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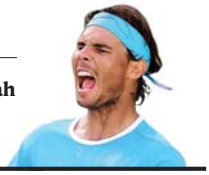
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Private sector to drive knowledge economy

Nadal and Farah have nothing to hide



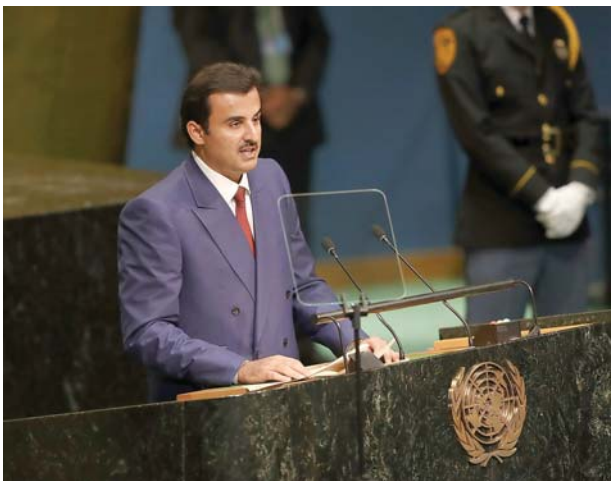
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Emir: Options narrowing for Israel

The Syrian regime continues to violate the redlines, but those who demarcated those lines have not felt provoked to raise a finger, Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said in a speech at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly.

QNA



Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani addressing the United Nations General Assembly in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, yesterday.

DOHA/ NEW YORK: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday called on the international community to act decisively to end the continuing Israeli occupation in Palestine saying the options are narrowing for Israel.

"Israel has either to go for the two-state solution or to opt for establishing a system of apartheid. And does Israel really think that it could maintain a system of apartheid in the 21st century?" the Emir asked, giving a speech at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly.

The Emir, calling for an immediate end to the bloodshed in Syria, pointed out that the Syrian regime continues to violate the redlines, "but those who demarcated those lines have not felt provoked to raise a finger."

"Israel's leaders may believe that they succeeded in their endeavour. But in fact they have failed to resolve any issue. The Palestinian people are more devoted to their rights than ever. Besides, what could Israel do with the millions of Palestinians living in their own land and are increasing in number and resourcefulness?," asked the Emir.

The Government of Israel has not only rejected the resolutions of international legitimacy and the comprehensive Arab peace initiative, but seeks to impose a fait accompli through long-term plans to build settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem. It has founded its occupation on discrimination and racial segregation, and established two legal systems under its sovereignty — one for the occupiers and the other for those languishing under the occupation.

"The Security Council bears a special responsibility to impose international legitimacy and consensus regarding the negotiations on the basis of the two-state solution, including the establishment of a Palestinian State with its capital in East Jerusalem, on the borders of 1967," said the Emir.

Coming to the Syrian crisis, the Emir said: "Here we meet again more than five years after the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, and in the aftermath of the destruction of the majority of Syrian cities by the regime. As a result the numbers of refugees have doubled, and seeking refuge has become trans-continental. Syria now is importing terrorists and sectarian organisations and militias, which pose a regional and international threat."

Theoretically, the majority of the countries of the world stood by the Syrian people, but practically they were left alone supported only by some loyal friends.

"Red lines were set for the regime who has violated them, yet those who demarcated those lines have not felt provoked to raise a finger. The red line continued to be shifted until the regime became aware of the fact that there is no ceiling for what it could perpetrate without accountability," said the Emir.

It is true that violent radical forces, which have nothing to do with the objectives of the Syrian revolution, have entered the Syrian arena and refused to fly its banner, and fought against the rebels more than against the regime.

There were many violations, but these phenomena, which marred the revolution could not be understood in isolation from the barbaric policy of repression applied by the Syrian regime and the inability of the international community to protect the civilians against the chemical weapons, bomb barrels and policy of torture.

→ Continued on page 2

Qatar University among 50 best young varsities

The Peninsula

DOHA: Qatar University (QU) has been featured among the 50 best young universities in the world, by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global higher education analysts.

QU has entered the list of 50 best young universities for the first time, after being among the top 400 in the QS World University Rankings. QU has secured the 49th position in this year's 'QS Top 50 Under 50 Rankings.'

This year's ranking indicates that Asia and Australia are home to the world's strongest recently-formed institutions. Nanyang Technological University retains the number one position. Asian institutions tookake all the top six places. QS's Head of Research, Ben Sowter, said:

"The correlation between the prominence of universities from both Australia and Asia, and the prominence of innovative tech-focused institutions, is especially strong in this year's rankings. The trend suggests that young universities with the resources and willingness to focus on creating and maintaining strong STEM-based research programmes stand by far the best chance of disrupting any established global elite."

Australia is the most-featured country on the ranking, with its young universities taking ten of the fifty available places. Asian universities are also highly featured: sixteen of the fifty available places go to Asian institutions. Europe is the most-featured continent, with 18 universities.

Ooredoo wins 'Telecoms CEO of the Year' award

The Peninsula



Waleed Al Sayed (left), Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Qatar, receiving 'Telecoms CEO of the Year' award at the Four Seasons Hotel in Dubai.

DOHA: Waleed Al Sayed, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Qatar, was named as the 'Telecoms CEO of the Year' at the CEO Middle East Awards on Monday.

The ceremony, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Dubai, was attended by some of the Gulf's top executives. The annual awards seek to recognise and reward outstanding success, innovation and ethics across the region.

Waleed Al Sayed received the award in recognition of the remarkable impact he has made since being named as Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Qatar and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Group in November 2015. Now in its tenth year running, the CEO Middle East Awards recognises the best CEOs in 14 business categories. In Qatar, Ooredoo successfully expanded its revenue share of the market to 72.2 percent in the first quarter of 2016, and secured 3.4 million customers by the end of 1H (first half) of 2016. The company has pursued network leadership in Qatar, completing a major Supernet upgrade by adding the new Category 9 LTE-Advanced standard to its mobile network and beginning work on Qatar's first 5G research and development centre.

80 more job categories barred from securing driving licences

By Sidi Mohamed
The Peninsula

DOHA: As part of a national strategy to address traffic jams, the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has banned 80 more job categories from getting driving licences.

They are added to the already 150 plus list which includes a number of professions.

"We received the new list last month and we fear it will reduce the number of people seeking new driving licenses. We will come to know about the actual impact, when we compare the current month (September) with previous months", a source at Al Rayah Driving School told *The Peninsula.*

He added that the ban is applicable to only company workers and workers under private sponsorship are not included in it.

The job categories that are barred from securing a driving licence include grocer, newspaper vendor, barber, servant, cosmetologist, security guard, porter, shepherd, butcher, tailor, goldsmith, agricultural worker, decoration technician, mining technician, beautician and mechanic etc. The Directorate has banned such jobs from having driving licence saying that it will help reduce traffic congestion.

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Corniche fish market upgraded with shades to cover sellers and customers.

Pic: Baher Amin / The Peninsula

Corniche fish market a huge draw

By Irfan Bukhari
The Peninsula

DOHA: If you want to enjoy toothsome fresh fish tonight without being deceived by a fishy sale and purchase deal, the small yet tidy fish stalls located on the Doha Corniche should be your number one choice.

Once the stalls operating under canopy of sky have now been provided purpose-built shades that provide extra comfort to customers and fish mongers by saving them from scorching sunlight during morning business hours.

"Observe the gills and retina of eyes of fish carefully. It indicates its freshness or otherwise. If the gill is red and has not turned white, it shows its freshness. In the same manner a whitish retina of fish eyes points out its spoilage," said Mathi, a fisherman cum fish-monger selling fresh fish at Corniche fish-stall.

The salesman is not alone in testifying in favour of fish's freshness. Meet Saalik, a regular customer of the mini market who says that he visits the market once a week.

"I prefer buying fish from here due to its freshness although the fish available at central fish market is cheaper," said Saalik, who hails from the southern Indian town of Chennai.

Most of the people visiting Corniche fish-market were demanding Safi (White-spotted spine foot) particularly Qataris and other Arab customers. At Mathi's stall, only Qurqufan (Haffara seabream) fish was available yesterday morning.

"Due to strong winds last night and early morning, we could not catch new stocks," he said. He was selling Qurqufan fish at the rate of QR10 per kg while every customer was haggling for bringing the price down.

→ Continued on page 5

UN Council selective in addressing problems: Emir

→ Continued from page 1

Emir said that Daria City has presented an epitome of the peaceful revolution which started by tossing flowers to the soldiers. But after major massacres such as the one (on August 25, 2012) which claimed hundreds of lives, mostly women and children, the city was forced, like other cities, to defend itself.

Henceforth, Daria was reeling under non-stop shelling and starvation siege, although it has not been controlled by any radical or Takfiri organization, and its revolutionaries have not committed any violations.

"So why its inhabitants ended up just being watched by the international community while being subjected to displacement in a blatant demographic cleansing process? Why no warning was issued against its shelling and depopulation similar to the warning against the bombing of other forces in Hasaka province recently?," asked the Emir.

"Putting an end to this humanitarian disaster has become a political and moral necessity that imposes a historical responsibility on the Security Council to stop the bloodshed of the Syrians by halting the barbaric bombing and blockade on cities – staged under the slogan "starvation or kneeling" – and to repatriate the displaced, and to take measures for the resumption of the political process within the framework of the Security Council Resolution (2254) and on the basis of the Geneva (1) decisions, which stipulate forming a transitional ruling body with full powers to meet the aspirations of the Syrian people and maintain the unity and sovereignty of Syria, on the basis of equal rights for all citizens of Syria, without discrimination on the basis of faith, creed, ethnicity, and race," he added.

The Emir called for a constructive dialogue to find solutions for the crises facing the Gulf region.

"Dialogue between countries must be based on the principles of good neighbourliness, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs, in order to reach the desired results," said the Emir.

Regarding Yemen, the Emir reiterated Qatar's support for the return of legitimacy as the only way to ensure its security, unity and stability.

"No doubt that the negligence of the international community in implementing the Security Council resolutions, especially resolution 2216, had given some political forces in Yemen the opportunity to carry out coup-related actions that hampered the desired political solution which achieves the interests of the Yemeni people in unity and stability....We will continue our support for the task of the Secretary General's Special Envoy to Yemen, and the international efforts for resuming the political consultations among the Yemeni parties to reach a political settlement according to the Gulf initiative, the outputs of the national dialogue and the Security Council Resolution 2216," said the Emir.





Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday. RIGHT: Emir, along with the Qatari delegation, at the UN session. The Emir also met other officials on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting.





Although the situation in Libya is still turbulent, "we look forward to restoring stability through the efforts of the Presidential Council and the present government backed by the international community and to confronting terrorism and tackling its serious effects."

"We are surprised that some countries have supported forces that reject the international solution and act to thwart the security council's resolution by force despite the fact that the resolution provides for imposing sanctions on such forces. And at the time when the forces which have placed themselves under the authority of the Presidential Council are engaged in combating terrorism, other forces that reject the international solution took advantage of the situation to occupy oil export terminals against the backdrop of a tight-lipped world. Is this a proper way to encourage the Libyans to combat terrorism?," said the Emir.

The Emir said, the fight against terrorism must not be confined to the security dimension, which per se is essential, but must also go far beyond that to promote the values of tolerance, culture of plurality and dialogue, while taking into consideration the right of the peoples to resist occupation.

"For the education of the youth and mobilization of the communities against terrorism to gain credibility, we must be diligent in defining terrorism and standing against it. This definition must not be altered depending on the identity of the perpetrator or the victim or on account of a certain political interest. We saw cases when a certain organization had been branded as terrorist when it was a political foe, but later the same organization was embraced when it suddenly became a temporary ally," said the Emir.

"There must not be a discrimination between the lives of civilians whether in Istanbul or Gaza, New York or Aleppo, etc. There is no life that is more qualitatively valuable than another life. The double standards handling of this phenomenon or linking it to a certain faith or culture, or absolving governments who practice terrorism from being described as terrorist, would complicate the efforts to uproot the phenomena and reinforce the pretexts used by the terrorists," he added.

In this respect, one of the important challenges that is incumbent upon all of us to counter at the moment, is the one related to protecting refugees, said the Emir.

" That challenge imposes cooperation and joint action on us in order to overcome the causes of refuge, that is the most important... Our developmental and relief contribution has reached out to more than 100 countries around the world, and we are still coordinating with the governmental and non-governmental agencies to provide developmental and relief aid. Qatar supports over ten million children around the world in addition to promoting the potentiality of 1.2 million Arab youth to empower them to be active and productive in their communities. In the last five years, since 2011, the value of assistance provided by the State of Qatar has increased three folds to reach QR13bn," he added.

The Emir said, it is no longer possible to ignore the weakness of the United Nations' legal and institutional system and its inability in many cases to apply standards of justice and fairness to the mechanisms of its functioning. "However, there is a persistent recurring pattern that marks all these crises, and that is the selectivity of the Security Council in addressing the problems, especially when it comes to the use of force by countries in international relations," he added.

Later, Emir left for Los Angeles for several days' working visit.

Philippine embassy opens arts and culture centre

By Raynald C Rivera
The Peninsula

DOHA: The Philippine Embassy in Doha marked a milestone in the field of cultural diplomacy with yesterday's official opening of Sentro Rizal – a learning centre for Philippine arts and culture which is the second to be opened in the MENA region.

Felipe M. De Leon, Jr., Chairman of the Philippines' National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), officially inaugurated the centre whose main purpose is to promote Philippine arts, cultures and languages. "This is a project of the NCCA together with the Department of Foreign Affairs to make sure Philippine culture is promoted in all countries especially where there are Filipinos," De Leon told local media after the opening ceremony.

Since the project was launched in 2009, a total of 19 centres have opened around the world with the 20th to launch in Cairo on Sunday in the presence of the NCCA Chairman.

Although the centre is named after Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines, it will not just contain materials about Rizal but serve as a repository of Philippine cultural materials and resources in multimedia format available for the Filipino and the larger community who wish to learn Philippine culture.

"We will have a programme on Philippine culture but primarily this will be a training centre for Filipinos abroad especially children of Filipinos working abroad to learn Filipino language. We would like Filipinos not to forget their own native tongue. Aside from language we are hoping to teach those iconic symbols of being a Filipino such as the rondalla, an iconic Filipino musical ensemble of native Filipino musical instruments and the Philippine Arnis which is now one of the most recognized martial arts in the world," explained De Leon.



Philippine Ambassador Wilfredo C Santos and NCCA Chairman Felipe M De Leon Jr. jointly cut the ribbon to mark the opening of Sentro Rizal at the Philippine Embassy yesterday. Also seen are Labour Attaché David Des T Dicang, Consul Gonaranao Musor, Vice Consul Kristine F. Bautista and UFOQ Chairman Ressie S. Fos.
Pic: Kammutty VP / The Peninsula

Hundreds of students from two Philippine schools in Qatar are set to benefit from the newly opened centre.

"We are very lucky that we have a Sentro Rizal which will serve as centre for Filipinos especially the students of two Philippine schools here to learn more about Philippine culture and heritage. It underscores the importance of cultural diplomacy in our function as an embassy to promote the Philippines," said Philippine Ambassador Wilfredo C. Santos.

Ambassador Santos said the centre will be expanded once the Embassy relocates to a larger area in the future. "The Philippine embassy is moving to a bigger building, where we will have specially dedicated area, a sort of library for Sentro Rizal where Filipino students can come and do research. We will also be undertaking activities that promote our heritage here in collaboration with Qatari government," added the Ambassador.

Yesterday's event also saw the signing of an agreement between NCCA and the Philippine Embassy, a feature of which is that NCCA will provide more resource materials to the centre.

"This is a learning centre for anything Filipino so the NCCA will be providing books, audio visual materials and other learning tools which would be done regularly," said De Leon, adding the possibility for the NCCA to send performers here during important events upon invitation.

De Leon is also meeting with officials from the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Qatar Museums and Katara for possible collaborations. He will be delivering a lecture at Philippine School Doha today.

Emir greets Nepal President

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on her country's National Day.

Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani also sent a congratulatory cable to President Bhandari.

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani sent a similar cable to President Bhandari, reports QNA.

Qatar condemns attack on aid convoy in Syria

DOHA: Qatar yesterday condemned and denounced the bombing which targeted a convoy of humanitarian aid near the Syrian city of Aleppo.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said the targeting of humanitarian convoy is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and blatant encroachment of the ceasefire agreement announced recently to deliver humanitarian aid to besieged Syrian cities.

Sidra opening six more paediatric outpatient clinics

Plans are under way to start day surgeries soon.

The Peninsula

DOHA: Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) is opening six additional paediatric outpatient clinics this month while plans are under way to start day surgeries soon, said a senior official yesterday.

The new clinics are for Infectious Diseases, Adolescent Medicine, Nephrology, Ophthalmology, Anaesthesiology and a Pre-Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

The day surgery clinic will conduct minor surgeries and procedures for paediatric patients.

Sidra is collaborating with other healthcare institutions in Qatar to expand the referral network as and when more clinics and services are launched.

At present the Outpatient Clinic is accepting referral-based patients from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation.

"We are excited to be on track with the launch of more clinics and services at the Outpatient Clinic. Now we have over 30 clinics, allied health and clinical services. This marks an important milestone as we prepare for our outpatient services to become fully operational by January 2017," said Dr. David Sigalet, Medical Director, Outpatient Center, and Department Chair of Surgery.

"We are also working towards the launch of day surgeries soon. Our day surgery clinic will conduct minor surgeries and procedures and paediatric patients will be discharged the same day. This is an exciting time for Sidra and, more importantly, a crucial service delivery for the children of Qatar who require specialist healthcare services," he added.

The Infectious Diseases clinic will treat paediatric infections, including fever and rash-based diseases, bone and joint infections, and complicated skin and soft tissue infections.

Adolescent Medicine will focus on children aged 14-18 and will see patients with chronic illness or disability, mental illness, behavioural problems and eating disorders.

The Nephrology Clinic will address problems, including renal disease, chronic kidney disease, and bladder dysfunction.

The Ophthalmology Clinic will provide multidisciplinary paediatric ophthalmic care for conditions related to the eye, orbit and related structures. This includes retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) — a retinal disease that occurs in premature babies; eyelid lesions, congenital corneal and lens malformations, congenital glaucoma and retinal dystrophies which affect visual functions.

The Anaesthesiology Clinic and PACU will include pre-assessment and testing for children requiring sedation or anaesthesia for procedures being performed by Sidra doctors at HMC hospitals.

While consultations with the Sidra surgical team are based out of the Sidra Outpatient Clinic, all surgical procedures and operations are being conducted at HMC hospitals.

Deputy Emir meets French Defence Minister; honours Moroccan envoy



LEFT: Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani met French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and his delegation at the Emiri Diwan yesterday. Talks dealt with bilateral relations, ways of enhancing them and topics of common interest. RIGHT: The Deputy Emir also met outgoing Moroccan Ambassador Al Makki Kawan and presented him with the Sash of Merit in recognition of his role in enhancing ties between Qatar and his country, wishing him every success in his future assignments and bilateral relations further progress and prosperity. The ambassador expressed thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Emir and officials for cooperation which contributed to the success of his mission.

RAF rescues 77 Somali people from jail sentences

The Peninsula

DOHA: Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF) has provided QR500,000 to rescue 77 Somali people who were handed different jail sentences for defaulting on loan repayments.

The beneficiaries belonged to poor families which would have been left without any source of income if their breadwinners had been imprisoned.

The project was financed by people from Qatar through donations.

The initiative, launched in collaboration with RAF's partner in Somalia, Social Development Organisation, helped the families bring their lives back to normal after they were overburdened due to loans.

The money was given to the beneficiaries in separate ceremonies held under the supervision of local authorities.

RAF has been supporting Somali people in their tough time and has implemented many social and development projects, said Abdul Fattah Hasan Ahmad, Deputy Chairman, Social Development Organisation.

The beneficiaries were burdened with loans and unable to repay due to poor economic condition as they sustained losses in their business, he added.



A Somali citizen receiving money from a RAF representative in a ceremony in capital Mogadishu.



PM meets UK's Liam Fox



Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani yesterday met Liam Fox, British Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, and his delegation. Talks dealt with ways of enhancing trade and investment relations and issues of common interest.

QA to enhance capacity to Brazil and Argentina by 40%

The Peninsula

DOHA: Qatar Airways (QA) has announced to introduce nearly 40 percent additional capacity to its two South American gateways — Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo — from December 1, when the airline upgrades its aircraft operating on the route from a Boeing 777-200LR to a Boeing 777-300ER.

The upgrade to the 'Extended Range' aircraft will provide an additional 99 seats a day from the airline's hub in Doha to Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires, the capital cities of Brazil and Argentina, respectively.

QA's aircraft operating on the route are Boeing 777-200LR with 259 seats, which will increase to 358.

Commercial passenger traffic from the two cities to QA's network of over 150 destinations via Doha provides travellers with some of the shortest travel times from South America to destinations such as Bangkok, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Beirut, Singapore, Delhi and Maldives, and many other places can be conveniently reached via Doha.

Günter Saurwein, Vice-President for the Americas, QA, said: "Passenger demand from the leisure and business segments has grown consistently since the launch of both routes in June 2010. We are pleased to reinforce our commitment to our passengers and looking forward to increasing QA's presence in South America.

The region is a strong contributor to our route network and the additional seats will enable leisure and business segments to flourish.

"The dedication to service sets the airline apart and we welcome passengers to experience the genuine hospitality and warmth onboard," he added.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds begins Gemstone Jewellery Festival today

The Peninsula

DOHA: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the prominent jewellery retailer across the globe, is holding Gemstone Jewellery Festival from today.

The festival, which runs until October 15, offers new collection and customers a chance to get free one-gramme gold coin on every purchase of 'Era uncut diamond jewellery' worth QR2,500 and above.

Customers can also get a free pearl jewellery with purchase of 'Precia — precious gem jewellery' worth QR1,500 and above. These offers are valid until October 15.

The group's mesmerising collection and exclusive offers can be availed in all outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the GCC and Far East.

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Public Announcement
Notice to all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
"Near shore trenching works for RasGas FAXP pipelines"

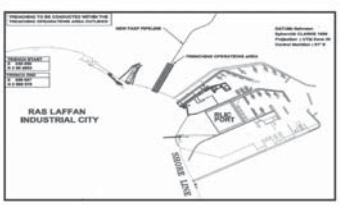
Warning Of Near Shore Trenching Works Offshore Qatar From 18th of July to 30th of September 2016

In pursuant and under directives from the Department of Marine Regulations, Ministry of Transport and Communications, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all the vessels, mariners, and fishermen that The Flow Assurance Expansion Project (FAXP) owned by RasGas Company Limited intends to carry out near shore trenching works along the FAXP pipeline route. The trenching works are bounded by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

The works will be performed by barge "Colbert" and support vessels "Sea bison" and "Geo Connection". All Ships, Fishermen and Mariners are advised to keep clear of this vessel whilst it is engaged in the trenching operations, as it is restricted with ability to manoeuver.

RasGas Company Limited take no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.

Trenching Operations Area



Any further inquiries should be addressed to:
Coordinator, RasGas FAXP, Tel. +974 4811 5193

Drop in number of driving licence seekers

Continued from page 1

"These categories don't require a driving licence since the companies are supposed to provide them with transportation," the source said.

Officials of driving schools claim there is a decrease in the number of people registering for licences compared to the past year.

"There is more demand for light-vehicle licence compared to heavy-vehicle ones, and generally there is a decrease in demand in both categories — light-vehicle licences by 30 percent and heavy-vehicle licences by 50 percent compared to last year," said Adel Salem, Manager, Al Rayah Driving School.

Mohammed Al Zain Ibrahim, Executive Manager of Gulf Driving School also said there is a significant decrease in demand for both types of licences, especially heavy-vehicle licences. He said the school is preparing to increase the fees, provided it gets approval from authorities. "We have not revised fees for the past four years. Now several reasons are forcing us to revise it."

Arbitration effective way of settling global trade disputes

Arbitration dominates all other methods of settling disputes in international trade for various reasons since it is cheaper, speedier, private (and, therefore, confidential) and flexible.

This column addresses the bases of the arbitration system on international and domestic levels. It covers the principles of the arbitration system such as party autonomy, enforcement system, New York Convention, and arbitration procedures as an introduction to understand arbitration mechanism under Qatari Law.

Introduction of International Commercial Arbitration

Arbitration is one method which is considered appropriate, particularly in disputes between parties from developed and developing countries. The main reason for this is that arbitration gives the parties freedom to tailor arbitral proceedings in any way they see fit. In this respect, the effectiveness of arbitration depends to a large extent on party autonomy.

The question, therefore, arises: How can parties express and exercise this freedom? This is a difficult question to answer. The concept has been researched and developed since the emergence of arbitration in the world. And it would seem from research done that there are two main factors which may help us answer the question.

First, what parties "could" do. And second, what parties "should" do. The first directly concerns the concept of party autonomy which deals with the scope of the parties's freedom. The second is that, although the parties may have freedom to tailor arbitration to meet their needs, there is the matter of how they can effectively express this freedom. What parties can do may also depend on the local legal system and the attitude of the state court concerning arbitration. This local legal system may be the law where they want to have their dispute settled or the place where enforcement of such settlement may be sought. Therefore, the parties must abide by what the law prohibits but still have freedom to choose a location which is 'permissive'.

In the past, most states were of the mentality that arbitration was a method of dispute resolution which competed with the state court. They, therefore, attempted to exercise as much control as possible over all arbitrations which took place in their territory.

Accordingly, the parties' freedom to design the conduct of arbitral proceedings was restricted. This restriction has relaxed with the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards 1958, which is commonly referred to as the New York Convention. This Convention provides a universally recognised framework for foreign awards made in international commercial arbitration in that an award rendered in one country may be enforced in another country if both countries are parties to the Convention.

The aim of the New York Convention attempts to provide compromise for certain conflicts among arbitration laws by providing a framework which facilitates enforcement of foreign awards. Most importantly, this Convention gives the parties to arbitration a wider scope to agree. This is further promoted with the emergence of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the UN Commission on International Trade Law on June 21, 1985 and revised in 2006, which is similarly significant in the matter of party autonomy. The pre-eminent aim of the model law is to respect party autonomy and restrict the level of court interference in the practice of international commercial arbitration.

The problem of what parties "could" do now seems more relaxed. However, the problem still remains with respect to what parties can do in that what may be permitted in one jurisdiction may not be permitted in another. Another obstacle to party autonomy is the development of arbitration. The practice of arbitration in developed countries such as England, is more advanced while in the jurisdictions of developing countries its use has been more recent. The development between these two groups of jurisdictions has created problems.

The second factor is related to what parties "should" do. This factor is as important as what the parties "could" do. What the parties "should do" depends very much, if not entirely, on the experience of the parties that is it concerns practical matters. Although the parties are free to do certain things, they should not always do so. For example, in appointing an arbitrator the parties may choose a non-lawyer. However, this should not be done if the dispute involves substantive legal issues. This is good practice because such an arbitrator may run the risk of rendering an award which maybe unenforceable in other countries. In practice, parties from developed countries may have more experience than those from developing countries. This raises the question of whether arbitration is a practice of and for developed countries.

This would be an incorrect perception. Arbitration is not of and for any specific group of countries but it is a method of dispute resolution used worldwide by the business community. Its use demonstrates that the business community has more much in common than any other group in society, thus rendering the role of nationality insignificant. Notwithstanding this, cultural backgrounds may be of relevance and may affect the way businesses are conducted or disputes settled. In most cases, however, cultural differences do not contest the importance of arbitration.

Definition of arbitration

Defining the term 'arbitration' is not an easy task. Further, there is no clear definition found in the domestic or international laws and conventions on arbitration. Although many writers have tried to create a definition, these definitions have been or can be easily criticised. Nevertheless some writers have still tried to come up with a definition.

The result has been that the definition of arbitration has become more a matter of theory than practice. This is more so in particular in the field of international commercial arbitration which generally involves laws of more than one jurisdictions.

The term 'arbitration' is more difficult to define in this respect because the concept of arbitration vary from country to country. Some countries define the term broadly, while others give it a narrow definition. This problem was highlighted when the model law was being drafted.

