homes r us
furniture & furnishings
DOHA: Hyatt Plaza, Entrance 1,
Near Khalifa Stadium, Tel: 4469 8999

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision
www.thepeninsulaqatar.com



BUSINESS | 17
Turkey raises rates for first time since 2014

SPORT | 23
El Jaish aim to extend their lead over Al Kharaitiyat



Friday 25 November 2016 | 25 Safar 1438
Volume 21 | Number 6991 | 2 Riyals

Glorious 13+ Years
ENERTECH QATAR®
SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE
Qatar's Largest International Qualifications & Awards Provider
www.enertechqatar.com
P +974 4401 0888 F+974 4401 0889
E sales@enertechqatar.com / admin@enertechqatar.com
Find us on facebook @EnertechQatar

"BEST OPERATOR NETWORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST"
THE TELECOMS WORLD AWARDS MIDDLE EAST 2016
ooredoo

Law on rights of patients with mental illness

Mohammed Osman
The Peninsula

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday issued Law No. 16 of 2016 on mental health that defines the rights of patients with mental disorders and regulates their care and treatment.

The law stipulates punishment not more than three years in jail or fine not more than QR200,000 or both for a doctor who makes a false medical report of a mental patient to force him get admitted in a hospital or to get him discharged.

A similar punishment has been stipulated for anyone who keeps or makes others keep a mentally ill person in an institution that is not designated for mental care. Anyone who mistreat or neglect a mentally sick person in a way that harms him will face not more than one year in jail or fine not more than QR60,000 or both, whether it be his doctor, nurse or guard.

The punishment will be up to three years in jail if the negligence or mistreatment caused the patient disability and any other disease. A similar term in jail or fine up to QR50,000 or both has been stipulated for violating the rights of the patient mentioned in the law.

The law with 35 articles states that a mentally ill person can be treated only in a specialised mental health hospital (private or public) or a psychiatric section or outpatient clinic of a private or public institutions that are licensed to provide mental care or any other place that provides specialised mental health care.

New law issued

- **Punishment not more than three years in jail or fine not more than QR200,000 or both for a doctor who makes a false medical report.**
- **Anyone who mistreat or neglect a mentally sick person will face not more than one year in jail or fine not more than QR60,000 or both, whether it be his doctor, nurse or guard.**

The above institutions must protect the rights of the patient specified by the law. They should explain to the patient all his rights after coming to the hospital in a way he can understand, or to his guardian or relatives, if his condition does not allow that.

The guardian or family members should be told about the diagnosis and medical examination results and treatment available in the institution and how to get it and the treatment plan before the treatment begins.

They should also be told the names and positions of the medical team that is responsible for his treatment, the possible response to the treatment, possible risks , symptoms, side effects, possible alternative treatment and changes in his condition if any.

➔ Continued on page 2



H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation (QF), at the National Reading Campaign's 'Characters' Village' at Education City yesterday.

QF initiative to encourage reading among children

Fazeena Saleem
The Peninsula

Education City's Ceremonial Court and Green Spine has been transformed into a mini world of fantasy with six story book characters in an initiative to encourage reading among children.

H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation (QF), yesterday visited and interacted with children at the National Reading Campaign's 'Characters' Village.'

The 'Characters' Village' is designed around children's fictional characters Little Red Riding Hood, Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland, Joha, Little Lulu, and Sinbad, with activities around each mascot encouraging a 'learning through play' approach. "The need to create new and original tools to help children learn is becoming increasingly important in today's constantly-evolving world," said Sheikha Hind.

"This initiative epitomises that belief, as it aims to encourage curiosity, unlock imagination, and foster a passion for knowledge in young minds. Reading is a fundamental building block of education. Through the 'Characters' Village', and ultimately the National Reading Campaign, we are providing unique and innovative opportunities designed to foster a culture of lifelong learning. We want to inspire today's children to pursue passions both inside and outside of the classroom, and equip them with the skills and abilities to become well-rounded, successful individuals," she added.

The 'Alice' exploration zone was a centre of attraction of the 'Character's Village'. It allows children to interact with mascots of characters of the fiction Alice in Wonderland. Children experience the 'garden party', meet popular characters such as 'White Rabbit' and 'Cheshire Cat'. Also story telling sessions are held in English and Arabic.

A digital graffiti wall, several storytelling areas, book maze station and educational games as well as the Campaign's Reading Truck are also designed to inspire children to start reading. The Village will be open to the public from 3pm to 11pm today and 11am to 11pm tomorrow.

The Campaign aims to create a national drive to communicate the importance of reading, and to create interest in reading amongst all residents, especially children and young people under the age of eighteen years.

➔ See also page 16

Recruitment committee for Independent Schools set up

The Peninsula

Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr Mohammed Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi issued a decision forming a committee for recruiting staff in administrative positions in Independent Schools.

The committee will be chaired by the head of the Department of School Affairs and Director of Human Resource Department will be the vice-chairman.

Members will include head of employment section, head of the Department of Employees Affairs, head of Department of Teacher's Affairs and an expert on Human Resources who will be assigned by the Minister himself.

Among the mandates given to the committee is to find out the number of vacant administrative positions in the schools, and set up an employment plan every academic year.

The plan need to be approved by the Minister of Education and Higher Education.

The committee which will meet twice a month, is authorised to consider redistribution and transfer of administrative employees in the schools in line with organisational structures and the approved plan.

The committee has also been authorised to form sub-committees to conduct specific tasks like field studies or assessments.

The committee will directly report to the Minister and offer him suggestions and recommendations.

More showers likely today

The Meteorology Department has forecast further rains today and tomorrow as the country is experiencing unstable weather conditions.

Some parts of the country, especially the north, received scattered rains yesterday while a cloudy weather blanketed the city the whole day.

The Met office said yesterday that the unstable weather forebodes more showers over the weekend, extending to most areas of the country.

Most parts could receive moderate to heavy rains today and tomorrow, becoming thundery at times, accompanied with hail and strong winds, the Department said in a statement. Scattered rains could continue until Tuesday, expected to be light to moderate. Weather would become gradually stable on Wednesday. The Department has urged the public to be cautious and avoid sea activities during this period.



A cyclist pedals along the Corniche under cloudy skies in Doha yesterday.
Pic: Salim Matramkot / The Peninsula

Windfall for Indians as rupee hits record low

Huda N V
The Peninsula

Expatriates in Qatar are in for higher windfalls, as the US dollar has climbed against a number of currencies. The Indian rupee hit a record low of 18.89 against the dollar-pegged Qatari riyal (QR), yesterday.

