

OSAKA FALLS TO TEICHMANN IN THIRD-ROUND CINCINNATI SHOCKER

Daniil Medvedev beats Grigor Dimitrov while Ashleigh Barty advances in Cincinnati Masters | P11

WORLD 8 India gives emergency approval for world's first COVID-19 DNA vaccine

THE DAILY tribune



Nicole Kidman gets slammed after skipping Hong Kong quarantine for 'Expats' shoot

9 CELEBS

BUSINESS

5

Fed's Kaplan watching Delta variant, says he may need to adjust view

Help to build community immunity by taking the booster dose

VACCINATE AND STAY SAFE

Bahrain opens the way for Afghan flights

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will allow evacuation flights from Afghanistan to use its transit facilities before reaching their final destinations.

In a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom said it's closely following the event unfolding in Afghanistan.

"Bahrain is committed to supporting humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan based on its moral obligations and as a dedicated member of the international community," the statement said.

The Kingdom also expressed hope that all parties will commit to stabilising the internal situation and protecting the lives of civilians.

Spectacular sunken forest

P6

The artist behind the world's first underwater sculpture park has just unveiled his latest subaquatic project -- a spectacular sunken forest located off the coast of Pernera beach in Ayia Napa, Cyprus.

Last update - 9:00 pm
 20 August 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose) 1130698
 (Second dose) 1075461
 (Booster dose) 234863

Aged 40 and above and those with comorbidities: 194791 (76.4%)
 Total of this Category 254,870

Bahrain add to medal haul in GCC swimming



P12

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
 5748703

ACTIVE CASES
 1085

DEATHS
 1385

DISCHARGED
 268962

NEW CASES
 79

CRITICAL
 5

Bahrain opens COVID vaccine registration for children, offers booster shot for Pfizer, AstraZeneca jabs

- Jabs for 3 to 11-year kids with comorbidity issues
- To vaccinate all aged 12 to 17 years

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is further strengthening its battle against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic by opening vaccination for kids as young as three years of age.

Health Ministry yesterday said that registration is open for kids aged between 3 to 11 years of age, who suffer diseases that cause weak immunity, and all in the 12 to 17 age group.

Besides, the Kingdom is also extending booster doses to those who passed at least six months after taking the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca (Covishield) jabs.

Sinopharms for 3 to 11-year-old kids

Two doses (3 - 11 year olds)

Those can take only: **Sinopharm**

(For those who suffer from diseases that cause weak immunity)

Respiratory diseases, Heart diseases, Diabetes, Obesity, Cancerous tumors, Down syndrome, Birth defects

Registration Through the Ministry of Health's website healthalert.gov.bh

Two doses (12 - 17 year olds)

Those can choose to take: **Pfizer-BioNTech** **Sinopharm**

Registration Through the Ministry of Health's website healthalert.gov.bh **BeAware** application

As per yesterday's decision, Sinopharm vaccine registration is now open for children between 3 and 11 years of age and suffering from diseases that

weaken their immunity. Health ministry considers children with respiratory diseases, heart diseases, diabetes, cancerous tumours, down syn-

drome, birth defects, and obesity, are having weak immunity. Meaning, kids in the 3 to 11 age group, having any of these conditions, will receive Sinop-

Booster for AstraZeneca, Pfizer shots P2

Trial on for Sputnik V booster P2

harm jabs. To get the vaccine, register through the website: 'healthalert.gov.bh'.

For 12 to 17-year-old children
 All those aged between 12 and 17 years will receive COVID-19 jabs- either Sinopharm or Pfizer BioNTech, according to the National Medical Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Vaccination requires approval and the presence of a guardian. Registration is available through the Health Ministry website healthalert.gov.bh and BeAware app.



Booster dose for more

● **Booster extended for those who took Pfizer, AstraZeneca shots**

● **Those aged 60 and above eligible**

● **Starting from 1 October 2021, vaccination status of individuals eligible for a booster shot will change on the BeAware Bahrain app**

● **Appointment through healthalert.gov.bh or the BeAware Bahrain app**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's new decision opens up the booster vaccination registration to those completed at least six months after taking both doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccines.

Eligible groups, the Health Ministry says, are those 60 years and above and suffering from immunodeficiency diseases.


The ministry also said that those who qualify for the booster dose could take the Pfizer-Bi-

The Ministry of Health:


Registration is now open for the booster vaccination for those who have been fully vaccinated for at least six months with

● Pfizer-BioNTech ● AstraZeneca (Covishield)

Eligible groups:



those aged 60 and above



and the immunocompromised

Those who qualify for the booster dose can choose to take the Pfizer-Biontech vaccination or the same type of vaccination taken for their first and second doses.

ontech vaccine or the same vaccine used for first and second jabs as a booster dose.

Starting 1 October 2021, all those eligible for booster doses will have their shield on the BeAware app turned yellow automatically.

It will return to green only after receiving the booster shot. Registration is available both on the BeAware Application and the website healthalert.gov.bh.

Earlier, booster doses were available to those, who are 40

Registration for the Booster Dose



BeAware Application



Or the Ministry of Health's website healthalert.gov.bh

years and older, and took both doses of the Sinopharm vaccine. The National Taskforce, at that time, said their goal is to administer booster shots to 95,000 individuals aged 40 and above to reach a target of 80%.

The Taskforce, on Tuesday, also revealed that 75% of eligible

individuals aged 40 years and above had received a booster dose.

Bahrain, the Taskforce statement had said, will re-adopt its green alert level into its COVID-19 alert system modelled on the traffic light system from the 3rd of next month.

Vaccinated with Sputnik V?

Taskforce welcomes you for a booster dose trial

TDT | Manama

Those who completed six months after taking two doses of the Sputnik V vaccine are welcome to participate in a trial to receive booster shots.

The trial by The National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is for determining the effectiveness of booster shots for individuals fully vaccinated with Sputnik V jabs.

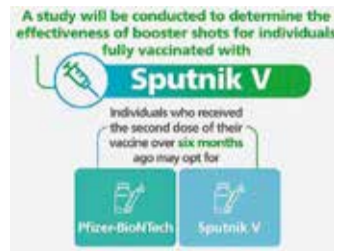
Those participating in the trial can opt to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech or Sputnik V vaccine as a booster shot.

If interested, register for the trial through healthalert.gov.bh or the BeAware Bahrain application.

Sputnik V, AstraZeneca cocktail!

According to reports, a clinical study conducted in Azerbaijan has returned high immunogenicity profile for a combination of AstraZeneca and the first component of Sputnik V vaccine (Sputnik Light).

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), Russia's



sovereign wealth fund, AstraZeneca and R-Pharm have announced the preliminary results.

To date, 64 volunteers are vaccinated with the combination vaccine, and further enrollment of volunteers is still on. Preliminary data from the first 20 participants have shown antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus spike protein (S-protein) elicited in 100% of the cases, reports say.

The RDIF statement said the interim analysis of the data had previously demonstrated a high safety profile for the combined use of the vaccines with no serious adverse events or cases of coronavirus infection after vaccination. Clinical trials of a combination of vaccines are now being carried out in several countries as part of a global programme.

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Bahrain to open embassy in Israel soon: Israeli official tells Anadolu Agency

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will soon establish an embassy in Tel Aviv, Anadolu Agency yesterday quoted a top Israeli official as saying.

The report quoting Hassan Kaabia, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said, "Soon, Bahrain will open an embassy in Tel Aviv, and Morocco will raise the level of representation from a liaison office to an embassy."

He also told the agency that they are to sign similar agreements with other Arab countries.

Kaabia also claimed that an important part of his country's

”

Soon, Bahrain will open an embassy in Tel Aviv and Morocco will raise the level of representation from a liaison office to an embassy

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON
HASSAN KAABIA

agreements with Bahrain and the UAE rests on relations between the peoples. "We're talking about a new model, which

differs even from peace with Jordan and Egypt, as in a large part it focuses on relations between peoples, not just governments," he said.

There, however, is no official confirmation from Bahrain on opening its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Bahrain, in June this year, appointed its first ambassador to Israel. Bahrain and Israel normalised ties following a deal signed last year in September. The other Arab states to join the accords were the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco.

Bahrain also named Khaled Yousef al-Jalahmah as envoy to the State of Israel.

Qatar violating rights of Al Murra members: BJS

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Jurists Society, an organisation with consultative status at the United Nations, yesterday denounced Qatar for preventing the service of lawyers to the members of the Al-Murra tribe.

"Qatar should stop discriminating between its citizens and provide those they have detained their rightful access to lawyers," said the Society.

The Society observed that Qatar had silenced and arrested them without providing any constitutional rights and contradicting international human rights law.



Picture for representation only

Reports had said that the kingdom is stripping the semi-nomadic Al-Murra tribes of their citizenships and their rights.

"Surprisingly, political rights are only for citizens in Qatar and banning Al Murra tribe rep-

resents an implicit withdrawal of their citizenship," the Society said.

The Jurists Society also said it is shocking and startling to know that the arrests were for peaceful demands to restore their rights.