The drafters tried to harmonise the term but failed. The final result was that the model law was classified to cover ad- hoc and institutional arbitration.

Given the scope of the model law, a definition of arbitration became necessary. The reason for this was that a definition would serve to determine the scope of arbitration laws and international conventions (such as the New York Convention).

There are several private mechanisms for third-party resolution of disputes that are sometimes very similar in character or label to arbitration, such as mediation (or conciliation). The general concepts of both mechanisms are similar but their legal effects are different.

A mediator cannot render a binding decision, but an arbitrator can. This is the same as in the case of various types of 'free arbitration' — such as the arbitratoirrituale in Italian law, the Dutch bindedadvies and the German Schiedsgutachten.

Basically, all these free arbitrations are procedures that often determine questions only of fact and not of law, and commonly result in decisions that are binding only as contractual provisions and not as arbitral awards. As a result of such difficulties and necessity, identification of essential elements of arbitration will be useful. We, therefore, need to look at some definitions. To do this, the examination of arbitration laws and international conventions can be useful.

Professor Rene David in (Arbitration in International Trade 1985) defines arbitration as: "Device whereby the settlement of a question, which is of interest for two or more persons, is entrusted to one or more persons — the arbitrator or arbitrators — who derive their powers from a private agreement, not the authority of a State, and who are to proceed and decide the case on the basis of such an agreement."

In a similar vein, Albert Jan van den Berg explains arbitration as: "The resolution of a dispute between two or more parties by a third person (arbitrator) who derives his powers from an agreement (arbitration agreement) of the parties, and whose decision is binding upon them".

Although these definitions are different in context and do not give much detail, they provide a picture of what arbitration is.

Furthermore, in examining the structure of all arbitration acts and international conventions, one can have a clearer picture of arbitration. According to the laws and conventions, there are three essential elements — arbitration must involve a dispute between the parties; arbitration must be nominated as the procedure to settle the dispute; and a binding decision must be the end result.

1. Dispute

The basic element of arbitration is that there must be a dispute or difference between parties who agree to submit it to arbitration. Although parties may enter into an arbitration agreement, an arbitration never comes into existence until a dispute arises between the parties. In other words, there is no dispute requiring arbitration until a matter of fact or law is asserted by one side and denied by the other.

The term 'dispute' may refer to future, present or past disputes. The New York Convention recognises two types of disputes and provides in Article II (1) — "Each Contracting State shall recognise an agreement in writing under which the parties undertake to submit to arbitration all or any differences which have arisen or which may arise between them".

(To be continued)

New policy for early education in 11 primary schools

The policy proposes changes, including integration of Arabic language with social studies and teaching visual arts as part of language skills.

By Mohammed Osman
The Peninsula

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has begun implementing a new policy for early education in 11 primary Independent schools.

According to the new policy, the lower grades of the elementary education have been considered part of early education system which also include kindergartens (KGs).

The selection of the 11 schools was based on factors such as gender (boys and girls), geographical location, teachers and whether the school is new or old.

The early education policy was laid down by a committee established in accordance with a Ministerial Decision issued last year, said Aisha Mubarak Al Khulaifi, Director, Early Education Department at the ministry.

The policy proposes changes, including integration of Arabic language with social studies and teaching visual arts as part of language skills. The aim is to give more time to the teaching and learning of Arabic language, said Al Khulaifi.

As part of the policy, it has been decided to revoke the concept of home work, which will be carried out at the schools under the supervision of teachers utilising schooling time in a more effective way.

This is to enable teachers evaluate the performance of children in a more constructive way, said Al Khulaifi.

The committee comprised directors of kindergartens and schools, deputy directors and coordinators.

Al Khulaifi said the pilot project will be assessed and gradually expanded to more schools. Continuous assessment method will be used to evaluate student performance at the lower grades of the elementary level, Al Khulaifi said.

The department is about to launch a campaign under the title 'If you don't see Him, He sees you' to enhance piety and virtue in the early years, he added.

Religious institute enrolment begins

DOHA: Registration for admission of expatriate students in the religious institute 'M'had Al Dini' run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has begun. The deadline is December-end.

The ministry has issued enrolment criteria, including the candidate should speak, read and write English fluently. The announcement was posted on the ministry's website and shared a link on its Twitter account.



Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti with French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (left) and French Ambassador to Qatar Eric Chevallier at the event.

French honour for Minister

The Peninsula

DOHA: Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti was yesterday honoured by French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian with the 'Commander of the National Order of the Legion of Honor' at an event attended by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Al Sulaiti expressed pleasure for the appreciation, attributing it to massive and unlimited support he has been receiving from Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and directives from the Premier.

The Minister said Qatari-French relations are strong and historic, have been reinforced in multiple fields over the past few years, and saw a remarkable advancement that moved them from conventional to strategic level, thanks to convergence of views on several issues of common interest.

Eventually, that had made our bilateral relations a good role model and pushed both countries to explore new horizons for cooperation to further enhance ties, he said.

Al Sulaiti said he has been working to boost cooperation between the two friendly nations since he started his professional career and that cooperation resulted in launching joint projects in the field of transport and information technology.

He said it is a new addition to the history of unique relations between both countries and a true translation of our clear vision for sustainable cooperation in all domains.

More people visiting Corniche fish market

Continued from page 1

Mathi after initial reluctance brought the price down on the condition of buying at least 2kg of fish. Saalik bought 4kg for QR30 while another customer could not avail of the discount as he had to buy only 1kg.

According to Mathi, people like Safi because it is tasty and has less bones. "It has only one bone and no scales, so people prefer it," he said.

The mini fish market has 30 stalls, of which nine have been shifted to Al Wakrah beach. Shahid, another fish-lover from Bangladesh, had come to the market from the Industrial Area in search of fresh fish. "I always find fresh fish here," he told *The Peninsula*.

Shahid lives along with three compatriot industrial workers in a rented room near the Industrial Area. He said his fish cooking skills are liked by his roommates.

The Peninsula observed that Sheirii (Spangled emperor), Safi and Hamour (Orange-spotted grouper) sell like hotcakes.

"Safi sells at the rate of QR30-QR35 a kg and Sheirii at QR20. The small-sized Sheirii is sold at QR10," said a salesman, adding some cheaper varieties of fish were also available at QR3 to QR5 a kg. Discount is a normal practice there but Saalik said: "These salesmen give more discounts to citizens."

As Safi was in short supply, a few Qatari women left without buying Qurqufan. Another Arabic-speaking customer demanded big-sized Qurqufan, repeatedly saying, "kabeer, kabeer." Everything was clean and tidy on and around the dock that provides platform for the market, maintaining Qatari standards.

"We cannot keep and sell freshly-caught fish beyond two days. After that we have two options — to send it to central fish market for sale provided it is not rotten or discard the stocks if the fish starts emanating sour, ammonia-like stench," another fisherman said. "A doctor frequently visits the stalls to check stocks."

As per the rules, traders across the country are not allowed to stock fish for more than three days and sell.

These fishermen get QR1,000 to QR1,200 monthly salary. "Men with 15-year experience get around QR1,800 to QR2,000," said a fisherman, adding he lives in a room with 10 more fishermen.

"The owners of these stalls are licensed citizens. All those who work here are employees," he added.



Customers at the fish market on the Corniche.
Pic: Baher Amin / The Peninsula



US Says Syria truce not dead; others sceptical

The United Nations suspended all aid shipments into Syria after Monday's deadly attack on a convoy carrying humanitarian supplies to a town near Aleppo.

Reuters

NEW YORK: The United States said that a Syria ceasefire was "not dead" even as other countries voiced scepticism that a US-Russian deal to halt the violence could be revived.

Foreign ministers from 20 nations emerged with differing views after a meeting to explore how to revive the ceasefire shattered by a strike on a humanitarian aid convoy on Monday, with one minister asking if matters were already hopeless.

The United Nations suspended all aid shipments into Syria after Monday's deadly attack on a convoy carrying humanitarian supplies to a town near Aleppo, as a week-old US-Russian sponsored ceasefire collapsed in renewed violence.

"The ceasefire is not dead," US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters as he emerged from the gathering of the International Syria Support Group together with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

The Syrian Red Crescent said the head of one of its local offices and "around 20 civilians" were killed in Monday's strike, which a war monitoring group blamed on Russian or Syrian aircraft.

Russia, which is allied to Assad's government, denied that either its air force or that of the Syrian armed forces was responsible. The Syrian army also denied blame.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier struck a decidedly pessimistic note about the chances of halting violence in the Syrian civil war, now in its sixth year, as he arrived for the meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.



US Secretary of State John Kerry (centre), United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura (right) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the International Syria Support Group Meeting in Manhattan, New York, yesterday.

"We will have to reflect if there are ways back to negotiations on a truce, or if this has already become hopeless," Steinmeier told reporters before the meeting in a New York luxury hotel. Speaking afterwards, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault also voiced doubts. "It was a dramatic meeting. Is there still a chance this ceasefire will be effective? I can't answer that question," Ayrault told reporters.

Aid convoy was tracked from the skies before attack

Reuters

BEIRUT: Surveillance aircraft circled in the sky during the hours before a United Nations aid convoy was struck by warplanes on Monday, killing relief workers and destroying 18 trucks of humanitarian supplies, several witnesses said.

Rebels and local rescue workers say the surveillance shows the strikes, which have drawn outrage from the United Nations and Western countries, were deliberate, and gives the lie to Russian and Syrian government denials that they were involved.

"We thought at first something was going to happen because there were four or five planes in the air, but they didn't strike at first," said Abu Shahoud, an opposition activist who was present when the attack took place on Monday.

Hussein Badawi, head of the Civil Defence local rescue service in the town of Urem Al Kubra, who was 100 metres from the aid depot when the attack took place and was injured by shrapnel in the hand, described relentless and sustained air attacks that unleashed carnage on workers unloading aid trucks.

"There were fires, martyrs, wounded people. We were able to pull out four survivors and five dead bodies at first," Badawi said.

"The bombardment was continuous. The rescue teams weren't even able to work. Those who arrived in ambulances couldn't come in," he added. Several truck drivers and volunteers offloading the aid were killed, he said. "This is an area that wasn't supposed to be bombed, belonging to an international humanitarian organisation... This area is full of civilians, it's residential," Badawi said.

Damascus and Moscow both say their aircraft were not responsible for attacking the convoy. Russia said only rebel fighters knew the convoy's location. But the United Nations says all sides were informed of the convoy's whereabouts and the trucks were clearly marked.

Saudi Aramco fire injures 8 workers

AFP

RIYADH: State-owned Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil production company, says eight of its workers have been injured in a fire that broke out at one of its oil terminals.

The company says it successfully responded to the fire at its facility in the eastern city of Ras Tanura last morning, adding that its oil and gas operations were not impacted.

The Ras Tanura terminal has a crude oil refining capacity of 550,000 barrels per day.

In a statement released on its website, the company says the six contractors and two employees injured as a result of the fire have received medical treatment.

Saudi Aramco says the cause of the fire is not yet known and the statement did not elaborate further on the injuries sustained by its workers.

Kuwait royal jailed for three years for insulting Ruler

KUWAIT CITY: A Kuwaiti court sentenced a ruling family member to three years in prison yesterday on charges of insulting the Gulf state's ruler and other royals.

The charges against Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al Sabah, grandson of the Emir's late half-brother Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, stemmed from video messages he posted on Snapchat early last year in which he strongly criticised the functioning of the government.

Al Sabah family members hold all the main cabinet posts and Sheikh Abdullah singled out several of them for criticism.

The court ordered that he pay $16,500 in damages to one of them.

He can appeal his conviction. It is not Sheikh Abdullah's first run-in with the Kuwaiti authorities.

In 2012, he was questioned for posting comments on Twitter deemed sympathetic to the opposition and critical of the Emir.

In June last year, he was detained for 10 days pending interrogation for criticising the emir. The following month, a court acquitted him in a similar case.

Iraq forces launch push on IS-held town in Mosul

AFP

KIRKUK, IRAQ: Iraqi forces launched an operation yesterday to retake a northern town from the Islamic State (IS) group in the latest move to prepare a broad offensive on jihadist bastion Mosul.

Army and tribal forces pushed towards Sherqat, which IS fighters captured more than two years ago when they swept across Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland. The town lies on the west bank of the Tigris river in Salaheddin province, 260km northwest of Baghdad and around 80km south of Mosul. IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces backed by US-led air strikes and training have since retaken significant ground including the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Iraqi forces have already reconquered other towns north of Sherqat on the way to Mosul but the question of Shia militia involvement in military operations there had held up the push.

"The operation to liberate Sherqat started at 5:30am from several directions... with the support of coalition forces," Joint Operations Command spokesman Yahya Rasool said. "We are making good progress," he said. "Sherqat is important, we can't move on Mosul and have terrorists control Sherqat."

Colonel Mohammed al-Assadi, an Iraqi security spokesman, said the country's forces had retaken villages around Sherqat and were about five kilometres (three miles) from the town.

Colonel John Dorrian, the spokesman for the US-led operation against IS, said coalition forces had carried out 19 air strikes over the past two weeks to set the stage for the Sherqat operation. Sherqat is "in close proximity to their supply lines," Dorrian said, referring to routes by which Iraqi forces move troops and material for operations against IS.

"Clearing that area makes sure that their supply lines are protected," he said. Ahmed Al Assadi, the spokesman of the Hashed Al Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) paramilitary forces, said operation "Sherqat Dawn" aimed to "finish expelling those terrorist gangsters from usurped Iraqi land."

The Hashed al-Shaabi, which has played a big part in retaking IS-held areas since 2014, is nominally under the control of the prime minister but dominated by Tehran-backed Shia militia. It also includes less powerful Sunni tribal forces supporting the government against IS.

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Tenders Notice

The Public Works Authority announces the following tenders:

Tender No	Subject	Amount of Tender Bond (QR)	Document Fee (QR)	Closing Date	*Companies Eligible to Tender
PWA/STC/055/2016	Strategy and Performance Management Solution ISD/2016/PMO/52/S	7,000.00	400.00	03/10/2016	(1)
PWA/STC/056/2016	Supply Hose Recovery Unit AA-DOM/2016/M/1827/S	158,000.00	750.00	17/10/2016	(1)
PWA/STC/057/2016	Renewal of Support and AMC for CTS/DMS ISD/2016/DS/49/S	66,000.00	750.00	03/10/2016	(1)
PWA/GTC/058/2016	Roads Surrounding Public Development IA/2016/C/057/G	5,200,000.00	6,000.00	18/10/2016	(1)+(2)

Companies Eligible to tender:
(1) Qatari Companies Only.
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(3) Non-Qatari Companies.
(4) Not Applicable.

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* All Companies Eligible to tender shall register mandatory on ASHGHAL website as requirement for online Tender Services .
* Brief Scope of work for the above mentioned tenders can be viewed online before the tenders fees payment; also full project document may be examined at Al-Faisal Tower, Ground Floor, Al Cornice before purchasing from PWA.
* Non-refundable Tender document fee shall be paid online using acceptable credit card. Before the document is downloaded.

- The Tender submission must be accompanied by a Tender Bond, either in the form of a "Certified Check" or a "Tender Bond" issued by a Bank acceptable to the PWA" in the amount mentioned above valid for (120 days). Any Tender received without the proper guarantee will not be considered.
- The Tender shall remain valid for a period of Ninety (90) days as mentioned in the Tender documents .
- The Tender shall be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes (technical and financial offer), in addition to that, the Tenderer shall separately submit an original and duplicate copy of Tender Guarantee signed and stamped plus the documents mentioned in Tender checklist in instructions to Tenders.
- The Tender shall be submitted in original and one copy or will not be accepted.
- The Tender shall be delivered at or sent to arrive not later than 1.00pm local Doha time on the closing date and delivered to Tower 1, Ground Floor, address marked to concerned Tenders Committee's Chairman at PWA.
- The successful Tenderer shall provide a Performance Bond in amount of ten (10%) percent of the Contract Price endorsed by an approved local bank in Qatar.

For further queries about the tender above, please communicate in writing to the Contracts Department by e-mail to: contracts@ashghal.gov.qa
For more information about PWA and its tenders, please visit our website: www.ashghal.gov.qa

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France wants international conference on Mideast this year

AP

UNITED NATIONS: France said yesterday it wants to organise an international conference before the end of the year to present Israelis and Palestinians with a package of incentives if they reach a peace agreement.

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said at a briefing on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting that "this week must be a moment of political mobilisation that we can reach that goal."

Ayrault's push for an international conference in France follows an announcement by Russia's Foreign Ministry on September 8 that Israeli and Palestinian leaders have agreed "in principle" to meet in Moscow for talks.

But the wide gaps between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas raise doubts about the prospect for any meeting — and if there is one whether they would make any progress.

Abbas demands that Israel halt all settlement construction in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, and release about two dozen Palestinian prisoners before any meeting. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects the preconditions.

Jordan votes in polls tipped to see return of Islamists

AFP

AMMAN: Jordanians voted yesterday in an election that could see opposition Islamists re-emerge as a major parliamentary force in the key Western ally.

Polling stations closed at 1700 GMT, after the electoral commission extended voting by an hour in major cities including Amman because of the "great crowds" of voters.

The focus will be on turnout and the performance of the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood. The IAF is expected to clinch about 20 seats in the 130-member parliament, which would make it the largest opposition force.

The Phenix Center, a local pollster, had said 42% of those eligible planned not to vote, reflecting a general lack of enthusiasm for a parliament with limited powers to affect government policy. The vote comes as Jordan wrestles with the spillover of wars in Syria and Iraq and the burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The kingdom is a member of the US-led coalition battling militants in both neighbouring countries and was the target of a June 21 suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group that killed seven border guards.

King Abdullah II can appoint and sack the country's military and intelligence chiefs, senior judges and members of parliament's upper house without government approval.

After polling stations closed, the electoral commission said 1.49 million people had voted based on preliminary figures, compared with 1.2 million in the last election in 2013.

The Islamist-led opposition complained of "several" irregularities, including vote buying, which it said had taken place openly outside polling stations.

The commission said it was investigating the allegation, a common complaint in past elections.



A Jordanian woman carries her son as she registers her name to cast ballot at a polling station for parliamentary elections in Amman, yesterday.

Congo death toll hits 44 as unrest continues

The government denied its forces were involved.

Reuters

KINSHASA: At least 44 people were killed in protests against Congolese President Joseph Kabila, including 37 killed by security forces and six police officers killed by demonstrators, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday.

The protests in the Democratic Republic of Congo started on Monday after the election commission decided to try to postpone the next presidential vote, due in November.

Kabila's opponents say the proposed delay is a manoeuvre to keep the president in power although ruling party politicians deny this. Kabila is barred constitutionally from running for a third term and his allies say he will respect the constitution.

With the unrest forcing schools to close and halting public transport in the sprawling riverside capital, the UN expressed fears the situation could worsen.

Overnight, several people were killed when security forces burned down the headquarters of the main opposition party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), and attacked buildings of other opposition parties, HRW Africa researcher for the New York-based group, Ida Sawyer, said.

Seventeen people had been killed overnight and yesterday, while 20 had been killed on Monday, she said.

"Most were killed when security forces fired on crowds of protesters," she said.

"We've also received credible reports that protesters have killed at least six police officers and a PPRD supporter and they have also burned and looted several shops and police stations," Sawyer said.

The fire started between 2am and 4am, said opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi, a UDPS official.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende condemned the attack but denied security forces were involved.



A peacekeeper of the MONUSCO, the UN mission in the DR Congo, stands guard yesterday in front of the offices of the main opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress party which were torched overnight and early yesterday, in Kinshasa.

NEWS BYTES

Tutu responding very well to treatment: Family

CAPE TOWN: South African anti-apartheid activist and veteran cleric, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was responding well to a new course of antibiotics, his daughter said yesterday, following social media reports her father had died.

The 84-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner was re-admitted to hospital on Saturday to treat an infection following surgery last week.

"He is in very good spirits and much more like himself than he has been," Reverend Canon Mpho Tutu van Furth said yesterday, adding that her father could leave hospital soon.

China repatriates first fugitive from France

SHANGHAI: Chinese police repatriated a fugitive from France for the first time since the two countries signed an extradition treaty which came into effect in 2015, the official Chinese news agency Xinhua said.

"The suspect surnamed Chen, who was detained by French police in October, is accused of taking public funds of more than $3m without authorisation."

China has been trying to get international cooperation to hunt down suspected corrupt officials who have fled overseas since President Xi Jinping began a war against graft more than three years ago.

Risk of genocide in Burundi: UN

AFP

GENEVA: Burundi's government is behind systematic human rights violations, including executions and torture, UN investigators said, warning of the looming risk of "genocide".

"Gross human rights violations have and are taking place, committed primarily by state agents and those linked to them," the investigators concluded in a report, adding: "Impunity is pervasive."

They said they could "not exclude that some instances of these gross human rights violations amount to crimes against humanity."

The three independent experts said they had compiled a list of alleged perpetrators of serious abuses with the aim of ensuring they are brought to justice.

The investigators were tasked by the UN Human Rights Council in January with probing the extent of rights abuses in Burundi since it descended into violence in April 2015, over President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial decision to run for a third term -- a vote he won in July.

After making two trips to Burundi in recent months and conducting 227 interviews, the experts painted a bleak picture, pointing to some estimates that more than 1,000 people have been killed since the crisis began.

The UN human rights office has verified 564 cases of executions between April 26, 2015 and August 30, 2016, the report said, stressing that this was "clearly a conservative estimate".

Thousands more people have been tortured, suffered abuse or disappeared, while arbitrary detention has happened "on a massive scale", it said.

Nearly 300,000 people have fled the country as refugees.

The experts warned that without dramatic changes from Burundi's government and "robust engagement" from the international community, "the country's downward spiral is unlikely to be reversed," endangering the region.

They said they had satellite images and received testimony corroborating the existence of mass graves, as well as several lists of both civilians and military personnel destined for "targeted assassinations" by security forces.

Horrific torture meanwhile appeared to be "a common feature of the crisis," the report said, listing 17 methods described by victims and witnesses including forcing a victim to sit on acid.

British activist convicted in Thai defamation trial

AFP

BANGKOK: A British activist was found guilty of criminal defamation yesterday and given a suspended jail sentence over a report alleging abuses in Thailand's lucrative fruit industry .

Andy Hall, who lives in Thailand, has seen a series of legal actions for contributing to a 2013 report on a Natural Fruit factory in the south of the country, alleging poor working conditions, low wages and child labour.

Yesterday, he was found guilty of defamation and breaching computer crime laws in a private prosecution filed by Natural Fruit.

Hall, 36, was given a three-year suspended sentence and fined $4,300, his lawyer Nakhon Chomphuchat said yesterday.

Rights groups say criminal defamation and computer misuse laws are routinely used to stifle investigative work in Thailand.

The country's reputation as a major supplier to global food chains has been tarnished by persistent allegations of labour abuses, especially against cheap and vulnerable migrant workers.

Both Natural Fruit, a private company and major supplier to the European drink market, and Thai prosecutors have brought separate actions against Hall.

The United Nation's Human Rights Office for South-East Asia said the ruling was "very disturbing".

Thousands affected as typhoon slams Japan

AFP

TOKYO: A powerful typhoon slammed into Japan yesterday, injuring at least eight people and dumping torrential rains that caused serious flooding and left some communities waterlogged.

Transportation across southernmost Kyushu -- hit by deadly quakes earlier this year -- and parts of western Japan came to a standstill as Typhoon Malakas ripped across the country, packing winds of up to 180km per hour.

Television footage from public broadcaster NHK showed houses, cars and rice fields partly submerged in the muddy brown water in Miyazaki prefecture, where a record 578 millimetres of rain fell on one city in just 24 hours.

Cars and pedestrians sloshed through waterlogged streets while a wall of water washed away a bridge in the city of Kagoshima.

NHK said at least eight people were injured, and officials issued evacuation advisories that affected about 620,000 people.

More than 114,000 households lost power in Kyushu, which was rocked by a pair of deadly quakes in April this year that left about 50 dead.

Regional train services slammed to a halt and about 180 flights were cancelled because of strong winds from the raging storm, which was moving toward Tokyo yesterday afternoon with officials warning of high seas, possible landslides and more flooding.

"The winds were really powerful and they rattled windows when the typhoon landed in the city," said a spokesman for western Tanabe city recently.



A flooded residential area in Nobeoka, Miyazaki prefecture, Japan.

South African police clash with students over fees

AFP

JOHANNESBURG: South African students and campus security guards clashed in Johannesburg yesterday, hurling rocks at each other as demonstrations over higher fees turned violent.

Unrest has hit many South African universities over the past year, as students protest fee increases that they say force poorer, often black, pupils out of education.

Students and guards battled outside the Great Hall auditorium at Wits University in Johannesburg, leaving many of the building's windows broken and the ground littered with rocks before police moved in to break up the fighting.

"The students wanted to gather, and we were denied entry (to the Great Hall), that is when things turned violent," student Sizwe Mangena, 20, said.

"Things started to fly, everyone running for cover. It was like a scene from the townships during apartheid.

"Our demand is simply that we want free education. Our parents can't afford to pay."

Earlier, police fired stun grenades to clear a main road in Johannesburg, and students blockaded campus entrances and disrupted classes.

Yesterday's protests came a day after the government said that next year's fee hikes would be capped at 8%. Protests were also held at campuses in Cape Town, Pretoria and Bloemfontein.

The government said it would cover the increase for students from families earning less than $43,000, a year, but student activists have demanded free education for all.

"About 200 students in roving groups are moving from campus-to-campus disrupting classes... and intimidating students," Wits, one of the country's most prestigious universities, said yesterday.

"We are deploying security and the police. Students will be arrested if they do not comply with police orders."



Students take part in a protest at University of the Witwatersrand as countrywide protests demanding free tertiary education entered a third week in Johannesburg, yesterday.

TV footage showed stun grenades being fired to clear a major road in Johannesburg, while local media said that 31 people who had been arrested for blocking a campus entrance, were released with a warning.

Student medics at Wits said that they had treated at least 20 injured people.

"I'm very disturbed about this because... as much as students have the right to protest, there is no basis for this protest here," Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande told 702 radio.

"I don't like to see the sight of police in our universities. It's not good."

"Burning schools, libraries and university buildings means burning the future," President Jacob Zuma said after campus riots earlier this year.

Uganda's plan to pay for MP's burials infuriates public

Reuters

KAMPALA: A plan by the Ugandan parliament to spend 50 million shillings each on the funerals of lawmakers has angered critics, who say it exposes the waste of taxpayer money and the legislature's sense of entitlement in a poor nation.

The allocation comes after a proposal to offer each of Uganda's 427 lawmakers $44,500 to buy tax-free vehicles, another plan that has drawn strong criticism.

The funeral cash will give each lawmaker a state-of-the-art casket, preparation of the grave, police to provide security and food and drink for mourners. Each funeral will probably last three days, including a period for lying in state.

Even in a country where corruption is widespread, punishment for stealing public funds is rare and politicians are often viewed with cynicism, that strikes citizens as outrageous. A Ugandan lawmaker already makes about $5,900 a month; the average Ugandan earns around $670 - a year.

"MPs have not told us how they are growing our economy, instead all we see is how they are sucking from it," Jackie Asiimwe, a rights activist said. "The amounts are obscene."

Chris Obore, the spokesman for parliament, said public anger against the proposed funeral plans was misplaced, adding that the lawmakers were being "targeted unfairly."

"It's popular to be seen to be concerned about alleged government wastage," he said.

Under the proposal, five deaths will be budgeted for each financial year. If no lawmaker dies in a given financial year, money will be returned to the Treasury, Obore said. A procurement process for a funeral provider is under way.

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EDITORIAL

Targeting aid

The deadly airstrike on a United Nations aid convoy delivering food relief to a rebel-held area near Aleppo late on Monday is despicable and a deliberate attempt to break the week-old ceasefire brokered between Russia and the United States. The strike caused huge casualties. The Syrian Red Crescent said the head of one of its local offices and 'around 20 civilians' were killed, in addition to destroying 18 trucks laden with food intended for tens of thousands of people cut off by the war in a rural area west of Aleppo city. UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon called the attack "sickening, savage and apparently deliberate.