The Indian rupee fell to a record low of 68.86 against one US dollar, pressured by a rallying US dollar, capital outflows from emerging markets, and worries about the country's demonetisation drive, which began earlier this month. The rupee breached its previous low of 68.85 to the dollar set in August 2013, when the country was mired in its worst currency crisis in more than two decades.

A rise in the US dollar is good news for expatriates, given that the local currency is pegged to the greenback. A higher dollar means expatriates get to send home more pesos, rupees or euros with their hard-earned riyals.

Most expatriates usually keep a portion of their monthly income for remittance to their countries when rates are favourable. The rupee's slump means that Indian expats get better value for their money —particularly low-income workers.

"Almost all Asian currencies have fallen against the rising US dollars, with the Indian rupee falling to its record low. The gold prices have also fallen," said Zubair Abdulrahiman, Operations Manager, Al Zaman Exchange. "More people are turning up for remittances, and we hope this will increase with many getting salaries over the next week."

➔ Continued on page 2

Dr Al Kawari outlines vision for Unesco

Moscow
QNA

Cultural campaign

Dr Al Kawari meets senior Russian officials on his three-day trip to Moscow.

HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kawari, Cultural Adviser at the Emiri Diwan and Qatar's candidate to the Director General's post at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), has met with Mikhail L Bogdanov, Special Representative of the President of Russia in the Middle East/Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, as part of his election campaign.

During the meeting, Dr Al Kawari gave a detailed explanation of his vision for the advancement of Unesco, and thanked the Russian government for granting him an opportunity to hold meetings with officials in various ministries. The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister praised the excellent relations between the two friendly countries, wishing the Qatari candidate success.

Dr Al Kawari also met during his three-day visit to Moscow, a number of officials in charge of Unesco's profile in Russia. He met officials from the Russian Foreign Ministry led by Director of the Department of International Organizations Afanasiev Mikhail Yurievich and Amir Bilyalitdinov, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission of the Russian Federation for Unesco and head of the department of international relations and others.

Following a detailed presentation by the Qatari candidate of his vision for Unesco, Dr Al Kawari responded to various questions raised by the Russian side. Russian officials thanked the Qatari candidate on his visit to Moscow which gave an opportunity for a detailed discussion.

Dr Al Kawari also met with Russia's Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Alla Manilova and a number of Russian officials in charge of Unesco's file in the ministry.

During the meeting, Dr Al Kawari commended the cultural relations between Qatar and Russia, and talked about his election campaign, and in particular his vision on heritage and registration of heritage sites and the importance of conservation of World Heritage from disasters due to wars.



H E Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kawari with a senior Russian official in Moscow.

Defence Minister meets Ukrainian official



Minister of State for Defence Affairs H E Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah met yesterday with Chairman of Ukrainian-Qatari Friendship Group at the Ukrainian Parliament, Andrey Artemenko. They reviewed military and technical cooperation.

Emir appoints ambassadors

QNA

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Emiri Decision No 56 of 2016, appointing Sheikh Ali bin Jassim bin Thani bin Jassim Al Thani ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Austria.

The Emir issued Emiri Decision No 57 of 2016, appointing Abdulrahman Mohamed Suleiman Al Khulaifi ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Belgium.

In addition, the Emir issued Emiri Decision No 58 of 2016, appointing Fahad Mohamed Abdullah Al Attiyah ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia.

The Emir also issued Emiri Decision No. 59 of 2016, appointing Abdullah Hussein Mohamed Jaber ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to South Africa.

The decisions are effective from their date of issue and are to be published in the official gazette.

259 entries for Scientific Excellence Awards

The Peninsula

The Scientific Excellence Awards 2016 of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in its 10th edition, have received a total of 259 entries in eight award categories.

The organising committee said that the highest number of nominees have come from elementary schools with 133 entries — preparatory schools 22, and 21 entries from each of the high schools and university.

The committee has also received 17 entries for the 'outstanding teacher' award, 11 nominations from PhD holders and eight for the award of outstanding school.

The deadline for receiving applications was November 14. The judging committees have started assessment of the nominations.

The committees will submit their final reports by the end of December this year.

The winner of the Gold and Platinum awards will be announced for each of the eight categories.

Scientific Excellence Awards 2016 is one of the most important events the country holds every year under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, to honour outstanding students in Qatar with the highest scientific awards with the aim of encouraging educational institutions and students to exert more efforts and enhancing compatibility.

Mental patient can be isolated only by doctor

Continued from page 1

If he is shifted to another place or section within the institution, they must be told about the reasons. The doctors should tell the patient about his health and legal status if his situation allows that. Otherwise his family or guardian should be informed.

The institution should make a full medical report containing all his medical examination and treatment procedures. However, it has the right to keep the report confidential for treatment reasons. The patient has the right to get the treatment in safer and secure environment, respecting his dignity and human rights. The patient can be isolated only through a decision by his doctor and for a limited period. The patient or his guardian has the right to file a complaint if he is isolated without approval.

The patient should not be subject to any medical research without a written approval from his or guardian a or the government body concerned. The patient must be protected from sexual, physical, psychological and financial abuse. The doctor has the right to prevent the patient from leaving the hospital for a maximum 72 hours, if the doctor sees any danger to his health or safety if he goes out.

If the patient escapes from the hospital the police should be alerted. If the patient suffers from other diseases and the treatment is not available in the institution he must be moved to a suitable place under police monitoring. The Minister will issue the necessary decision for implementation of the law, which is effective 60 days after being published in the official gazette.

Arab Justice Ministers Council praises draft laws by Qatar

QNA

The Arab Justice Ministers Council praised yesterday the draft laws presented by Qatar as aiming to enhance cooperation in the legislative field between Arab countries.

Minister of Justice H E Dr Hassan bin Lahdan chaired Qatar's delegation to the meeting. The ministers approved Qatar's membership in the executive office starting from the current session and for two years.

The meeting also reviewed Qatar's notes on a number of laws placed on the meeting's schedule. One of them was a draft for updating the Arab Agreement for counter-terrorism and its strategy. The other was the Arab agreement on anti-money laundering and terrorism finance. The council praised Qatar's efforts in counter-terrorism and anti-money laundering, evident in its signing of all Arab agreements in the field and its cooperation regionally and internationally in counter-terrorism efforts.

The meeting was preceded by another meeting between the GCC ministers, attended by the Minister of Justice, to coordinate their positions and review the schedule of the Arab Justice Ministers Council meeting. They also reviewed decisions relating to GCC legislative integration.