Horse racing club to get new facilities

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club, Bahrain's state-of-the-art horse racing facility, is to get an upgrade with plans progressing fast to add eight new horse stables and other structures to its already world-class facilities.

The facility at Sakhr aims to complete the works in about a year, after awarding a tender launched.

According to the tender by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities and Urban, the club will get a new eight-horse stable with ten boxes per stable.

The tender also calls for creating eight new ancillary service blocks with all associated services, including horse wash and cooling areas. Service blocks, the tender description says, will have trainers office, bedroom for



Representative picture

horse caretakers, toilets, tack room, storage and feed rooms.

If interested, place bids before the 8th of September 2021 with a BD5,000 bond and BD100 fee.

Established in 1977, REHC holds one of the best racing

events in the region.

One of the unique features of REHC is that it boasts one of the finest grass tracks and grandstands in the entire Middle East.

Currently, there are two turf tracks measuring about 2,400

meters and one sand track for training, along with a grandstand with a seating capacity of over 3,000.

The racing season starts from the first week of November, with once a week racing continuing

through to the end of April. About 300 horses participate during the racing season. Six races are for thoroughbreds, one for Arabian horses, three are local thoroughbreds and three for imported.

UoB buying Mac systems, offering 4-year cleaning contract



Representative picture

TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain is purchasing MAC computers, for which it has also launched a tender.

The tender is for buying Apple iMac 24" model, Mac Book Pro 16 inch, Macbook Pro 13 inch, and Mac Pro-Tower MDM Deployment and Management (JAMF School).

Interested parties should make bids before the 1st of September 2021, with a BD500 bond and BD30 fee.

Cleaning services

UoB also intends to provide a four-year contract for providing cleaning services, according to a tender launched.

The contract calls for providing four supervisors and 126 workers, including females workers, whose number should be not less than 15. Interested parties should enter their bids before the 1st of September 2021, with a BD5,000 bond and BD100 fee.

EWA replacing cooling systems

TDT | Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority is looking forward to replacing the cooling systems at its intake substations and water transmission directorate stations to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.

A tender launched by the board says EWA intends to replace the existing defective units with new industrial type Air conditioning units.

The move, EWA tender says, is for lowering maintenance costs and protecting the equipment and instruments inside substations, which requires a certain degree of cooling.

The replacement units, tender says, should match the specifications given, have heavy-duty pistons, metal components and copper coils,



Representative picture

among others.

The Air-conditioning units shall be pre-approved by EWA and should have a minimum of five-star energy rating. The refrigerant used shall be CFC free, environment-friendly type (R410a, R407c).

If interested, make bids before the 15th of September 2021, with a BD500 bond and BD15 fee.

Works Ministry renovating roads in A'ali

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is renovating various roads in the Northern Governorate.

The current works are for roads in Block 738 or A'ali, said a tender document.

As part, the ministry will install contingency ducts, remove and repave the tarmac, construct minor stormwater drainages, among other works.

The contract duration is 25 weeks.

Contractors in AA, A, B, C, D and E in the Road works categories are eligible to bid for the works.

Make bids before the 15th of September 2021, with a BD1,000 bond and BD50 fee.



Representative picture

Sewer connections

The ministry has also launched another tender for constructing sewers for roads 3,129, 3,157, Block 231 and Al Dair.

The tender launched calls for

providing sewer connections for 20 properties in block 231, among other works.

If interested, make bids before the 1st of September 2021, with a BD500 bond and BD30 fee.

Labour ministry enhancing security, surveillance

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development is planning to enhance the security of its building by installing IP security and surveillance systems.

The ministry, through a tender, has invited proposals for the design, supply, testing and commissioning of the systems.

Among requirements, the tender calls for providing three-year maintenance and support services for the CCTV systems.



Representative picture

A successful contractor should also clean the systems periodically.

Make bids before the 15th of September 2021, with a BD500 bond and BD30 fee.

Tight competition for Tamkeen's audit

TDT | Manama

Tamkeen's decision to appoint an audit agency to gauge its performance attracted seven companies.

BDO Consulting, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG Fakhro, Baker Tilly JFC Public Accountants Co. Partnership, Grant Thornton - Abdulaal Gulf Audit, Talal Abu ghazalah & Co International and Protiviti Member Firm Bahrain are competing to bag the contract.

The bids range between

BHD 24,202.500 and BHD 94,000.000.

Talal Abu ghazalah emerged as the lowest bidder.

The tender requires holding a formal examination of the performance, programmes, and activities of Tamkeen for determining its degree of compliance.

A successful contractor, the tender says, should conduct an economic audit, an efficiency audit and a quality audit of Tamkeen's support programmes, as per internationally accepted benchmarks.

MoH renovating Sitra Health Centre

TDT | Manama

Sitra Health Centre is to get to revamp with the addition of several new facilities.

The Ministry of Health has also launched a tender for the works.

The ministry plans to demolish its existing nursing restrooms, extent MCH, Nursing, Pharmacy and laboratory sections, construct a new isolation



Representative picture

room, X-ray section and modify the dental unit.

Interested contractors should make bids before the 12th of September 2021, with a BD4,000 bond and BD100 fee.

Services currently offered by the centre in the Capital Governorate include general clinic, diabetic, NCD, Sickle-cell disease, early detection, dental, mother and child care, radiology, pharmacy, laboratory, social services, health promotion and nursing.

Tatweer wants a 4x4 off-road pickup

TDT | Manama

Tatweer Petroleum is looking forward to leasing an off-road pickup to transport its men and deliver materials to remote desert locations.

A tender launched by the company says the vehicle should do the works safely while carrying loads.

The tender description says the company wants a brand new 2021/2022 model with 0km mileage.

The model should be a 4X4 off-road pickup powered by a six or eight-cylinder engine with an automatic transmission.

The vehicle should have at least 8.5 inches ground clearance, 6.6" or 8" (feet) bed



Representative picture

length, with bed liner.

Bidders are also required to provide free of a charge replacement vehicles during downtimes.

The vehicle proposed by the bidder must have a mileage parameter between 25,000 to 30,000 kilometres per annum.

If interested, make bids before the 5th of September 2021, with a BD500 bond and BD15 fee.

Biz incubator for UoB attracts eight cos

TDT | Manama

Eight contractors had come up with bids for designing and furnishing the business incubators centre of the University of Bahrain.

Those bidding includes Murano Design & Build, Almoayyed Interiors, Al Satter Office Furniture, and Furniture point.

Their quotes range between BHD 30,226.443 and BHD 350,284.874.

Al Satter emerged as the lowest price bidder.

However, the Tender board clarifies that price shall be the principal criterion after fulfilling technical and other requirements. Meaning, the lowest price bidder is not necessarily awarded the tender.

The tender is for equipping and furnishing the business incubator centre at UoB to enhance its competitiveness.



Bahrain has 343 cars per 1000 people

Kingdom ranked 3rd regionally, 40th globally on World car ownership ranking by the Economist

TDT | Manama

Bahrainis own more cars than most other nations in the Gulf, says a new report.

According to a report by the Economist, there are 342 cars per 1,000 people in the Kingdom now.

According to The Economist, this number places Bahrain third among the Arab nations and 40th among the global nations on its report that ranks countries based on car ownership.

As of August 2019, according to the General Directorate of Traffic, Bahrain had over 711,000 vehicles registered.



That number showed an annual increase of 10% when compared to the 640,000 registered vehicles in 2018.

In the Economist report, topping the list from the region on the car ownership ranking is Kuwait, where there are 405 cars per 1,000 people.

Closely following is Libya on the second spot with 350 cars per 1,000 people.

On the bottom end of the ranking is Sudan. The country has only 1.3 cars per 1,000 people.

Mauritania, which is second last on the ranking, has five cars per 1,000 people. Puerto Rico tops the ranking globally with 862 cars per 1000 people.

School maintenance works attract huge interests

TDT | Manama

Tenders launched by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning for school maintenance had attracted huge responses.

Eight companies are bidding for taking up the general repair works of Jidhafs Secondary Girls School & Ha'ajer Primary Girls School.

The bids range between BHD 315,377.000 and BHD 552,285.137. Saraya Contractors made the lowest quote.

Another tender for Al Esteqlal Commercial Secondary Girls School and Al Hidd In-



termediate Girls School won five bids.

The bids range between BHD 520,300.000 and BHD 591,002.915. Dar Al Khaleej Trading & Contracting emerged as the lowest bidders.

The works are generally for civil and structural maintenance works.

Both projects have a three-month contract duration.

33 approved ready-mix concrete factories in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

There are 33 approved ready-mix concrete factories in the Kingdom, said the Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning.

Breaking down further, the ministry said, 19 of the factories are for concrete and 14 for pre-cast concrete.

The ministry said it has also given out 189 certificates for ready-mix concrete companies and 19 for pre-cast companies during the first half of 2021 as part of a quality monitoring system by the Building materials department and Chemical Analysis laboratory.

The laboratory keeps a tab on the type of sand, cement, gravel used to improve the concrete and amount of water used. They also monitor the technical aspects a concrete factory should follow to ensure quality.

Works Ministry said they are giving certificates after conducting site visits to conduct experiments using different mixtures.