Russia and the Syrian army have denied responsibility for the attack, but the fact that it happened in the rebel territory gives us enough hints about who perpetrated this crime. It's unpardonable that an aid convoy has been targeted, and that too of the United Nations which was carrying out its duty of helping the victims. Stephen O'Brien, the UN's emergency relief coordinator, said the convoy had been clearly marked and its route had been provided to all parties to the conflict.

The deadly airstrike on a UN aid convoy in Syria is a deliberate attempt to wreck the ceasefire.

An already tenuous ceasefire has suffered another huge setback with the Aleppo attack, though both sides haven't yet called it off. As Syria's chief opposition coordinator Riad Hijab rightly said, the ceasefire efforts lack credibility because there is no credible mechanism "to designate blame or attribute consequences." "We have no faith in the Russian side because their strategy is purely military," Hijab said.

One of the objectives of targeting an aid convoy was to punish the rebels by stopping the flow of aid and those who carried out the attack have achieved their goal. The UN suspended all aid shipments into Syria yesterday and is unlikely to resume its mission without guarantees about safety. And with no side claiming responsibility for the attack, such guarantees seem impossible. The failure of the ceasefire again highlights the need for a political solution to the Syrian crisis. Ban yesterday used his farewell address to the General Assembly in New York to urge world leaders to end Syria's devastating conflict. The world must listen to his call, and bring justice to Syrians.

He blamed all sides for killing innocent people, but "none more so than the government of Syria, which continues to barrel bomb neighbourhoods and systematically torture thousands of detainees."

Despite Ban's fervent plea, the world leaders are yet to approach the Syrian crisis with the seriousness it deserves. The involvement of global powers in the conflict has only complicated the situation. The cries of ordinary Syrians are being ignored.

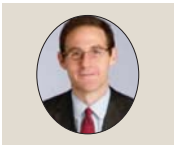
Quote of the day

I am calling to all our friends to swiftly take the necessary measures against the Gulenist terrorist organisation for their own safety and the future of their nations.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Turkish President

Don't give Iran cash



By Eric B Lorber
Foreign Policy

Iran is once again the centre of a heated debate between the US President Barack Obama administration and Republicans in Congress, this time over whether the United States' $1.7bn payment to Iran amounted to a ransom to secure the release of American hostages.

Regardless of whether one believes the payment, the result of a settlement agreement related to decades-old legal claims between the two countries, was ransom, one thing is certain: The nature of the payment — all cash, some delivered in the middle of night and ferried to Iran by an airline known for its connections with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, without limits to ensure Iran would not use the funds for terrorism — is troubling.

Cash transactions raise serious terrorism financing risks. According to the Financial Action Task Force, the international body that sets global standards for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing, "the physical cross-border transportation of currency . . . [is] one of the main methods used to move illicit funds, launder money, and finance terrorism."

These risks are particularly acute in the case in question; the State Department has identified Iran as one of the leading state sponsors of terrorism and the country actively supports terrorist organisations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and assists Syrian President Bashar Assad in his murderous assault on civilians.

Obama told reporters, "[t]he reason that we had to give them cash is precisely because we are so strict in maintaining sanctions and we do not have a banking relationship with Iran that we couldn't send them a check and we could not wire the money."

While correct that the United States government does not maintain regular banking channels with Iran and that the US and European sanctions campaign against Iran seriously constrained its access to the Western financial system, historical examples suggest that the US did not have to provide these funds in cash.

In 2007, as part of the Six-Party Talks over North Korea's nuclear program, the United States facilitated a similar transfer through the formal financial system. The United States had designated Banco Delta Asia — a Macau-based bank known to hold significant assets of the North Korean leadership — as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern under the Patriot Act. Like Iran, North Korea was almost completely cut off from the international financial system.

As part of the negotiations, the United States decided to return the $25 million in North Korean funds held in BDA's accounts, but found that international financial institutions were unwilling to move the funds because none wanted to be seen as cooperating with a bank that was well-known to engage in illicit activity.

Instead of transferring the $25 million to North Korea using pallets of cash, the United States Federal Reserve stepped in. Banco Delta Asia transferred the $25 million via the Federal Reserve to the Russian Central Bank, which in turn sent it to Far Eastern Bank, a Russian bank in Vladivostok that held accounts on behalf of the North Korean leadership.

Through this system, the United States was able to facilitate the delivery of North Korean funds back to the regime through legitimate financial channels. A similar mechanism could have been employed with the $1.7bn payment to Iran.

The administration has also claimed it delivered the cash to Iran because the country needed immediate access to the funds to address critical economic needs.

The administration has also claimed it delivered the cash to Iran because the country needed immediate access to the funds to address critical economic needs. But other, less opaque options existed that would have allowed fast delivery of the money.

For example, as part of the Joint Plan of Action — the interim agreement that preceded the final Iran agreement — the United States set up a financial channel using foreign financial institutions to ensure that humanitarian and agricultural goods could flow to Iran.

Likewise, the administration admitted last week that it had sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to Iran through the formal financial system at the height of the US sanctions regime in July 2015. The administration could have used this or similar channels to send the funds.

Moving forward, the administration — and Congress if the president is unwilling — should ensure that any payments it makes to Iran are facilitated through the formal financial system. Current bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate are steps in the right direction. The United States should also take steps to reduce the risk that Iran uses such funds to support terrorism or Assad.

These steps should include: holding the funds in escrow accounts, verifying that the end recipients of the funds are not sanctioned Iranian parties, and requiring the funds be released in tranches, with a certification provided by the Secretary of the Treasury that prior tranches have not been diverted to sanctioned persons.

While Republicans and Democrats can disagree about the wisdom of providing funds that — at the very least — appeared to Iranian officials to be a ransom payment, the administration should not have sent this money in cash and risked inadvertently funding Iran's support for terrorism. It can and should do better in the future.

The writer is an adjunct Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Senior Associate at the Financial Integrity Network, and a senior adviser at the Center for Sanctions and Illicit Finance at the Foundation for Defence of Democracies.



US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif at UN headquarters in April 2016.

Russian voters turn indifferent towards Putin



By Leonid Bershidsky
Bloomberg



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) speaks as Prime Minister and chairman of the United Russia political party Dmitry Medvedev listens at the party's election campaign headquarters during parliamentary elections in Moscow .

Russian President Vladimir Putin's loyalists, the United Russia party, gained a massive, record majority in Sunday's parliamentary election — but Russians have also shown that the high popularity ratings of United Russia and, by extension, Putin and his government are essentially fake: The turnout was lower than ever in the history of Russian federal elections.

According to preliminary results, United Russia has won 344 seats in the 450-strong State Duma, or lower house of parliament, a big improvement on the 238 it had gained at the previous election, in 2011. At the same time, it lost north of 5 million votes in absolute numbers.

According to the Central Election Commission, the turnout reached 47.8 percent compared with 60.2 percent at the last election. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, which officially account for 11.8 percent of the total population, the turnout was lower still — less than 30 percent.

This is an important change. In 2011, widespread ballot-stuffing and fake absentee voting gave rise to major protests in Moscow: The capital's middle class had skin in the game and did not take kindly to being swindled.

The protests failed because of these same Muscovites's aversion to the kind of violence that led to regime change in Ukraine in 2014. This year, there will be no rallies and marches against the falsifications, which were demonstrably prevalent in Sunday's election, too.

The Putin regime would probably be OK with voter apathy, but there are reasons to suspect that it faces a kind of passive aggression. There is no end in sight to Russia's recession or the swollen law enforcement agencies' preying on business and the general populace. About a third of Russians believe the country is headed toward a dead end.

Yet the low turnout is a strong message in itself. In Central Asian dictatorships people show up for "elections" for fear of being deemed disloyal, the way they did in Soviet times.

In Turkmenistan, for example, a 91 percent turnout was registered at the 2013 parliamentary election. By staying away, a majority of Russians have shown they have neither love for nor fear of the Putin regime.

Even in Crimea, the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, fewer people turned out than for the 2012 Ukrainian parliamentary election.

"The system is wilting and closing in on itself," political scientist Alexander Morozov wrote on Facebook. "Now, there's clear sociological evidence of this." Putin's opponents who called on Russians to go and vote for opposition parties are dismayed: The same four tame parties — United Russia, the misnamed, opportunist Liberal Democratic Party, the Communists and vaguely center-left Fair Russia — have won seats.

Yabloko, the best of the anti-Putin crop, got less than 2 percent, not even enough to continue receiving government financing, let alone get into parliament. Sergei Parkhomenko, a journalist, publisher and activist who had called on Putin opponents to vote and ensure some representation for liberals, raged on Facebook:

"This Duma has been chosen with your lively participation. It turned out that you constitute a majority. You think you voted with your feet. But in fact you voted with your fat behinds, the ones on which you sat through yesterday."

"That's nothing but emotion," Morozov countered. Indeed, the anti-Putin parties didn't stand a chance for a multitude of reasons. They had splintered and squabbled, failing to agree on a common strategy. Some of their best candidates, such as anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny and former tech entrepreneur Ilya Ponomaryov, were unable to run because of past politically motivated convictions or trumped-up charges against them. Potential donors were scared off.

The regime now controls — or has the ability to throttle — every media outlet with significant reach. Besides, there was widespread ballot-stuffing — often captured on video — and the same statistical anomalies in favour of United Russia that were seen in previous elections.

Physicist Sergei Shpilkin, who has done this kind of analysis for previous ballots, too, found that United Russia's results relative to turnout at specific polling stations do not follow the normal distribution, the way other parties' results do. According to Shpilkin, various shenanigans have added 14 percentage points to United Russia's result.

In short, the election was not free or fair — and a majority of Russians, whether relatively happy with their life under Putin or strongly opposed to him, knew it wouldn't be. By staying away, they showed a silent reluctance to be fooled.

Putin has always prided himself on his majority support. His rule — or at least his understanding of it — has been based on love as much as fear. And Russians have mostly obliged by turning out in force for important votes. In 2006, the parliament canceled legitimacy thresholds for elections — 20 percent of the Duma, 50 percent for the presidential ballots — on the grounds that more than 50 percent of voters showed up every time.

Now that it's no longer so and the new parliament's legitimacy looks questionable, the Kremlin is trying to put a positive spin on it. Putin's press secretary Dmitri Peskov laid down the official line:

"Indeed, a higher turnout would have been welcome, but do not demean the significance of the turnout numbers we have now. They cannot be called low, you know that in the overwhelming majority of European countries turnouts are actually much lower and that reflects the reality, the proportion of the politically active population that traditionally takes part in the electoral process."

The Kremlin's troll army has been spreading this comparison on the social networks, though it is demonstrably inaccurate. In any major European country, a 48 percent turnout in a national election would be abnormally low.

The Putin regime would probably be OK with voter apathy, but there are reasons to suspect that it faces a kind of passive aggression. There is no end in sight to Russia's recession or the swollen law enforcement agencies' preying on business and the general populace. About a third of Russians believe the country is headed toward a dead end.

A constitutional majority in the parliament gives Putin more power to tighten screws and eliminate remaining liberties, and he will probably use it; but he can hardly have peace of mind when a growing number of people dissociate themselves from his government, his goals and his farce of democracy. They only count on themselves, and they can hardly be expected to stand up for Putin if a strong rival emerges or if things get significantly worse economically.

The writer is a Bloomberg view contributor and is a Berlin-based writer. He was the founding editor of the Russian business daily Vedomosti and founded the opinion website Slon.ru.

Venezuela's no good, rotten, terrible meeting of the NAM



By Kavitha Surana
Foreign Policy

While New York was busy gearing up for the 70th annual UN General Assembly, a once-proud but now worn-out international summit was already well underway south of the border.

On Sunday, September 18, Venezuela wrapped up the 17th meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, a loose international club formed in 1961 as a middle path through the Cold War polarization of the era.

Originally founded by India, Indonesia, Egypt, Ghana and the former Yugoslavia, the group's members advocated peaceful coexistence and refused to align with either the United States or the Soviet Union.

But these days the Non-Aligned Movement presents a pretty shabby picture. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, increasingly isolated on the international stage as his country descends into a maelstrom of economic dysfunction and social and political unrest, hailed the summit as a great success, calling it a meeting that would "be remembered for centuries."

But empty chairs belied his enthusiasm: Only 10 heads of state turned up to the event, out of 120 nominal member countries in the movement, many of them left-wing allies or recipients of oil subsidies.

So who was gathered around the table with Maduro? A rogue's gallery of leaders, including Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Cuban President Raúl Castro, Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Iranian President Hassan Rowhani, and Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa. Tellingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India did not make an appearance, only the second time India had skipped the event since the movement was founded. In contrast to the heady early days of the movement, Modi is nudging India toward closer ties with the United States, especially to counter growing Chinese influence throughout Asia.

The dismal summit mirrored conditions in Venezuela, once a prosperous, oil-rich democracy but today wracked by shortages of food, medicine, and basic necessities and plagued with power outages and water cuts. The summit itself was held on Margarita Island, a once-popular tourist destination off the coast of Venezuela, that now faces daily water cuts. (The government imported food and water for the summit.) The low attendance was especially noteworthy since leaders are already on the road for the UN General Assembly, and Venezuela is only a five hours flight away from New York.

Indeed, Venezuela's opposition coalition bashed the summit as a failure, hoping to speed up a recall referendum to oust the President. "It ratifies [Maduro's] international isolation, his diplomatic ineptitude and the world's rejection of a regime that is a global symbol of corruption and incompetence," the coalition said in a statement. Meanwhile the government brought in hundreds of supporters from all over the country to camp near the summit in a show of support.

Many of the countries that did come are grappling with Western sanctions, and used the summit as a platform to criticise US interventionism. They also reiterated longstanding calls for reforms to the UN that would put more influence in the hands of developing nations.

Syria's UN ambassador, Bashar Ja'afari, was also at the event, and he railed against the recent US-led airstrikes that killed Syrian soldiers and ended a fragile US-Russia ceasefire. He also denounced economic sanctions slapped on the country after the brutal civil war erupted in 2011.

"My country is suffering a unilateral blockade similar to the ones imposed on Cuba, Venezuela and other countries, in flagrant violation of the UN charter," he said.

Maduro also blamed the United States for his country's problems. "Venezuela is facing a global attack, which is against all of Latin America and Caribbean," he said. "An attack that aims to impose a political, economic and cultural reorganisation of our countries with the old oligarchy."

The Non-Aligned Movement always boasted a mixed cast of characters, from South Africa's anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela, to Suharto, Indonesia's strongman dictator. Yet it was once a significant force in international politics, helping unite countries fighting for independence during the end of colonialism and pressing for international attention to the developing world.

But with the end of the Cold War order and plenty of economic and geopolitical upheaval since, member states have taken different paths, and most struggle to coalesce around clearly shared goals. In Venezuela, at least, those that bothered to show up mostly have one thing that unites them: Long-standing beefs with the United States.

The writer is a fellow at Foreign Policy. She has reported from Italy, Germany, and Senegal and her stories have been published in the past by the Associated Press, Quartz, Al Jazeera, CNN, GlobalPost and OZY. She holds a joint master's degree in journalism and European and Mediterranean studies from New York University.

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All thoughts and views expressed in these columns are those of the writers, not of the newspaper.
All correspondence regarding Views and Opinion pages should be mailed to the Editor-in-Chief.

N Korea hails 'successful' new rocket engine test

Kim Jong-Un calls for satellite launch as soon as possible.

AFP





North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (centre) inspecting the ground jet test of a new type high-power engine of a carrier rocket for the geo-stationary satellite at the Sohae Space Center in North Korea, yesterday. RIGHT: The ground jet test of a new rocket engine for the geo-stationary satellite.

SEOUL: North Korea has successfully tested a new, high-powered rocket engine, state media said yesterday, a move experts say will bolster its already burgeoning weapons programme.

The ground test comes after more than 20 missile launches and two nuclear explosions this year, and adds to the sense that the isolated state is quickening the development of its arsenal, despite fierce global opposition.

State-run news agency KCNA said the engine would give the country "sufficient carrier capability for launching various kinds of satellites".

Rocket engines are easily re-purposed for use in missiles, and outside observers say that Pyongyang's space programme is a fig leaf for weapons tests.

After supervising the test at the country's Sohae satellite-launching site, leader Kim Jong-Un called on officials, scientists and technicians "to round off the preparations for launching the satellite as soon as possible", KCNA news agency reported yesterday.

Kim also called for more rocket launches to turn the country into a "possessor of geostationary satellites in a couple of years to come", according to KCNA.

The front page of the North's Rodong Sinmun showed a picture of a long flame bursting from an engine propped up by a cement structure; another photo showed Kim watching the test and a separate picture showed him laughing excitedly.

Rocket scientist Chae Yeon-Seok at the South's Korea Aerospace Research Institute said with the new engine, the North is "coming close to having an inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) that could hit the US mainland".

Pyongyang regularly parades homegrown missiles and boasts of its plan to develop long-range missiles capable of targeting the US.

"North Korea's space programme is focused on developing launch vehicles that can easily be used for missiles rather than developing decent satellites", Chae said.

South Korea's military Joint Chiefs of Staff also said the test was to verify the performance of "a high-power engine that can be used for long-range missiles."

US-Korea Institute said on its closely-watched website, 38North, said this test represents a "significant step" in the continued development of larger, more advanced space launch vehicles.

North Korea has already carried out a series of long-range missile tests presented as satellite launches, most recently in February.

It has also fired missiles from a submarine.

A proven submarine-launched ballistic missile system would allow deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and a "second-strike" capability in the event of an attack on the North's military bases.

Earlier this month, it said an underground nuclear test was of a miniaturised device that could be mounted on a missile.

Kim "expressed great satisfaction" with the results of the engine test, according to KCNA.

He said the North had made cutting-edge scientific advances "despite the difficult economic conditions of the country", the report said recently.

North has been hit by five sets of UN sanctions since it first tested a nuclear device in 2006, but has insisted it will continue, come what may.

China probes firm allegedly 'aiding' nuclear project

BEIJING: A Chinese company under investigation by local police may have aided North Korea's nuclear programme, think-tanks in South Korea and the US have said.

Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co Ltd logged more than $530m in two-way trade with North Korea between 2011 and 2015, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul and C4ADS in Washington said in a report.

Information in online advertisements and databases show that the company sold pure aluminium ingots, aluminium oxide and other products that could qualify as potential military and nuclear dual use products under US export restrictions, it said.

"While no judgement is being made on the final use of these funds, trade at this volume is of particular note," it said.

"By one estimate, this amount would have been almost enough to both fund North's uranium enrichment facilities and to design, make, and test its nuclear weapons."

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and US President Barack Obama condemned the North's September 9 nuclear test.

Pilot triggers 'false' hijack alarm in Manila

AFP

MANILA: A pilot of a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight accidentally pressed an emergency alarm, creating a hijack scare and triggering a major security response at Manila airport yesterday, authorities said.

Police isolated and surrounded the Saudia flight after it landed yesterday afternoon following a report to the control tower that the plane was "under threat", a Philippine aviation authority spokesman said.

Hundreds of passengers aboard the Boeing 777 flight from the Red Sea city of Jeddah were forced to remain on the plane for about two hours, but were let off about 5:00pm after it was confirmed there was no threat.

"Situation is normal. It was alleged that the pilot pressed the emergency light of the aircraft unintentionally," Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said.

In Saudi Arabia, an airline spokesman also said there was no security threat.

"False alarm for hijack for Flight 872," the spokesman said.

Manila airport spokeswoman Connie Bungag released a statement saying the control tower received advice the plane was "under threat" as it was 32km from landing and authorities immediately implemented standard security operating procedures.

There were 410 passengers on board, plus four pilots and 17 crew members, airport general manager Ed Monreal said.

Many of them were returning from the annual Islamic pilgrimage in Saudia Arabia.

One of the passengers, Aida Majud, said they were not told why they were being kept on the plane.

"When we saw the armed men we thought, what's the problem. We wanted to know what was happening," Majud said yesterday. But she said the atmosphere was calm.



Passengers of Saudi Arabian Airlines plane disembarking after one of the pilots released a distress signal prior to landing at Manila airport.

Convicted felons say Duterte critic took bribes

Reuters

MANILA: Convicted Philippine felons yesterday told a Congressional hearing they had bribed a former justice minister and fierce critic of President Rodrigo Duterte, dealing another blow to her efforts to investigate the country's deadly war on drugs.

Senator Leila De Lima has become an increasingly isolated voice since seeking to hold Duterte to account for unleashing a crackdown on narcotics in which 3,800 people have been killed since the president took office 11 weeks ago.

Bank robber Herbert Colangco told Congress he had paid $62,637 a month since October 2013 to De Lima, then justice secretary, to let him hold concerts inside prison.

He also said he ran a brothel and had been pressured to sell drugs to raise money for her election campaign, but had refused.

The testimony came a day after senators voted to remove De Lima as head of a house committee probing the drugs war, a campaign condemned by the United Nations and human rights groups but cheered by Filipinos tired of crime and drug addiction.

"I have de Lima's blessings," Colangco said, when Congress members asked how he had smuggled contraband into the prison.

He said the bribes were paid through a security guard and presented what he said were receipts for the money remitted.

Another convict testified to seeing De Lima in the cell of an inmate who monopolised drugs deals in one of the country's largest prisons.

Two former prison officials told the panel they had delivered 5 million pesos in bribes to De Lima's home.

Opposition to De Lima has intensified since she arranged for a self-confessed hitman to testify to a senate hearing last week that he saw Duterte shoot a man dead with an Uzi assault weapon and order other killings while a mayor of Davao City in the 1990s.

Duterte's office denies the allegations.

De Lima did not attend yesterday's congress hearing and gave a speech at the senate defending the investigation.

"No committee chairmanship is worth it, if it sacrifices my principles," she said.

Speaking at an army base in Davao, Duterte said the events in Congress showed there were plenty of people who could back up his allegations that De Lima was taking cash from drug gangs.

"I was correct all along," he said.

Three men pulled from crevasse on Australia's Uluru

AFP



A rescue helicopter and personnel during a rescue mission on Uluru in central Australia.

SYDNEY: Three young men stuck in a crevasse on Australian tourist attraction Uluru, the world's largest monolith, were lowered to safety in a difficult, late-night rescue operation, authorities said yesterday.

Rescuers battled strong winds and abseiled 320 metres to reach the stranded Australians, all aged 22, after they wandered off a well-worn path while climbing the iconic symbol of the Outback, also known as Ayers Rock on Monday.

The men climbed down steep slopes towards the bottom of the giant red rock but then got stuck, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services spokeswoman Nicole Ogilvie said.

"They were lucky there were no injuries," Ogilvie said, adding that a Taiwanese tourist was badly injured last year after falling into a narrow gap when he left the official route.

"You just don't know how bad it can get when you actually veer off the path."

Rescue workers were flown by helicopter to the top of Uluru to start the complex process of extracting the trio after police confirmed they were uninjured and had enough water.

"Due to the fading light and lack of anchors, the rescue effort was slow and methodical," emergency service volunteer Alan Leahy said in a statement.

"We abseiled about 320 metres to the stranded men. There were very strong winds that kept on tangling the rope," Leahy added.

Duterte warns of another attack in Philippines south

Anatolia

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has warned that another attack could strike the country's troubled south while visiting victims of an explosion earlier this month that left 15 people dead.

The Philippine Star reported yesterday that during his visit to Davao City, Duterte underlined the threat posed by a younger generation of militants in the Mindanao island region who have been influenced by IS.

"There will be another explosion, not in Davao but in another area in Mindanao," he said while attending ceremonies during which financial assistance was provided to victims of the September 2 attack claimed by the Abu Sayyaf.

"They are the young ones who have already sworn allegiance to the ISIS," he added.

"That is the next great battle of the century -- terrorism and civilization," underlined the president, who had declared a state of lawlessness after the Davao attack that also left 70 people wounded.

"Hopefully, in the fullness of God's time, we would be able to establish really law and order in this country. There are simply too many gangsters and terrorists, simply too many battles here and there," he said.

Myanmar scraps loathed 'midnight inspections' law

AFP

YANGON: Myanmar is scrapping part of a hated law that forced people to report overnight guests and was used by authorities to barge into houses late at night, often targeting activists.

The country's parliament, now filled with former political prisoners after landmark polls in November, voted to remove the controversial clause on Monday despite opposition from the military, which still controls a quarter of seats.

Under the former junta it became known as the 'midnight inspections' law because police would often turn up at people's houses unannounced, demanding to know who was staying there.

Activists said officials were still using the legislation to harass people and extort money even after the military handed power to a semi-civilian government in 2011.

More than 50 civil society groups last month called for an end to the law, which they described as an 'oppressive tool seriously threatening the human security and dignity of the people.'

U Win Htein, an aide to veteran activist Aung San Suu Kyi, who is now leading the country's civilian administration, said lawmakers had kept some caveats in the bill for security reasons.

"We scrapped that clause, but we inserted some conditions," said the ex-political prisoner, who spent years behind bars under the former junta.

Police are no longer authorised to intrude late at night but can "ask about the presence of strangers in an honourable way," he said.

The new form of the bill also requires guests staying in a village or ward to register with authorities after one month.

U Win Htein said the army had opposed scrapping the clause because they were "worried it would reduce their authority".

Whistle-blowers to get 30% of ill-gotten cash

If it has been proved that a whistle-blower has rightly disclosed the violation of public interest, shall be rewarded 30% of the recovered amount and certificate of appreciation.

Internews

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly in Pakistan yesterday approved a law enabling people to blow a whistle on the irregular, illegal and corrupt practices and get 30 percent of the recovered ill-gotten money as reward.

The law called 'The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whistle blower Protection and Vigilance Commission Act, 2016' was unanimously passed by the house after parliamentary secretary on law ArifYousaf tabled it. The law was earlier approved by the house's select committee.

The law provides protection to the Whistle blower which states that "to protect them (whistle-blowers) from the disadvantageous measure, give them rewards for such public interest disclosure and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto."

Clause 12 of the law says "After inquiry, if it has been proved that a Whistle blower has rightly disclosed the violation of public interest, shall be rewarded 30 per cent of the recovered amount and certificate of appreciation."

Similarly, the law states that after inquiry, if it has been proved that a Whistle blower has lodged frivolous or mala fide complaint, he shall be liable to a fine of 30 per cent of the actual amount claimed against a person with rigorous imprisonment for a period of three years.

Provided that the amount of the fine shall be paid to the person against whom the complaint has been made.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whistle-blower Protection and Vigilance Commission will be established under this law.

Section four of the law states: "the commission shall consist of three commissioners, including a chairman, appointed by the government for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for reappointment for a second term."

The commission has the power to conduct proper and transparent inquiry under this act and made recommendations to the concerned authorities for making action against individual or agencies for violation of public interest under the relevant laws.

Under the law, the inquiry will be completed within 60 days, while the commission has to take decision on the inquiry within 30 days.

Waiting for the right feet



A footwear salesman waits for customers at the market in central Quetta, Pakistan, yesterday.

PML-N wins Chichawatni by-polls

Internews

ISLAMABAD: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) yesterday won a major political victory by taking the Chichawatni constituency that was previously held by its arch-rival – the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Rai Hassan Nawaz who was disqualified by courts for asset concealment.

The PTI lost the by-election in the National Assembly constituency NA-62 (Chichawatni), but not before giving a run to the ruling party for its money. It is the third consecutive legislature victory in which the PML-N's candidates returned as winner. The PML-N had also won by-elections in NA-63 (Jhelum-II) and the Punjab Assembly's PP-232 (Vehari-I).

In Chichawatni, PTI candidate Rai Murtaza was outnumbered by PML-N's Muhammad Tufailjutt with a margin of 13,369 votes in the unofficial results of 293 polling stations. PML-N's Jutt secured 76,580 votes, PTI's Murtaza (63,211) while Shahzad Saeed Cheema of the PPP came third with 15,873 votes.

The victory would serve as a morale booster for the ruling party that is involved in a kind of 'pitched battle' with the PTI over allegations of rigging and corruption in the wake of the Panama Papers revelations. Rai Hasan Nawaz won the seat on the PTI ticket in 2013. He challenged his disqualification in the Supreme Court. As the court did not take up his case on the last hearing on September 5, he decided to go ahead with Rai Murtaza as the PTI candidate.