Indians expect further slide in rupee

Continued from page 1

"Many Indians are also expecting further weakening of Indian rupee crossing 70 to a US dollar," Abdulrahiman told *The Peninsula*.

Some exchange houses and bankers here say expatriates with money, including those who have taken bank loans, are largely holding on to cash as they expect the rupee to shed further value against the greenback.

For a worker who earns less than QR1,000 a month, the rupee's depreciation is a valuable opportunity, as QR1,000 will get him more than Rs18,869.

The Philippine peso plunged to more than 13.70 per riyal while Srilankan rupee reached 40.70 per riyal.

Studio in fire station fuels artists' creativity

Raynald C Rivera
The Peninsula

The second batch of artists under the Fire Station "Artist in Residence" programme considers the project a golden opportunity to grow as an artist and an excellent platform to reach out to a bigger audience.

"I like everything about it. First of all, the space provides an environment conducive to work. Second is the attention that we get as an artist. A lot of people know about us because it's hard for artists to be known," Qatari artist Hana Al Saadi told *The Peninsula* at the first open studio yesterday.

Al Saadi, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQ), is currently doing sculpture and photography work on a ballerina in abayat.

Another Qatari artist Maryam Ahmed shared the same view saying "it's an opportunity for me to improve myself and for other people to see my work, to be known, and connect with them."

A portrait artist, Ahmed has already finished ten pieces since the start of the programme two months ago.

"It's incredible. I can't believe how gorgeous the space is. I love coming here and concentrate on what I'm working on. The environment is very supportive; all the people here are very supportive," said Zoe Hawk, who currently teaches at VCUQ Community Education Program.

"It gives me time and space to concentrate, which helps me develop my ideas as well as technically. Meeting new artists is a great way to grow as an artist myself," added Hawk, whose work in progress focuses on girlhood.

Zach Stensen, whose practice encompasses drawing, print media and artist books, sees the programme as a 'melting pot' of various artists from diverse backgrounds.



Artist in Residence Zoe Hawk at one of the studios in the Fire Station.
Pic: Abdul Basit / The Peninsula

"I think it is a great opportunity for artists living in Doha. A lot of people living here are also from other parts of the world. This is a place where everybody can come together, work, share and see what is being made here in Qatar," said Stensen.

Twenty artists have been chosen from over 150 Qatari artists and residents who applied for the second cycle of the nine-month residency programme. Launched last year, the programme is hosted at the Doha Fire Station building and aims to create a space that offers an indigenous, local approach to creativity and artistic production.

Israel evacuates thousands as fire spreads in northern city

Haifa
AP

A wildfire roared through parts of Israel's third-largest city yesterday, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes and prompting a rare call-up of hundreds of military reservists to join over stretched police and firefighters. Spreading quickly due to dry, windy weather, the fire raced through Haifa's northern neighbourhoods. While there were no serious injuries, several dozen people were hospitalised for smoke inhalation.

Police and firefighters were deployed throughout the city, as people loaded up supermarket carts with belongings and fled their homes. Some people connected hoses together from apartment buildings to help battle the fires, while residents held cloth over their faces.

The blaze was the largest of several fires to erupt across the country in recent days. The rash of fires is the worst since 2010, when Israel suffered the single deadliest wildfire in its history. That blaze burned out of control for four days, killed 42 people and was extinguished only after firefighting aircraft arrived from as far away as the United States.

Israel has strengthened its firefighting abilities since then, buying special planes that can drop large quantities of water on affected areas. Several countries, including Russia, Cyprus, Turkey, Croatia and Greece — were also sending assistance to battle this week's blazes.

Guy Catlan, who runs a gas station in Haifa, told Channel 10 TV that workers turned the power off and were helping firefighters to prevent flames from reaching it. "There is a very large quantity of fuel here, it is very dangerous to the entire area, it could be a big catastrophe," he said. Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police were investigating all possible causes for the wildfires, including arson.



A fire raging in the northern Israeli port city of Haifa. Hundreds fled their homes on the outskirts of the country's third city with others trapped inside as firefighters struggled to control raging bushfires.

Residents of eight neighbourhoods in the northern city of Haifa were told to evacuate their homes on Thursday afternoon, he said. Rosenfeld did not know how many people were affected, but media reports said tens of thousands live in the affected areas.

The military said it deployed two search and rescue battalions in order to assist civilian efforts. It also called up about 500 reserve soldiers to back up the police and fire departments.

Several roads and schools were closed in some areas of Haifa. Mayor Yonah Yahav told Channel 2 TV there were several fires in his city. Yahav also said there were indications one of the fires was caused when "someone tossed a cigarette in an area full of oil and flammable fluids" in an industrial zone. A spokesman for Israel's fire and rescue service, Yoram Levy, told the station that firefighters were working around the clock. He said the fires in Haifa "are probably arson," and that there was an attempt to torch a fire station.

Iraq: Over 80 dead in IS truck bombing

Baghdad
Agencies

A suicide truck bomb killed more than 80 people, most of them Iranian Shia pilgrims, at a petrol station in the city of Hilla 100 km south of Baghdad yesterday, police and medical sources said.

Islamic State (IS), the ultra hardline Sunni militant group that considers all Shias to be apostates, claimed responsibility the attack in an online statement. The pilgrims were en route back to Iran from the Iraqi Shia city of Kerbala. The gas station has a restaurant in its premises that is popular with travellers. Five pilgrim buses were torched by the force of the blast from the explosives-laden truck, a police official said.

Iranian Shias targeted

Most of the victims are Iranian Shia pilgrims. Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility of the attack in the city of Hilla.

IS has intensified attacks over the past month in areas out of its control in efforts to weaken a US-backed military offensive launched on October 17 to retake Mosul, the last major city under IS control in Iraq.

Iraqi forces battled the IS group deep inside Mosul yesterday, piling pressure on jihadists who have no more escape routes but leaving trapped civilians in the crossfire.

Elite forces gained new ground in east Mosul, looking for fresh momentum as stiffer-than-expected IS resistance threatened to bog down the five-week-old offensive against the jihadists' last major stronghold in Iraq.

Maan Al Saadi, a commander with the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), said on the front line in Mosul that his forces were battling IS in the neighbourhood of Al-Khadraa in Iraq's second city. "They cannot flee. They have two choices — give up or die," he said.