Cubes are made of each type of concrete mixture to test its strength by specialists.

To ensure the quality of raw materials, Material Engineering Department officials col-



lect samples and test them in laboratories. The visits are unannounced and repeated periodically.

Building materials laboratories examine the samples to determine granular gradation, the proportion of water and the shape of gravel and sand. The Chemical Analysis laboratories perform tests to determine the percentage of slats in gravel, sand, water and conformity of cement to the Gulf Standard Specifications.

Officials are making 100 visits per month to collect samples and monitor the storage and processing of raw materials, said the ministry.

Factories would initially receive a warning for violations and then suspension, if not corrected on time.

The factories should approach the authorities to start procedures for approval for making a concrete mixture with new specifications and materials. "Every six months, au-



Precast concrete is a construction product produced by casting concrete in a reusable mold or "form" which is then cured in a controlled environment, transported to the construction site and lifted into place. In contrast, cast-in-place concrete is poured into site-specific forms and cured on site.

thorities renew the certificates, bringing the certificate renewal rate to 112 on any given month," said the ministry.

Supervisors should send samples of ready-made concrete, indicating its source, production date, type of laboratory to the authority for strength testing. It takes 7 to 28 days to issue the results.

BMS for BIC attracts three bidders

TDT | Manama

Atender issued by the Bahrain International Circuit to update and hire a building management system specialist returned three bids.

Almaooyed Air conditioning (BHD 299,250.000), Trust Electromechanical serv-

ices (BHD 1,072,386.000) and Arabian houses contracting (BHD 673,375.500) are the bidders.

A successful contractor, the tender description says, should study the existing system and design a new state-of-the-art BMS meeting BIC's requirements.

Eight companies interested in monitoring Bahrain's air quality

TDT | Manama

Atender by the Supreme Council for Environment for placing ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Kingdom attracted bids from eight companies.

The tender was for designing, supplying, and operating two ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Kingdom.

Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo, BDH Middle East, Green Tech Middle East Consultancy, Enviro & Industrial Solutions, Mesec information technology,



Gulf Advanced Control Systems, Newtech International and Mohammed Jalal & Sons Technology are the bidders.

Their bids range from BHD 175,350.000 to BHD 399,466.200.

Green Tech emerged as the lowest bidder.

Eskan bank plans buildings with 400 apartments

TDT | Manama

Eskan bank's tender to appoint a consultancy for Al Ramli housing development attracted eight bidders.

The tender was for appointing a consultant for the supervision of Al Ramli housing development plot four.

The project planned includes two 10 storey buildings, with a total of 400 apartments.



The three-bedroom apartments will also have two car parking spaces for each apartment and a retail area of 1,152m².

Among the bidders are Pan Arab Consulting Engineers, Ansari Engineering Services, and Tebodin Middle East Ltd. Their bids range between BHD 147,920.000 and BHD 714,925.000. Urban Vision made the lowest quote.

Man drives off with a person on bonnet in Hamad Town



Representative picture (Courtesy of AlAyam)

The arrest followed a video clip of the stunt went viral on social media sites

Police arrest the suspect

TDT | Manama

Police had arrested a 20-year-old Bahraini man

for driving recklessly through the streets of Bahrain.

The arrest followed a video clip that went viral on social media sites showing the man driving through Hamad Town with a person sitting at the front of his vehicle.

The General Directorate of Traffic, based on the video, opened an investigation and brought the suspect into custody.

Public Prosecution is pursuing legal actions.

Motivational Strips honours Bahrain-based Indian Poet

TDT | Manama

Bahrain resident and Indian Poet Nivedita Roy was conferred with Independence Day Literary award 2021 by Motivational Strips, the world's most active writers forum and Gujarat Sahitya Academy, under the Government of

Nivedita Roy lives in Manama, Bahrain. She is currently pursuing her career as a teacher and a poet.

Gujarat. Nivedita Roy has authored

a book of her English poems and coauthored six anthologies in the last one-and-a-half years. Her second poetry collection in Hindi is under publication.

Motivational Strips and Gujarat Sahitya Academy honoured 440 poets and writers from 82 countries as part of 75th Inde-

pendence Day of India.

Shiju H Pallithazheth, the founder of Motivational Strips, said, "Nivedita's poems take you to unexplored zones covering philosophical, rational and practical themes. Her poems guarantee amusement and rational awakening in the readers."

Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, Women in Tech join hands



Officials during the deal signing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Businesswomen's Society and the "Women in Tech" organisation announced signing a cooperation protocol deal to achieve the common economic goals and develop the business to serve the national economy.

Ahlan Janahi heads the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, and Ayumi Moore Aoki heads the "Women in Tech" organisation.

Jérôme Cauchard, the Ambassador of France, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Ambassador of Bahrain to France, BBS Board Members and WIT Members and Advisory Board, took part in the signing held via zoom app.

Women in Tech is a non-profit organisation. Its mission is to achieve women empowerment in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Fed's Kaplan watching Delta variant, says he may need to adjust view

● Kaplan is the most forceful supporters for starting to reduce support for the economy

Reuters

Dallas Federal Reserve President Robert Kaplan, among the US central bank's most forceful supporters for starting to reduce support for the economy, said yesterday he may need to adjust that view if the Delta variant of the coronavirus slows economic growth materially.

"It's unfolding rapidly," Kaplan said on Fox Business Network's "Mornings with Maria" programme.



Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President, Robert Kaplan, stands on a stage at Stanford University's Hoover Institution where he is attending an annual monetary policy conference in Stanford, California

"So far, it's not having a material effect" on consumer activity like dining out, he said, but "it is having an effect in delaying return to office, it's affecting the ability to hire workers because of fear of infection," and may

be affecting production output, he said.

In a separate virtual appearance at a Texas Tech University event, Kaplan said he was for now leaving his economic forecasts unchanged, at 6.5%

GDP growth for this year, with unemployment falling to around 4.5% by the end of 2021, a view he's had for many months now.

Inflation as measured by a key Fed gauge, the personal consumption expenditures index, will likely be around 3.8% at year's end but ease next year to about 2.5%, still above the Fed's 2% target, he said.

If the economy plays out as he expects, he said, he'd still support announcing a reduction in the Fed's \$120 billion in monthly asset purchases next month, and begin actually doing so in October.

The caveat, he said, is the highly contagious Delta variant. It's "a good thing" there's still a month to watch it before the Fed's next policy-setting meeting, he said.

T-Mobile breach hits 53 million customers as probe finds wider impact

Reuters

T-Mobile US Inc said yesterday an ongoing investigation into a data breach revealed that hackers accessed personal information of an additional 5.3 million customers, bringing the total number of people affected to more than 53 million.

The third largest US wireless carrier had earlier this week said that personal data of more than 40 m former and prospective customers was stolen along with data from 7.8 m existing T-Mobile wireless customers.

In its latest update, which comes days after the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened an investigation into the breach, T-Mobile revealed it had identified 5.3 million additional wireless subscribers who were impacted by the breach as well as 667,000 more accounts of former customers.

The data includes addresses, dates of birth and phone numbers of customers, the company said, adding that it had no indication that the accessed data contained financial information such as credit card or



Some T-Mobile customers sued the company for damages late Thursday night in Seattle federal court, other payment data.

Some T-Mobile customers sued the company for damages late Thursday night in Seattle federal court, saying in a proposed class action that the cyberattack violated their privacy and exposed them to a higher risk of fraud and identity theft.

The wireless carrier is the latest victim of cyberattacks on large corporations in the United States as hackers exploit weakened user system privacy and security due to work-from-home policies instituted since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2018, the company had informed about a potential security breach that could have affected about 3% of its 77 million customers.

US dollar dips from 9-1/2-month high but near-term outlook still upbeat

● COVID-19 economic concerns to continue to boost dollar

● Commodity currency prospects stay bleak in near term

● Investors cautious but trading calmer than on Thursday

Reuters | New York

The safe-haven US dollar slipped from a 9-1/2-month high yesterday, as risk appetite improved with equities gaining and benchmark Treasury yields higher, although the near-term outlook for the greenback remained upbeat.

The US currency remained supported overall by concerns that the coronavirus Delta variant could derail global economic recovery just as central banks begin to reverse COVID-19 pandemic-related stimulus.

The dollar index, which measures the US currency against six rivals, rose to as high as 93.734 for the first time since early November, before trading 0.1% lower at 93.491. For the



An employee counts U.S. dollar bills at a money exchange in central Cairo, Egypt

week, it posted a 1% gain, the most in two months.

Minutes of the Fed's July meeting, released on Wednesday, showed officials largely expect to reduce their monthly bond buying later this year.

The Australian dollar sank to a new 9 1/2-month low of US\$0.7107, and was down 0.2% at US\$0.7137. On the week, the Aussie fell 3.3%, its worst weekly performance since September 2020, as a COVID-19 lockdown on Sydney was extended by a month.

New Zealand's Kiwi dollar dipped to a new nine-month trough of US\$0.6807 at one point. It last traded up 0.2% at US\$0.6838. The government on

Friday extended a snap COVID-19 lockdown that delayed the central bank raising interest rates this week.