Meanwhile, polling that started at 9am continued till 5pm in a largely peaceful way. Besides police, contingents of army and Rangers were also deployed in the constituency to prevent any untoward incident. Hamza Shahbaz Sharif congratulated the winning PML-N candidate and termed the victory a proof of Nawaz Sharif's "wisdom" and "tolerance."

Sixer



Afghan boys play cricket on a playground in Kabul, yesterday.

Panel approves bill for gender-based vote count

Internews

ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel in Pakistan yesterday approved an important bill seeking gender-based segregation of polled votes and re-election in a constituency where women's turnout remained less than 10 percent.

The bill titled 'The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2016', seeking an amendment to the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1976, was introduced in the Senate by Sherry Rehman of the PPP on March 7.

Convened by Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, the subcommittee of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs examined the recommendations presented by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The subcommittee included the mover of the bill Senator Sherry Rehman and Senator NawabzadaSaifullahMagsi.

The convener of the subcommittee said the ECP had presented effective recommendations regarding the bill. The subcommittee approved to amend Section 78(ii) of the RPA which defines 'corrupt practice' during the election. Now stopping women from exercising their right to vote or any agreement to this end will also be included in 'corrupt practices'.

Under the new amendments, tribunals and the election commission have been empowered to declare any such election null and void in the relevant constituencies.

Meanwhile, under amendment to Section 103-AA, the decision of the election commission will be challengeable in the Supreme Court instead of a high court and the matter will be decided within a period of 30 days. Prior to this, it was unclear as to where an appeal can be filed against the commission.

The subcommittee was constituted by the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, spearheaded by Senator Saeed Ghani, and tasked with submitting a report on the bill.

Moreover, it says: "The bill seeks to make available gender disaggregated data not only an effective, transparent and clear method of documentation, but also a tool to identify gender breakdown of voting structures and to identify and understand the number of women voting, the issues they face and how to eliminate them."

Forces claim to have broken key terrorist recruitment network

Internews

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces claimed to have broken a key terrorist recruitment network connected to Islamic State (Daesh) in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.

The operatives of security agencies have also arrested top ten commanders of Islamic State militant group who were said to be on a mission in the country to recruit thousands of foot soldiers for the Middle East's terrorist outfit.

"A key terrorist recruitment network for Daesh has been broken up in Rawalpindi and Attock on Monday. We've arrested around four dozen militants (including top ten commanders) of Daesh who swore allegiance to Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi in Syria and Hafiz Saeed Khan in Afghanistan," a senior official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Punjab police claimed.

These top ten commanders just returned after meeting the Daesh head of Khorasan (Pak-Afghan) region namely Hafiz Saeed Khan in Afghanistan before his death in a US drone strike in Afghanistan a few weeks ago, he revealed.

Many of them have also been met Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, kingpin of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, he added. "He (Hafiz Saeed Khan) had ordered them to spread chaos in Pakistan and create situation for Daesh caliphate in Pakistan," reads an official document exclusively with Geo News.

Official document further revealed that the CTD police arrested two terrorists belonging to Daesh from Taxila and two from Attock who had planned to attack military and civilian installations.

Their names are Hashim Khan from Mehmand Agency and Shakeel Khan from Bajuar Agency, Shaheen from Orkazai Agency and Imran from Gujrat, document continued to reveal.

Hashim Khan S/o Inzar Gul Khan was a key commander of Daesh and running a recruitment camp in Pakistan. Before joining Daesh, he was commanding Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Abdul Wali Group.

Shakeel Khan and Shaheen were recruiting militants for Daesh in Rawalpindi and Attock. Imran Mehdi S/o Mehdi Khan, who is resident of Gujrat, was in direct contact with Daesh top leadership in Syria.

Before joining Daesh, he was a key commander with Al-Badar and JamatulMuslimeen. Explosives and arms were also recovered from them including 2,000 gram explosives, detonators, batteries, wires, fuses etc.

The security agencies in intelligence based operation arrested four Daesh terrorists from Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore. Their names are Syed Abdul Alam, HafeezurRehman, Nisar Ahmad and Tusawwar Amin.

"They were following command of the Daesh Syria through its journal, Dabiq, in which the organisation had directed its followers all over the world to launch local attacks," reads the document.

HafizurRehman S/o SajjadurRehman, resident of Khushab, was running a training camp in heart of Lahore. Before joining Daesh, he got training in Afghanistan with Al-BadarMujahideen and also worked for TTP Malik Yaqoob Group.

Recoveries from them included 1,600 gram explosives, 8 safety fuses, 4 non-electric detonators, rifles and ammunition. Laptops were also recovered with large amount of data about their group.

"They (Daesh terrorists) had decided to make their presence felt and were about to launch attack on office of an intelligence agency," it further read.

NEWS BYTES

Japan agrees to replace weather radars

ISLAMABAD: The government of Japan has agreed to replace weather radars in Islamabad and Karachi with the latest technology, and at a cost of Rs4bn to predict severe climatic conditions.

According to an official source, work on the installation of new radars at both ends is in progress.

Meanwhile, keeping in view the recurring flash flooding in KalpaniNullah of Mardan, the federal government has also provided funds to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) to install a radar in the area. This new radar at Mardan will be in operation by next year.

Balochistan plans to curb illegal hunting

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Pakistan's southwest province of Balochistan Nawab-Sanaullah Khan Zehri has unveiled plans to introduce legislation against the illegal hunting of endangered species, rare birds and animals. The provincial authorities are also considering legislative measures to prevent the chopping of trees.

At the same time, Zehri ordered the forest and wildlife department and the livestock affairs department to acquire land for establishing a zoological garden in Quetta. The provincial government, according to the CM, will provide the required funds for the garden.

Heading a high-level meeting the other day, Zehri directed all departments concerned and district administrations to take concrete steps for the promotion and protection of endangered species, rare birds and wildlife across the province.

Pakistan-Bahrain meet on Sept 25

ISLAMABAD: In line with the Pakistani government's policy for active economic diplomacy, Pakistan Embassy in Bahrain is organising the first Pakistan-Bahrain business opportunities conference on September 25 in Bahrain.

More than 350 delegates from Pakistan, Bahrain and the GCC region are expected to take part in the conference. The conference is also targeting the overseas Pakistani businessmen based in the Gulf countries and delegations from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and other countries are also expected to participate in the conference.

"It remains our priority to highlight and promote the business, trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan and the first Pakistan-Bahrain Business Opportunities Conference aims at upgrading and enhance the economic ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Bahrain," the statement quoted Ambassador Javed Malik, as saying.

Eight intruders dead in Kashmir gunfight

In the morning we saw the LOC fence was cut. We launched an operation and have trapped around 4-5 militants: Official

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Indian soldiers killed eight people trying to cross the border with Pakistan in Kashmir yesterday and security forces were also fighting suspected militants near the frontier, army officials said, two days after a major attack on an Indian base.

The flare-up in violence comes after India blamed Pakistan for Sunday's attack on the brigade headquarters in the town of Uri near the border that killed 18 soldiers, heightening already tense relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Pakistan denies any role in the raid. A senior Indian army officer said that his men had spotted a group of intruders trying to cross into Indian territory around Uri yesterday. The troops killed at least eight, and had set out to retrieve the bodies and hunt for any survivors, he said. Army spokesman Manish Kumar said a number of infiltrators had been killed, but he could not confirm how many.

Indian security forces were also fighting four to five militants in the Nowgam area close to the Line of Control (LOC), a senior army officer said, the border where thousands of Indian and Pakistani troops face off against each other.

"In the morning we saw the LOC fence was cut. We launched an operation and we have trapped around 4-5 militants," he said.

A Pakistani colonel said there was no firing along the border. Both sides were on high alert and strengthening their positions, he said. Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria reiterated that no shot had been fired by Pakistan, after Indian television channels said troops of both countries had exchanged fire.

NIA takes over investigations

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) yesterday took over the investigation into the attack on the army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri town in which 18 soldiers were killed and 30 others injured.

The NIA team headed by an Inspector General is camping at Uri town to collect evidence from the site of the attack. The team, which took over the case from the Jammu and Kashmir Police that had registered an FIR into the attack on Sunday, has also taken into its possession various items of investigation recovered from the possession of the four suicide attackers who were killed in a gunfight after they entered the administrative base of an infantry battalion in Uri town.

"Pictures of two slain terrorists whose faces can be recognized would be shown to some Jaish terrorists who are in jails to identify the terrorists," said sources, adding that the faces of the other two terrorists were charred beyond recognition.



A policeman stands guard during curfew in Srinagar yesterday.

NEWS BYTES

SC seeks govt's response on marine's plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court yesterday sought the central government's response on the plea by Italian marine Massimilano Latorre seeking permission to continue to stay in his country - a relief that has already been granted to his colleague Salvatore Girone - in wake of international arbitration.

Both Chief Master Sergeant Latorre and Sergeant Major Girone are accused of killing two fishermen in February 2012 off the Kerala coast allegedly mistaking them to be pirates. Giving the government a week's time to submit its response, the bench of Justice Anil R Dave, Justice Kurian Joseph and Justice Amitava Roy said that they would consider Latorre's plea on September 28.

Woman stabbed 22 times by jilted lover

NEW DELHI: A 21-year old woman died after being stabbed 22 times by a jilted lover yesterday morning in full public view here, police said.

The woman has been identified as Karuna, a resident of Burari area in north Delhi. She was a teacher at Novel Reaches School, police said.

"The woman was stabbed publicly in Burari area at 9am by the accused, named Surender Singh, 34, who was known to her. No one came to her rescue," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Madhur Verma said.

"He was later chased by the public and beaten up and handed over to police," the officer added.

The officer said, "The assailant had been troubling the woman since a year or so. The family had lodged a complaint four-five months back and both the families had reached a compromise."

According to police, the assailant owns a shop and his divorce case was going on.

Barak-8 long-range missile tested

IANS

BHUBANESWAR: India yesterday successfully test-fired the Barak-8 long-range surface-to-air nuclear-capable ballistic missile, jointly developed with Israel, from a defence test facility off the Odisha coast.

The missile was successfully launched at around 10.15am from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) launch pad at Chandipur in Balasore district, said a defence official.

President Pranab Mukherjee congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the successful launch.

Congratulations DRDO on the successful test-firing of Indo-Israeli surface-to-air missile Barak-8 from Odisha, a tweet on his official Twitter handle said. The DRDO is planning some more tests shortly, the official said.

The advanced missile has been designed and developed by the DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries and Israels Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure.

The Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) has the ability to hit targets within radii of 70km to 90km. It is designed to defend against any airborne threat, apart from aircraft and helicopters, and can also intercept supersonic aircraft and missiles. The missile weighs around 2.7 tonnes and is 4.5 metres in length. The district administration had temporarily shifted over 3,500 people living within a 2.5km radius of the test facility.

Barak-8 is based on the original Barak-1 missile but has a more advanced target-seeker. The radar system provides 360-degree coverage and the missile can take down an incoming missile as close as 500 meters away from a ship.

Each Barak system, which includes missile container, radar, computers and installation, costs about $24m.

Learning time



Hetal Parmar (second right), a teacher, teaches basic English to surrogate mothers at Akanksha Hospital and Research Institute near Anand town in Ahmedabad.

SC asks Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court yesterday directed Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu every day till September 27, overriding the Cauvery Supervisory Committee's order to release 3,000 cusecs.

The bench of Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, giving the direction to Karnataka, also directed the central government to constitute a Cauvery Management Board in four weeks› time and report to the court with notification of it being set up.

The order for releasing 6,000 cusecs is double the 3,000 cusecs ordered by the Cauvery Supervisory Committee (CSC), but half of the 12,000 cusecs the court had ordered on September 12 for Karnataka to release till September 20.

The matter will come up for further hearing on September 27.Before the court could pass the order, senior counsel Fali Nariman made an impassioned plea not to ask Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu as it needed water for drinking purposes. He said Tamil Nadu could not ask for irrigation purposes the water Karnataka needed for drinking in Bengaluru and other places.

"Now we have to supply (to Tamil Nadu) from our drinking water. I can't give any water. You issue an order. It will have its consequences," Nariman told the court, pointing to the agitation that had engulfed both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu recently. "I need water for my Samba crop from the South-West monsoon as I get my water from North-East monsoon in October only. I need water before October 15,» senior counsel Shekhar Nahade, appearing for Tamil Nadu, told the bench.

Making light of Karnataka's argument that Tamil Nadu should take whatever has been given to it and the rest would be provided after the end of the monsoon based on calculation of deficit rainfall, Naphade said, "It is like telling a camel that you consume (water) now, and the rest (would get it) at the end."

Taking exception to Karnataka's argument on the consequences of the court's order, senior counsel Rakesh Dwivedi said: "I don't know on what basis they are saying so (on being deprived of drinking water). It is some kind of terror. You are carrying on street war in the court.»

Not missing the obvious threat behind the word "consequences", the court recalled in its order about obligation of people to obey its order and reminded the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments of their constitutional obligation to see that law and order prevails.

Noting that it has not been disputed by all the concerned that Cauvery Management Board (CMB) has to constituted, Justice Misra said: "It is the duty of the Central government to constitute the CMB under the award by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. You are bound to do it. You have not constituted it so far. You did not constitute it."

ACB registers case against women commission chief

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Anti-Corruption Branch of the Delhi government yesterday filed a case against Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal over a complaint that it was indulging in illegal practices, a top official said.

ACB chief Mukesh Kumar Meena said, "A case was registered against Maliwal."

Maliwal was booked under Sections 13 (Criminal misconduct by a public servant) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 409 (Criminal breach of trust by public servant) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Monday night, the ACB said. On Monday morning, the ACB questioned Maliwal for over two hours.

The action came after the complaint was filed on August 12 by Delhi Congress leader and former DCW head, Barkha Singh Shukla.

In her complaint, Shukla alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders were appointing their associates to the DCW and gave them financial benefits.

Shukla in her complaint had named Prabhsahay Kaur, daughter of senior AAP leader HS Phoolka, Advisor to DCW Raj Mangal Prasad, and 83 others as beneficiaries.

She also claimed that all the names were obtained through a Right To Information (RTI) inquiry.

Maliwal reacted sharply after the case was registered in a series of tweets.

She wrote: «Came to know that an FIR has been filed. When nothing wrong has been done then one doesn't need to fear, even from god. One has to sacrifice to change the system.We used the same procedure of hiring which DCW has used for years. If something has changed then its work. Worked hard day and night. Have questioned system," she tweeted.

She also said that, "if corruption of even Re 1 is proved, she would give up her life."

"System me baithe Nikamme aur nakara logo mahilao ke liye kam karna aur sawal uthana pasand nahi aa raha. Wo mere sawalo se pareshan hai (Worthless persons at the helm of things refuse to be answerable to a woman. They are uneasy with my questioning)."

She was questioned by the ACB over alleged illegalities. They have sought her respond to 27 questions within a week.

A combative Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal dubbed the case filed against her as "false" and said that it's a conspiracy by few people who don't like "questions being asked by us".

"DCW is working in Delhi but few people are objecting to it, I don't want to take their names, but they are trying their best to not allow the state government and the Central government to work for the women safety together," Maliwal told reporters after a case was filed against her by the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Delhi government in an alleged illegal recruitment scam.

"It is why an FIR was filed against me. This FIR is farji (false)," Maliwal said. "I want to say that I am a revolutionary and have taken big fights and have also asked tough questions, so I won't fear from such cases," she added. She said that the case was registered against her to create a communication gap.

She stressed that the state government and the central government need to work together on the issue of women safety in the national capital.

"In the last one year the DCW worked tirelessly and I think that none of the other commissions in Delhi would have done that much work," she rued.

Chaos if US votes for isolationist president: Blair

"Rather than say anything about Mr. Trump, I will say this about Hillary Clinton. She is someone in my view who I personally would trust completely," Blair said.

Agencies

NEW YORK, LONDON: Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday predicted chaos if the United States elected an isolationist president, likening the withdrawal of America from world affairs to a soccer match without a referee.

Asked how he would advise Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, should he win the November 8 election, Blair stopped short of labelling Trump an isolationist. But he pointedly praised Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, once the United States' top diplomat, and said the world needed US leadership and democratic values.

"If you turn away from what is happening in the world when those values are being undermined, you don't fulfill your destiny as a country," Blair said, adding: "You have been given this destiny as a country. No one else can do this in the world today."

Like a soccer referee, Blair said, the United States is constantly criticised by partisans who claim it to be biased against their side.

"But can you imagine the soccer game where the referee decides to go back in the changing room? The first few moments, everyone says that's great, and they're away. After a time, it's chaos," Blair said.

Fifty Republicans who once served as senior national security officials signed a letter last month opposing Trump, saying he displays "an alarming ignorance of basic facts of contemporary international politics" and "he would be most reckless president in American history."

"Rather than say anything about Mr. Trump, I will say this about Hillary Clinton. She is someone in my view who I personally would trust completely," Blair said. "I think she is of enormous wisdom, common sense and integrity."

Blair, who built a multi-million pound business network advising multi-national corporations and governments after leaving office in 2007, said he was planning to close his commercial ventures and concentrate on not-for-profit activities.

He said he would donate the "substantial financial reserves" of the businesses, Tony Blair Associates (TBA) and his Windrush and Firerush structures, to non-profit work.

Lesbos camp fire: Nine held



Municipal workers clean the burned out area (top) as migrants queue for food (bottom) at the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, yesterday. Police yesterday arrested nine migrants after clashes and a huge fire at an asylum seekers' camp.

Student wins fight to study with veil

AFP

MADRID: A Spanish Muslim student whose ban from a training institute for wearing the headscarf caused controversy said yesterday she had finally been allowed to study with the hijab after regional authorities weighed in.

While the issue has been a subject of debate in Spain, there is currently no law banning any kind of veil in public places—not even the face-covering burka or niqab like in neighbouring France.

The exclusion of Takwa Rejeb from class generated unease in a country where Muslims represent around four percent of the 46.5-million-strong population.

"I am more than happy because the only thing I wanted was to exercise my right to study," said Rejeb, 23, born in the eastern city of Valencia from Tunisian parents. "I am not a circus freak, I'm a person like any other, a student," she said.

The anti-discrimination SOS Racisme association brought Rejeb's case to light after she was refused access to lessons at the Benlliure professional training institute in Valencia on September 8.

According to lawyer Francisco Solans, the association's regional president, the institute had asked her to apply internal rules that ban any student from coming in "with their head covered", be it a cap, hat or headscarf.

Management at the institute refused to comment. Faced with the controversy sparked by her case, the regional government of Valencia forced the institute to allow Rejeb in.

In a statement, it said education authorities had "guaranteed right to education of students and she will be able to go to all lessons with the hijab."

Work starts on wall near Calais camp



Workers dig foundations of a wall along the road leading to the harbour of Calais, northern France yesterday to stop migrants from jumping on lorries heading to Britain.

Immigrants should 'live like the French: Sarkozy

AFP

FRANCONVILLE, FRANCE: French Presidential hopeful Nicolas Sarkozy said that once immigrants are granted citizenship in France they "should live like the French".

Speaking at a public meeting in the northern Paris suburb of Franconville, the outspoken former president, who wants to return to the top job in 2017, also denounced "extremist political Islam" whose goal was to "provoke the Republic".

"I will be the president of action, I do not accept the 238" victims of attacks in France since January 2015, he added, promising to lead a "merciless war" on Islamist terrorism.

"I will not accept the medieval behaviour that wants men to swim in swimsuits while the women are locked up" in burkinis, he added.

Denouncing the "tyranny of minorities", Sarkozy said that if he won the 2017 election, he would be "the president of the national community, because in France the only community that matters is the French community."

"If you want to become French, you speak French, you live like the French. We will no longer settle for integration that does not work, we will require assimilation.

"Once you become French, your ancestors are the Gauls. 'I love France, I learned the history of France, I see myself as French'," is what you must say, he added.

"If we say we can no longer continue with immigration (...) then it is racist. It's unbearable," he said.

NEWS BYTES

Belgian cops bust people smuggling gang; 4 arrested

BRUSSELS: Belgian police have dismantled a people smuggling network linked to the EU migrant crisis and arrested four people, the federal force announced yesterday.

On September 7, police searched nine addresses: seven in Brussels, one each in the towns of Leuven and Liege, seizing fake identity documents, hardware, a handgun and ammunition.

Ten people were detained, with four charged after a hearing before a judge. Six others were released, the police said.

EU accepts Bosnia's application

BRUSSELS: The European Union's 28 member states yesterday accepted Bosnia's membership application, taking a step forward in what is to be a long process that Sarajevo hopes will eventually give it a place in the bloc.

The EU said Bosnia, which applied to join in February, had made progress on necessary reforms, so it had accepted the application. It asked the European Commission, for an assessment of Sarajevo's readiness.

In doing so, Brussels will lay out for Sarajevo what conditions remain to be met before it is granted membership.

While it accepted the application, the EU states called on Bosnia to continue "socio-economic reforms."

8 held over links to Nice attacker

NICE: French police yesterday arrested eight associates of the jihadist who killed 86 people when he ploughed his truck into a Bastille Day crowd in Nice, an investigation source said.

"They are associates of the perpetrator. We are carrying out checks and they are in custody," the source said. "They are all men, of French and Tunisian nationality."

EU's Mr Brexit builds team; plans European tour

Reuters

BRUSSELS: Michel Barnier, the French politician who will lead EU negotiations with London on Britain's exit from the European Union, plans to tour member states once he takes office on October 1, EU sources said yesterday.

"He'll do a round of capitals and gauge the mood," one source said, noting that until Prime Minister Theresa May formally notifies Brussels of the British departure under Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon treaty, negotiations will not start.

Barnier, 65, who oversaw financial services regulation for the EU executive until 2014, has already been joined by several staff including a German deputy, trade negotiator Sabine Weyand, and expects to have a "critical mass" of about 10 people on his team within a couple of weeks, sources said.

His staff is likely to reach around 20 in time, though the negotiating process, once Britain has triggered it, will draw in much larger numbers of Commission officials.

A source said Barnier was planning to concentrate his team on negotiating three main areas: disentangling Britain from the EU budget; trade and foreign policy; and issues around the single market, including migration of workers.

It is unclear when formal negotiations will start. May's government is still assessing its objectives and she has said she will not trigger Article 50's two-year countdown to exit before next year.

Barnier wants to hear from the other 27 EU governments what their priorities are. He will coordinate the Commission's work on the detail of any divorce settlement, which will also need the agreement of the Council of the other member states, as well as of the European Parliament.

Some British politicians have complained the EU negotiating line-up, including Barnier, represents interests hostile to Britain.

'Brexit will cost us jobs' warns Dutch king

AFP

THE HAGUE: Britain's vote to leave the EU has caused uncertainty in Europe and will impact The Netherlands including causing job losses, Dutch King Willem-Alexander said yesterday.

Giving his traditional speech marking the opening of parliament—written by Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his cabinet—the king said the internationally-focused Dutch economy faced its greatest danger from outside the country.

"There are new uncertainties in Europe as a result of the Brexit vote, which will also directly impact The Netherlands," the royal said in his "Prinsjesdag" (Prince's Day) speech at the historic 13th century Knight's Hall near parliament.

"The United Kingdom is one of our most important trading partners and the Brexit's going to cost jobs, also in The Netherlands," the king said.

The Dutch central statistics office (CBS) has predicted that the June 23 vote by Britain to leave the European Union would hit the Dutch economy "relatively harder" than most other European Union countries.

Britain is third-most important trading partner for the Dutch after Germany and Belgium, with the CBS saying declining trade could cost the lowlands country some €10bn ($11.1bn) in losses by 2030.

There are some 300,000 jobs in The Netherlands directly tied to Britain, particularly in the food-processing industry, the respected Dutch daily NRC reported.

"Within the EU, only Ireland and Malta are more dependent on Britain," the paper added.

Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem was to present the government's budget for 2017.

The budget includes a billion euros for increases in rental subsidies, elderly care and childcare, as well as €450m to beef up security, particularly for the fight against terror groups.

Willem-Alexander's speech, his fourth since being appointed king in April 2013, was preceded by the traditional pomp and ceremony of parliament's opening.



Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima arrive in the Glass Carriage at the Binnenhof in The Hague on Prinsjesdag (Prince's Day) yesterday. Prince's Day is the opening-day of the Dutch parliament and takes place every year on the third Tuesday of September.

Trump giving aid and comfort to IS recruiters: Hillary

Both Hillary and Trump moved swiftly to capitalise on investigations into bombings in New York and New Jersey and stabbings at a Minnesota mall.

AP

ESTERO, FLORIDA: Hillary Clinton is accusing Donald Trump of giving "aid and comfort" to Islamist terrorists, declaring his anti-Muslim rhetoric helps the Islamic State (IS) group and other militants recruit new fighters. Trump is insisting the US should "use whatever lawful methods are available" to get information from the Afghan immigrant arrested in this weekend's bombings.

As Trump supporters at a packed rally in Florida shouted "Hang him!" the Republican presidential candidate mocked the fact that Ahmad Khan Rahami, a 28-year-old US citizen originally from Afghanistan, would receive quality medical care and legal representation.

"We must deliver a just and very harsh punishment to these people," he said. "These are enemies, these are combatants and we have to be tough, we have to be strong."

Both candidates moved swiftly to capitalise on investigations into a weekend of violent attacks — bombings in New York and New Jersey and stabbings at a Minnesota mall — casting themselves as most qualified to combat terrorism at home and abroad.

Clinton touted her national security credentials at a hastily arranged news conference outside her campaign plane, accusing Trump of using the incidents to make "some kind of demagogic point."

Clinton and her team see her experience and what they say is her steady judgment as key selling points for her candidacy. On the campaign trail, she frequently invokes her role in the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden, describing to voters the tense atmosphere in the White House alongside President Barack Obama at that moment.

But while much of the foreign policy establishment has rallied around Clinton, Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric, promises to close US borders and vows to aggressively profile potential terrorists have fueled his presidential bid.

He called for tougher policing, including profiling foreigners who look like they could have connections to terrorism or certain Middle Eastern nations.

"This isn't just a matter of terrorism, this is also really a question of quality of life," he said.



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton stands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (third right) before a meeting at the Kitano Hotel in New York.

Trump eldest son sparks furore

AFP

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's eldest son triggered an online storm with a tweet comparing Syrian refugees to a bowl containing an assortment of tainted and untainted candies.

"This image says it all," Donald Trump Jr, 38, wrote, in a tweet showing a picture of a white bowl filled with the popular, rainbow-coloured Skittles candies.

Written above the image is: "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful? That's our Syria refugee problem."

The Twitter post—showing the familiar "Trump-Pence 2016" logo with the presidential campaign slogan "Make America Great Again!"—was met with immediate scorn from users of the popular micro-blogging site.

"I'm not even big on Skittles but now I will buy up every single packet," wrote @SarahSahim.

"Is Donald Trump's new campaign slogan "Fear The Rainbow"?" wrote Twitter user @AngrySalmond.

Donald Trump, the 2016 Republican presidential candidate, has sparked waves of criticism with comments on race, immigrants and refugees, including calling for a ban on Muslim travellers to the United States.

Kennedy's kin says George H W Bush to vote for Hillary

AFP

WASHINGTON: Former president George H W Bush plans to vote for Hillary Clinton in November, the niece of president John F Kennedy wrote in a Facebook posting.

"The President told me he's voting for Hillary!!" read the caption of a picture Kathleen Kennedy Townsend posted on Facebook, as she shook the 92 year-old ex-president's hand.

The news site Politico posted a screenshot of the picture with the comment.

Townsend, 63, is a Democratic former lieutenant governor of Maryland and the daughter of former attorney general Robert Kennedy, assassinated in 1968. Her uncle was president Kennedy (1961-1963).

On Facebook Townsend is identified as Kathleen Hartington, her middle name.

It may be noted that the Bush clan has not offered their support for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

A spokesman for Bush, president 1989-1993, was neutral on the subject when asked.

"The vote President Bush will cast as a private citizen in some 50 days will be just that: a private vote cast in some 50 days," spokesman Jim McGrath said in a statement issued to media yesterday.

"He is not commenting on the presidential race in the interim."

Neither Bush nor his sons—including ex-president George W Bush (2001-2009) and Jeb Bush, a former Florida governor and ex-2016 presidential hopeful—went to Trump's nomination at the Republican National Convention in August.