Troops capture three more neighbourhoods in Mosul

Bghdad
AP

IRAQI troops yesterday drove Islamic State (IS) militants from three more neighbourhoods in the northern city of Mosul, pushing toward the city centre in a slow, street-to-street fight that's now in its sixth week, according to a senior Iraqi commander.

Brig Gen Haider Fadhil of the special forces said that his men have retaken the neighborhoods of Amn, Qahira and Green Apartments and were expanding their foothold in the densely populated district of Zohour. The neighbourhoods are all in the eastern sector of Mosul, east of the Tigris River, where most of the fighting has taken place since the government's campaign to liberate the city began on October 17. Government troops are backed by US-led coalition airstrikes against IS positions in the city. Mosul, captured by IS in 2014, is the last major urban centre still held by the Sunni extremist group in Iraq.

Turkish army blames Syria regime for deadly air strike

Ankara
AFP

The Turkish army blamed the Syrian regime for an air strike yesterday in northern Syria that killed three soldiers, the first time it has accused Damascus of killing its soldiers since launching its three-month military incursion.

The incident came on the first anniversary of the shooting down of a Russian military jet over the Syrian border by the Turkish air force. That led to a seven-month crisis in relations between Turkey and Russia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad that has provided military support to Damascus.

The army said the strike took place at 3:30am (0030 GMT) without indicating where in Syria, although local media said it took place in the Al Bab region.

"In the air strike assessed to have been by Syrian regime forces, three of our heroic soldiers were killed and 10 soldiers wounded, one seriously," the armed forces said in a statement on its website. Turkish media reported earlier that the attack was by Islamic State (IS) militants.

The prime ministry slapped a broadcasting ban on coverage of the strike an hour after the military's statement, Turkey's broadcast watchdog said on its website.

The injured soldiers were taken to hospitals in Turkey's southeastern cities of Kilis and Gaziantep close to the Syrian border, the official news agency *Anadolu* said.



Economic reforms weigh on Kuwait parliament polls

Kuwait
Reuters

KUWAITIS vote tomorrow for a new parliament the government hopes will help push through reforms to a lavish welfare state to curb a budget deficit caused by weak oil prices.

Nearly 300 candidates are vying for 50 seats in an assembly that has legislative powers but which critics say has long acted as a drag on attempts to strengthen fiscal discipline in one of the world's wealthiest countries.

The parliament was due to run until July 2017, but the emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, dissolved it in October, saying "security challenges" in the region - an apparent reference to wars in Iraq and Syria - should be met by consulting the popular will.

Alarm over Cairo's new move on NGOs

Cairo
Reuters

An Egyptian bill regulating non-governmental organisations is so restrictive it effectively bans human rights work and makes it harder for charities to operate, activists and development workers say.

The bill, passed by parliament last week but subject to a final vote, restricts NGO activity to developmental and social work and introduces jail terms of up to five years for non-compliance.

Egyptian rights activists say they face the worst crackdown in their history under general-turned-president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who they accuse of erasing freedoms won in a 2011 uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule.

The government had been working for years on a new law regulating NGOs, which human rights groups feared would be more restrictive than Mubarak-era rules. But the bill that was drafted and rushed through by MPs last week is more draconian than anything the government had considered, introducing oversight into the funding and work of charitable and development groups with no political links.

"It is just easier for the government and for us to issue a law banning NGOs instead of beating around the bush with this bill," said Mohamed Zaree, Egypt programme director at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. Social Solidarity Minister Ghada Waly who oversees the NGO sector did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016 | The Peninsula Local focus, Global vision

Morality & ethics in Islam

The word "morality" comes from the Latin word *moralitas* meaning "manner, character, and proper behaviour". Morality generally refers to a code of conduct, that an individual, group or society hold as authoritative, in distinguishing right from wrong. Such an ideal code of conduct is often espoused in preference to other alternatives.

Islam as a comprehensive way of life encompasses a complete moral system that is an important aspect of its world-view. We live in an age where good and evil are often looked at as relative concepts. Islam however, holds that moral positions are not relative, and instead, defines a universal standard by which actions may be deemed moral or immoral.

Islam's moral system is striking in that it not only defines morality, but also guides the human race in how to achieve it, at both an individual as well as a collective level.

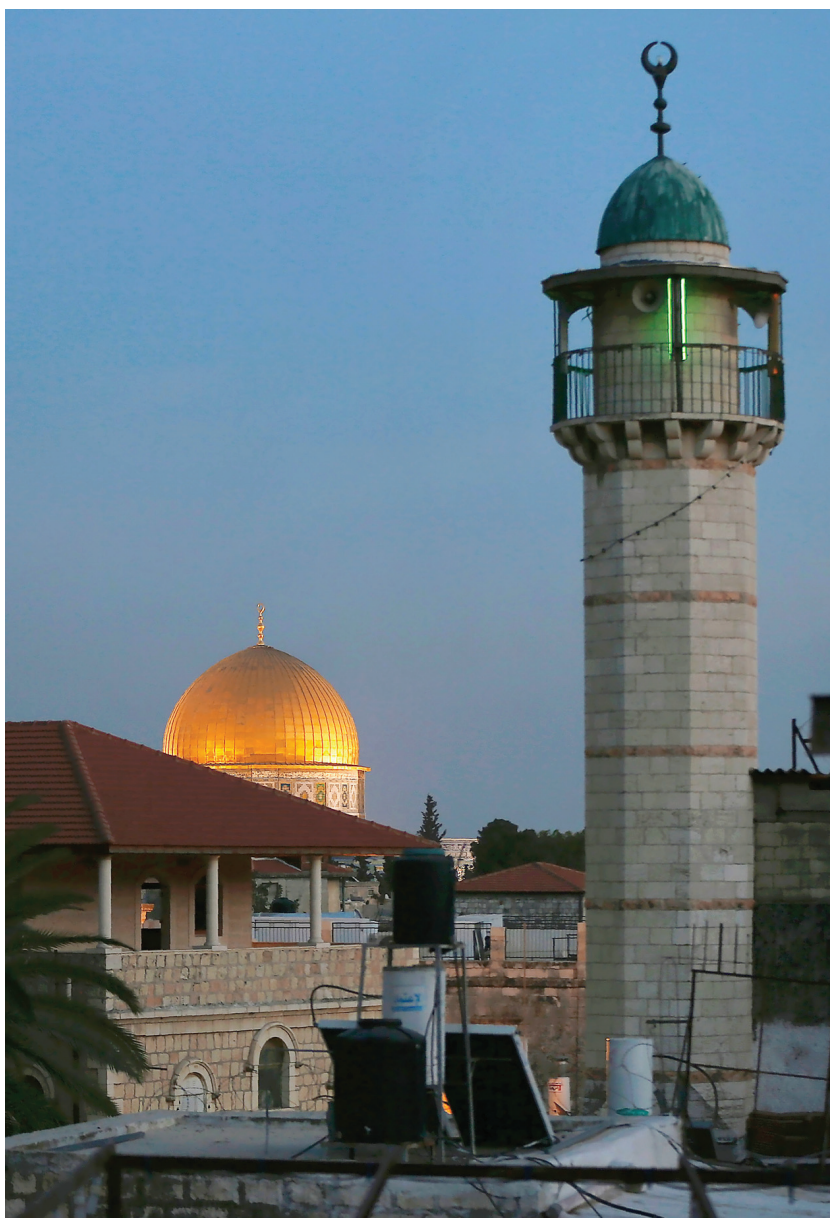
The Islamic moral system stems from its primary creed of belief in One God as the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. Islam considers the human race to be a part of God's creation, and as His subjects.