The Canadian dollar dropped to an eight-month low of C\$1.2948 per US dollar and was last at C\$1.2840, down 0.1% against its US counterpart as oil prices fell further because of worries about the global economy. The euro was up 0.2% at \$1.1697, not far from the 9-1/2-month low of \$1.1665 reached overnight. Against the yen, another safe-haven currency, the dollar was flat at 109.80 yen. Sterling slipped to one-month lows versus the dollar, and last down 0.1% at \$1.3622.

Canada's Big Five banks to require staff entering premises to be vaccinated

Reuters | Toronto

Canada's five biggest banks are mandating that employees working from their offices must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 this fall, taking a firmer stance than some of their U.S. counterparts and some other Canadian companies.

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD), Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank), Bank of Montreal (BMO) and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) will all require staff to show proof of vaccination to enter their premises, they said in internal memos sent by Reuters.

RBC, TD, BMO and CIBC require employees to be fully vaccinated by the end of October, the banks told employees on Thursday and Friday.

Scotiabank has not set a date yet, but it is "moving in the direction of making vaccinations mandatory" for all employees and contractors based in Canada later in the fall, according to an internal note sent to employees on Friday.

Ever Given that blocked Suez in March, crosses the canal again

● The ship, en route from the United Kingdom to China, crossed the canal among a convoy of 26 vessels sailing from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea

Egypt | Ismailia



Ever Given, one of the world's largest container ships, is seen after sailing through Suez Canal in Ismailia

The giant container ship Ever Given, which blocked the Suez canal for six days in March, crossed the waterway on Friday for the first time since it left

Egypt after the incident.

The ship, en route from the United Kingdom to China, crossed the canal among a convoy of 26 vessels sailing from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red

Sea, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said in a statement. Another 36 ships crossed the waterway from the south.

A group of SCA senior pilots and two tugboats escorted the Ever Given throughout its journey through the canal, the authority said in a statement.

The vessel, one of the world's largest container ships, became jammed across the canal in high winds on March 23, halting traffic in both directions and disrupting global trade.

Once it was dislodged, the 400-metre (1,312-foot) vessel left Egypt on July 7, 106 days after becoming wedged across a southern section of the wa-

terway. Egypt released the Ever Given after protracted negotiations and an undisclosed settlement reached between the SCA and the ship's owners and insurers. It arrived in the Dutch port of Rotterdam on July 29 before heading to Felixstowe, England.

Roughly 15% of world shipping traffic transits the Suez Canal, the shortest shipping route between Europe and Asia.

Friday's voyage through the canal was the Ever Given's 22nd in the waterway.

Shipping trafficking websites Marinetraffic.com and Vesselfinder.com showed the ship in the Red Sea after crossing the canal.

News in brief

Brazil's Bolsonaro blocking critics on social media: HRW



Human Rights Watch accused Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro Thursday of violating the right to free speech by blocking critics on social media, where the far-right leader maintains a heavy presence. At least 176 journalists, lawmakers, influencers, ordinary citizens and others deemed critical of the president have had their access to his accounts blocked, mostly on Twitter, the New York-based rights group said in a report. Bolsonaro "is trying to rid his social media accounts of people and institutions that disagree with him and turn them into spaces where only applause is allowed, part of a broader effort to silence or marginalize critics," HRW's Brazil director, Maria Laura Canineu, said in a statement

China passed a sweeping privacy law aimed at preventing businesses from collecting sensitive personal data yesterday, as the country faces an uptick in internet scams and Beijing targets tech giants hoovering up personal data. Under the new rules passed by China's top legislative body, state and private entities handling personal information will be required to reduce data collection and obtain user consent.

China passes tough new online privacy law



UK, US sanction seven more Russians for Navalny poisoning



Britain and the United States sanctioned seven Russian officials on the first anniversary of the near fatal poisoning of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, which the West blames on Moscow. The individuals – all members of Russia's domestic security service the FSB, successor to the KGB – are accused of planning or carrying out the Aug. 20, 2020 nerve agent attack. They now face asset freezes and travel bans under the sanctions.

The death toll from an attack on civilians and the military in northern Burkina Faso has risen to 80 people, the government said in a statement. The attack occurred on Wednesday when Islamist militants raided a civilian convoy that was being escorted by military police near the town of Arbinda, the latest in a spate of attacks across West Africa's Sahel region this month. Fifty-nine civilians, six pro-government militiamen and 15 military police were killed, the government and the military said on Thursday. The initial death toll was put at 47 on Wednesday.

Death toll from Burkina Faso attack rises to 80



The Ugandan government said it had ordered more than 50 non-governmental organisations to suspend operations, a major escalation of its efforts to tighten control over civil society. The 54 groups affected include the country's most prominent rights organisation, Chapter Four, as well as charities, religious, environmental and electoral democracy groups. The shutdown was ordered "with immediate effect", the National Bureau for NGOs, part of the ministry of internal affairs, said in a statement.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	38,242,977	643,207	211,237,288
2 India	32,392,506	433,998	
3 Brazil	20,494,212	572,733	
4 Russia	6,705,523	174,485	4,423,645
5 France	6,557,356	113,103	Recovered:
6 UK	6,429,147	131,487	189,110,075
7 Turkey	6,177,092	54,107	New cases
8 Argentina	5,116,803	109,841	432,167
9 Colombia	4,880,516	123,901	New deaths
10 Spain	4,758,003	83,004	+7,224
11 Iran	4,616,516	100,810	
12 Italy	4,471,225	128,683	
13 Indonesia	3,950,304	123,981	
14 Germany	3,858,609	92,451	

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	285,831		16,647		235,317	33,867
Saudi Arabia	541,201	+458	8,458	+9	527,189	5,554
UAE	707,236	+1,070	2,014	+2	687,644	17,578
Kuwait	407,878	+226	2,401	+2	400,148	5,329
Oman	300,914		4,020		289,450	7,444
Qatar	230,442	+221	601		226,996	2,845

US evacuation flight had record 823 passengers

AFP | Washington

The US military transport aircraft shown in a now-iconic photograph jam-packed with Afghans fleeing the country's Taliban takeover held a record 823 passengers, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The US military's Air Mobility Command said the original estimate of 640 Afghans, seated on the hard floor of the giant C-17 Globemaster III -- already more than double the normal capacity -- omitted children passengers.



A US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III flies Afghans fleeing the Taliban

"We have women and children and people's lives at stake, it's not about capacity or rules and regulations -- it's about the training and the directives that we were able to handle to make sure we could safely and effectively get that many people out"

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIC KUT, MISSION COMMANDER FOR THE FLIGHT

The count was made based on the number of seats filled on the buses delivering the passengers to the C-17 and left out all the children seated on laps, it said on Twitter.

Ultimately, the aircraft, which was headed to Qatar, "safely transported 823 Afghan citizens from Hamid Karzai International Airport Aug. 15, 2021. This is a record for this aircraft," it said.

The command did not say how many crew were on the flight.

According to the publication Defense One, the pressure of Afghans trying to leave on Sunday forced the crew to make the

call on departing, even though the passengers were not manifested.

"We have women and children and people's lives at stake, it's not about capacity or rules and regulations -- it's about the training and the directives that we were able to handle to make sure we could safely and effectively get that many people out," Lieutenant Colonel Eric Kut, who was mission commander for the flight, told the journal.

The transports are usually used for heavy equipment or a few hundred troops carrying large packs of their own weapons and belongings.

UAE to temporarily host 5,000 Afghans at US request

Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates has agreed to host 5,000 Afghan nationals to be evacuated from their country for 10 days on their way to a third country at the request of the United States, the Gulf Arab state's foreign ministry said yesterday.

"The evacuees will travel to the UAE from the Afghan capital of Kabul on US aircraft in the coming days," the ministry said in a statement carried by state news agency WAM.

The foreign ministry told



UAE flag flies over a boat at Dubai Marina, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Reuters they would be hosted for 10 days.

The UAE has so far facilitated the evacuation of 8,500 people

from Afghanistan on its aircraft and through its airports, it said.

The announcement came after US officials told Reuters Washington was expected to announce that countries in Europe and the Middle East have agreed to temporarily shelter people evacuated from Kabul as its base in Qatar reached capacity.

A Qatari official told Reuters the Gulf Arab state was "continuing our efforts to evacuate people from Afghanistan. Additional flights are scheduled during the upcoming days."

Facing try to s

Chaos mounting again

Western powers under fire over intelligence, evacuations

Reuters | Kabul

Foreign powers sought to hasten evacuations from Afghanistan yesterday after reports of Taliban reprisals, including against people who had worked with US-led forces or the previous Western-backed government.

More than 18,000 people have been flown out since the militants took the capital Kabul, according to transatlantic alliance NATO, but Western governments are facing criticism for not anticipating such a chaotic exodus or helping enough.

Thousands of desperate Afghans clutching papers, children and some belongings still thronged Kabul airport where gun-toting Taliban members urged those without travel documents to go home. In and around the airport, 12 people have been killed since Sunday, NATO and Taliban officials said.

