pulled a goal $T$ eenager Jamal Musiala back for Wolfsburg, but Musia1 netted twice yesterday as la made it 3-1 at half-time with Bayern Munich sealed a 3-2 a towering header to leave him win at Wolfsburg to open a on four Bundesliga goals this seven-point gap at the top of
the Bundesliga table which the Bundesliga table which leaves the holders on the verge of a ninth straight league title. Bayern bounced back from their Champions League quar-ter-final exit on Tuesday by

Maximilian Philipp gave hosts Wolfsburg hope when he flicked home a cross just after the break.
in come at a price as Bayern rarly early goals by Musiala, 18, and limped off late on.

# Bahrain book berth in FIBA Esports finals 

Bahrainis defeat counterparts from Kuwait in best-of-three semi-finals to advance to championship series in online basketball tournament

## - Bahrainis to face Saudi Arabia in championship round

- Bahrain win game three after clutch three-pointer with 2.7 seconds to go

TDT | Manama

Bahrain scraped through o the championship round of the Middle East Conference in the FiBA Esports Open III last night, following
a thrilling $71-7$ victory over a thrilling 71-70 victory over semi-finals series.
semi-final ses.
"National team character "||-Rodman-||", controlled by Jassim Ali, buried the game-winning three-pointer
in the dying seconds to help in the dying seconds to help
lift the Bahrainis to their lift the
triumph.

## triumph

The result made it 2-1 for Bahrain in the best-of-three clash It was a comeback in the series for the nationals, who lost the first game 68-74 before bouncing back 81-62 in game t
level the semis series 1-1. level the semis series $1-1$. Bahrain now move on to face

## Tsitsipas, Rublev in Monte Carlo final with maiden Masters title at stake

## AFP | Monte Carlo

$\mathbf{S}_{\text {Rublev }}^{\text {tefanos Tsitsipas and Andrey }}$ Sublev will clash in Sunday's Monte Carlo final with both men looking to confirm their top 10 credentials With world number one Novak Djokovic and 11-time champion Rafael Nadal already knocked out and world number two Daniil Medvedev forced to withdraw due to a positive Cov-id-19 test, it's a final few would have predicted.
Greek fourth seed Tsitsipas defeated Dan Evans, the the third round, 6-2, 6-1 in his semi-final yesterday.
semi-final yesterday.
Eighth-seed Rublev of Rus-Eighth-seed Rublev of Rus-quarter-finals, beat unseeded Norwegian Casper Ruud 6-3

Tsitsipas has yet to drop a set in Monte Carlo this week and is through to his third Masters 1000 championship match.
He finished runner-up in Canada in 2018 and Madrid the following year.
"A lot of beautiful things happened in Monaco, for my family and I would really like to carry on this tradition," Tsitsipas said enigmatically, simply specifying


Stefanos Tsitsipas reacts during the match


A lot of beautiful things happened in Monaco, for my family and I would really like to carry on this tradition stefanos titisipas
that he would say more on Sun day and that these "things" conerned his mother in particular. The 2020 ATP Finals cham o raise my level of play to the

## imits.

"It's more about how much I want the victory. It's a question want the victory. It's a question
of pure determination, of willof pure determination, of will-
ingness to surpass myself to get ingness to surpass myself to get what I want."
The 23-year-old Rublev will now look to record his second straight win over Tsitsipas in Sunday's final.
Rublev beat the 22 -year-old Greek en route to the Rotter dam title last month to tie their head-to-head series at 3-3. On clay, they are 1-1 with Tsitispas winning their most recent clash on the surface in straight sets in the Roland Ga


[^0]:    New Horizon School yesterday conducted a virtual Investiture Ceremony for the 2021-22 year. Principal Leena Verma and the school leadership team took part. During the event, newly elected student council members pledged to work earnestly while receiving their prestigious badges and sash. A felicitation address followed.