From an Islamic perspective, the purpose of human life is to worship God, by leading this worldly life in harmony with the Divine Will, and thereby achieve peace in this world, and everlasting success in the life of the hereafter. Muslims look to the Glorious Quran and the Traditions of the Prophet as their moral guides.

The Glorious Quran says: "It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing." (Al Quran 2:177)

This verse underscores the Islamic belief that righteousness and piety is based, before all else on a true and sincere faith. The key to virtue and good conduct is a strong relation with God, who sees all, at all times and everywhere. He knows the secrets of the hearts and the intentions behind all actions. Therefore, Islam enjoins moral behaviour in all circumstances; God is aware of each one when no one else is. It may be possible to deceive the world, but it's not possible to deceive the Creator. The love and continuous awareness of God and the Day of Judgment enables man to be moral in conduct and sincere in intentions, with devotion and dedication.

The Glorious Quran says: "It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces towards east or west; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing."
(Al Quran 2:177)



The Glorious Quran also says: Say: the things that my Lord hath indeed forbidden are: shameful deeds, whether open or secret; sins and trespasses against truth or reason; assigning of partners to Allah, for which He hath given no authority; and saying things about Allah of which ye have no knowledge. (Al Quran 7:33)

It is interesting that the Quran refers to "sins and trespasses against truth or reason". It is an indication of God's blessing to every human being, of an innate moral sense. Such a moral sense, when uncorrupted by family or society, is what leads people to commendable acts of virtue. Islam aims to enhance and amplify the moral sense in every human being and adorn the individual's character with the noblest of virtues.

The Islamic moral principles therefore, appeal naturally to the human intellect, while elevating the pursuit of morality to the level of worship. This is because Islam holds every action that is done with the goal of attaining of God's pleasure to be worship.

Morality and the individual

The guiding principle for the behaviour of a Muslim is what the Quran refers to as Al `Amal Assalih or virtuous deeds. This term covers all deeds, not just the outward acts of worship.

Some of the most primary character traits expected of a Muslim are piety, humility and a profound sense of accountability to God. A Muslim is expected to be humble before God and with other people. Islam also enjoins upon every Muslim to exercise control of their passions and desires.

Islam warns against vanity and excessive attachment to the ephemeral pleasures of this world. While it is easy to allow the material world to fill our hearts, Islam calls upon human beings to keep God in their hearts and to use the material world in moderation and in accordance with God's guidance. The Glorious Quran says: "The Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, but only he (will prosper) that brings to Allah a sound heart" (Al Quran: 26:88-89)

Charity is one of the most commendable acts in Islam. In fact, Zakah, the annual charity that is obligatory on every Muslim who has accrued wealth above a certain level, is one of the pillars of Islam. Gratitude in prosperity, patience in adversity, and the courage to uphold the truth, even when inconvenient to oneself, are just some of the qualities that every Muslim is encouraged to cultivate.

Morality and Society

For an individual as well as a society, morality is one of the fundamental sources of strength, just as immorality is one of the main causes of decline. While respecting the rights of the individual within a broad Islamic framework, Islam is also concerned with the moral health of the society.

Thus, everything that leads to the welfare of the individual and the society is morally good in Islam, and whatever is harmful is morally bad.

Given its importance to a healthy and just society, Islam supports morality and matters that lead to the enhancement of morality, and stands in the way of corruption and matters that lead to the spreading of corruption. The injunctions and prohibitions in Islam are to be seen in this light

Morality in Islam addresses every aspect of a Muslim's life, from greetings to international relations. It is universal in its scope and in its applicability.

A Muslim is expected to not only be virtuous, but to also enjoin virtue. He/She must not only refrain from evil and vice, but must also actively engage in asking people to eschew them. In other words, they must not only be morally healthy, but must also contribute to the moral health of society as a whole.

The Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) summarised the conduct of a Muslim when he said: "My Sustainer has given me nine commands: to remain conscious of God, whether in private or in public; to speak justly, whether angry or pleased; to show moderation both when poor and when rich, to reunite friendship with those who have broken off with me; to give to him who refuses me; that my silence should be occupied with thought; that my looking should be an admonition; and that I should command what is right."

Justice: Islam's ultimate value

Khalid Baig

There is one word that captures the essence of all Islamic laws and all Islamic teachings; one word that describes the overriding value that permeates all Islamic values. Justice.

The Quran says: "We sent aforetime our messengers with clear Signs and sent down with them the Book and the Balance, that men may stand forth in Justice." (Al Hadeed 57:25).

The sole purpose of sending the prophets was to establish Justice in the world and end injustice. Broadly speaking, doing justice means giving everyone his due. But this simple statement camouflages all the complexities of life in their myriad and ever-changing relations; all the temptations; all the apprehensions and concerns; all the conflicts and dilemmas. To guide the people, Allah sent down the prophets with clear signs, the Book, and the Balance. The Book contains the revelations that spell out what's fair and unfair or right and wrong. The Balance refers to our ability to measure and calculate so we can follow the path shown by the Book and explained by the Prophets.

Together these sources taught us what are the rights of Allah, of other people, and of our own persons on us and how to balance them. A life lived in obedience to Allah, then, is a continuous balancing act, both individually and collectively.