Such was the turmoil that no nation really knows which plane its citizens are on, while some people were caught in Afghanistan on family visits, a Dutch minister said.

"As of today, those who may be in danger have no clear way out," UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Shabia Mantoo said, urging

Forest soaked with sculptures grow u

The newly opened Museum of Underwater Sculpture in Cyprus consists of 93 sculptures by renowned artist Jason deCaires Taylor

CNN | Nicosia

The artist behind the world's first underwater sculpture park has just unveiled his latest subaquatic project -- a spectacular sunken forest located off the coast of Perna beach in Ayia Napa, Cyprus.

The Museum of Underwater Sculpture in Cyprus (Musan), which cost 1 million (\$1.1 million) to bring to life, is made up of 93 sculptures by Jason deCaires Taylor, whose previous work includes the Molinere Bay Underwater Sculpture Park in Grenada and Mexico's Isla Mujeres National Marine Park.

Taylor aims to put the spotlight on "rewilding our natural spaces" and "reforesting areas of barren habitat" through the installation, which explores the relationship between man and nature.



Human impact

Some of the figures featured include huge trees weighing up to 13 tons as well as children pointing cameras at shapes depicting the human race while playing hide and seek.

"I tried to incorporate as many references to climate change and habitat loss and pollution as I could, because those are really the defining issues of our era," Taylor tells CNN Travel.

"I'm kind of hoping that it leaves the visitor with a sense of hope along with a sense that the human impact isn't always negative. That we can reverse some of

the things we've done.

"But I also hope that it instills some other messages about holding genes and corporations responsible. It's really about safeguarding the future of the younger generation."

Each of the sculptures, which were lowered below the surface by crane, were made with inert pH neutral materials that attract marine life and have been placed at different depths, so that the biodiversity of the area may be "enriched" by their presence over time.

Submerged art

"They're designed to sort of



let natural growth settle on the substrate," explains Taylor. "After five or six days, I could already see a thin film of algae on each of the heads of the sculptures, which have these quite complex habitat areas, and they were already full with little juvenile fish."

"So that was very, very encouraging. I'm really looking forward to going back in a couple of months time and seeing how it aggregates marine life."

Taylor spent two to three years working on Musan, which had been due to open last year, but the launch was delayed due to the global pandemic.

"We started building the pro-

1192

Minamoto Yoritomo becomes Sei Tai Shogun and the de facto ruler of Japan



1703

The Edirne Event: Turkish army removes Sultan Mustafa II, lessening the power of the sultans

1911

"Mona Lisa" stolen from the Louvre by Vincenzo Perugia; recovered in 1913

1991

Conservative coup in the Soviet Union is crushed by popular resistance led by Boris Yeltsin in three days

backlash, foreign powers speed Afghanistan exodus

at airport as UN reports Taliban searching for Afghans who worked with foreign forces



A baby is handed over to the American army over the perimeter wall of the airport for it to be evacuated, in Kabul

neighbouring countries to keep borders open.

The speed with which the Islamist group conquered Afghanistan, as foreign troops were withdrawing, surprised even their own leaders and left power vacuums.

The Taliban called for unity, asking imams at Friday prayers to persuade people not to leave. Residents in Kabul and four other cities said attendance was low, though prayers passed off without incident.

However, a German civilian was wounded by a gunshot on the way to the airport before being evacuated, a German government spokesman said. And German broadcaster Deutsche Welle said Taliban fighters killed a relative of one of its reporters and badly wounded another in house-to-house searches.

Some Afghans have reported being beaten and having homes raided, while others say they have received reassurances. Taliban spokespeople were not immediately available for comment.

Protests

A witness said several people were killed in the eastern city of Asadabad on Thursday when a protest was fired on by the Taliban, who want to impose strict Islamic law. There were similar shows of defiance in two other eastern cities - Jalalabad and Khost - coinciding with celebrations of the nation's 1919 independence from British control.

"The Taliban are facing the new reality of Afghanistan that Afghans are not the same Afghans of 20 years ago," Barakat Rahmati, Afghanistan deputy ambassador



Evacuees from Afghanistan disembark a Spanish military plane as part of their evacuation at Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) in Dubai

**YOU
KNOW WHAT**

US has about 5,800 soldiers controlling the airport but acknowledged it does not have a grip on how many citizens were in Afghanistan

to Qatar, told Reuters.

"Afghans, inclusive of men and women, held protests in Kabul despite a Taliban gun being pointed to them. They are holding protests against injustice. They are defending their identity and their flag."

Washington has about 5,800

soldiers controlling the airport but acknowledged it does not have a grip on how many US citizens were in Afghanistan.

The United States was "laser-focused" on "the potential for a terrorist attack" by a group such as Islamic State during the evacuation, White House security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

In Britain, media said several senior officials were on holiday as the Afghan debacle erupted and that spy chiefs may face a grilling over intelligence failings. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab countered that the government had been working "tirelessly" on evacuations.

Germany said yesterday it was sending helicopters to help.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said other countries should not impose their own values. Beijing, too, said the world should support, not pressure, Afghanistan.

GoFundMe campaign raises \$6mn for Afghan evacuation



Afghans wait to board a US military aircraft to leave Afghanistan at the airport in Kabul

AFP | Washington

A GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the evacuation of 300 vulnerable Afghans fleeing the Taliban has raised over \$6 million, according to figures published Thursday.

The creator of the fundraising page, New York-based Tommy Marcus, asked for funds to organize flights out of the country for Afghans who risk being targeted by the Taliban.

They include men and women who worked as human rights lawyers, LGBTQ activists, journalists, government liaisons and others, "all of whom are at imminent risk of being executed by the Taliban, along with their families," the page said.

Marcus said he was working with aid groups, veterans and activists on the ground in Kabul to plan the rescue operation.

Since its launch earlier this week, the campaign has received donations from over 106,000 people, with contributions ranging from \$1 to \$20,000, collecting \$5 million in the space of just one day.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



India is fighting COVID-19 with full vigour. The approval for world's first DNA based 'ZyCoV-D' vaccine of @ZyduUniverse is a testimony to the innovative zeal of India's scientists. A momentous feat indeed.

@narendramodi

02



Chaired UN Security Council briefing related to Counter Terrorism. The Council's unanimous position on terrorism threats, including from ISIL-Khorasan, is a clear message. Vital to display zero tolerance of terrorism, no double standards, no distinction.

@DrSJaishankar

03



The health & well-being of billions of people depends to a large degree on the urban environments in which they live & work. Welcome #Bucharest, #Cairo, #Cordoba, #Dublin, #Manchester and #Warsaw to the Healthy Cities partnership.

@DrTedros

04



The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. Around 1 billion children live in countries that are at extremely high-risk to the effects of the climate emergency, according to @UNICEF. The time for #ClimateAction is now. Inaction is not an option.

@antoniogutierrez

Underwater in the Mediterranean Sea off Cyprus



ject in Cyprus in March last year," says Taylor. "So we probably chose the worst time possible."

"We had a lot of difficulties with changing flights, organizing materials and moving everything. It's certainly been one of the most challenging projects that I've ever done."

Challenging project

The museum actually begins on land, with a physical entrance on Perna beach and a pathway leading towards a descent point with a floating platform that leads down to the submerged sculptures.

Musan is accessible to both di-



I tried to incorporate as many references to climate change and habitat loss and pollution as I could, because those are really the defining issues of our era. I'm kind of hoping that it leaves the visitor with a sense of hope along with a sense that the human impact isn't always negative. That we can reverse some of the things we've done

JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

vers and snorkelers, and Taylor hopes that it will lure more visitors to this marine protected area of Cyprus, which he describes as having "some of the best visibility I've ever been in."

"It's obviously very different from other places," he explains. "It's not a tropical region, where we have coral reefs and all the habitat that that brings, it's more of a temperate area."



"So it will attract different species of marine life, and it's one of the first pieces I've done where the works go from the seabed up to the sea surface, with floating elements."

"The floating trees move quite a lot in the current -- they go very, very close to the surface."

Living visual experience

One of the sculptures have been strategically placed so that it's looking out onto the barren stretch of sand along the waters of the Mediterranean, considered the world's most over fished sea. "It's meant to convey that we

need to look after these protected areas massively and we need to talk about policing them in a much, much tighter way," he adds.

Musan is a joint collaboration between the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the Ayia Napa municipality and the Ministry of Tourism.

"The underwater museum will be a living visual and ecological experience, with works of art interacting with nature and evolving over time," Marina Argyrou, director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research said during a statement at the

launch of the project last month.

Environmental art

"And I'm certain it will bring people closer to the marine environment and the conservation and protection of our marine ecosystem."

Visits to the museum can be booked via local dive centers.

Taylor's work is primarily focused on promoting ocean conservation and highlighting the impact of climate change.

He's currently working on new exhibits for Australia's Museum of Underwater Art in Townsville, northern Queensland on the Great Barrier Reef, which has lost half of its corals over the past two decades, as well as a future exhibit to be based in the Red Sea.

Taylor says he's also been in talks with the Grenadian government about the possibility of creating some new underwater installation on the island where he launched his first such project back in 2006.