NEWS BYTES

Two priests found dead in Mexico

MEXICO: Two priests were found dead in eastern Mexico hours after they were kidnapped from their church.

The priests were abducted by gunmen on Sunday from the church in Poza Rica, in the crime-plagued state of Veracruz, said Father Jose Alberto Guerrero, a local spokesman for the bishops' conference in Teziutlan, Puebla state, where the victims were based.

"They took the two priests by force as well as a sacristan," Guerrero told reporters.

Jail suicide victim's kin awarded $11.9m

PENNSYLVANIA: A federal jury has awarded $11.9m to the wife and family of a man who killed himself in a Pennsylvania jail. Mumun Barbaros stuffed his shredded T-shirt down his throat and died in 2009 at the Monroe County jail. He was a pizza shop owner being held on charges that he vandalized the shops of two competitors.

The (Wilkes-Barre) Citizens' Voice reported yesterday the verdict was returned last week against Prime-Care Medical and several employees. The company provided medical care at the jail in Stroudsburg, and its attorney says they all plan to appeal. The county settled claims out of court for $25,000 before trial.

Ceremonial welcome



Iran's President Hassan Rowhani (right) and Cuba's President Raul Castro inspect a guart of honour at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, Cuba. Castro invited Rowhani to Cuba who was returning after attending the NAM summit.

Jim Carrey hit with lawsuit over girlfriend's death

AFP

LOS ANGELES: Veteran comic actor Jim Carrey was sued for allegedly procuring drugs under a bogus name for his ex-girlfriend, who died of an overdose last year, and then trying to hide his involvement.

According to the suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by Mark Burton, the estranged husband of Carrey's former girlfriend Cathriona White, the actor "used his immense wealth and celebrity status" to obtain opioids for her.

Burton alleges that the actor purchased the drugs under the fake name "Arthur King" and then "took steps to conceal and obfuscate his involvement and culpability" after White's death.

However, Carrey's attorney, prominent celebrity lawyer Marty Singer, dismissed the suit as nothing but a bid by Burton to extort money from the actor.

The celebrity website TMZ quoted Singer as saying White "stole" Carrey's prescription medication and that he never gave her any pills.

"There are moments in life when you have to stand up and defend your honour against the evil in this world," TMZ quoted Carrey as saying in a statement. "I will not tolerate this heartless attempt to exploit me, or the woman I loved."

The suit alleges that Carrey was obsessed with controlling and manipulating the 30-year-old woman with whom he had an on-again, off-again relationship since 2012 and was able to monitor surveillance cameras at a home in the Los Angeles area where White often stayed.

The actor and his assistant were allegedly aware that White had not left the home for well over a day in September, when she died, but failed to act.

Nitrates poison water in California's Central Valley

AFP

PORTERVILLE, UNITED STATES: In California's Central Valley, where verdant fields of fruit and vegetables unfurl under sunny skies, the water that feeds them—and flows into taps across the region—contains a toxic and silent poison.

The very same farmers who have tilled and cultivated the earth for decades in one of America's biggest produce regions have also poisoned it, dumping millions of tonnes of fertiliser, which has found its way into many of the region's aquifers.

Nitrates, a residue left behind by intensive farming, now lurk in the water in a number of communities, many of them poor and rural.

For years, Cristobal Chavez has been drinking the water directly from the faucet, never imagining that he, his wife and their children were in danger of nitrate poisoning.

The water "tasted normal," said the former truck driver, who lives in the agricultural town of Porterville, is a foster parent and now runs a day care—meaning lots of children have consumed the water in his home over the years.

Several months ago, the Community Water Center (CWC) nonprofit association discovered that water in the family's well contained twice as many nitrates as the maximum allowed under state standards.

According to a study by the University of California, Davis, some 250,000 people in the region are at risk of excessive exposure to nitrates.

Most of the tainted communities are small and cut off from larger water distribution networks, making them dependent on wells. The majority are poor, and most residents are Latino, with few speaking English well.

The California State Water Resources Control Board, which monitors public distribution systems in large cities, has no jurisdiction over private wells.

One of its branch chiefs, Kurt Souza, said that county authorities are "trying to target the areas they feel are the most critical," but admitted they had probably missed some contaminated spots.

The toxic effects of nitrates are widely recognised by World Health Organisation and US health officials, and are particularly dangerous for children and pregnant women.

Nitrates can sometimes cause a deadly blood disorder called "blue baby" syndrome, in which the blood's capacity for carrying oxygen is reduced, in addition to causing increased miscarriages and fetal deformations.

The substance is also thought to play a role in kidney and thyroid problems, and may cause certain cancers.

Nitrates are "a public health emergency," said Jennifer Clary, an advocate at CWC.



Cows graze at a dairy farm, in Porterville in California's Central Valley. Well water testing has uncovered dangerously high level of nitrates in the water in areas of this farming community.

According to a CWC report, the rate of blue baby syndrome is 40 percent higher in the Porterville area than the California average.

California's Public Health Department was unable to provide statistics on blue baby syndrome, and says it does not collect data on the broader impact of nitrates in the Central Valley.

Obama calls for world 'course correction' at UN

The US President, in his final speech to the UN General Assembly, acknowledged that the extremist and sectarian violence wreaking havoc in the Middle East and elsewhere "will not be quickly reversed".

AP

UNITED NATIONS: US President Barack Obama conceded yesterday that the United States and other world powers have limited ability to solve the most profound challenges facing the world, while calling for a "course correction" for globalization to ensure that nations don't retreat into a more sharply divided world.

Obama, in his final speech to the UN General Assembly, acknowledged that the extremist and sectarian violence wreaking havoc in the Middle East and elsewhere "will not be quickly reversed." Still, he stuck faithfully to his insistence that diplomatic efforts and not military solutions are the key to resolving Syria's civil war and other conflicts.

"If we are honest, we know that no external power is going to be able to force different religious communities or ethnic communities to co-exist for long," Obama said. "Until basic questions are answered about how communities co-exist, the embers of extremism will continue to burn. Countless human beings will suffer."

In a less-than-subtle jab at Donald Trump, the Republican running to replace him, Obama said, "The world is too small for us to simply be able to build a wall and prevent (extremism) from affecting our own societies."

The president was unabashed in his critique of Russia as he laid out his diagnosis of the world's ills. Obama's longstanding differences with Russian President Vladimir Putin over his actions in Ukraine have accompanied intense disagreement over Syria's future and a series of failed attempts by Russia and the U.S. to resolve the civil war there together.

"In a world that left the age of empire behind, we see Russia attempting to recover lost glory through force," Obama said.

The tough talk about Russia illustrated how little progress has been made in reconciling the diverging interests among the two powers that has allowed the Syria crisis to continue to fester. A year ago, Obama stood at the same podium and declared anew that Syrian President Bashar Assad must leave power, while Putin gave a dueling speech warning it would be a mistake to abandon Assad.

In the year since, Moscow's leverage in the conflict has strengthened significantly. Russia's military intervention in Syria has helped bolster Assad's standing without pulling it into the military "quagmire" that Obama had predicted.

Obama sought to use his last appearance before the global body to define how his leadership had put the world on a better trajectory over the last eight years. At the heart of that approach, Obama said, is the notion that the biggest conflicts are best solved when nations cooperate rather than tackle them individually.

It's a theme that Democrat Hillary Clinton has put at the forefront of her campaign for president, casting herself as the natural continuation of Obama's legacy. In another apparent reference to Trump, Obama bemoaned how terrorist networks had spread their ideology on social media, spurring anger toward "innocent immigrants and Muslims."

Obama lamented that the world has become safer and more prosperous as nations are struggling with a devastating refugee crisis, terrorism and a breakdown in basic order in the Middle East. He said governing had become more difficult as people lose faith in public institutions and tensions among nations spiral out of control more rapidly. "This is the paradox that defines the world today," Obama said. "We must go forward, and not backward."

The president cited his administration's outreach to former adversaries Cuba and Myanmar as key examples of progress, along with global cooperation to cut emissions blamed for global warming. At the same time, he said he sought not to "whitewash" challenges across the globe, some of which he attributed to deepening anxieties about the profound shifts inflicted by technology and growing international interdependence.

"In order to move forward though, we do have to acknowledge that the existing path to global integration requires a course correction," Obama said.



US President Barack Obama addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York, yesterday

UN chief vents frustration in last speech

AP

UNITED NATIONS: Taking the world stage for the last time as secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon unleashed years of pent-up anger at leaders who keep "feeding the war machine" in Syria, violate human rights and prevent aid deliveries to starving people.

He told presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers at the opening of General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting yesterday that "powerful patrons" on both sides in the more than five-year Syrian conflict "have blood on their hands."

"Present in this hall today are representatives of governments that have ignored, facilitated, funded, participated in or even planned and carried out atrocities inflicted by all sides of the Syria conflict against Syrian civilians," he said.

"Many groups have killed innocent civilians — none more so than the government of Syria, which continues to barrel bomb neighbourhoods and systematically torture thousands of detainees," he added.

Ban accused South Sudan's leaders of betraying their people. He said "in too many places, we see leaders rewriting constitutions, manipulating elections and taking other desperate steps to cling to power."

He said he was proud that UN Women was established under his watch and drew loud applause when he said: "I am proud to call myself a feminist."

But the focus of his annual state of the world report was on the myriad problems on the global agenda — and the leaders who fail to tackle them.

He listed a host of "grave security threats"— fighting in Yemen, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Sahel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict where "the prospects for a two-state solution are being lowered by the day."

He also ticked off other issues — extremists who push people "into camps of 'us' and 'them'," mistrust that divides citizens from their leaders, and the rising seas, record heat and extreme storms resulting from climate change.

The spotlight at the meeting will not only be on the global crises but the possibility of solutions.

DC gun law gets hearing before Washington appeals court

AP

WASHINGTON: Appeals court judges had tough questions yesterday for attorneys defending a District of Columbia law that makes it difficult for gun owners to get concealed carry permits.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit heard arguments yesterday in two cases involving the law, which requires people who want to carry a gun in public to show a "good reason to fear injury" or another "proper reason" to carry the weapon. Reasons might include a personal threat, or a job that requires a person to carry or protect cash or valuables. Fewer than 100 people have been granted a concealed carry permit under the law, and lower court judges have disagreed on whether it is likely constitutional.

During oral arguments, Judge Thomas B Griffith suggested that the law means that a woman who lives in a dangerous neighbourhood, is frightened and wants to carry a gun for self-protection can't and is limited to "running" if attacked or "learning martial arts."

"Why should someone show a need for self-defence?" said Griffith, who asked numerous questions of lawyers arguing for the city. At one point he told a city attorney that her argument was "absurd."

Judge Stephen F Williams also seemed concerned with the law and said the distinction between an outright ban on carrying a gun and the city's "good reason" requirement was subtle.

The third judge hearing the case, Karen LeCraft Henderson, didn't ask any questions.

The hearing is the latest in a long-running tussle over the city's gun laws

Somalis in Minnesota fear backlash after stabbing attack

AFP

MINNEAPOLIS: The Somali community in the US state of Minnesota braced for a backlash after a man who stabbed 10 people in a mall over the weekend was identified as one of their own.

The FBI is investigating the Saturday attack in the city of St. Cloud as a potential act of terrorism. While authorities have not officially identified the attacker, local Somali leaders said he was 22-year-old Dahir Adan.

Adan allegedly attacked shoppers at a mall, where police said he asked at least one victim whether they were Muslim before stabbing them. He was shot and killed by an off-duty police officer.

Authorities had initially reported that nine people were attacked. As investigators viewed additional security video of the incident, they discovered a tenth victim—a 21-year-old man who had not sought out medical attention or notified authorities of his injuries, police said.

A news agency with ties to the IS group said the rampage was carried out by an IS "soldier," but it was not clear what connection the attacker had with the terrorist organisation.

"We strongly condemn what happened," said Haji Yussuf, cofounder of the activist group #UniteCloud, during a news conference. "That is not what this community is, that is not who we are."

Eyewitnesses reported that a handful of pickup trucks, some flying American and Confederate flags, buzzed by apartment complexes where many Somali-Americans live. Meanwhile, a group of flag-waving motorcyclists circled around another Somali neighbourhood.

Community advocates like Lul Hersi were getting texts from frightened residents. "One person does something, and the whole community pays for that one person's actions," she said.

The perpetrators were employing "racial slurs, various hand gestures," said community activist Justin Michael, who was working with the St. Cloud Police Department to help prevent further incidents.

"It's really important that we are, as a community, able to share the true, lived experience of the Somali community members that we love so much," he said.

St. Cloud's Somali population has its roots in the 1990s and has grown rapidly in the last 10 years. The state of Minnesota is home to a third of the more than 85,000 Somalian refugees resettled in the country, according to the US Census.

Twenty percent of students in St. Cloud's school district are from a home where the primary language is Somali, according to the *St. Cloud Times*. Ismail Ali, a student at St. Cloud State University where Adan attended college, said the city was at a crossroads.

"We can either choose to let hate win and be divided, or we can choose to come together and love one another and move on," he said.

Governor Mark Dayton, alluding to the need for unity, expressed "deep concern for what occurred" and pledged to aid in the "community's recovery from that and coming together more unified and stronger than ever before."

Yussuf hoped authorities are able to quickly piece together what happened, so they can better address whatever broader problems may have been behind the rampage.

"We need to know, so that we make sure as a community, we stand together as a community, and make sure it does not happen to us ever again. Never again in our town should we see something like this. So, let's find solutions," he said.

The growth in the Somali refugee population in St. Cloud has escalated tensions, particularly in the school system.

Venezuela state declares food emergency at schools

AFP

CARACAS: The opposition governor of Venezuela's second-largest state, Henrique Capriles, declared an emergency early yesterday over a lack of food for public schools, blaming the socialist government's "misguided" policies.

"We are declaring a food emergency in our state," said Capriles, the governor of Miranda state, who is leading a campaign to remove President Nicolas Maduro.

Capriles and his center-right opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), blame the leftist president for an economic crisis that is causing severe shortages of food and medicine in Venezuela.

The state of emergency enables Capriles, Maduro's opponent in the 2013 presidential election, to divert funding toward food for schools, nursing homes and facilities for the disabled. It also authorises him to resort to the private sector and aid organisations for food.

"There's not enough food for the people of this country," he told a news conference, accusing the government of covering up the real problem: "a lack of production."

Military parade



Female police officers participate during a military parade in Santiago, at the 206th anniversary of Chile's independence.

LA cops turn to smartphones to save suicidal man

AFP

LOS ANGELES: Police at Los Angeles airport turned to their smartphones to stop a Korean-speaking man from committing suicide last week, using translation apps to coax the "jumper" dangling over a ledge.

Two officers responding to a call about a man hanging from the ledge of a four-story parking structure were initially stumped as they tried to communicate with the man who only spoke Korean, police statement said.

"Immediately, officers Michael Dear and Daniel Krockel built a rapport with the distraught man, utilising translation applications on their smart phones," the statement said.

"Officers coaxed the man to walk a few steps closer to look at translation app on officer Dear's smart phone when in one rapid succession bike officer Bart Castro followed by officer Krockel jumped onto and grabbed the would be suicide victim, secured him and lifted him over the wall ," the statement said.

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision

PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR	04.05 am	ZUHR	11.27 am	MAGHRIB	05.34 pm
SHOROOK	05.22 am	ASR	02.54 pm	ISHA	07.04 pm

WEATHER Minimum: 30° C Maximum: 38° C

HIGH TIDE 08:15 - 19:45
LOW TIDE 01:30 - 14:30

Hot daytime and slight dust to blowing dust at places.



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TWEET OF THE DAY



INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



The launch of Ford Edge which was held at Ford Showroom at Al Matar Road. Photo by: @Baher_Amin

Real estate transactions at QR1.5bn last week

The Peninsula

DOHA: The real estate transaction reached over QR1.5bn last week due to two exclusive deals worth a total of QR1.37bn made in Al Wukair.

The deals were about two huge residential complexes measuring more than 300,000 and 200,000 sqm at over QR809m and QR562m respectively.

The sale of properties reached QR1.5bn during (September 4 to 8), said a report issued by Land Registry Department of the Ministry of Justice.

The focus of the property deals were on ready-buildings including residential complexes, residential buildings and houses. A total 47 deals were struck last week. The areas secured more trading include Umm Salal Ali, Al Wukair, Al Wakra, and Busidra. Most open plots of lands were sold in the municipalities of Umm Salal, Al Shamal and Al Daeen and Al Wakra.

The major deals in term of money includes a house measuring 865 sqm in Al Aziziya and a residential building in an area of 796 sqm at the rate of QR28m and QR18m respectively. Other properties were sold in the range of one to five millions.

According to the weekly bulletin issued by the Department, the real estate sales included empty plots of land, houses, flats, and residential complexes . The sales were distributed at the municipalities of Umm Salal, Al Khor, Al Dhakira, Doha, Al Rayyan, Al Dhaayen, Al Shamal , and Al Wakra.



Katara General Manager Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti (fifth right), with other officials.

Third annual Katara European Jazz Festival from November 2

The Peninsula

DOHA: Nine embassies have joined hands with Katara to stage the third annual Katara European Jazz Festival slated from November 2 to 7 at Katara Building 5.

The Cultural Village Foundation-Katara yesterday signed a cooperation agreement with European missions namely France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy along with embassies of Portugal, Poland and Bulgaria which are participating for the first time.

On its third edition, the six-day festival will bring to Doha one jazz group representing each of the participating countries to feature at evening shows. Atom String Quartet and Three Fall are among the renowned international bands expected to hold concerts at the festival.

Running along the festival performances are several workshops with local music students to be held at Qatar Music Academy.

The ambassadors of the participating embassies and Katara General Manager Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti signed the agreement yesterday.

With nine embassies taking part, this will be the biggest among the three editions of the festival hosted by Katara in line with its strategy of bringing cultures together. The first two editions of the festival attracted a huge turnout of people from various cultures and all walks of life.

"We exude hope that this year's edition will grab a significant turnout of attendees' similar other events that have been hosted and organized by the Cultural Village. Hosting similar events stresses Katara's vision of bringing cultures together," said Dr Al Sulaiti.

Speaking at a press conference at the signing ceremony, Dr Al Sulaiti stressed the importance of music as a language that connects people.

"As we all know, music is an international genre that captivates different human senses and feelings, therefore, Katara as a cultural hub works to offer all kinds of musical culture as boundless human language to boost cultural ties and promote cultural partnerships," he said.

He thanked the embassies and Qatar Airways for their invaluable contribution and continuous cooperation for the festival.

LG celebrates 30-year partnership with Video Home & Electronic Center in Qatar

The Peninsula

DOHA: LG Electronics, a global leader and technology innovator in consumer electronics, celebrated its 30-year partnership with Video Home & Electronic Center, LG's local distributor, who has been instrumental in the brand's leadership in Qatar.

Video Home & Electronic Centre this year celebrated its 36th year of successful operations. Its footprint across Qatar includes a chain of 12 retail outlets of its flagship brand Jumbo Electronics. These showrooms are backed by one of Qatar's largest after sales service centers of over 2200 sq m. Video Home's good relations with channel partners that include leading hypermarkets, specialty retail outlets, dealers etc ensure that the brand has a presence at every populated location in the country.

The association with LG began in 1986 with the first Electronics showroom for LG , then Goldstar being opened in 1989 in Musheireb which was followed with many other exclusive LG showrooms. Over the years many innovative products like a televideo – a television with a VCR in 20 inch size, mobile phones to now Smartphones, CRT TVs to Projection TV to LED TV's and now OLED TVs, Single door refrigerators to now Door in Door Refrigerators, to the latest inverter compressors for ACs with Energy Efficiency Rating as per Qatar's new laws have been introduced by LG.

Qatar's consumer electronics market is one the most lucrative in the world with high incomes and a strong consumption culture. Over the last 30 years Video Home & Electronic Center have played a significant role in establishing the LG brand across households in Qatar. Since 2000, the company has achieved a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.57 percent. Video Home expects to reach QR500m in revenue with LG brand by 2016–17.

"I am pleased to celebrate our 30-year partnership with Video Home & Electronic Center as they have been the backbone of Qatar's evolving consumer electronic landscape. Qatar is a key market to us as local consumers are very tech-savvy and contribute significantly to our growth. We would like to thank Video Home & Electronic Center for 30 years of dedication and valuable support to make LG, the brand of choice among consumers. We look forward to paving the way to celebrate more milestones in the years to come," said Yong Geun Choi, President of LG Electronics Gulf.

To celebrate the milestone, LG has announced that it will open its first premium brand shop in Mall of Qatar by October 2016. The grand opening would showcase all of LG's latest products, and expects to contribute towards double-digit sales growth in the country by end of 2016.

Conceptualized with an intuitive layout, the outlet is specifically designed to showcase LG's cutting-edge technology from across different business units including Home Appliances, Home Entertainment, Mobile Communications, IT and Residential AC, providing a fully immersive hands-on experience. A complete portfolio of LG Electronics premium range of products will be showcased within dedicated corners in the showroom. This will be preceded with an ATL & BTL campaign to promote the 30 years partnership. A special consumer offer will also be rolled out thanking customers for being a part of this journey with LG and Jumbo Electronics.

"LG Electronics have always strived to live up to be the market standard and being a global leader and technology innovator in consumer electronics. We have enjoyed a great partnership over these years and this milestone represents the strengthened partnership we have in place. We look forward to the next chapter with the new premium brand shop opening, which will be welcomed by consumers in Qatar," said C V Rappai, Director and CEO, Video Home & Electronic Centre.

Over the years, Video Home & Electronic Centre has received numerous awards from LG for excellence in Sales, Project Business, Best Practice, Outstanding MEA Service, Green & Sustainable Marketing and many more. LG & Video Home together over the years have also sponsored many activities and prestigious events like the Emir Cup for Football, Emir Cup Volleyball, Schools Volleyball Development for two consecutive years through Qatar Volleyball Association, 3 X 3 Basketball Asian Championship conducted by Qatar Basketball Federation, Musical Events that involved prominent Indian singer like Sonu Nigam, a quiz competitions for the schools in Qatar, cooking workshops for women, Tree Planting Campaign and many others over the years.

In terms of air conditioning, we are pioneers as LG AC was introduced about 25 years ago and we have grownup as a market leader. LG AC has strong references of Wall Split units installed about 20 years back in villa complexes which are functional even now. Subsequently LG introduced packaged, Concealed Ducted, Multi-V which are being used for cross section of applications in over 1000 multiple projects starting from villas, commercial complexes and high rise buildings of which 200 – 300 major real estate developers in the market are currently being served. Thus continuing that leadership till now.

Video Home & Electronic Centre is the only company in the GCC to solely distribute the entire portfolio of LG products in both the B2C and B2B segments while retaining the No.1 market share in Air Conditioning & Home Appliances.

LG has also announced that it would introduce its much awaited LG SIGNATURE lineup of high end products including 4K OLED TVs in Home Entertainment, TwinWash washing machines in Home Appliances, etc. in Qatar over the coming months.



Video Home-Jumbo Electronics Vice Chairman and Managing Director Sajed Jassim Mohammed Sulaiman and Director and CEO, C V Rappai cuting a ceremonial cake to mark LG Electronics' 30-year partership with Video Home & Electronic Center during a media event held at the Crown Plaza Hotel. LG Video Home General Manager Mohammed Anis; Regional Marketing Director, LG Gulf, Derek Sim; General Manager, LG RAC, Changho Lee; and other officials are also seen. Pic: Qassim Rahmatullah / The Peninsula

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QDB is strategic sponsor for 'Made in Qatar' expo

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GlaxoSmithKline names insider Walmsley as CEO



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Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti meeting a delegation headed by Carlos Bermejo Acosta, Head of Unit, International Transport Affairs, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport. The meeting was also attended by Qatar Airways Group CEO Akbar Al Baker; Civil Aviation Authority Chairman Abdulla bin Nasser Turki Al Subaey and members of the European delegation.

Minister and European Commission team discuss bilateral relations & civil aviation

The Peninsula

DOHA: Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti yesterday met a visiting European Commission delegation.

The team is here to participate in the first round of the comprehensive aviation agreement negotiations between Qatar and the EU.

The delegation was headed by Carlos Bermejo Acosta, Head of Unit, International Transport Affairs, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

The meeting discussed cooperation ties in the field of civil aviation and means of further enhancing them, as well as boosting bilateral relations at large between Qatar and the EU.

The meeting was also attended by Akbar Al Baker, Group Chief Executive, Qatar Airways; Abdulla bin Nasser Turki Al Subaey, Chairman of Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and members of the European delegation.

Qatar bourse gains after FTSE inclusion

Reuters/QNA

DUBAI: Qatar's equity index climbed yesterday as passive funds flowed into shares now included in FTSE's secondary emerging market index while other Gulf markets sagged. Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index gained 103.75 points, or 1.02 percent, when the bourse closed trading at 10,256.52 points yesterday. Passive funds will flow into 22 shares, and the stocks will continue to be bid up for several days to come as managers meet their fund mandates.

Masraf Al Rayan, which slumped 5.1 percent on Monday, added 1.9 percent and telecommunication provider Ooredoo, which also dropped 5.1 percent the previous session, climbed 0.4 percent.

From the 44 companies listed on QSE, shares of 41 saw trading yesterday. From these 21 gained, 18 closed lower and two remained unchanged.

Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia's index slipped 0.2 percent to 5,925 points but closed 56 points above its intraday low. Dubai's index pulled back 0.9 percent, hit by profit taking in line with subdued global markets.

In Abu Dhabi, the share index dropped 0.4 percent to an 11-week low closing level.

Opec may decide on extra meeting after Algiers talks

Reuters

ALGIERS: Opec members could decide to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss oil prices immediately after an informal gathering in Algiers next week, Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Bouterfa said yesterday. Bouterfa told local radio he was optimistic that participants would reach a consensus on how to stabilise the oil markets at the Algiers meeting of Opec and non-Opec producers on September 26-28.

"Oil ministers may decide to hold an extraordinary meeting immediately," he said.

Private sector to drive knowledge economy

The Minister was addressing the US-Qatar trade and investment council meeting in Washington.

Satish Kanady
The Peninsula



Minister of Economy and Commerce H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani (right) with Dan Mullaney, Assistant Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East, in Washington DC.

DOHA: Qatar's private sector is the key driver in the country's endeavour to transform its economy into knowledge-based in line with the ambitious 2030 National Vision, Minister of Economy and Commerce H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani.

Sheikh Ahmed was addressing the US-Qatar trade and investment council meeting in Washington. The Qatari delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Finance, the General Authority of Customs, and the Qatar Investment Authority, as well as representatives of the private sector.

The Minister noted that the contribution of non-oil sector in GDP rose from 42 percent in 2010 to about 50 percent over the past year, and the non-oil sector played a key role in the economic growth in the state during the period from 2011 to 2015.

Highlighting the importance of the ties of friendship existing between and the United States of America, the minister said Qatar is looking forward to further advancement and promotion of economic, commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries. "The strong, friendly and economic partnership between Qatar and the United States has achieved remarkable economic growth and increased trade volume. The total trade volume between the two countries reached $4.5bn in 2015," he said.

On Monday, Sheikh Ahmed and Dan Mullaney, Assistant Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East conducted a private sector roundtable to discuss vital issues in the US and Qatar's bilateral business relationship.

Mullaney opened the roundtable, reiterating the importance of such private-government engagements when developing government frameworks designed to increase bilateral trade and investment. "We are developing the framework for the economic relationship, but in order to do that properly we need to hear from the private sector," said Mullaney.

Shiekh Ahmed hailed the role being played by the US-Qatar Business Council in the bilateral relationship.

"The US-Qatar Business Council is a very important Council for increasing trade... We would like to see the US-Qatar Business Council play a much greater role in the bilateral relationship," he said.

"Qatar wants to know how to make it easier for foreign direct investments. We want economic partners from around the world and especially from the US."

Discussion during the roundtable focused primarily on methods for easing the process of trade and investment into Qatar, international standards compliance, and exclusivity laws for some industries.

This roundtable served as part of the US-Qatar Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meetings over the next several days that cover a wide range of issues related to trade and investment regarding international partners.