Under normal circumstances many people can be just. But Islam commands its followers to be just even in the face of strong conflicting emotions. In dealing with other human beings, two major impediments to justice are love and hatred. See how the Quran teaches us to overcome the first impediment when we are dealing with our closest relatives or even ourselves. "O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do." (Annisa 4:35)

Here is the resolution from the Quran of the perennial conflict between self-interest and justice. Be just, even if it is against your narrowly defined self-interest or of those very close to you. Ignorant people think they are protecting their self-interest by being unjust to others. Their decision to be just or unjust may be based on a cold calculation of self-interest. But real faith in Allah elevates one beyond that narrow-mindedness. These verses remind us that the real protector of interests of all people is also Allah and He will protect us when we follow His command to be just. The justice demanded by Islam permits no favouritism.

The other equally potent impediment is hatred. Here again Quran commands: "O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah, as witnesses to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to Piety: and fear Allah. For Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do." (Al Maidah 5:8)

In other words you cannot do injustice even when you are dealing with the enemy. The natural, uneducated, and uncivilized tendency is to treat the enemy as less than a human being; one who has no rights and deserves no justice or fairness. It was as true in the pre-Islamic tribal jahilya (based on ignorance) society as it is today.

See how Islam directly curbs it. It is a command to the believers, with a reminder that Allah is watching you, that enmity of others cannot be used as an excuse for committing injustices against them.

Justice does require retribution and Islam does call for, "an eye for an eye." But it does not mean an innocent eye for an innocent eye; it means the eye of the perpetrator for the eye of the victim. It is amazing how those who call the latter as barbaric, actually rally for the former when a real crisis develops.

Fourteen hundred years ago these commands created a society where rich and poor, friend and foe, Muslim and non-Muslim, the ruler and the ruled, were all treated equally and all of them could count on receiving justice. The qazis (judges) were independent and no one, including the khalifah was above the law. If a dispute arose between the Khalifah and an ordinary person, both had to appear in court and provide their evidence. Islamic history is full of stories of this justice that filled the earth wherever Muslims ruled in their golden era.

Even during their period of decline, we find sporadic incidents that are just unparalleled. One example from recent history may suffice here. During the British Rule in India, once a dispute arose between Hindus and Muslims over a piece of land. Hindus claimed it belonged to a temple while Muslims claimed it to be mosque. Emotions were high on both sides and the possibility of a riot was real. The English judge could not find any means of ascertaining the truth.

Under normal circumstances many people can be just. But Islam commands its followers to be just even in the face of strong conflicting emotions. In dealing with other human beings, two major impediments to justice are love and hatred. See how the Quran teaches us to overcome the first impediment when we are dealing with our closest relatives or even ourselves. "O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do."
(Annisa 4:35)

It was one group's words against the other's. Finally the Judge asked both groups if they could trust the testimony of any person.

They could. It was a particular Muslim imam (religious leader) who was known for his piety. The person was requested to come to the court as a witness in a very charged atmosphere, with the entire community urging him to help them win the case through his testimony. His testimony was brief. "The Hindus are right," he said. "The Muslim case is baseless." He had not betrayed the community. He had once more affirmed its unflinching commitment to truth and justice above all else.

That is the justice the world needs today.

"Allah doth command you to render back your Trusts to those to whom they are due; and when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice: verily how excellent is the teaching which He gives you! For Allah is He Who hears and sees all things." (Annisa 4:58).

Nigeria govt blamed for 'excessive' bloodshed

Lagos
Reuters

Amnesty International accused Nigerian security forces yesterday of killing at least 150 peaceful advocates of Biafra's secession from Africa's most populous nation, but the military and police dismissed the allegations.

An army spokesman said Amnesty's statement, the latest in a series of allegations of impropriety levelled against Nigeria's military in the last year, aimed to tarnish the security forces' reputation. The police said they did not attack people holding demonstrations.

Amnesty said the military fired live ammunition, with little or no warning, to disperse members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group between August 2015 and August 2016.

Its 60-page report based on interviews with 193 people, 87 videos and 122 photographs from that period also said troops and the police used "arbitrary, abusive and excessive force to disrupt gatherings".

Misconduct

Amnesty's report based on interviews with 193 people, 87 videos and 122 photographs from that period said that troops and the police used "arbitrary, abusive and excessive force to disrupt gatherings".

The military and other security agencies exercised maximum restraints despite the flurry of provocative and unjustifiable violence: Army spokesman

Secessionist feeling has simmered in the southeast since the Biafra separatist rebellion tipped the west African country into a 1967-1970 civil war that killed an estimated 1 million people.

It flared up again last year after IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu was detained on charges of criminal conspiracy and belonging to an illegal society. That prompted supporters of Kanu to hold protests that Amnesty said were dispersed with live ammunition.

Army spokesman Sani Usman said Biafra separatists had behaved violently, killing five policeman at a protest in May and attacking both military and police vehicles.

"The military and other security agencies exercised maximum restraints despite the flurry of provocative and unjustifiable violence," said Usman.

Nigeria Police Force spokesman Don Awunah said officers "always abide by the law" and adhere to best practices. "We don't attack people who are demonstrating, which every Nigerian has a right to do".

Witnesses said that some protesters had thrown stones, burned tyres and shot at the police but added that "these acts of violence did not justify the level of force used against the assembly".

"This reckless and trigger-happy approach to crowd control has caused at least 150 deaths," said Makmid Kamara, interim director of Amnesty International Nigeria.

He said the deployment of troops at the events seemed "in large part to blame for this excessive bloodshed".



Rescue workers search at the site where a power plant's cooling tower under construction collapsed in Fengcheng, China, yesterday.

67 dead in China power plant mishap

Beijing
Reuters

A platform under construction at a power plant in eastern China collapsed early yesterday, killing at least 67 people, and trapping one worker in the debris, state media said.

Two injured workers were taken to hospital soon after the 7am accident at the plant in Fengcheng in Jiangxi province, state television said recently, revising down an earlier figure of five.

It put the death toll at 67, and said rescuers were trying to free one trapped worker.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has ordered an investigation, demanding that those responsible for the accident should be held accountable, the central government said.

"Strengthen supervision and preventive measures, prevent such a major accident from happening again," it cited Li as saying in a statement on its website.

Xinhua did not identify the type of power plant, but previous state media reports have said it was coal-powered.

China has vowed to improve safety at such facilities. President Xi Jinping has said authorities would learn the lessons paid for with blood after chemical blasts in the port city of Tianjin killed more than 170 people last year.

Hong Kong customs seized Singapore armoured vehicles

Hong Kong
AFP

Armoured vehicles belonging to the Singapore military were seized by Hong Kong customs at a major port in the city after arriving from Taiwan, according to reports yesterday.