The artist launched an underwater museum consisting of six portrait sculptures weighing around 10 tons in France near Cannes earlier this year.

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

Classifieds

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ASFI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773355 or ALDARALKHALIDAH@GMAIL.COM
CLAY JAPANESE-PERUVIAN RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33773374 or Mohameda@themeatco.com
WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 39405504 or WORLDSERVICES1988@GMAIL.COM
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New Zealand's Ardern vows to stamp out Delta as outbreak widens



Lambton Quay is devoid of people on the first day of a lockdown
 Reuters | Wellington

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern urged New Zealanders yesterday to adhere to her strategy to eliminate the fast-spreading Delta variant as she extended a strict lockdown amid a surge in infections.

Ardern's critics are questioning if she can repeat last year's feat of almost stamping out COVID-19, as her government struggles to get the population vaccinated in the face of the more infectious Delta variant.

"We have been here before... we know the elimination strategy works," Ardern told a news conference. "Cases rise and then they fall until we have none. It's tried and true...we just need to stick it out."

Ardern extended the lockdown for the population of 5.1 million until midnight on Tuesday as the outbreak widened beyond the largest city,

“We have been here before...we know the elimination strategy works. Cases rise and then they fall until we have none. It's tried and true...we just need to stick it out”

JACINDA ARDERN

Auckland, to the capital, Wellington.

Yesterday's 11 new cases, three in Wellington, took New Zealand's tally of infections to 31. The Wellington sufferers had recently travelled to Auckland, visiting locations identified as having been exposed to the outbreak.

"We just don't quite know the full scale of this Delta outbreak," Ardern added. "We want the whole country on high alert right now."

New Zealanders had been living virus-free and without curbs until Ardern on Tuesday ordered a snap 3-day nationwide lockdown, with a seven-day shutdown for Auckland, after the discovery of the first case since February.

Health chief Ashley Bloomfield warned that the lockdown in outbreak epicentre Auckland could be widened further.

Ardern's tough lockdowns and international border closure in March 2020 helped rein in COVID-19, but the government now faces questions over a delayed vaccine roll-out, as well as rising costs in a country heavily reliant on an immigrant workforce.



New Zealanders had been living virus-free and without curbs until Ardern on Tuesday ordered a snap 3-day nationwide lockdown, with a seven-day shutdown for Auckland, after the discovery of the first case since February

India gives emergency approval for world's first COVID-19 DNA vaccine

Reuters | New Delhi

India's drug regulator has granted emergency use approval for Zydus Cadila's COVID-19 vaccine, the world's first DNA shot against the coronavirus, in adults and children aged 12 years and above.

The approval gives a boost to India's vaccination programme, which aims to inoculate all eligible adults by December, and will provide the first shot for those under 18, as the country still struggles to contain the virus spread in some states.

The vaccine, ZyCoV-D, uses a section of genetic material from the virus that gives instructions as either DNA or RNA to make the specific protein that the immune system recognises and responds to.

Unlike most COVID-19 vaccines, which need two doses or even a single dose, ZyCoV-D is administered in three doses.

The generic drugmaker, listed as Cadila Healthcare Ltd, aims to make 100 million to 120 mil-



A woman receives coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine in Mumbai

lion doses of ZyCoV-D annually and has already begun stockpiling the vaccine.

Zydus Cadila's vaccine, developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, is the second home-grown shot to get emergency authorization in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

The drugmaker said in July its COVID-19 vaccine was effective against the new coronavirus

mutants, especially the Delta variant, and that the shot is administered using a needle-free applicator as opposed to traditional syringes.

The regulatory nod makes ZyCoV-D the sixth vaccine authorized for use in the country where only about 9.18% of the entire population has been fully vaccinated so far, according to Johns Hopkins data.

Zydus Cadila had also submit-

YOU KNOW WHAT

The vaccine, ZyCoV-D, uses a section of genetic material from the virus that gives instructions as either DNA or RNA to make the specific protein that the immune system recognises and responds to

ted data evaluating a two-dose regimen for the shot in July and plans to seek regulatory approval for the same.

The firm had applied for the authorization of ZyCoV-D on July 1, based on an efficacy rate of 66.6% in a late-stage trial of over 28,000 volunteers nationwide.

Scientists question evidence behind US COVID-19 booster shot drive

Reuters | Washington

The Biden administration's plan to provide COVID-19 vaccine boosters is based on concerns that a decrease in the vaccines' ability to protect against milder infections could also mean people will have less protection against severe illness, a premise that has yet to be proven, scientists said on Thursday.

US officials, citing data showing waning protection against mild and moderate illness from the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines more than six months after inoculation, on Wednesday said boosters will be made widely available starting on Sept. 20.

The additional dose will be offered to people who received their initial inoculation at least eight months earlier.

"Recent data makes clear that protection against mild and moderate disease has decreased over time. This is likely due to both waning immunity and the strength of the widespread Delta variant," US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy told reporters.

"We are concerned that this



A woman receives the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine as a booster dose

pattern of decline we are seeing will continue in the months ahead, which could lead to reduced protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death."

Data on so-called "breakthrough" infections in vaccinated people shows that older Americans have so far been the most vulnerable to severe illness.

As of Aug. 9, almost 74% of the 8,054 vaccinated people that were hospitalized with COVID-19 were above the age of 65, according to the US Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. Almost 20% of those cases ended in deaths.

Based on available data on vaccine protection, it is not clear that younger, healthier people will be at risk.

"We don't know if that translates into a problem with the vaccine doing what is most important, which is protect against hospitalization, death, and serious disease. On that, the jury is still out," said Dr. Jesse Goodman, an infectious disease expert at Georgetown University in Washington and a former

Recent data makes clear that protection against mild and moderate disease has decreased over time. This is likely due to both waning immunity and the strength of the widespread Delta variant

US SURGEON GENERAL VIVEK MURTHY

chief scientist at the US Food and Drug Administration.

Several countries have decided to provide booster shots to older adults and people with weak immune systems. European Union officials said on Wednesday they do not yet see a need to give booster shots to the general population.

Other experts said the US plan requires thorough vetting by the FDA and a panel of outside advisers to the CDC. A meeting of those advisers to discuss boosters set for Aug. 24 is being rescheduled, the CDC said on Thursday on its website.

Main event is official while three fighters miss weight for BRAVE CF 53

Nurzhan Akishev will take on Tae Kyun Kim in the main event of the evening



Tae Kyun Kim



Lucas Martins



Nurzhan Akishev



Brad Katona

Olzhas Eskaraev, Ernis Abdilakim Uulu, and Maksat Zholdosh miss weight

AFP | London

The stage is set for BRAVE Combat Federation's return to Almaty, Kazakhstan tomorrow night, August 21st after the gallant warriors competing on the main card of BRAVE CF 53 got their clearance to strut their wares in front of a worldwide audience during the official weigh-ins yesterday morning.

All eyes are on the headlining bout. Ranked as the No. 5 featherweight in Central Asia, Nurzhan "Bizon" Akishev is scheduled to lock horns with unbeaten South Korean standout Tae Kyun "Ares" Kim in a main event.

Akishev stepped on the scales at 66.2 kilograms, while Kim was slightly lighter than the hometown favorite as he weighed 65.85 kilograms.

The 28-year-old Kazakh grappling maestro holds a stellar professional record of 11-3 with eight victories by submission and two via knockout, and prior to his promotional debut this past January, he was riding high on a four-fight winning streak.

Akishev eyes redemption after losing to Roman Bogatov via unanimous decision at BRAVE CF 46. However, the man standing in his re-entry to the winner's circle is Kim, who has been on a roll with three consecutive victories under the organization's banner.

A possible shot at the vacant BRAVE CF Featherweight World Championship could be on the horizon if either one of them will be able to secure the decisive win. A blue-chip recruit is likewise slated to make his maiden appearance at BRAVE CF 53 as Vasilyi Takhtay (73 KG) faces fellow newcomer Roger Sampaio (72.9 KG) in a catchweight contest.

Meanwhile, Asu "Zulfikar" Almabaev

(57 KG) will have his big break on the global stage as he duking it out against Ukraine's Aleksander Doskalchu (57.05 KG) in a three-round flyweight encounter.

On the other hand, Azat "Kazakh" Maksim (57.1 KG) seeks to carry over his regional success to BRAVE CF by taking on fellow flyweight Flavio "Flavinho" de Queiroz (56.75 KG).

Olzhas Eskaraev, Ernis Abdilakim Uulu, and Maksat Zholdosh missed weight, and will be penalized accordingly. The bouts against Lucas "Mineiro", Aktore Batyrbek, and Sanjarbek Erkinov, respectively, will go on as scheduled otherwise.