"Our members always enjoy being able to discuss trade and investment issues with visiting Qatari delegations because it provides them with the crucial information they need to not only grow their businesses, but also the Qatari and American economies," said Ambassador Patrick Theros, the president of the US-Qatar Business Council.

'Greater UK-Qatar cooperation could unlock huge opportunities'

By Sachin Kumar
The Peninsula

DOHA: Greater cooperation between the businesses of the United Kingdom (UK)and Qatar could unlock huge opportunities for both countries, said Liam Fox, the UK Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade.

Fox was speaking at a private business lunch orgnaised by the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) in honour of Fox and his accompanying delegation in the presence of Ajay Sharma, UK Ambassador to Doha.

"The UK and Qatar have a longstanding trading relationship. UK exports to Qatar increased by 16 percent last year and greater cooperation between UK and Qatari businesses could unlock huge opportunities for both nations. As I and Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani have made clear, we are committed to delivering greater prosperity for both our countries through global free trade, working closely with key organisations like the Qatari Businessmen Association," said Fox.

Continued on page 18



UK Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox with QBA Chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani and UK Ambassador Ajay Sharma and other officials in Doha.

Al Mana Motors unveils all-new Ford Edge in Qatar

The Peninsula

DOHA: Al Mana Motors, the Ford's importer-dealer in Qatar, recently celebrated the launch of the all-new Ford Edge.

The latest model of the utility vehicle demonstrates what happens when a proven leader gets even better. Available at Al Mana Motors, the original crossover utility vehicle from Ford is loaded with more technology, higher levels of craftsmanship and greatly improved vehicle dynamics.

When launched in late 2006, Edge helped to define the crossover sport utility vehicle segment. With a car-based design, Edge delivered better on-road comfort, fuel efficiency and overall driving dynamics than any truck-based SUV. It was proof a utility vehicle could meet the demanding needs of an everyday commuter.

The Edge is all-new from wheels to roof, designed to reset the standard in the two-row utility vehicle market. Based on Ford's successful, global midsize vehicle platform, Edge has been reimagined with a stronger, more athletic shape. It has been retooled to meet higher expectations for quality, and reengineered to add more features and technologies for a more rewarding driving experience.



Officials at the launch of the all-new Ford Edge in Doha yesterday. Pic: Baher Amin/The Peninsula

Ian Partridge, General Manager Al Mana Motors, said: "We are excited to launch the all-new Edge in Qatar and are looking forward to present it to our customers. The sophistication that the new model brings inside out, together with the impressive lineup of powertrains and class-leading technologies promise to impress the driver at first sight and test drive."

"The original Edge was our first entry into the world of crossover utilities — a technologically advanced vehicle that was the perfect blend of sedan comfort and efficiency with SUV functionality," said Kalyana Sivagnanam, Marketing, Sales and Services Vice-President, Ford Middle East and Africa.

"With the all-new model joining our popular SUV lineup, we are building on that success and on the emotional appeal of the vehicle by offering more of the technology our customers want in a package that meets the highest expectations for quality and craftsmanship. We are confident the design, sophistication and technologies of the new model will reinforce its leadership in this segment," Sivagnanam added.

With the new Edge, Ford is also building on its utility vehicle leadership around the world. Last year, the company sold a record 1.2 million utility vehicles in markets across the globe — up 38 percent from 2012.

The Edge will deliver the confident, smooth driving experience customers expect from Ford.

Central to the improved driving dynamics is an entirely new body structure and redesigned suspension — front and rear — developed specifically to better isolate road imperfection and absorb noise without compromising handling.

The front-wheel-drive Edge retains a MacPherson-type front suspension, but features an entirely new, sophisticated integral-link independent rear with coil springs and a 23-millimetre antiroll bar.

The advanced new system has been tuned to deliver a more dynamic, engaging ride customers will feel immediately.

Thanks in part to the use of more high-strength steels, the solid body structure of the all-new Edge provides a far better platform for the new suspension to work. Compared to the 2014 Edge, the new model shows a 26 percent increase in stiffness when reacting to bending forces and a 16 percent increase in stiffness when reacting to twisting forces.

QDB is strategic sponsor for 'Made in Qatar' expo

The four-day exhibition in Riyadh, beginning November 6, is expected to see participation of over 200 entrepreneurs from Qatar.

By Sachin Kumar
The Peninsula

DOHA: Qatar Development Bank (QDB) and Qatar Chamber (QC) signed agreement yesterday that saw QDB becoming the strategic sponsor of the fifth edition of 'Made in Qatar' exhibition to be held in Riyadh. The four-day exhibition, beginning November 6, is expected to see participation of over 200 entrepreneurs from Qatar.

Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer, QDB and Saleh Hamad Al Sharqi, Director General, QC signed sponsorship agreement in a ceremony held at the Chamber's headquarters.

QDB has sponsored the previous four editions of the 'Made in Qatar' exhibitions and it is the first time the exhibition is being organised outside Qatar.

"QDB is proud to sponsor this year's exhibition. It is our unwavering commitment to support all initiatives and ideas that invigorate and enrich the Qatari industrial sector," said Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa in a press conference yesterday. "The past four editions of 'Made in Qatar' achieved remarkable local success, and we expect the same level of accomplishments on the regional level. We are delighted to join hands with Qatar Chamber to serve the development of our national economy, as envisioned in the Qatar National Vision 2030," he added.



Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa and Qatar Chamber Director General Saleh Hamad Al Sharqi at the press conference in Doha yesterday. Pic: Baher Amin/The Peninsula

The bilateral trade between Qatar and Saudi Arabia touched QR6.94bn in 2015. Qatar's imports from Saudi Arabia were at QR5.11bn while exports stood at QR1.83bn last year, according to data provided by QC.

"We are proud to have QDB onboard as our strategic sponsor of 'Made in Qatar 2016', as we are certain that the exhibition will help usher in a new economic era for Qatar by helping the nation achieve its aspirations in the global market," said Saleh Hamad Al Sharqi. "'Made in Qatar 2016' is an initiative that helps provide local businesses, from across a wide range of sectors, with a forum to display their best achievements and showcase the nation's rapid economic developments. Furthermore, the active involvement of the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) participants also serves as a testimony to the fertile environment that the Qatari market offers interested investors," he said.

This year's exhibition will be hosted at an expansive, 10,000 square metre show area at Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center, in Riyadh. Inaugurated in 2009 with the aim of promoting Qatari industries regionally and internationally, 'Made in Qatar' has witnessed success in attracting key players across all industrial fields.

The last edition witnessed participation of more than 220 Qatari businesses and manufacturers.

'Greater UK-Qatar cooperation could unlock huge opportunities'

Continued from page 17

The event was attended by Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani, Chairman of the QBA, and its board members, Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser Al Thani and Sherida Al Kaabi as well as QBA members Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Thani, Ibrahim Mohamed Al Jaidah, Nabil Abu Issa and QBA Deputy General Manager Sarah Abdullah.

QBA Chairman welcomed the distinguished guests, praising the bilateral relations between Qatar and the UK which go far back in history. He also spoke about the need for continuous follow-up on the bilateral trade missions, visits and the vast potential for enhancing the cooperation between private sectors of both sides.

QBA Members also discussed the impact of UK exit from the EU on the trade relations between the UK and its partners. Fox confirmed on the stability of the economic situation and that UK wants the EU to succeed and while leaving they intend to do so in a way that ensures minimal disruption for their partners with whom they will continue to have strong economic, political and security bonds.

Fox said the primary goal is to become a more open country, get rid of the restrictions that have hampered cooperation with all world markets, especially in the era of globalisation. Ajay Sharma added that the UK is seeking to strengthen economic ties between the two countries and is currently working on the launch of a digital platform that provides all economic and commercial information that will assist investors in various sectors

UK is considered a strategic Trade partner for the Gulf countries. In 2015, UK exports stood at over £20bn – that's more than China and twice as much as exports from India. Whereas in the same year; UK exports to Qatar totaled £2.6bn, up 16 percent on 2014 while Qatar's exports to the UK doubled to £2.7bn.



QICDRC welcomes QFC's relocation to MDD

The Peninsula

DOHA: Faisal Rashid Al Sahouti **(pictured)**, Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC), which comprises the Regulatory Tribunal of Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), has welcomed yesterday's announcement by QFC regarding relocation to Doha's new financial city in Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD). "This will inevitably promote a more attractive environment for foreign direct investments and international financial companies in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030," he said.

"This new designation complements QICDRC's on-going strategy to improve and develop its judicial system, and expansion plans. It also complements the expansion of the QICDRC's mandate, jurisdiction and specialisation ahead of the anticipated New QFC Law, which will enhance the capabilities and abilities of the courts to adjudicate disputes brought before it in a transparent, fair and efficient manner using modern means of communication, according to international best standards and practices".

Al Sahouti also said that the QICDRC will serve as a "judicial safety regulator" to the new financial city which in turn will contribute to enhancing investors' trust in the judicial.

The QICDRC was established under the provision of Law No. 7 of 2005 on the QFC. It comprises the Regulatory Tribunal of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) that has the jurisdiction to hear appeals raised by individuals and corporate bodies against decisions of the QFC Authority, the Regulatory Authority and other QFC institutions. It also comprises of the Civil and Commercial Court which has jurisdiction to look into civil and commercial disputes that arise between companies established under the QFC, or between companies established in the QFC and other companies operating in the State of Qatar.

The QICDRC, which is led by Rt. Hon Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers. The QICDRC brings together many high-calibre and prestigious judicial experts, including exceptional Qatari cadres and international judges with extensive experience in the field of commercial disputes and complex investment structures.

RBS starts winding down global shipping businesses

Reuters

LONDON: The Royal Bank of Scotland has begun winding down its global shipping finance business, it said yesterday, ending efforts to sell it off during a worsening downturn across the freight industry.

Chief Executive Ross McEwan **(pictured)** is battling to complete a restructuring of the British bank, which includes asset sales and thousands of job cuts, amid a low-interest rate environment that makes finding profitable new business tough.

"In line with the bank's strategy to create a simpler, stronger, and more sustainable bank, better aligned to the needs of our customers in the UK and Western Europe, we are commencing the wind down of our shipping business," an RBS spokesperson said.

"We understand how difficult this will be for our staff and we will be offering support to those affected, including redeploying people in to other positions where we can."

RBS – which has not made a profit since 2007 and was bailed out by British taxpayers the following year – has sold billions of pounds' worth of assets in recent years, many of them at a loss, as it shrinks from the pre-crisis era of acquisitions at hefty prices under former chief executive Fred Goodwin.

Shipping industry sources have told Reuters that RBS had been trying to sell its Greek shipping business, valued at around $3 billion, for over a year.

Banking and financial sources said in July that Credit Suisse (CSGN.S) and China Merchants had backed off from separate talks on a possible purchase of the Greek unit, partly due to concerns over Britain's vote to leave the European Union and a lack of interest in the business.

Shipping sources said that in recent weeks Japanese financial services firm Orix Corp had held talks with RBS over the Greek unit, with Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp and Germany's Berenberg Bank also interested in joining an Orix deal. Orix, SMBC and Berenberg declined to comment.



Post-Brexit UK properties attractive for ME investors

London and Manchester are key investment hotspots where investors can take advantage of the "Brexit discount".

The Peninsula

DOHA: An international property investment firm is advising Middle East investors living in countries, whose currencies are pegged to the dollar, to take advantage of the post-Brexit conditions and acquire properties at bargain prices in the United Kingdom and certain other parts of Europe.

A strong US dollar, the result of political and economic uncertainty, has created a sweet spot for Middle East investors looking to buy property in the UK, according to IP Global.

The International property investment firm's latest Global Real Estate Outlook report highlights London and Manchester as cities that show great potential for investors due in large part to the "Brexit" vote.

After the UK's decision to leave the EU on June 23, both the British pound and Euro have lost value against the US dollar, creating a so called "Brexit discount". This currency situation makes it cheaper for dollar-pegged Middle East investors to buy assets in the UK and Europe.

According to the GREO, London and Manchester are key investment hotspots where investors can take advantage of the "Brexit discount".

Data from IP Global shows that US dollar-pegged Middle East investors who purchased a £350,000 property in the UK on September 11 would have saved over $50,000 had they made the same purchase just before the Brexit vote result was announced.

London's severe housing shortage continues to put upward pressure on prices, so much so that properties in Prime Central London are now almost 60 percent more costly than they were prior to the 2008 financial crisis. Valuations in the same period have increased by 14.5 percent each year.

Manchester, currently the strongest UK market outside of London, has several large infrastructure and regeneration projects underway, helping fuel its economy and bolstering the city's housing market. Manchester offers rental yields of up to 6.02 percent, the highest in the UK.

A weaker euro has also added to the appeal of Berlin as a property investment destination. The city, one of IP Global's top investment hotpots, saw apartment prices rise 10.1 percent in 2015. Berlin has established itself as the start-up capital of Germany, with one new start-up set up every 20 hours. This helps explain why the German capital expects 400,000 new residents by 2030.



Richard Bradstock **(pictured)**, Director and Head of IP Global, Middle East, to said: "Now is the right time to take advantage of the Brexit currency opportunity to tap into the medium and long-term potential of the UK market as well as European cities such as Berlin. Asian investors have been quick to jump on this opportunity already. Last month, Juwai, China's biggest international property portal, reported that buyer enquiries into UK property were up by 40 percent.

"While the 'safe haven' element is likely to remain a permanent fixture, the FX market will bounce back in time. That's why we see this "Brexit discount" as a relatively short window of opportunity to buyers looking to investin the UK and Europe."

May briefs Wall Street captains on Brexit plans

Reuters



NEW YORK: British Prime Minister Theresa May **(pictured)** met business chiefs from firms including Goldman Sachs, IBM and Amazon.com in an attempt to reassure investors after her country's shock vote to leave the European Union.

May first had a closed meeting with major investors and Wall Street banks before addressing dozens of other executives at a wider reception.

The June 23 vote took many investors and chief executives by surprise, triggering the deepest political and financial turmoil in Britain since World War Two and the biggest ever one-day fall in sterling against the dollar.

"Every working day in the United Kingdom one million people wake up and go to work for an American company. And every day in the United States one million people wake up and go to work for a UK company," May told the business leaders.

"So you see there is reciprocity," said May, who is in New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly. "The UK is going to be out there. We will be looking for business. And ladies and gentlemen, please feel free to invest in the UK."

May said that she wanted to hear what issues business leaders wanted addressed in the Brexit negotiations, which she said would yield a good deal in the trade of goods and services with the EU.

Chief executives from AECOM, Morgan Stanley, BlackRock, Merck & Co, Sony Pictures and United Technologies Corp also attended the meeting.

Despite warnings before the vote that Brexit would shatter economic confidence, some positive economic data and SoftBank's $32bn takeover of Britain's technology company ARM have stoked the perception that Britain could prosper outside the EU.

Still, May and her ministers admit they need to reassure investors from the United States, Japan, China and India that the United Kingdom and London, the only financial capital to rival New York, are still good places to make money.

The United States is the largest single inward investor into Britain, which currently attracts far more foreign direct investment than any other EU member.

When asked what they wanted to hear from May, one business leader at the meeting who asked not to be named said: "Reassurance."

Some investors have called for clarity about how much access foreign companies based or operating out of Britain will have to the European market, a concern for some US banks and manufacturers which sell into the EU from Britain.

Other issues include when and how Brexit will happen. May, who has repeatedly pledged that "Brexit means Brexit", has so far said only that she will not trigger the formal EU divorce process before the end of this year.

"We will be getting the right deal for the United Kingdom and that is the right deal in terms of trade in goods and services because we recognise the importance of both," May said. "At the same time we want to scope out new deals around the world to further liberalise trade between the UK and other partners around the world," she added.

US President Barack Obama said this month that he wanted the Brexit process to be resolved in the least disruptive way possible, though both France and Germany face elections next year which could complicate the Brexit negotiations.

Before the vote, some US companies had warned that Brexit would complicate their lives and could cost jobs.

Egypt trade deficit comes down by $7bn since January

Reuters

CAIRO: Egypt's trade deficit has narrowed by $7bn since January, Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil said yesterday, adding that exports could rise by 10 percent — helping close the trade gap even more — if authorities devalued the local currency.

Pressure has been mounting on the central bank to devalue the currency as Egypt struggles to revive an economy hit by political unrest that has driven away tourists and foreign investors, two major sources of hard currency.

The central bank has been responding to the crisis by rationing dollars, giving priority to imports of essential goods and to exporters who need to import raw material for manufacturing.

Its policy of keeping the pound artificially strong has seen foreign currency reserves tumble to around $16.5bn in August from $36bn before a mass uprising in 2011.

"If and when a devaluation happens it will help trade on both sides, limiting imports and boosting exports ... We expect it could boost exports by 10 percent," Kabil told a Euromoney conference.

The central bank's rationing of dollars has also led to a sharp fall in imports.

Kabil said Egypt's imports had decreased by $6bn since January while exports had increased by $1bn, narrowing the trade gap by $7bn.

IMF & Central Bank of West African States meet



Deputy Director General of the International Monetary Fund Mitsuhiro Furusawa (centre) with other officials from the financial world at the opening of the regional conference organised by the Central Bank of West African States and the IMF yesterday in Dakar.

Surge in demand for residential properties in Qatar: DTZ

The Peninsula

DOHA: The demand for real estate properties in Qatar has shown a remarkable recovery registering a double-digit growth after a relatively lull market situation owing to summer vacations and Eid holidays.

According to Qatar's leading global real estate company, DTZ, there is a significant increase in enquires in both residential accommodation and office space in the month to date, compared with the same month in 2015.

The number of residential enquiries received in the month to date were up 23 percent compared with the same period during August and 17 percent compared with September 2015.

The most popular enquiry was for two-bedroom apartments between in the range of QR9,000 and QR12,500 segment closely followed by one-bedroom apartments. The preference was for furnished apartment accommodation.

The search in the villa market was for four-bedrooms within a compound on an unfurnished basis was also significant.

There was also a surge in enquiries for office space, predominantly from the private sector, with 250 square metres (sqm) – 500sqm the most searched sizes.

Edd Brookes, General Manager of DTZ, said: "While we would normally expect a busy September following a relatively long summer season, the volume of enquiries being significantly higher than the same period during 2015 is surprising. Whilst there is an element of tenant churn this time of year, it is good to see that a large portion of the residential demand is from expats moving to Qatar for the first time."

The prime residential market had shown signs of softening in June however Brookes puts this down to seasonal fluctuations as well as the effects of a number of well publicised bouts of corporate restructuring exercises.

DTZ Qatar is a member of the global real estate services business, Cushman & Wakefield. The firm brings international best practice and local expertise to the market. With a long standing track record in the Qatari market.

Petrobras plans to cut investments by 25%

AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's state oil company Petrobras, reeling from a massive corruption scandal and low oil prices, announced yesterday it will cut investments by 25 percent over the next five years.

Projected investments from 2017 to 2021 will be $74.1bn, the company said, a quarter less than during the previous five-year plan."In the coming years we will be focused on recovering Petrobras's financial solidity," new chief executive Pedro Parente said in a statement.

"Our goal is for the company to be cleaned up in a total timeline of five years, with irreproachable standards of management and ethics."

The five-year plan includes an 11-percent cut to operating costs and targets an "intense pace" of sell-offs and joint ventures for its less-lucrative oil fields, expected to bring in $19.5bn in the next two years.

The plan is the first released under Parente, who was appointed by new center-right President Michel Temer to take over the troubled company in June.

Petrobras has been at the eye of a corruption storm upending Brazilian politics. Corrupt executives allegedly colluded with big construction firms to fleece the company of billions of dollars.

GlaxoSmithKline names insider Walmsley as CEO

Reuters

LONDON: GlaxoSmithKline said yesterday it had chosen its head of consumer healthcare, Emma Walmsley **(pictured)**, as its new chief executive, after several months reviewing internal and external candidates. She will become the first woman to head a top global pharmaceutical company and will bring the number of female chief executives in Britain's FTSE 100 index to seven.

Walmsley, 47, joined Britain's biggest drugmaker in 2010 from L'Oreal and will replace Andrew Witty, who had previously announced his decision to retire on March 31, 2017. She will join the board from January.

The decision will disappoint investors such as Neil Woodford, a top shareholder and a critic of the drugmaker's current structure, who wanted to see an outsider appointed to overhaul the company.

However, Walmsley had always been tipped as a strong internal candidate, along with pharmaceuticals boss Abbas Hussain and manufacturing head Roger Connor.

Her appointment is likely to be seen as a signal that GSK will retain the consumer business as a core part of its operations, rather than splitting up the company.

"Choosing Emma Walmsley suggests a strategy of evolution rather than revolution," Joe Walters, senior portfolio manager at Royal London Asset Management, one of GSK's 30 largest investors, said. "A big change in the firm's corporate structure is less likely, but any worries about a reduction in Glaxo's attractive dividend payments should recede."

GSK's 5 percent yield is a big



lure for investors. A weaker pound after Britain's vote to leave the European Union helped the group's 2016 outlook and also soothed fears of a dividend cut, but there had been speculation that an outside CEO might go on a major buying spree that could crimp payouts.

Chairman Philip Hampton said in a statement that GSK had market-leading positions in pharmaceuticals, vaccines and consumer healthcare that provided excellent platforms for sustainable, long-term growth.

At the helm since 2008, Witty has struggled with flagging sales and profits, as well as a damaging corruption scandal in China, although earnings are now improving.

Some investors and analysts have questioned his focus on a consumer health business that ranges from headache pills to toothpaste. Other drugmakers have enjoyed better share price performance in recent years by riding a wave of innovation in disease areas such as cancer.

GSK has chosen to largely sit out a wave of acquisitions in the pharmaceuticals industry that has seen rivals spending billions of dollars on promising experimental medicines.

QE INDICES SUMMARY

QE Index	10,256.52	1.02 %
QE Total Return Index	16,594.37	1.02 %
QE Al Rayan Islamic Index	3,867.79	0.20 %
QE All Share Index	2,835.23	0.66 %
QE All Share Banks & Financial Services	2,823.35	0.69 %
QE All Share Industrials	3,067.51	0.17 %
QE All Share Transportation	2,412.5	1.58 %
QE All Share Real Estate	2,460.56	0.62 %
QE All Share Insurance	4,545.21	2.07 %
QE All Share Telecoms	1,169.17	0.79 %
QE All Share Consumer Goods & Services	6,289.07	0.57 %

QE MARKET SUMMARY COMPARISON

	20-09-2016 Today	19-09-2016 Previous day
Index	10,256.52	10,152.77
Change	103.75	419.68
%	1.02	3.97
YTD%	1.66	2.65
Volume	8,489,649	26,937,237
Value (QAR)	371,623,627.73	1,297,108,628.25
Trades	5,248	10,023

Up 21 | Down 18 | Unchanged 02

WORLD STOCK INDICES

Index	Day's Close	Pt Chg	% Chg	Year High	Year Low
All Ordinaries	5397.324	3.64	0.07	5691.8	4762.1
Cac 40 Index/D	4410.95	16.76	0.38	4607.69	3892.46
Dj Indu Average	18120.17	-3.63	-0.02	18668.4	15450.6
Hang Seng Inde/D	23530.86	-19.59	-0.08	24364	18278.8
Iseq Overall/D	6115.3	6.14	0.1	6791.68	5286.65
Karachi 100 In/D	40340.46	-74.26	-0.18	40542.64	29785
Nikkei 225 Index	16492.15	-27.14	-0.16	18951.12	14864.01
S&P 500 Index/D	0	0	0	2133.81	1810.1

EXCHANGE RATE

Currency	Buying	Selling
US$	QR 3.6305	QR 3.6500
UK	QR 4.6930	QR 4.7596
Euro	QR 4.0490	QR 4.1056
CA$	QR 2.7295	QR 2.7835
Swiss Fr	QR 3.6973	QR 3.7522
Yen	QR 0.0354	QR 0.03611
Aus$	QR 2.7248	QR 2.7795
Ind Re	QR 0.0539	QR 0.0550
Pak Re	QR 0.0345	QR 0.0352
Peso	QR 0.0754	QR 0.0769
SL Re	QR 0.0247	QR 0.0254
Taka	QR 0.0460	QR 0.0470
Nep Re	QR 0.0338	QR 0.0345
SA Rand	QR 0.2602	QR 0.2654

GOLD AND SILVER

GOLD QR154.3903 per gramme

SILVER QR2.2573 per gramme

Bitcoin is money, US court says in JPMorgan case

Reuters



NEW YORK: Bitcoin qualifies as money, a federal judge ruled, in a decision linked to a criminal case over hacking attacks against JPMorgan Chase & Co and other companies.

US District Judge Alison Nathan in Manhattan rejected a bid by Anthony Murgio to dismiss two charges related to his alleged operation of Coin.mx, which prosecutors have called an unlicensed bitcoin exchange. Murgio had argued that bitcoin did not qualify as "funds" under the federal law prohibiting the operation of unlicensed money transmitting businesses.

But the judge, like her colleague Jed Rakoff in an unrelated 2014 case, said the virtual currency met that definition. "Bitcoins are funds within the plain meaning of that term," Nathan wrote. "Bitcoins can be accepted as a payment for goods and services or bought directly from an exchange with a bank account. They therefore function as pecuniary resources and are used as a medium of exchange and a means of payment."

The decision did not address six other criminal counts that Murgio faces, Nathan wrote.

Lawyers for Murgio did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Prosecutors last year charged Murgio over the operation of Coin.mx, and in April charged his father Michael with participating in bribery aimed at supporting it.

Authorities have said Coin.mx was owned by Gery Shalon, an Israeli man who, along with two others, was charged with running a sprawling computer hacking and fraud scheme targeting a dozen companies, including JPMorgan, and exposing personal data of more than 100 million people. That alleged scheme generated hundreds of millions of dollars of profit through pumping up stock prices, online casinos, money laundering and other illegal activity, prosecutors have said.