Singapore's defence ministry confirmed the seizure in a statement yesterday evening.

Without mentioning Taiwan, the Ministry of Defence (Mindef) said a shipment of Terrex Infantry Carrier Vehicles (ICVs) and other military equipment have been held in Hong Kong due to a "request for routine inspections by the Hong Kong Customs authorities".

"Singapore authorities are providing relevant assistance to Hong Kong Customs and expect the shipment to return to Singapore expeditiously."

"The Terrex ICVs were used by the Singapore Armed Forces in routine overseas training and shipped back via commercial means as with previous exercises."

The ministry did not specify the number of vehicles seized or the other equipment involved.



Six of the nine armoured troop carriers belonging to Singapore, from a shipment detained at a container terminal, are seen in Hong Kong, yesterday.

Burundi says no to UN probe into rights abuses

Nairobi
Reuters

Burundi refused yesterday to cooperate with a United Nations inquiry into months of political violence, saying accusations of abuses by its officials were part of a political plot.

The United Nations announced the inquiry this week to identify perpetrators in the central African state, which has been riven by clashes and killings since protests erupted in 2105 against the president's decision to seek a third term.

"We are not involved in the investigation to be carried out by this commission," Burundi's human rights minister, Martin Nivyabandi, said.

"We are not refusing to cooperate with human rights institutions (on all matters) ... we will continue to cooperate on other issues but will not be part of the investigation."

The United Nations released a report by independent experts in September identifying government officials suspected of ordering political opposition to be tortured or killed.

The allegations infuriated the government, who banned the three experts from the Burundi.

Nivyabandi said yesterday that the September (this year) report was "politically oriented" and warned "there are some international organizations whose goal is to destabilize some governments in Africa."

Ancient city of Ayutthaya in danger from flooding

Bangkok
Reuters

Sprawling urban growth and water management problems are threatening conservation efforts at Thailand's ancient city of Ayutthaya, experts say.

The Unesco World Heritage site located some 80km north of the capital, Bangkok, was once among the world's wealthiest cities and a major trading port from the 14th to 18th centuries.

Today, the city attracts tourists from around the world who come to admire the ruins and stone Buddha statues at Ayutthaya, once the ancient capital of Thailand, then known as Siam.

However, poor urban planning and its impact on water management in the low-lying area pose a threat to the historic park, said Montira Horayangura Unakul, National Professional Officer with Unesco's Culture Unit.

"Half the island is protected as a historic park and is also a world heritage site and the eastern half is where a lot of the modern development has taken place," Montira said.

Rapid development has fuelled concern over the area's capacity to defend against floods.



The ruins of the ancient city of Ayutthaya, in Thailand.

Devastating floods in Thailand in 2011, which killed more than 900 people and cost billions of dollars, hit Ayutthaya.

Dozens of temples were inundated for weeks, although most suffered little damage.

"Once the waters receded there didn't seem to be too much damage," said Montira.

"However, after that we found residual effects for example to mural paintings."

"An issue we are trying to address now is knowing what the ancient materials used in Ayutthaya were and what the composition of them was".

16 dead & dozens homeless in CAR clashes: UN

Bangui
AFP

Clashes between rival armed groups in the Central African Republic have left at least 16 people dead and displaced several thousand civilians, the UN said, warning of "targeted assassinations" against ethnic Fulani.

"There have been at least 16 confirmed death and thousands displaced," Vladimir Monteiro, spokesman for United Nations peacekeeping force MINUSCA, said in a statement.

The violence erupted on Monday between rival factions of the former "Seleka" rebel group in the town of Bria, 400km northeast of Bangui.

MINUSCA said on Tuesday that one of its bases had come under fire during the clashes before its troops drove the attackers out with retaliatory gunfire.

It announced reinforcements were being sent to the base to protect some 5,000 civilians sheltering there.

The fighting broke out between the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic (FPRC) and the Union for Peace in Central Africa (UPC).

The two factions are fighting for control of taxes levied on Fulani herders during the current seasonal migration.

Lambert Lissane, a senior FPRC official, said the group and other ex-Seleka armed groups were negotiating a deal with the government but that UPC chief Ali Darass did not want to take part.

"We have decided to stand together against him," Lissane said.

The government is trying to bring together 14 armed groups under a disarmament deal to consolidate a fragile peace in the former French colony, where militias are flourishing in the power vacuum left by a weak state.

France last month withdrew a military mission it deployed in December 2013 to stabilise the country, leaving the United Nations 12,500-strong MINUSCA peacekeeping mission to protect civilians from armed groups.

International donors last week pledged $2.2bn in aid for the strife-torn country.

Police nab Chinese man with 18 rhino horns

Johannesburg
AFP

South African police yesterday said they had arrested a Hong Kong-bound Chinese man found with 18 rhino horns hidden in his luggage.

He was detained on Wednesday at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport after an anonymous tip-off.

"The 28-year-old male, who was in transit from Namibia to board a South African Airways flight to Hong Kong, was immediately arrested," the organised crime police unit said in a statement. "The horns, weighing 43 kilogrammes, were valued at around $467,000".

He is due to appear in court on Friday.

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016 | The Peninsula Local focus, Global vision

US and China agree on N Korea sanctions: UN

United Nations
Reuters

The United States and China have agreed on new UN sanctions to impose on North Korea over the nuclear test it conducted in September, but Russia is delaying action on a draft resolution, a senior Security Council diplomat said.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, believed China could persuade Russia to agree to the new sanctions and that the 15-member Security Council could vote on the draft resolution as early as next week.

Since North Korea's fifth and largest nuclear test on September 9, the United States and China, a close ally of North Korea, have been negotiating a new draft Security Council resolution to punish Pyongyang.

That draft text was recently given to the remaining three permanent council veto powers - Britain, France and Russia.

"The (permanent five members) are getting very close to agreement on a draft resolution," the diplomat said.

Draft resolution

- **Two other council diplomats confirmed China has agreed to new sanctions but that Russia had some issues.**
- **The senior diplomat said the draft resolution closes loopholes in sanctions imposed on North Korea by the council in March, following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January.**

"The key thing is that China and the US, who have led this, have got to a position that they agree on. So the issue now is Russia."

"The Russians are trying to hold it up but the Chinese are comfortable with it in terms of content," the diplomat said recently.

Two other council diplomats confirmed China has agreed to new sanctions but that Russia had some issues.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China supported further action being taken by the Security Council in response to North Korea's nuclear test, but details of the draft resolution were still being discussed.