BRAVE CF 53 Main Card

Featherweight: Nurzhan Akishev (66.2 KG) vs Tae Kyun Kim (65.85 KG)
Catchweight 73kg: Vasilyi Takhtay (73 KG) vs Roger Sampaio (72.9 KG)
Flyweight: Asu Almabaev (57 KG) vs Aleksander Doskalchuk (57.05 KG)
Catchweight 74kg: Olzhas Eskaraev (75.2 KG)* vs Lucas Martins (73.8 KG)
Bantamweight: Brad Katona (61.45 KG) vs Bair Shtepin (61.6 KG)
Flyweight: Azat Maksim (57.15 KG) vs Flavio de Queiroz (56.75 KG)
Catchweight 68kg: Ilyar Askhanov (67.9 KG) vs Akhmed Magomedov (67.8 KG)

*Missed weight

Octagon Prelims

Catchweight 59kg: Damir Tolenov (58.75 KG) vs Nurbek Bolotbekov (58.65 KG)
Flyweight: Aktore Batyrbek (57 KG) vs Ernis Abdilakim Uulu (58.25 KG)*
Light Heavyweight: Karim Ruzbakiev (93.4 KG) vs Kodirkhon Ganiev (92.9 KG)
Welterweight: Bauyrzhan Kuanyshbayev (77.3 KG) vs Fakhriddin Mardiev (77.1 KG)
Catchweight 59kg: Alisher Gabdullin (58.95 KG) vs Bekzat Saparov (59 KG)
Heavyweight: Islambek Baktybekuulu (115.2 KG) vs Zhasur Mirzamukhamedov (118.1 KG)
Super Lightweight: Maksat Zholdosh (77 KG)* vs Sanjarbek Erkinov (74.9 KG)

*Missed weight

Naruto shows up, Kim-Akishev Main Event's staredown quickly escalates

TDI | Manama

Ahead of fight night tomorrow, the BRAVE CF 53 Ceremonial Weigh-ins took place this Friday (20) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and had a wide range of emotions, from a laid-back and charismatic Naruto cosplay to a near-brawl between the two main eventers.

Stars of the main event of the evening, Tae Kyun Kim and Nurzhan Akishev almost started their fight one day before the scheduled date -- and outside of the cage. The two went forehead-to-forehead in a very intense moment and had to be separated by BRAVE CF color commentator Phil Campbell.

On the other hand, the co-main eventers Vasilyi Takhtay and Roger Sampaio's face-off went on in a much friendlier tone. Takhtay brought costumes from the Japanese anime Naruto, which he later revealed to be his son's favorite show, and they both stood face-to-face while dressing like the characters.

Kazakhstan's Olzhas Eskaraev missed the weight by 1.2kg but his bout against Lu-



Tae Kyun Kim and Nurzhan Akishev during the staredown

cas "Mineiro" Martins will remain on the card, with Eskaraev being fined for missing the 74kg-catchweight mark. Other two fighters didn't make weight and met similar fates, with no bouts cancelled for the groundbreaking show.

BRAVE CF 53 will be hosted in association with leading Kazakhstan promotion Octagon

League, and features athletes from eight nations, highlighting the international aspect of the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world.

The show will be available live and free through bravecfv.com or locally through our broadcast partners. For more on that, visit BRAVE CF's Instagram page @bravemmaf.

Nuno waits on Kane as Ndombele is cast aside

AFP | London

Tottenham manager Nuno Espirito Santo refused to say whether Harry Kane will play for the first time this season at Wolves on Sunday as the stand-off over the England captain's future continues.

Kane is keen to leave his boyhood club for a move to Premier League champions Manchester City before the end of the transfer window.

City are reportedly willing to break the Premier League transfer record for the second time this month after splashing £100 million (\$137 million) on Jack Grealish.

Kane missed Spurs' 1-0 win over City to open their Premier



Dele Alli and Nuno Espirito Santo during pre-season work

League season last weekend and a shock 1-0 defeat to Pacos de Ferreira in the Europa Conference League on Thursday.

However, the 28-year-old has trained all week with his teammates.

"It is a day-by-day situation," said Nuno at his pre-match press conference ahead of his return to old club Wolves.

"He trained today, trained good. He'll train tomorrow and we'll make a decision."

"I'm so sorry to keep saying the same thing, but this is how we work."

Chelsea's Havertz to auction boots for Germany flood relief



Kai Havertz

Reuters | London

Chelsea's Kai Havertz is to auction off the specially-designed boots he will wear in Sunday's Premier League match against Arsenal in a bid to raise funds for those affected by flooding in his native Germany.

Some 189 people lost their lives in severe floods that pummelled western Germany in mid-July, with houses and their occupants swept away in the Ahr valley, in the state of Rhineland Palatinate, the worst-affected area.

The 22-year-old Havertz has designed a bespoke pair of Nike Phantom boots that he will wear when Chelsea face Arsenal at their London rivals' Emirates Stadium.

He will then auction the boots and one of his signed match shirts, with all proceeds going to Red Cross Germany.

"I was so shocked when I first saw the images, it's difficult to comprehend what the people must be going through right now, but I knew I had to do something," said Havertz yesterday.

"I'm in a hugely privileged situation and I hope by starting this campaign supporting the Red Cross Germany I can inspire others to give what they can to help."

“It is a day-by-day situation. He trained today, trained good. He'll train tomorrow and we'll make a decision. I'm so sorry to keep saying the same thing, but this is how we work”

NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO

Tsitsipas angers Greek government over vaccination views



Stefanos Tsitsipas
AFP | Cincinnati

The Greek government on Thursday criticised tennis star Stefanos Tsitsipas for insisting he would only get a coronavirus vaccination if it became mandatory.

"He has neither the knowledge, nor the studies, nor the research work, that would allow him to form an opinion about it," government spokesman Giannis Economou said during a press briefing.

Economou said that while world number three Tsitsipas "is a great athlete, what is at stake, however, is his ability to assess the need for vaccinations or whether the vaccine has been tested for a sufficient period of time."

Tsitsipas is competing in Cincinnati this week where he revealed he has yet to take the vaccination.

"No-one has made it a mandatory thing to be vaccinated. At some point I will have to, I'm pretty sure about it, but so far it hasn't been mandatory to compete, so I haven't done it, no," he said.

"I'm young, under 25 category, for me the vaccine has not been tested enough, it is new. It has some side effects.

"I personally know some people who have had them. I'm not against it, I just see no reason for someone in my age group to need to be vaccinated."

Osaka falls to Teichmann in third-round Cincinnati shocker

Daniil Medvedev beats Grigor Dimitrov while Ashleigh Barty advances in Cincinnati Masters

Stefanos Tsitsipas beats Sonego to reach quarter-finals

AFP | Cincinnati

Naomi Osaka has no regrets over her stunning third-round loss Thursday at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters to Swiss wild card Jil Teichmann.

The four-time Grand Slam champion went down 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the world number 76 and admitted after the upset that her Tokyo Olympic third-round loss was on her mind.

"I was doing all I was supposed to do," the Japanese world number two said. "In the second and third sets I was too defensive."

"I learned a lot from this match -- I can sleep at night."

Osaka lost to an opponent who has struggled with several injuries this season but is now back to health.

"I knew inside I had this level and I was able to show it on court," said Cincinnati quarter-finalist Teichmann. "This week things are working out. I needed to be patient and here I am."

Osaka stayed low-key throughout the post-match media sessions she says she dreads, answering questions and seeming to meekly accept the loss in her final tuneup for the US Open, which begins August 30.

"I have high expectations of myself but there was nothing more I could do to win this match," Osaka said.

"I'm almost glad I lost as it gives me so many things to work



Jil Teichmann of Switzerland serves to Naomi Osaka of Japan



Naomi Osaka of Japan serves to Jil Teichmann of Switzerland



Osaka wished she could have won more than \$24,200 in prize money to donate in aid of the earthquake recovery effort in Haiti, her father's homeland, but tournament officials said they would match her donation

on in my game. I just hope the results come in time for the US Open."

Osaka wished she could have won more than \$24,200 in prize money to donate in aid of the earthquake recovery effort in Haiti, her father's homeland, but tournament officials said they would match her donation.

"I'm happy, but sad that I

didn't go further," Osaka said. "But I think I raised awareness. I'm glad we were able to contribute something."

Teichmann took just over two hours to defeat Osaka, breaking the Japanese star six times, three in the final set.

"I felt a bit hesitant, and normally I don't feel that way," Osaka said. "I put myself in this position by choosing not to play that many tournaments."

Osaka has had a rough ride since withdrawing during Roland Garros over emotional issues and skipping Wimbledon. She has played only two hard-court preparation matches since the Olympics.

"I'm feeling more confident in myself," Osaka said. "There were times where I was doubting myself. It's important to remind myself what my strengths are. I think I did that well in the first set."

"In the second set, maybe I played a bit more to her rhythm, and also in the third set, as well."

Osaka made 41 unforced errors in the match while hitting

"I was doing all I was supposed to do. In the second and third sets I was too defensive. I learned a lot from this match -- I can sleep at night"

NAOMI OSAKA

only 17 winners while Teichmann struck 21 winners against 29 unforced errors.

"I'm happy with how I played today," Osaka said. "I didn't give up on any ball. But my point construction could be a lot better."

Tsitsipas rallies to win

Men's second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas needed a fightback to tame Italian Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. The Greek improved to 47-13, increasing his ATP season match-win lead.

Tsitsipas said saving three break points in the first game of the second set changed the match trajectory.

"I'm glad I overcame that obstacle," he said. "I stayed in and waited for opportunities to present themselves. A fighting spirit was very crucial."