QATAR STOCK EXCHANGE

Company		Offer Volume	Offer Price	Bid Price	Bid Volume	Open	High	Low	Last Trade Price	Prev Close	Chg	% Chg	Trades	Volume	Value
Ohl	▲	6,899	154.00	153.10	1,920	152.90	156.00	152.90	154.00	152.90	1.10	0.72	231	251,388	38,805,546
Qatar Islamic Bank	▲	4,409	101.00	100.60	1,521	99.50	102.20	99.50	100.60	99.50	1.10	1.11	176	159,144	16,109,589
Comm. Bank of Qatar	▲	56,091	38.00	37.75	3,141	37.70	38.35	37.70	38.00	37.70	0.30	0.80	179	448,652	17,011,172
Doha Bank	▲	20,000	36.40	36.05	25,000	36.40	36.40	35.70	36.40	35.30	1.10	3.12	212	190,667	6,887,150
Ahli Bank	▼	1,594	41.50	39.55	1,000	40.00	41.50	39.25	41.50	42.00	-0.50	-1.19	5	41,072	1,700,873
Intl. Islamic Bank	▼	4,101	64.00	63.80	1,000	64.20	64.50	63.80	64.00	64.20	-0.20	-0.31	98	90,891	5,835,100
Ravan	▲	49,876	34.55	34.45	500	34.60	35.00	34.15	34.55	33.90	0.65	1.92	489	1,090,020	37,803,297
Al Khalij Commercial Bank	▼	300	17.99	17.07	9,747	17.04	17.35	17.04	17.07	17.93	-0.86	-4.80	14	14,765	252,636
* Qatar First Bank (QFC)	▲	15,000	10.93	10.85	5,000	10.90	10.97	10.83	10.94	10.90	0.04	0.37	124	311,241	3,389,764
Qatar Insurance	▲	2,000	87.10	87.00	2,329	87.00	87.70	86.00	87.00	84.50	2.50	2.96	342	170,027	14,787,891
Doha Insurance	⇔	1,015	21.40	20.26	900	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.25	20.25	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
General Insurance	▼	5,500	47.00	45.35	190	45.40	45.40	45.40	45.40	46.00	-0.60	-1.30	3	1,000	45,400
Al Kaleej Takaful	▲	1,955	22.93	22.20	1,610	22.20	22.20	22.20	22.20	22.10	0.10	0.45	13	12,627	280,319
Islamic Insurance	▼	5,000	54.80	54.20	1,000	54.50	54.50	54.50	54.50	54.70	-0.20	-0.37	3	1,632	88,944
Ind. Manf. Co.	⇔	600	42.45	42.00	11,975	42.05	42.10	42.05	42.05	42.05	0.00	0.00	8	23,633	993,868
National Cement Co.	▲	1,000	85.90	85.40	24	87.50	87.60	85.40	85.90	85.70	0.20	0.23	12	24,863	2,132,825
Zad Holding Company	▼	100	84.00	81.50	41	80.50	82.50	80.50	82.50	83.30	-0.80	-0.96	10	4,008	329,033
Industries Qatar	▲	2,937	100.20	100.10	355	101.20	103.50	99.70	100.20	99.00	1.20	1.21	444	457,028	46,599,699
United Dev. Company	▲	10,660	19.80	19.50	37,100	19.51	20.23	19.50	19.80	19.50	0.30	1.54	101	318,694	6,241,052
Qatar German Co. Med	⇔	3,695	11.09	10.51	3,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.60	10.60	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
The Investors	▼	1,093	48.50	48.00	7,992	49.90	49.90	48.00	48.00	50.00	-2.00	-4.00	124	112,406	5,527,611
Ooredoo	▲	23,760	95.60	95.50	2,000	96.70	98.30	95.60	95.60	95.20	0.40	0.42	320	379,211	36,650,155
Electricity & Water	▲	800	207.10	207.00	4,835	206.60	211.00	205.80	207.00	204.40	2.60	1.27	112	40,573	8,404,557
Salam International	▼	4,200	11.19	11.02	17,339	11.30	11.30	11.01	11.02	11.31	-0.29	-2.56	84	132,506	1,469,441
National Leasing	▼	6,755	16.18	16.11	3,000	16.50	16.94	16.06	16.10	16.50	-0.40	-2.42	103	270,197	4,374,265
Qatar Navigation	▲	500	86.80	85.50	3,500	85.00	87.80	85.00	86.00	84.90	1.10	1.30	98	57,025	4,951,062
Medicare	▼	2,148	90.00	88.50	834	88.00	90.90	88.00	88.50	90.90	-2.40	-2.64	55	22,203	1,983,066
Cinema	⇔	110	34.55	26.45	227	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.50	31.50	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Qatar Fuel	▲	476	150.30	149.70	3,622	150.10	150.30	149.70	149.70	149.10	0.60	0.40	42	33,453	5,018,523
Widam	▼	5,520	63.90	63.50	127	63.90	63.90	63.50	63.50	64.00	-0.50	-0.78	6	12,369	789,230
Gulf warehousing Co	⇔	1,000	53.70	53.50	6	53.00	54.00	53.00	53.90	53.50	0.00	0.00	27	26,040	1,397,812
Nakilat	▲	1,240	22.89	22.69	3,693	22.79	22.90	22.50	22.69	22.20	0.49	2.21	306	419,228	9,517,033
Diala	▼	1,273	21.90	21.41	31,078	21.95	22.45	21.41	21.41	22.50	-1.09	-4.84	29	40,889	895,322
Barwa	▼	1,000	34.83	34.60	6,720	35.00	35.50	34.40	34.60	35.00	-0.40	-1.14	225	382,114	13,325,316
Mannai Corp.	▲	20,879	83.50	81.50	213	84.00	84.00	83.50	83.50	82.20	1.30	1.58	2	214	17,889
Aamal	▼	9,650	14.84	14.76	350	15.00	15.10	14.62	14.84	15.00	-0.16	-1.07	272	573,552	8,572,199
Qatar Oman	▼	45,890	10.98	10.93	176	10.94	10.98	10.90	10.93	10.94	-0.01	-0.09	13	40,987	448,362
Ezdan Holding	▲	7,003	17.30	17.20	11,425	17.44	17.50	17.13	17.30	17.12	0.18	1.05	137	301,997	8,671,433
Islamic Holding	▲	3,906	61.30	60.00	450	60.40	61.30	60.00	61.30	60.50	0.80	1.32	22	12,413	745,331
Gulf International	▼	465	34.93	34.60	83,068	34.30	35.50	34.30	34.60	35.30	-0.70	-1.98	69	32,938	1,151,237
Vodafone Qatar	▲	32,806	10.50	10.44	4,187	10.50	10.76	10.43	10.50	10.26	0.24	2.34	533	1,376,334	14,543,238
Mesaieed	▲	3,000	17.09	17.02	6,829	17.05	17.29	17.00	17.02	17.01	0.01	0.06	108	132,278	2,260,072
Al Meera	▼	4,452	210.00	207.20	1,082	210.00	210.80	207.20	207.20	210.00	-2.80	-1.33	58	192,532	40,430,761
Mazaya Qatar	▼	9,800	13.70	13.55	3,314	13.89	13.89	13.51	13.70	13.78	-0.08	-0.58	39	86,838	1,185,554

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS - A LIST OF SHARES FROM THE WORLD

COMPANY NAME	CLOSE	NET CHG	VOLUME TRADED
A c c-a/d	1634	-14.2	16798
Aarti drugs-b/d	535.2	-0.3	10534
Aban offs-a/d	206.55	-2.05	119910
Aegis logis-b/d	165.7	2.1	289149
Alembic-b/d	38.5	-0.35	380566
Alkyl amines-b/d	334.9	3.5	13320
Alok indus-a/d	3.5	-0.02	708407
Apollo tyre-a/d	217.5	-3.75	386887
Asahi i glass-/d	188.55	-1.7	8295
Ashok leyland-/d	84	-0.55	1148729
Bajaj hold-a/d	1832.9	-4.8	17061
Ballarpur in-b/d	13.9	0.4	257827
Banaras bead-b/d	41	0	1416
Bata india-a/d	521.4	-2.9	34296
Beml ltd-a/d	904.4	-5.9	35693
Bh electronic-/d	1238.75	3.95	61250
Bhansali eng-t/d	20.65	-0.2	52292
Bharat bijle-b/d	790	-9.5	2281
Bharatgears-b/d	91.25	1.6	10796
Bhel-a/d	145.75	-1.5	1333128
Bom.Burmah-b/d	561.15	-10.9	39881
Bombay dyeing-/d	54.6	-1.25	408857
Canfin homes-b/d	1630.15	-19.2	10425
Caprihans-xc/d	93.9	-3.1	3857
Castrol india-/d	459.6	37.15	59454248
Century enka-b/d	260	-2.35	25172
Century text-a/d	877.95	-15.7	165134
Chambal fert-b/d	59.95	-1	127374
Chola invest-a/d	1081.45	-1.4	7570
Chowgule st-t/d	13.55	0.25	2967
Cimmco-b/d	75	-1.85	9961
Cipla-a/d	601.9	4.2	136061
City union bk-/d	130.4	-0.35	15609
Colgate-a/d	962.05	-6.05	19180
Container cor-/d	1308.05	-0.5	2645
Dai-tichi kar-/d	575	1.25	1944
Dcm shram ind-/d	206	-0.1	6654
Dhampur sugar-/d	124.35	1	174318
Dr. Reddy-a/d	3158.7	2.1	15447
E I h-b/d	108.5	-0.35	19146
E.I.D parry-a/d	248.85	-0.9	55095
Eicher motor-a/d	23350	267.85	3988
Electrosteel-b/d	22.2	0.35	212850
Emco-b/d	32.7	0.1	122636
Escorts fin-b/d	12.52	0	379831
Escorts-a/d	366.65	18.5	1022693
Eveready indu-/d	270	-1.4	15846
F d c-b/d	223.5	-3.65	29300
Federal bank-a/d	71.85	-2.1	322166
Ferro alloys-b/d	4.64	-0.1	65097
Finolex-a/d	471.9	1.8	5704
Gail-a/d	385.4	-3.2	96167
Galada power-b/d	9.93	-0.01	1111
Gammon india-t/d	17.55	0.5	726207
Gangotri tex-b/d	0.98	0.04	5835
Garden p -b/d	30.75	-0.75	10933
Godfrey phil-b/d	1323.2	4.3	37581
Goodricke-b/d	190.4	-0.1	14195
Goodyear i -b/d	626.3	-12.7	14184
Hcl infosys-b/d	42.15	-0.65	490401
Him.Fut.Comm-t/d	16.25	-0.05	617731
Himat seide-b/d	264.65	-6.5	32950
Hind motors-t/d	6.31	-0.2	255851
Hind org chem-/d	17.3	-0.9	45276
Hind unilever-/d	903.15	-9.35	76634
Hind.Petrol-a/d	401.45	-1.7	134131
Hindalco-a/d	145.35	1.35	563230
Hous dev fin-a/d	1397.95	3.85	26159
I f c i-a/d	29.6	1.1	4956706
Idbi-a/d	74	-1.55	604126
Ifb agro-b/d	381	-1.35	1223
Ifb ind.Ltd.-B/d	437	-7.85	3392
India cement-a/d	149.5	-2.5	332499
India glycol-b/d	129.45	21.55	685196
Indian hotel-a/d	126.4	0.65	31323
Indo-tcount-t/d	744.55	3	17636
Indusind-a/d	1180.8	-21.85	47965
J.B.Chemical-b/d	372.2	-11.05	23555
Jagatjit ind-x/d	69.65	1.65	2786
Jagson phar-b/d	37.05	0.2	11481
Jamnaauto-b/d	223.45	-2.15	67570
Jbf indu-b/d	231.15	0.9	59769
Jct ltd-b/d	5.5	-0.06	354075
Jenson&nich.-B/d	8.2	-0.12	10399
Jik indust-b/d	0.75	0.02	8255
Jindal drill-b/d	169.9	-3.7	5443
Jk tyre&ind-a/d	146.1	-3.7	718811
Jmc projects-t/d	245.55	-2.45	1401
Kajaria cer-a/d	1322.55	-20.4	1913
Kakatiya cem-b/d	389.35	-7.1	20809
Kalpat power-b/d	267	4.3	16292
Kalyani stel-t/d	341.55	4.35	131692
Kanoria chem-b/d	67.35	-1.45	22680
Kg denim-b/d	85.85	2.8	32641
Kilburnengg-xd/d	49.85	0.25	5318
Kinetic eng-xc/d	82.15	1.3	15882
Kopran-b/d	53.75	-0.85	100363
Lakshmi elec-b/d	441.2	-5.7	3751
Lakshmi mach-a/d	4263	-73.3	1362
Lgb broth-b/d	572.75	-6.75	3730
Lloyd metal-xc/d	16.43	1.29	435481
Lok.Hous&con-z/d	4.2	0	4717
Lumax ind-b/d	720.15	-3.1	1072
Lupin-a/d	1548.75	5.95	57894
Lyka labs-t/d	68.8	-2.05	39989
Mafatlal ind-b/d	334.65	-10.15	1696
Mah.Seamless-b/d	219	-1.35	5168
Mangalam cem-b/d	342.35	7.85	162374
Maral overs-b/d	27.95	0.2	1755
Mastek-b/d	123.55	-1.85	9425
Max financial-/d	568.55	-1.75	128340
Mrpl-a/d	89.25	0.05	406195
Nahar spg.-B/d	115.6	-2.1	12162
Nation alum -a/d	46.05	0.2	58325
Navneet edu-b/d	104.2	0.05	15559
Nepc india-t/d	1.44	0.06	1375
Nrb bearings-b/d	126.3	-2.8	5317
O n g c-a/d	257.75	3.75	607172
Ocl india-b/d	840	-39.5	2600
Oil country-b/d	30.3	0.25	4782
Orchid pharm-b/d	38.2	-0.05	76412
Orient hotel-t/d	26	-0.35	4400
Orient.Carb.-T/d	681.1	-6.75	1213
Orient.Carb.-T/d	681.1	-6.75	1213
Oudh sugar-b/d	117.85	-2	58403
Patspin india-/d	9.05	-0.17	6050
Punjab chem.-B/d	186.15	-0.3	8735
Radico khait-b/d	104.35	-3.3	106306
Rallis india-a/d	222.25	5	83479
Rallis india-a/d	222.25	5	83479
Reliance indus/d	440.85	-5.7	71152
Ruchi soya-b/d	20.75	0.4	54056
S bk bikaner-b/d	671.55	-10.35	2482
Salora inter-b/d	58.15	8.7	75479
Saur.Cem-b/d	77.05	-1.65	35239
Sterling tool-/d	770	-13.05	2633
Tanfac indust-/d	46.5	0.25	4180
Tanfac indust-/d	46.5	0.25	4180
Thirumalai-b/d	562.9	-20.05	165897
Til ltd.-T/d	237.7	-1.25	3377
Timexgroup-t/d	44.7	-0.55	71913
Tinplate-b/d	87.15	1.1	129813
Ucal fuel-b/d	172.9	-7.25	50971
Ucal fuel-b/d	172.9	-7.25	50971
Ultramarine-b/d	175.1	-3.9	72916
Unitech p -a/d	6.27	-0.13	4410464
Univcable-b/d	85.4	1.05	1715
Uppergsugar-t/d	421.5	2.1	209815

LONDON

COMPANY NAME	CLOSE	NET CHG	VOLUME TRADED
3i group/d	648	7.5	343087
Assoc.Br.Foods/d	2739	16	161182
Barclays/d	166.1517	-0.75	11693796
Bp/d	425.55	-0.75	3743957
Brit am tobacc/d	4829.5	67	420153
Bt group/d	388.838	4.2	3288729
Centrica/d	228.41	0.8	3142587
Gkn/d	317.8	1.7	1014715
Hsbc holdings/d	583	1.9	17347831
Kingfisher/d	370.9	-5.8	10281017
Land secs grou/d	1042	20	934442
Legal & genera/d	214.4	1.6	5500515
Lloyds bnk grp/d	56.68	-0.32	36074167
Marks & sp./D	319.4	0.3	1980356
Next/d	4981	-59	202515
Pearson/d	796.5	-4.5	658101
Prudential/d	1377.5	1.5	952281
Rank group/d	210.2	-1.3	760634
Rentokil initi/d	223	1	6019110
Rolls royce pl/d	737.5	-2	641835
Rsa insrance g/d	544.5	2.5	874443
Sainsbury(j)/d	244.336	-2.2	2613985
Schroders/d	2728	8	53244
Severn trent/d	2454	15	170529
Smith&nephew/d	1247	6	1216366
Smiths group/d	1379	12	254170
Standrd chart /d	631.3	1.3	2210600
Tate & lyle/d	726	3	407641
Tesco/d	178.5	2.1	18551201
Unilever/d	3589.5	6	590048
United util gr/d	998.5	11	336377
Vodafone group/d	224.15	2.8	12682087
Whitbread/d	4070	-20	224905

US Fed unlikely to increase interest rates

AFP

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve opened its sixth monetary policy meeting this year yesterday again facing the quandary that the US economy is not clearly ready for an interest rate hike. While some economists say the Fed, long anxious to pull away from its crisis-era ultralow rate policy, could surprise with an increase in the federal funds rate today, most say it will stand pat.

With that benchmark, crucial to borrowing and deposit rates around the world, stuck at 0.25-0.50 percent, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which sets monetary policy, has repeatedly signaled intentions to increase it this year.

But some weak economic data in recent weeks raises a question mark over the strength of the US economy. And persistent weakness in other major economies also continues to challenge the rationale for a rate increase.

Jim O'Sullivan, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics, said he thinks December is the month for an increase. "We expect Fed officials to couple an on-hold announcement this week with more pronounced 'tightening is imminent' guidance," he said in a client note. Just three weeks ago, comments made at the Fed's annual central banking symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, signaled



that the FOMC could finally pull the rate trigger at the end of its September 20-21 meeting.

Most notably, Fed Chair and FOMC head Janet Yellen said clearly that she thought the time had come. "In light of the continued solid performance of the labor market and our outlook for economic activity and inflation, I believe the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months," she said.

Others, including Fed Deputy Chair Stanley Fischer, reinforced that impression.

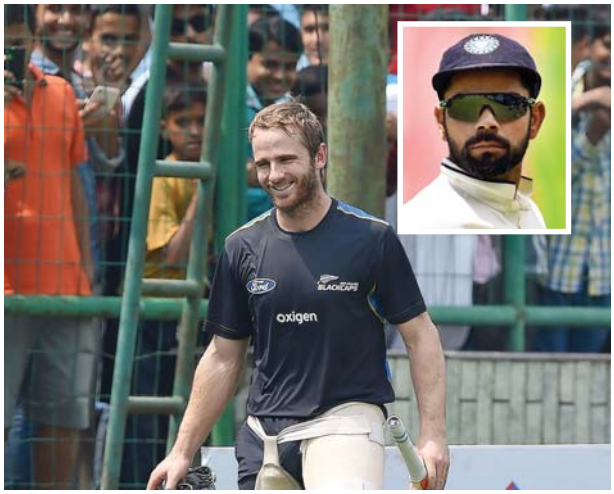
But the data since then has not supported them. Job creation has been relatively good, and the housing market solid. But, extending the second-quarter's slump, industrial output and consumer spending have stayed weak. In addition, inflation — which the Fed has sought with its hefty stimulus policy to increase — remains feeble, not appearing to react to a world awash in easy money. The last FOMC official to speak ahead of the meeting, Fed Governor Lael Brainard **(pictured)**, held firm with her view that the global economy matters to the Fed, and that it need not rush into a rate hike. "To the extent that the effect on inflation of further gradual tightening in labor market conditions is likely to be moderate and gradual, the case to tighten policy preemptively is less compelling," she said on September 12.

An increase could happen today, but it would shock markets. Based on CME fed fund futures trading, the markets give a rate increase a 12 percent chance. "Waiting for the Fed to hike rates is like waiting for Godot," said Steven Ricchiuto of Mizuho Securities.

India take on New Zealand with an eye on top ranking

The three-match series which starts tomorrow will also embark on bumper home season for Kohli's side

Reuters



New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson walks back after a batting practice in nets during a practice match against Mumbai at the Ferozshah Kotla ground in New Delhi on Sunday. INSET: This file photo taken on July 15, 2016 shows Indian captain Virat Kohli watching his team-mates during the three-day tour match between India and WICB President's XI squad at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, Saint Kitts.

NEW DELHI: There's no place like home if you are looking to scramble back to the top of the world rankings and that appears to be India's mantra as they kick off a bumper Test season against New Zealand in Kanpur tomorrow.

The world's richest cricket board has long been accused of ignoring the game's longest format, a wrong they decided to right in June by scheduling a whopping 13 Tests in the 2016-17 calendar.

All of them being on home soil also dovetailed perfectly with India's ambition to regain the top Test team's billing after grudgingly handing over the honour to arch-rivals Pakistan following a washed-out Test in the West Indies.

New Zealand will bear the brunt of it as Kane Williamson's men prepare for a trial by spin over the next three weeks from the world's number two Test team in their three-match series.

Making India the top Test team was one of the key goals listed in Anil Kumble's presentation before he landed the head coach's job but the former spinner has said he is not someone who would call up the curator and order a dustbowl to achieve the target.

"No, it is the job of the curator," Kumble told *ESPNcricinfo* in a recent interview.

"It is a given that home conditions will favour the home team where spin is a dominant force, but not where (from) the first ball you have dust coming off."

It did exactly so when they hosted South Africa in their last home series, a four-Test rubber, last year.

Ravichandran Ashwin and his spin partners wreaked havoc on raging turners and the Proteas managed to take a test into the fifth day only once, that too after a record-shattering stonewalling by Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers and Faf Du Plessis in Delhi.

INDIA TO CELEBRATE 500TH TEST

"It's a tough place to play, particularly in recent years," Williamson said on his arrival in India.

"The pitches have been very tricky and you throw in world class spinners, the challenge is very tough."

Containing an Indian batting line-up, led by a versatile Virat Kohli, would be no less a headache for the tourists who are already short on bowling resources since landing here.

Paceman Tim Southee's ankle injury has robbed them of their most experienced Test bowler, while all-rounder Jimmy Neeshan has been ruled out of the Kanpur contest, which will be India's 500th Test match, with a rib injury.

Their batting is not in apple-pie order either, with Martin Guptill repeatedly failing to replicate his limited-overs heroics in test arena and Luke Ronchi's brisk century in the warm-up match in Delhi intensifying their selection dilemma.

Onus will be on Williamson and Ross Taylor to share their India Premier League (IPL) experience with others to help them familiarise with the conditions, which would be starkly different from what they experienced in their recent tour of South Africa.

Taylor suggested going down on bended knees against the Indian spinners, strictly literally though.

"Anytime you are playing in the sub-continent you need to be able to play the sweep shot or the cut shot," the 32-year-old said in Delhi.

"A lot of the guys are practising during training and we will talk about it with the team."

FACTBOX

Factbox on the three-Test series between India and New Zealand, which starts at Kanpur tomorrow:

INDIA	
Captain: Virat Kohli	
Coach: Anil Kumble	
Squad: Shikhar Dhawan, Murali Vijay, Lokesh Rahul, Virat Kohli (captain), Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar	
NEW ZEALAND	
Captain: Kane Williamson	
Coach: Mike Hesson	
Squad: Kane Williamson (captain), Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Mark Craig, Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, James Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling	
HEAD TO HEAD:	
Total	54
India wins	18
New Zealand wins	10
Draws	26
IN INDIA:	
Total matches	31
India wins	13
New Zealand wins	2
Draws	16
LAST FIVE TESTS:	
2014 - Match drawn, Wellington	
2014 - New Zealand won by 40 runs, Auckland	
2012 - India won by five wickets, Bangalore	
2012 - India won by an innings & 115 runs, Hyderabad	
2010 - India won by an innings & 198 runs, Nagpur	
FIXTURES (all start at 0400 GMT):	
1st Test - Sept. 22-26, Green Park, Kanpur	
2nd Test - Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Eden Gardens, Kolkata	
3rd Test - Oct. 8-12, Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore	

Sharma ruled out of first NZ Test

AFP

KANPUR: Indian pace bowler Ishant Sharma was yesterday ruled out of the first Test against New Zealand after contracting the mosquito-borne disease chikungunya.

"Ishant Sharma is recovering from chikungunya and will not be available for the first Test match," coach Anil Kumble told reporters in Kanpur, where the opening Test starts tomorrow.

Kumble said a replacement has not been sought for Sharma in the 15-member squad that includes three other fast bowlers -- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav.

Twenty-eight-year old Sharma has taken 209 wickets from 72 Tests, with seven five-wicket hauls. Some 14,600 cases of the illness that causes high fever and joint pain have been recorded across the country so far this year.

The numbers are not higher than in previous years but hospitals in New Delhi have been struggling to cope, sparking a political row over who is to blame for failing to properly prepare for the outbreak.

Pakistan won't fear powerful West Indies, warns Arthur

IANS



DUBAI: Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur **(pictured)** has praised the West Indies' ability in the shortest format but said while they respected the reigning world champions, his side intended to play fearless cricket during the upcoming Twenty20 International series.

The two teams meet in the opening game of the three-match series here on Saturday and Arthur said that after having undergone an overhaul, the Pakistani team could provide a stiff challenge for the West Indies, reports *CMC*.

"Our Test side in particular is a very stable side, with a lot of senior players in it, but we need to rebuild our one-day side," Arthur said.

"We were playing a style of cricket that was totally outdated. The exciting thing is bringing in a new brand of young players."

He continued: "The players we have brought in - Imad Wasim, Babar Azam, Sohail Khan, Hasan Ali, Mohammed Nawaz - they take the game on."

"They don't fear failure, which is fantastic. They are the guys we want to build this one-day cricket brand around. We have to change this brand." Pakistan are coming off a big win over England last month in Manchester, when they trounced the hosts by nine wickets in a one-off T20 International.

And of the four T20 Internationals they have played against the West Indies, they have won two - when they swept the series in the Caribbean three years ago.

Arthur said the West Indies were "formidable opposition" especially in conditions which were similar to the Caribbean.

"The West Indies are a very good Twenty20 team. They are the current world T20 holders so you can never take them lightly even in conditions like these ... so they are going to be a formidable opposition and we are going to have to play really well to beat them," the South African said.

"We have played a lot of cricket of late, the players have been playing cricket and whether you are playing one-day cricket or Twenty20 cricket, as long as you are playing the skills are sharp." "We have just got to hone those skills. We have four training sessions to get that right. I am confident the guys will be ready. A lot of guys have been playing the domestic competition at home anyway so they have been playing Twenty20 cricket," he concluded.

Kulasekara out on bail after fatal crash

Reuters

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka seamer Nuwan Kulasekara has been released on bail after he was involved in a crash that resulted in the death of a 28-year-old motorcyclist, the country's cricket board said.

Kulasekara, 34, was returning to Colombo from Kandy on Monday when the motorcyclist, travelling in the opposite direction, lost control of his bike while trying to overtake a bus and got flung into the cricketer's path.

"Kulasekara is currently enlarged on bail by the Kadawatha Chief Magistrate pending completion of the investigation," Sri Lanka cricket said in a statement.

The right-arm medium pace bowler played 21 Tests but retired from the longest format in June to focus on limited overs cricket.



Nuwan Kulasekara



Paul McGinley

Rookies not a concern for team, says McGinley

Reuters

LONDON: Former European Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley expects the six rookies in this year's team to draw on their international experience to thrive under pressure in next week's match against the United States.

US Masters champion Danny Willett, Chris Wood, Rafael Cabrera-Bello, Andy Sullivan and Matt Fitzpatrick, along with wildcard pick Thomas Pieters, will be making their Ryder Cup debuts when Europe defend the trophy in Minnesota.

"The European team have six rookies heading to Hazeltine, but I don't think that will be an issue or a concern," McGinley, who led Europe to victory two years ago, told *Sky Sports*.

"They are all experienced players, they've all won big tournaments, and they have all performed on the big stage... They are young, vibrant and they will not be intimidated by the atmosphere of a Ryder Cup in the United States," he added.

Captain Darren Clarke will be looking to guide Europe to an unprecedented fourth consecutive Ryder Cup victory.

"They are part of a team and Darren will be making sure they don't lose their focus," McGinley said. "Don't play the occasion, play the game of golf."

World number three Rory McIlroy has had an inconsistent year but McGinley said the Northern Irishman's win at this month's Deutsche Bank Championship was a big boost for the European team.

"He (McIlroy) is Europe's highest-ranked player and we all know how talented he is. Apart from winning the Irish Open, he's had a quiet year particularly on the PGA Tour and in the major championships," the 49-year-old said.

Alvarez to miss rest of 2016 with fractured hand

AFP

LOS ANGELES: Mexican star Saul "Canelo" Alvarez will not fight again this year after suffering a fracture to his right hand after his bruising defeat of Liam Smith, his promoters said on Monday.

Golden Boy Promotions said on Twitter Alvarez would not now fight until 2017 after suffering the injury in Saturday's ninth-round knockout of Smith.

"Canelo has a fracture on his right hand and unable to fight again in 2016," Golden Boy said.

Alvarez dropped down to super welterweight to claim the Briton's World Boxing Organization belt in the fight held at the home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The Mexican star, who won the WBC middleweight title last November, is eyeing a possible superfight against Kazakhstan's Gennady Golovkin. Alvarez, 26, improved to 48-1-1 with 34 knockouts after his latest win. He has now won six fights in a row since suffering his lone defeat -- a 12-round majority decision loss to Floyd Mayweather in 2013.

Eagles claw Bears to stay unbeaten

Matthews' scores two touchdowns as the winners maintain their unbeaten start to the season

Reuters

CHICAGO: The Philadelphia Eagles scored touchdowns on three consecutive second-half possessions, two of them short runs by Ryan Matthews and two following Chicago turnovers to beat the Bears 29-14 on Monday.

Matthews scored on runs of three yards and one yard, sandwiched around a two-yard touchdown pass from Carson Wentz to Trey Burton.

One of the touchdowns followed an interception and 28-yard return by Nigel Bradham to Chicago's two-yard line and another followed a fumble recovery by Ron Brooks.

The Bears lost turnovers on three of their first four second-half possessions and also lost starting quarterback Jay Cutler, who left the game with a hand injury following the Bradham interception.

Cutler completed 12 of 17 passes for 157 yards but was sacked three times. One of the sacks resulted in a fumble which the Eagles recovered, killing a promising drive that started the second half at a time Philadelphia led by only two points.

