

Ahli barge into Khalifa bin Salman Cup final

Ahli's hopes of a league-and-cup double stay alive | P 12

WORLD **6** Biden edges Trump in TV ratings for dueling town halls

THE DAILY **tribune**

Ibrahimovic's quickfire double gives Milan 2-1 derby win

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BUSINESS

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AUB launches Bahrain Trade on AUB Trader Platform



Won't back Hariri for PM



Beirut

Lebanon's largest Christian political party said yesterday it would not back the nomination of former Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri to lead a government to tackle a deep economic crisis, further complicating efforts to agree a new premier.

Hariri, who quit as prime minister last October in the face of nationwide protests, has said he is ready to lead a government to implement reforms proposed by France as a way to unlock badly needed international aid. (full story on page 6)

Russia gets approval for COVID-19 vaccine trials in India

Reuters | Moscow

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd have received renewed approval to conduct late-stage clinical trials in India of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine, the sovereign wealth fund said yesterday.

Large-scale trials of the Sputnik V vaccine in India were first announced and then knocked back by Indian regulators, who said the scale of Phase I and II trials conducted in Russia earlier this year was too small, requesting that they be repeated.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES **77,571**

ACTIVE CASES **3,437**

DEATHS **293**

DISCHARGED **73,841**

NEW CASES **246**

CRITICAL **46**

210 fils (includes VAT)

Ardern wins landslide in New Zealand's 'Covid election'

● Ardern had dubbed the vote "the Covid election"

● She displayed both empathy and decisive action on gun control

AFP News

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a landslide victory in New Zealand's general election yesterday, leveraging success battling Covid-19 into an unprecedented majority she said gave her a mandate for progressive reform.

Ardern's centre-left Labour Party took 64 seats in the 120-member parliament with

49 percent of the vote, after the youthful and charismatic leader steered the nation through the upheaval wrought by the global pandemic.

"Thank you to the many people who gave us their vote, who trusted us to continue leading New Zealand's recovery," the 40-year-old told cheering supporters.

Ardern had dubbed the vote "the Covid election" and campaigned on her government's success in eliminating community transmission of the virus, which has caused just 25 deaths in a population of five million.

The pandemic is one of a string of emergencies that tested Ardern's leadership during a torrid first term, after she rode to an unexpected victory in 2017 polls on the back of a wave of



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

support dubbed "Jacinda-mania".

She displayed both empathy and decisive action on gun control after a white supremacist gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers in the Christchurch mosques attack last year.

Ardern again found herself

comforting a shocked nation when a volcanic eruption at White Island, also known as Whakaari, killed 21 people and left dozens more with horrific burns.

"There's no doubt the strong, great leadership we've had from Jacinda Ardern has been a mas-

64

Ardern's centre-left Labour Party took 64 seats in the 120-member parliament with 49 percent of the vote

sive factor in all this," Labour Party president Claire Szabo said of her party's win on broadcaster TVNZ.

Saturday's vote marked the first time any leader won an absolute majority since New Zealand adopted a proportional voting system in 1996 and was the party's strongest showing since World War II.

Embargo ends as Iran eyes deadly weapons

United Nations' arms embargo on Iran ends today

● Iran gets freedom to purchase and sell weapons

● US warns it as threat to global security

TDT | agencies

With a decade-old UN embargo set to expire today, Iran has made clear that it is looking forward to buying and selling weapons with "many friends" putting the stability of the Middle East at risk.

Washington has condemned the development "as a threat to global security."

Meanwhile, Tehran has started celebrating the newfound freedom with Iranian UN mission spokesman Alireza Miryousefi saying that his country had options beginning Sunday.



Iran's "Ra'ad-500" (thunder-500) missiles equipped with an advanced composite engine dubbed "Zohair". (Courtesy of Eurasiareview/ Tasnim News Agency)

"In accordance with the timeline stated in resolution 2231, Iran will be relieved from arms restrictions as early as October 18. Naturally, from that date, we'll trade, on the basis of our national interests, with other countries in this field."

Rouhani has also said that from that day on "we will be able to sell our arms to anyone

we choose and we can purchase arms from anyone we choose."

The expiration date for the embargo is as per the 2015 nuclear deal that Washington withdrew from in 2018.

This situation, in theory, allows Iran to purchase and sell conventional weapons like tanks, combat aircraft, and heavy artillery.

Analysts, however, say, even Russia and China, which have both opposed Washington's campaign of "maximum pressure" on Iran, are likely to be reluctant to sell weapons to Tehran. A 2019 report by US Defense Intelligence Agency suggested that, after the expiration of the UN arms embargo, Tehran will try to purchase advanced fighter aircraft.

The US administration has repeatedly argued that should the embargo fail to be extended, it would strengthen Iran's capability to further arm its proxies in



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The Iranian regime doesn't deserve to have its arms embargo lifted- it hasn't abided by current restrictions and continues to commit violations. Iran cannot be trusted to act like a responsible nation when it continues threatening other nations and supporting terrorist activity

MIKE POMPEO
 US SECRETARY OF STATE

the region and eventually destabilise the Middle East.

Washington also believes that Iran's ballistic missile programme is used by the regime to further its influence in the region and is not for "peaceful" purposes as Tehran claims.

(Continues on page 2)

Chilling warning

Frozen food polluted by coronavirus could cause infection

Reuters | Beijing



A woman looks at frozen food products in a supermarket in Beijing, China

China's disease control authority said yesterday that contact with frozen food packaging contaminated by living new coronavirus could cause infection.

The conclusion came as the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) detected and isolated living coronavirus on the outer packaging

of frozen cod during efforts to trace the virus in Qingdao.

The finding, a world first, suggests it is possible for the virus to be conveyed over long distances via frozen goods, it said.

Two dock workers in Qingdao who were initially diagnosed as asymptomatic infections in September brought the virus to a chest hospital during quarantine due to insufficient disin-

YOU KNOW WHAT

Only living virus can infect people, while samples containing dead virus could also test positive for virus traces

fection and protection, leading to another 12 infections linked to the hospital. However, the CDC does not show solid proof that the two workers caught the virus from the packaging directly, rather than contracting the virus from somewhere else and then contaminating the food packaging they handled, said Jin Dong-Yan, a virology professor at the University of Hong Kong.