Russian top seed Daniil Medvedev reached the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over fellow former champion Grigor Dimitrov.

Medvedev, the champion in Toronto last weekend, will next face Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, who defeated ninth seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/3).

Third-seeded Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev defeated Argentine Guido Pella 6-2, 6-3 in 73 minutes while never facing a break point.

Women's top seed Ashleigh Barty of Australia powered into the quarter-finals 6-0, 6-2 over Victoria Azarenka.

Barty improved to 13-1 over top-20 opponents this season and will next face off against fellow French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková, who beat Garbine Muguruza 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2.

Nadal to miss US Open with season-ending foot injury

Rafael Nadal will miss the rest of the 2021 season after failing to recover from an injured left foot

AFP | New York

Rafael Nadal will miss the US Open after announcing yesterday that he is ending his season because of an injury to his left foot that has troubled him since his defeat in the semi-finals at the French Open in June.

"Hello everyone, I wanted to inform you that unfortunately I have to end the 2021 season," the Spaniard wrote on Twitter.

"Honestly, I've been suffering a lot more than I should with my foot for a year and I need to take some time to resolve this problem or at least improve the situation (if I want to be able to play) the next few years."

Following his defeat to Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros, Nadal skipped Wimbledon and the Olympics before making a return to the courts in Washington earlier this month.



Rafael Nadal in action during a match (file photo)

He beat Jack Sock but then slipped to a three-set defeat at the hands of South Africa's Lloyd Harris, after which the 35-year-old declared that "the foot was better".

However, that proved to be premature as he then pulled out of the event in Toronto saying it was "not a happy situation" and is missing from the current tournament in Cincinnati, the traditional curtain-raiser for the US Open which starts on August 30.

Nadal said that he wanted to give his foot time to heal so that

he could come back fully competitive in 2022.

"It is with the greatest enthusiasm that I will do everything I can to find the best possible form and return to competition with the objectives that are most important to me," he continued yesterday.

"I am convinced that I can achieve this if my foot heals and, of course, with great daily effort. I will work as much as I can to make it so."

"I promise to work hard to try and continue to benefit from this sport for a while longer."

"Honestly, I've been suffering a lot more than I should with my foot for a year and I need to take some time to resolve this problem or at least improve the situation (if I want to be able to play) the next few years"

RAFAEL NADAL

The world number four, who has 20 major titles to his name including four in New York, is just the latest big name to miss out on the US Open.

On Sunday, another former champion Roger Federer also pulled out of Flushing Meadows.

The 40-year-old, who has five US Open titles to his name, said he needed further knee surgery and admitted he "will be out for many months".

Defending champion Dominic Thiem also announced his withdrawal this week after failing to recover from a wrist injury.

Chelsea's Pulisic out of Arsenal match after positive Covid test

AFP | London

Christian Pulisic will miss Chelsea's Premier League trip to Arsenal after testing positive for the coronavirus, Blues manager Thomas Tuchel said yesterday.

The United States forward missed Chelsea's open train-

ing session on Wednesday, and is not available for Sunday's game at the Emirates Stadium as he self-isolates.

But Hakim Ziyech and N'Golo Kante are both back in training, and could yet prove their fitness in time to feature in the clash between the London clubs.

Bahrain add to medal haul in GCC swimming

Bahrain national team capture four more medals, including two gold, in morning session of GCC Aquatics Championships

● **Gold medals claimed by Saud Salah in youth 200m Breaststroke and Ahmed Abdulnabi in youth 50m Backstroke**

TD | Manama

Bahrain added four medals yesterday, including two gold, during the morning session of the second day in the 28th GCC Aquatics Championships, being held in Doha.

All four medals were in swimming, with the two titles being captured by Saud Salah in the youth (aged 15 to 17) 200 metres Breaststroke and by Ahmed Abdulnabi in the youth 50m Backstroke.

There are three age-categories at the meeting in swimming. The two others are seniors (18 and above) and boys (13 and 14).

The GCC championships also features the sports of diving and water polo.

Also yesterday, Bahrain's Faris Abdulrahman won a silver medal in the boys' 100m Freestyle, and Ali Alalawi claimed a bronze



Bahrain's Saud Salah celebrates with the Kingdom's flag and his gold medal on the youth 200m Breaststroke podium

in the youth 100m Freestyle.

All four medals came in the day's morning session, with more competition following in the evening.

In the 200m Breaststroke, Salah clocked a time of two min-

utes 29.20 seconds to capture the gold, while in the 50m Backstroke, Abdulnabi had a mark of 28.96 seconds for first place.

Faris had a time of 58.44s in his 100m Freestyle race in second place, while Ali swam 54.94s



For Salah, Abdulnabi and Faris, their morning session successes yesterday earned them their second medals of the championships, while Ali came away with his third medal

in third in his age group's 100m Freestyle.

For Salah, Abdulnabi and Faris, their morning session successes yesterday earned them their second medals of the championships, while Ali came away with his third medal.

On the previous day, Faris had also claimed a silver medal in the boys' 50m Freestyle, while Ali won a bronze in the youth 50m Freestyle. Ali, Salah and Abdulnabi were then part of the team, alongside Ahmed Alalawi,



Bahraini swimmer Ahmed Abdulnabi reacts after taking first place in the youth 50m Backstroke yesterday

that won bronze in the youth 4x200m Freestyle.

Action is scheduled to continue today.

The national team's delegation at the Qatari capital is being led by Bahrain Swimming Associa-

tion board member Wissam Al Tayeb.

Bahrain are looking to emulate their success at the 27th GCC championship, where they won 36 medals and achieved new records.

Bahrain women's football team leave for Turkey camp

● **Bahrainis gearing up for AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 qualifiers, scheduled for next month**

● **Istanbul camp to include four friendly matches against clubs from Turkey's Women's Football League**

TD | Manama

Bahrain's senior women's national football team departed for Istanbul yesterday for a training camp ahead of their qualifiers for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022.

The delegation is led by head coach Khaled Al Harban, and it includes his technical staff.

The team will be in the Turkish capital until September 4.

Al Harban has named a 23-player squad for the camp. The list includes Alia Jumaa Al Mudhaki, Yasmine Fayeze, Manar Ebrahim, Marwa Mohammed Mubarak, Hoda Ali Salman, Khuloud Saleh Abdullah, Hessa Riyadh Al Essa, Rose Fayeze, Amira Bader Siwar,



Bahrain's women's national team in the Kingdom prior to their departure for Turkey

Iman Rashid Al Khatal, Fatima Hamad Al Nusuf, Fatima Abdulhameed Issa, Rawan Nabeel Alali, Wesal Ahmed Al Yasi, Dana Bassem, Farah Jihad Khaled, Lilia Javed Sabkar, Zahra Nizar Ali, Maryam Abdulla Issa, Sara Mohammed Aliwi, Hana Ahmed Hafez, Sama Amjad Qassem and Munayer Ahmed.

The camp will feature an intensive programme of daily practice sessions, along with four friendly matches against

clubs from Turkey's Women's Football League.

Bahrain are in a tough Group A for the qualification competition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022. The other teams in their pool are Chinese-Taipei, Turkmenistan and Laos.

The qualifying matches are scheduled to be held between September 13 and 25 at centralised locations for each group. Bahrain's matches are set to take place in Chinese-Taipei.

A total of 28 teams separated into four groups of four, and another four groups of three, are in the qualifiers. The winners of each group clinch their place in the Women's Asian Cup, which is scheduled to take place in India from January 20 to February 6 next year.

There will be 12 nations in all in the tournament. Four teams have already secured their berth, namely defending champions Japan, along with runners-up Australia and



A total of 28 teams separated into four groups of four, and another four groups of three, are in the qualifiers. The winners of each group clinch their place in the Women's Asian Cup, which is scheduled to take place in India from January 20 to February 6 next year

third-placers China from the previous competition in 2018, as well as hosts India.

Solskjaer tells Pogba to back up lavish praise



Manchester United's manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (R) speaks with Paul Pogba (L) as they leave after a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer warned his side not to get carried away with a 5-1 win over Leeds United to start their Premier League season as he challenged Paul Pogba to perform consistently at his best.

The Frenchman provided four assists in the rout of Marcelo Bielsa's men in front of a near-capacity crowd at Old Trafford for the first time in 17 months last weekend.

Pogba's future is a source of speculation as he enters the final year of his contract at United with Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid linked with picking up the midfielder for free at the end of the season.

"That's negotiations with Paul's representatives and the club," Solskjaer said yesterday, when quizzed over the possibility Pogba will extend his stay in Manchester.

"For me and Paul, we work together every day here and

It's about bringing more energy to the next one and being even better so one swallow never makes a summer

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

we keep on trying to improve the team and to enjoy ourselves.

"When you win games you enjoy yourselves more and we've just got to make sure that we don't make this one game and everyone flies off. You know we get big headlines and all the praise we get.

"It's about bringing more energy to the next one and being even better so one swallow never makes a summer."

The flying start bolstered hopes that Solskjaer's men can finally compete for the Premier League title for the first time since Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013.