A short time later, the Eagles mounted their only long touchdown drive, a 68-yard march that ended with Matthews, seemingly stopped on a run into the line, able to slither out, keep his balance and stumble around the pile of bodies to the end zone. That made it 16-7.

Bradham's interception came on the first play following the kickoff, and the next play was Burton's touchdown. Three plays after the following kickoff, a Jeremy Langford fumble was recovered by Brooks, a 30-yard run by Matthews set up his second touchdown, and the rout was pretty much complete at 29-7.

Eddie Royal returned a punt 65 yards for a consolation touchdown for the Bears with 5:09 remaining.

The Eagles led 9-7 at the half on three field goals by Caleb Sturgis, the last a 53-yarder with three seconds remaining.

The Bears tried to "freeze" Sturgis with a late timeout just as the ball was being snapped, and Sturgis missed the "practice kick" badly. The next one counted, and was drilled perfectly.

Sturgis' other field goals came from 25 and 29 yards.

Chicago's touchdown, a one-yard run by Jeremy Langford, was set up on a 49-yard bomb from Cutler to Alshon Jeffery early in the second quarter.

Philadelphia missed two good touchdown opportunities, the first when Bryce Callahan made a nifty breakup of a ball thrown by Wentz to tight end Brent Celek, who appeared momentarily open in the end zone, the next when Jordan Matthews dropped a pass in the end zone just before Sturgis' third field goal.

Meanwhile, Washington Redskins coach Jay Gruden has expressed confidence in quarterback Kirk Cousins despite his shaky start to the season.



Philadelphia Eagles running back Ryan Mathews (24) scores a touchdown as Chicago Bears cornerback Tracy Porter (21) defends during the second half at Soldier Field. Philadelphia won 29-14.

Washington were beaten 27-23 by the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday to drop them to 0-2 and Cousin's wide receivers appeared frustrated with the quarterback, who could not convert in the red zone.

"We have total faith that Kirk will get it done, and he will get it done," Gruden told reporters. "He has proven that he can be a successful quarterback in this league."

Cousins has thrown for 693 yards in the two regular season games, the third highest in the league, though many have been accumulated with the team trying to catch up.

He has tossed just one touchdown to three interceptions.

The 28-year-old took over as the starting quarterback last season and recorded 4,166 passing yards and 29 touchdowns while leading the Redskins to the playoffs.

The performance earned him a one-year franchise tag worth $19.95 million and increased scrutiny, which Cousins has not shied away from.

"You take ownership, you step to the forefront and you lead and you challenge guys and you say what you need to do better," Cousins told a Washington radio station on Monday.

"I think together we can do that. I've faced challenges before, adversity before on the football field.

"We're going to find a way to move forward and play better. We're going to do it together."



Action from the Round 6 of the 2016 Autobacs Super GT 300 series at the 45th International Suzuka 1,000km race at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan.

Toyota Prius Apr GT earns podium finish

The Peninsula

DOHA: Toyota Prius apr GT driven by Koki Saga and Yuichi Nakayama competed brilliantly to claim second place in Round 6 of the 2016 Autobacs Super GT 300 series, which took place recently at the 45th International Suzuka 1000km race held at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan.

The No. 31 Toyota Prius Apr GT stands second in the team rankings at this stage with two more rounds to go for the season.

The teams were competing in difficult conditions that saw rain falling intermittently.

Due to the length of the Suzuka 1000km race, there was no morning free practice session held as in the other GT rounds. Instead, the usual 8-minute warm-up time before the start was extended to 20 minutes.

When the race started, the track was partially wet, which led most of the teams to start the race with dry-condition tires, with the exception of the No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT driven by Koki Saga. Having chosen rain tires, Saga had trouble keeping pace, and he decided to return to the pit for a tire change at the end of the third lap.

After changing to dry-condition tires and changing drivers from Koki Saga to Yuichi Nakayama, the team returned to the race having lost considerable ground. The No. 31 Toyota Prius Apr GT, however, continued to compete, and in the last half of the race and with two laps remaining, Nakayama went ahead to finish second in a close contest. Round 7 of the 2016 championship now takes place in Thailand on October 8 and 9.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation.

"It was an excellent result for the No. 31 Toyota Prius apr GT and I would like to congratulate the drivers and the entire support staff for this outstanding performance. The experience gained through participation in top-level motorsports has contributed significantly in helping Toyota to build ever better cars to put a smile on the faces of our customers. We also appreciate the support of our fans and their constant encouragement for our racing initiatives."

Del Potro says will be fit for 'dream' Davis Cup final

AFP

BUENOS AIRES: Injury-plagued Juan Martin del Potro **(pictured)** said yesterday that he expects to be fit for Argentina's "dream" Davis Cup final in November after the thrilling victory over holders Great Britain.

Argentina have been finalists four times in the past 10 years and will attempt to win their first Davis Cup when they travel to Croatia from November 25 to 27.

"We managed to fulfil our dream to qualify for the final," said the world-ranked 64 del Potro, who is still feeling his way back after a series of wrist injuries pushed him to the brink of retirement.

"We have a united group, we talk a lot. It went perfectly for us," added the 27 year old on his arrival back in Buenos Aires, saying that "I have enough time to prepare (for the final).

"Now it's time to rest and to have a general medical examination. I am still not at my best level, even if the last few months were some of the best moments in my career."

Argentina -- whose Davis Cup charge is spearheaded by del Potro -- defeated Great Britain 3-2 in Glasgow at the weekend, while the Croats booked their berth in the final with a 3-2 win over France.

Victory for the Argentines would cap a return to form for del Potro, who took silver at the Rio Olympics after losing to Andy Murray in the final -- but got his revenge on Friday when he beat the Scot in a rubber lasting over five hours.

Meanwhile, former champion Petra Kvitova stormed through her opening match at the Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday, beating American Madison Brengle 6-3, 6-3 in a flurry of swashbuckling winners.

The 26-year-old Czech, twice a Wimbledon winner, had too much firepower for Brengle in a match played under a closed roof due to typhoon rains in Tokyo.

Seventh seed Kvitova will next play Rio Olympic gold medallist Monica Puig of Puerto Rico.

Meanwhile, sixth seed Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia overcame another Czech, Lucie Safarova, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 to set up a second-round match with fast-rising Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka.

"I've seen her play a few times," Cibulkova said of Osaka. "She has a powerful serve and it's always tough playing against these young players -- they are fearless and have nothing to lose."

In other matches, Denmark's former world number one Caroline Wozniacki battled to a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Switzerland's Belinda Bencic.

Elsewhere on a day badly affected by the weather, Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova beat Ukrainian Kateryna Bondarenko 7-6, 6-3 while Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus overcame Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Pan Pacific Open Results

First Round
Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) bt Kateryna Bondarenko (UKR) 7-6 (7/3), 6-3
Elina Svitolina (UKR) bt Coco Vandeweghe (USA) 6-3, 6-4
Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) bt Yanina Wickmayer (BEL) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3
Dominika Cibulkova (SVK x6) bt Lucie Safarova (CZE) 4-6, 6-1, 7-5
Magda Linette (POL) bt Olesya Pervushina (RUS) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3
Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) bt Belinda Bencic (SUI) 6-2, 5-7, 6-1
Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) bt Madison Brengle (USA) 6-3, 6-3
Barbora Zahlavova Strycova (CZE) bt Varatchaya Wongteanchai (THA) 6-1, 6-1

ATP Saint Petersburg Results

1st round
Alexandre Sidorenko (FRA) bt Albert Ramos (ESP x6) 7-5, 6-2
Paolo Lorenzi (ITA) bt Mischa Zverev (GER) 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-0
Daniil Medvedev (RUS) bt Alexander Bublik (RUS) 6-4, 6-0



Kenyan Olympic board warns of stalemate

AFP

NAIROBI: The underfire Kenyan National Olympic Committee (NOCK) yesterday warned it faced imminent suspension from the IOC if the government failed to honour an agreement to reinstate it into office.

The International Olympic Committee helped to broker a truce between the two parties in Lausanne last week, three weeks after Kenyan sports minister Hassan Wario announced he was disbanding the NOCK over their poor handling of the Olympic team in Rio de Janeiro.

The IOC ordered that NOCK, led by two-time Olympic gold medallist Kipchoge Keino, be allowed to continue in office to spearhead reforms and hold fresh elections before the end of the year.

But Keino has accused Wario of reneging on his pledge to re-open the NOCK offices, which were closed down by police to allow for investigations after four top officials were arrested for abuse of office and alleged theft of team uniforms.

"We have been trying to get in touch with the minister for the last two days but he does not want to talk to us.

"Right now we cannot get access to even pay our debtors since the treasurer, Fridah Shiroya is still in court. We urgently require to pay for the workers to continue with our new office block, which is currently under construction," Keino told AFP.

"Unless this impasse is resolved immediately it might result in Kenya being banned for four years, and this will greatly have a negative impact on the youth of this country."

Four top NOCK officials including Shiroya and secretary general Francis Kinyili Paul are currently in court charged with the shambolic preparation and mismanagement of the team in Rio.

Despite turmoil at official level, the country's athletes clocked up their best Olympics yet with 13 medals (including six golds) putting them in 15th place overall, the best in Africa by far.

Valencia to host MotoGP finale for five more years

Agencies

VALENCIA: Valencia's Ricardo Tormo Circuit will stay on the MotoGP calendar at least until 2021 after signing a contract extension with promoter Dorna.

The circuit has held a round of the championship since the 1999 season, having become the venue for the MotoGP finale since 2002 up until now.

The new contract, finalised two months before the current deal ends, is for another five years.

"We are thrilled that MotoGP will be returning to Valencia for another five years," said Dorna CEO Carmelo Ezpeleta.

"The new agreement to return to the track is fantastic for the championship, for the Comunitat Valenciana and for fans both in the region and worldwide, with the Circuit Ricardo Tormo always providing a unique and memorable event to end the season."

Valencia will host the final round of the 2016 season on November 13. The Spanish city's Ricardo Tormo circuit has been on the calendar since 1999 and became the season-ender for the first time in 2002. This year's season-ending race is scheduled for November 13. Spanish riders have won the last four MotoGP titles, with Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo taking his third at Valencia last November. Spaniards have also won seven of the last 10 races at the circuit outside the Mediterranean port city.

Banned Platini in negotiations over payoff

Bloomberg

LONDON: Michel Platini, the former head of European soccer governing body UEFA, may receive a payoff even though he's been banned from the sport after being implicated in a scandal that led to the fall of former FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

UEFA, which last week elected little known Slovenian lawyer Aleksander Ceferin as Platini's replacement, has been in talks about a financial agreement for several months with advisers to Platini, whose mandate had been due to run through 2019. His annual salary was about 2 million Swiss francs ($2.1 million), according to a person familiar with the discussions who declined to be identified because the negotiations are private.

"The overall matter of his remuneration since his suspension will be addressed by the UEFA Executive Committee in due course following advice and proposals from the newly formed UEFA Compensation Committee and legal experts," UEFA said in an e-mailed statement.

Platini, 61, one of the best players of his generation in the 1970s and '80s, is serving a four-year ban from soccer-related activity after a FIFA ethics panel last year ruled he received an improper payment from Blatter in 2011. Platini has vowed to clear his name, having had the original eight-year ban halved on appeal. A Swiss criminal investigation into the payment continues. Under Swiss law UEFA is under no obligation to provide Platini with a payoff, though several soccer officials in the region are sympathetic to rewarding the Frenchman for his achievements since being first elected UEFA head in 2007, according to the person familiar with the matter. His advisers have cited UEFA's successful centralization of the sale of national team TV rights and his efforts to curb the debt of European clubs through the creation of so-called "financial fair play" rules.

A spokesman for Platini did not respond to a call or an e-mailed request for comment.

A deal was close before Ceferin's elevation at the meeting last week in Athens, where FIFA's ethics judge permitted Platini to make a farewell address at an extraordinary meeting. Platini's former No. 2 at UEFA, Gianni Infantino, was picked to lead global governing body FIFA in February.

UEFA has tightened its rules since Platini's exit. His salary and benefits were set without a formal process. Ceferin's pay will be decided by a remuneration panel that includes soccer officials Marios Lefkaritis of Cyprus and Herbert Hubel from Austria.

Platini told UEFA members in his speech that he was "convinced I did not make the slightest mistake," before thanking the soccer heads "who had the courage and loyalty to support me during the past months."


Michel Platini

Ronaldo, Bale back for Real

AFP

MADRID: Real Madrid have the luxury of welcoming back Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale as they aim to set a new La Liga record with a 17th consecutive win against Villarreal today.

Both Ronaldo and Bale missed Madrid's 2-0 win at Espanyol on Sunday as Real matched the Liga record of 16 wins registered by Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in 2010/11 through illness and a hip injury respectively.

"They are fine. They have trained normally, the two of them are 100 percent," said Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane ahead of the game, yesterday.


Ivory Coast's midfielder Yaya Toure in action.

Toure calls it quit with Ivory Coast

AFP

MANCHESTER: Four-time African footballer of the year Yaya Toure of the Ivory Coast announced his retirement from international football today.

The 33-year-old Manchester City midfielder -- capped 113 times -- said it had been an incredibly difficult decision.

"Writing this note was probably 'the most difficult match of my life'," wrote Toure.

"After 14 years at the highest level, I'm sure this is the right time for me! The fact that I am 33 now, the intensity of training and the multitude of games are not the reasons why I am making this decision."

Toure, part of the golden generation of Ivory Coast players such as Didier Drogba, his brother Kolo Toure and Gervinho, said for all his success at club level, including a Champions League with Barcelona in 2009, it was finally winning the Africa Cup of Nations in 2015 -- their first since 1992 -- that remained his most precious memory.

Toure, who made his Ivory Coast debut in 2004, captained the victorious 'Elephants' side having replaced Drogba as skipper when the latter finally called it a day at international level after the 2014 World Cup.

"I would like to say solemnly that I am stopping!!!" said Toure.

"It's true that I had several titles at clubs, national cups, league trophies.

"I played in Belgium, Ukraine, Greece, France and in Spain where I was able to win the prestigious Champions League with Barca in 2009 and also in England, where I continue to play.

"With the Elephants, it was even more special. I learned to win for my country. That's why I will always retain the pride in having achieved four African Golden Balls for the Ivory Coast."

Simeone eyes long-awaited win against Barca 'the best'


Madrid's Antoine Griezmann celebrates his second goal against Sporting at Vicente Calderon Stadium, Madrid, Spain on Saturday

Atletico knocked off Barca twice in the Champions League but still could not taste victory at Camp Nou

AFP

MADRID: Diego Simeone has one of the few feats to elude his hugely successful spell in charge of Atletico Madrid in his sights on today by claiming a first win in nine attempts at Barcelona's Camp Nou.

Simeone's biggest achievement as Atletico boss came in winning La Liga at Camp Nou with a 1-1 draw in 2014, but despite also dumping Barca out of the Champions League in two of the last three seasons, the Argentine has yet to taste victory in the Catalan capital.

"In almost all the games that we haven't been able to win it has been due to the merit of Barcelona. We have drawn a few games, but possibly we have never deserved to win based on the 90 minutes."

Atletico went ahead in both meetings between the sides at the Camp Nou last season before their quest was undone by early red cards for Filipe Luis and Diego Godin in a 2-1 La Liga defeat in January and for Fernando Torres as Barca won by the same score in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final in April.

Barca's deadly front three of Luis Suarez, Lionel Messi and Neymar have proved too hot even for Atletico's watertight defence to handle, and Simeone insisted Barca remain the best team in Spain despite trailing early La Liga leaders Real Madrid by three points.

"The truth is yes (Barca are the best team). They continue to play brilliant football and have the players that most make the difference individually and collectively. Despite the fact they didn't win the Champions League last year, that puts them in an incredible place." However, Atletico can call on a in-form, superstar forward of their own in Antoine Griezmann.

Euro 2016's top scorer has scored four times in his last two La Liga games as Atletico have bounced back from draws against Alaves and Leganes to open their league campaign to thrash Celta Vigo and Sporting Gijon.

And Simeone backed a campaign led by French sports daily *L'Equipe* yesterday for Griezmann to end Messi and Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo's dominance of the Ballon d'Or for the past eight years.

"Hopefully Antoine will be there because last year he had an enormous season. He has started strongly again this year," added Simeone.

"He is a player that offers us that option and hopefully he maintains that ambition."

Mourinho under pressure to drop Rooney as United toil

AFP

LONDON: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is under pressure to drop Wayne Rooney **(pictured)**, with the captain's clanking performances emblematic of the team's struggles.

United have lost their last three matches and there is clamour among supporters and journalists for Rooney to be removed from the starting XI. In an online poll by the United fanzine Red Issue, over 99 percent of respondents called for him to be axed.

Despite United winning their first three league games, Rooney's lacklustre displays meant his place was already under scrutiny. With United having since lost to Manchester City, Feyenoord, in the Europa League, and Watford, the calls for him to be dropped are getting louder.

Rooney, 30, was rested for last Thursday's trip to Feyenoord, but he has started all of United's other games under Mourinho.

It was a similar story during Louis van Gaal's two-year tenure as manager. The Dutchman sidelined Rooney only once, for a 2-0 defeat at Stoke City on Boxing Day last year. David Moyes, Van Gaal's predecessor, was similarly faithful to the United number 10, whose career he launched at Everton. But Alex Ferguson lost patience with the England captain towards the end of his storied tenure.

Ferguson claimed Rooney had



asked to leave the club for a second time in 2013 and he disappeared from view in the dying days of the Scot's 26-year reign.

Mourinho, whose side host Leicester City on Saturday, has said he would have no qualms about dropping Rooney. "I can take him out. No problem for me to take him out," Mourinho said following United's last-gasp 1-0 win at Hull City last month.

As has been the case for much of his career, debate continues to rage about Rooney's best position. Never quite a true number nine, but not a classic number 10 either, Rooney was deployed in central midfield by Roy Hodgson during England's calamitous Euro 2016 campaign.

Rooney has said he is open to the idea of moving into midfield as his career progresses. Mourinho appeared to nix that ambition, in the short term at least, prior to the season. "For me, Wayne will be a number nine or a number 10 or a number nine-and-a-half," Mourinho said.

"But with me he will never be a number six, not even a number eight." Yet in the loss at Watford, Rooney started the game in a midfield three alongside Marouane Fellaini and record signing Paul Pogba.

Once again he looked off the pace, even after moving into a number 10 role behind Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the second half. A 'highlights' video flagging up his sloppy touches and wayward passing circulated widely on social media.

A knock-on effect of Mourinho's deployment of Rooney as a number 10 is that several of his team-mates have been prevented from playing in their preferred positions. Juan Mata and close-season signing Henrikh Mkhitaryan, both more conventional number 10s, have had to content themselves with wide roles or places on the bench.

Perhaps most worryingly, in using a 4-2-3-1 system to accommodate Rooney at number 10 Mourinho has been fielding Pogba as a holding midfielder, denying him the freedom to attack that he thrived upon at Juventus. Rooney needs only four goals to surpass Bobby Charlton's United scoring record of 249 goals, but his first-team status is more fragile than ever.

Australia call young guns to face Japan and Saudi

AFP

SYDNEY: Austrian-based midfielder James Jeggo could earn his first cap for the Socceroos after being named on Tuesday in Australia's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Saudi Arabia and Japan next month.

Coach Ange Postecoglou has made three changes to the squad, calling up the uncapped Jeggo and Netherlands-based Craig Goodwin, while defender Bailey Wright returns after missing the first two qualifiers through injury. Jeggo, 24, moved to SK Sturm Graz this year after stints with Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United in Australia's A-League.

Asian champions Australia defeated Iraq 2-0 in Perth and the United Arab Emirates 1-0 in Abu Dhabi earlier this month to kick off their final round qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

They face Saudi Arabia, who beat Thailand and Iraq in their first two matches, in Jeddah on October 6 before returning to Melbourne on October 11 to play Japan.

Rodriguez gets five-match ban after horror foul

AFP

BERLIN: Mainz midfielder Jose Rodriguez was on Tuesday hit with a five-match ban and fined 10,000 euros ($11,171) for his horror tackle which left his opponent with a gash to the bone.

Rodriguez was sent off, just eight minutes into his Mainz debut having come off the bench, after his tackle on Augsburg's Dominik Kohr, who needed surgery after receiving a 14cm-long gash which exposed the bone, damaging muscles and tendons.

The sports court of the German Football Federation (DFB) took a dim view of the foul in the dying stages of Sunday's Bundesliga match, which Mainz won 3-1, and earned Rodriguez a straight red card. He personally apologised to Kohr, who will be sidelined for the foreseeable future and Mainz had already said they would fine him.

Mainz coach Martin Schmidt had said the foul was 'not the face of Mainz 05' while Augsburg manager Stefan Reuter branded it 'senseless'.

Rodriguez will next be available on October 29 for Mainz's German league match against Ingolstadt.

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India take on New Zealand with an eye on top ranking

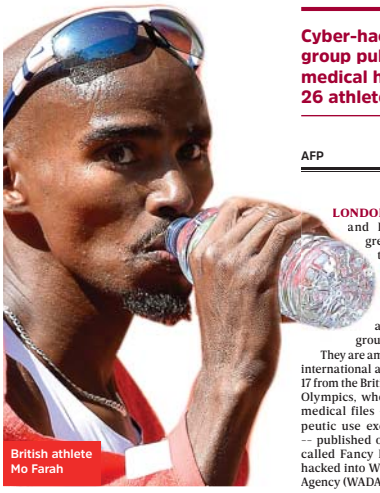
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Nadal, Farah have nothing to hide


British athlete Mo Farah

Cyber-hacking group publishes medical history of 26 athletes

AFP

LONDON: Rafael Nadal and British Olympic great Mo Farah said they have nothing to hide after their medical records were the latest to be leaked by a cyber-hacking group on Monday.

They are among more than 60 international athletes, including 17 from the British team at the Rio Olympics, who have had their medical files -- mostly therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) -- published online by the so-called Fancy Bears, who have hacked into World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) records.

There is no suggestion that any of the named athletes -- among them some of the biggest names in sport -- have done anything wrong.

Spanish tennis ace Nadal and four-time Olympic champion distance runner Farah were shown to have used TUEs in the past to gain permission to take substances that figure on WADA's banned list.

TUEs can be issued to athletes who have an illness or condition that requires the use of normally prohibited medication.

"When you ask permission to take something for therapeutic reasons and they give it to you, you're not taking anything prohibited," Nadal, a 14-time Grand Slam winner, told Spanish media.

Nadal, who has twice been granted a TUE, said he had never taken anything to improve his performance but took what doctors advised him was the best medication to care for his troublesome knee.

Far from complaining about the leak of his files -- believed to be the work of Russian hackers -- Nadal said he would support the publishing of all medical records.

"It would be much more beneficial for sportsmen and women, spectators and media that every time a drug test is taken the news is made public and two weeks later there are the results," he added. Nadal and Farah were among 26 athletes in Monday's fourth batch to have their medical history published by Fancy Bears, following the likes of Serena and Venus Williams, American gymnast Simone Biles and British Tour de France-winning cyclists Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome.

There is no suggestion they are involved in any wrongdoing but the leaking of their records has reopened the debate about TUEs and in particular whether the system is open to abuse from competitors gaining an advantage by taking banned drugs.

The first of Farah's two TUEs was in 2008 for the same drug prescribed to fellow Olympic champion Wiggins -- triamcinolone, a type of steroid.

His other exemption was for a saline drip and two pain-killers that the 33-year-old was given after he collapsed in Park City, Utah, where he was training at altitude in 2014. He originally said this 2014 TUE was his only one at a press conference in Birmingham last June when asked about his coach Alberto Salazar, who remains under investigation by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

But a few weeks later in an interview with *Sky Sports News* he mentioned the 2008 triamcinolone injection.

A spokesperson for Farah said: "As Mo has previously stated, he has got nothing to hide and doesn't have a problem with this or any of his (medical) information being released -- as evidenced by the fact that he voluntarily shared his blood data with the Sunday Times last year.


14-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal of Spain

Tabata shines in first round of new QSL season

The Peninsula

DOHA: The first week of Qatar Stars League action saw 24 goals in total, with four attackers taking the limelight with significant contributions to their sides in the opening round of the season.

Leading the way was Al Rayyan's talismanic captain Rodrido Tabata.

The Qatari international bagged the first hat trick of the season against newly promoted Al Shahania. Tabata shared the Mansor Muftah award for the league's top scorer last term, and started the defense of his award in the best possible style.

Tabata's all action style was too much at times for Al Shahania, particularly in the second half when the Oryxes began to tire. Al Rayyan's number ten took full advantage with his final long range effort a perfect example of his shooting capabilities.

Al Ahli's veteran midfielder Meshal Abdulla rolled back the years in round 1 with a match winning performance against Al Gharafa.

Two goals and assist from the Qatar international gave his side a vital 4-2 victory over Al Gharafa side who had been highly rated going into the new season. The 32 year old was at the heart of everything good by Ahli in the final third, and this was characterised by his two late runs into the box resulting in two goals from almost identical Firmin Mubele crosses. Meshal also turned provider setting up team mate Mojtaba Jabbari to cap off a fine individual performance.

Al Sadd attacker Bagdad Bounjah grabbed the headlines with a brace in his sides 4-0 victory over Al Kharitiyat on Friday evening. The Algerian attacker led the line superbly for the Wolves and the opening goal, taking down a chipped cross from Xavi, beating the defender and calmly stroking the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

The young attacker is set for a big year with the Wolves and if he keeps his form could have a chance of lifting the Mansor Muftah award come the end of the season. Lekhwiya's summer signing Yusef El Arabi also looked dangerous in his sides 4-0 hammering of newly promoted Muaither. The Morrocan hit man just took nine minutes to open his sides scoring, latching onto a Nam Tae Hee pass before rifling the ball into the back of the net.

It was the second goal in as many games for the former Granada attacker who scored in his competitive debut against Al Rayyan in the Sheikh Jassim Cup.


Al Rayyan's captain Rodrido Tabata (right) vies for the ball possession with an AL Shahaniya player during their Qatar Stars League match played at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium last Saturday.

Al Shahaniya sweat on injured Khalfan and Al Hamad

The Peninsula

DOHA: Qatar Stars League side Al Shahaniya will be sweating on the fitness on the duo of Fahad Khalfan and Mesaad Al Hamad ahead of their crunch match against newly promoted side Muaither at the weekend.

Both players suffered knocks during Shahaniya's 3-0 defeat to reigning QSL champions Al Rayyan on Friday evening at Al Sadd Stadium. Al Shahaniya's medical team will now assess the pair to see if they will be able to partake in training before the game at Al Arabi stadium.

In other team news, Al Shahaniya will be without experienced Spanish defender Alvaro Meija for the tie against Muaither. Meija has the dubious honour of being the first player to be sent off in the QSL this season, after picking up two yellow cards in the defeat to Al Rayyan.

Qatar women win West Asian Handball Championship

QNA

DOHA: Qatar Women Handball team beat Jordan 22-19 to win the title of the Inaugural West Asian Women's Handball Championship 2016 in Doha on Monday.

At the victory ceremony, the Vice President of Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), Sheikh Saud bin Ali Al Thani and the Executive Director of Asian Handball Federation (AHF) Dr. Ahmed Abu-Alail crowned the Qatari side in a festive scene, according to QOC.

The Chairwoman of Qatar Women Sport Committee (QWSC) Ahlam Al Mane and the Secretary General of Qatar Handball Association (QHA) Mohammed Jaber Al Mulla crowned the runner-up Jordan team.

The prestigious event was organized by the Qatar Women Sport Committee (QWSC) in collaboration with the Qatar Handball Association (QHA) under the supervision of Asian Handball Federation.

FIFA extends bans globally in 6 doping cases

AP

ZURICH: FIFA says its disciplinary panel extended bans to apply worldwide in doping cases for six players in Africa, Asia and Europe.

All the cases were previous judged at confederation or national level bodies, which imposed bans of between six months and four years.

The highest-profile player was Congo international Christian Ngudikama, who tested positive for ephedrine at the African Nations Championship in January. The Confederation of African Football banned Ngudikama for two years through March 30, 2018.

The other cases, including those relating to futsal and second-tier leagues, involved players from Algeria, Belarus, Malta, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.