The senior diplomat said the draft resolution closes loopholes in sanctions imposed on North Korea by the council in March, following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January.

It cracks down on North Korea's coal exports, the diplomat said, and lists new names for targeted sanctions of a global travel ban and asset freeze. The senior diplomat gave no further details.

In March the council banned the 193 UN member states from importing North Korean coal, iron and iron ore unless such transactions were for "livelihood purposes" and would not generate revenue for Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

Coal is particularly important to the economic health of North Korea, as one of its only sources of hard currency and largest single export.

Coal also is bartered for essentials, including oil, food and machinery.



Border Guard Bangladesh personel detain a suspected Myanmar citizen at a refugee camp, who is suspected by Rohingya escapees of spying for Myanmar, in Teknaf, yesterday.

Dhaka calls for steps to protect Rohingyas

Teknaf
AFP

Dhaka has called on Myanmar to take "urgent measures" to protect its Rohingya minority after thousands crossed into Bangladesh in just a few days.

Troops have poured into a strip of land along Myanmar's border with Bangladesh that is largely home to the stateless Rohingya minority since a series of coordinated and deadly attacks on police border posts last month.

Up to 30,000 Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes according to the United Nations, which is urging Bangladesh to open its border to them.

Bangladesh said thousands had already entered the country and thousands more were reported to be gathering at the border.

It said the foreign ministry had summoned the Myanmar ambassador late Wednesday to express "deep concern" at the humanitarian situation in western Rakhine State.

"Despite our border guards' sincere effort to prevent the influx, thousands of distressed Myanmar citizens including women, children and elderly people continue to cross (the) border in to Bangladesh," it said.

"Thousands more have been reported to be gathering at the border crossing," it said, calling for "urgent appropriate measures so that minorities... are not forced to seek shelter across the border."

Thai election roadmap on course: Deputy PM

Bangkok
Reuters

Thailand's military government has no plans to push back a return to democratic rule, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said yesterday, in comments that came little over a month after the death of revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand is observing a year of mourning and political talk has largely been shelved out of respect for the late monarch, who reigned for 70 years and was seen as a unifying figure in the politically fractious country.

There are fears among government critics that the military, which seized power in a 2014 coup, would delay a general election planned for 2017 until several months after the end of the mourning period.

Prawit brushed aside those concerns and said a general election will take place next year.

"It is the same as before," Prawit said. "If we can hold an election we will."

The military vowed to restore order and enact political reforms after ousting Prime



Minister Yingluk Shinawatra, whose civilian government had been paralysed by months of turmoil.

The coup was the latest chapter in more than a decade of unrest which has broadly pitted the urban middle-class and elite against the populist governments of Yingluck and her elder brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, that were supported by the rural poor.

On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Kreangam said a 2017 election will take place but a new government might not be formed until 2018.

"The country is ready to restore confidence in our foreign partners that Thailand will be under democratic rule again," Amnuay Klangpa, a former Puea Thai Party lawmaker, said.

Rebels see Philippine-US ties troubling peace deal

Sierra *Madre Mountains*
AP

Communist guerrillas warned that a peace deal with President Rodrigo Duterte's government is unlikely to be reached if he won't end the Philippines' treaty alliance with the US and resist foreign control by other countries he's trying to befriend, like China and Russia.

In a news conference in a New People's Army guerrilla encampment, regional rebel commander and spokesman Jaime Padilla outlined the advantages and downside of talking with Duterte to end one of the world's longest-running insurgencies.

Founded in 1968, the rebels' communist party has held peace talks with six Philippine presidents, including Duterte, whose rise to power in June sparked rebel optimism due to his searing anti-US rhetoric, populist pro-poor stance and appointments of at least two left-wing Cabinet members.

But the guerrillas have also found themselves in a dilemma due to Duterte's moves they find reprehensible.

While the president has gotten attention with his angry threats to end the presence of American forces in the country, stop joint combat exercises with US troops and terminate a defence accord with Washington, Padilla said Duterte has, so far, not formalized these utterances and instead has walked back on many publicly-stated policies.

"While the Duterte government hasn't abrogated all these treaties, the New People's Army will have no reason to enter into alliance with him".

"That's not negotiable because as long as the US military has a presence, the imperialist influence on the government will remain".

Other rebels echoed Padilla's remarks. "We support Duterte but not 100 percent," said a 24-year-old rebel.

"He's projecting himself as anti-US and pro-poor but that's still mostly rhetoric. If the problems persist, the revolution will go on."

Despite thorny issues, Padilla said Maoist guerrillas remain committed to pursue talks with Duterte while criticizing his wrong moves. "We are sincere with the peace talks, we are honest and we want to end 47 years of armed struggle".

Four dead in Australia's 'asthma storm'

AN unprecedented "thunderstorm asthma" event has left four people dead and three fighting for their lives in Australia, with authorities yesterday scrambling to review their procedures after emergency services were overwhelmed.

Some 8,500 people have presented to hospital emergency departments, mostly in Melbourne, since a thunderstorm coincided with a high pollen count on Monday, causing asthma and hay fever sufferers respiratory problems, Victorian state Health Minister Jill Hennessy said recently.

"When we've had people calling for ambulances -- one call every four-and-a-half seconds at the peak -- it was like having 150 bombs going off right across a particular part of metropolitan Melbourne," Hennessy said.

The four victims were aged between 18 to 35, reports said, with Victoria's health department reporting three others in a critical condition as a review got underway into how better to respond and manage such unusual phenomena.

Indonesian military helicopter missing

Jakarta
AFP

An Indonesian army helicopter carrying five people went missing yesterday over Borneo island, an official said.

The Bell 412 helicopter lost contact in the morning on a short flight from Tarakan in North Kalimantan province to Long Bawan near the Malaysian border. Borneo is shared between Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Local search and rescue chief Mujiono said a team of military personnel and search and rescue officials had been sent to the area where the aircraft was believed to have disappeared.

Mujiono said the helicopter was carrying five people and supplies for soldiers when it lost contact.

The Indonesian military has been hit with a number of aircraft accidents in recent years.

The worst accident in recent times was in June 2015, when an air force Hercules C-130 crashed into a residential neighbourhood in the city of Medan, killing 142 people and causing widespread destruction.

Indonesia braces for new protests against governor



A police notice, posted on a fence, warns residents not to disrupt public order during rallies led by Islamists, in Jakarta, yesterday.

Jakarta
Reuters

Indonesian President Joko Widodo called for calm yesterday amid simmering religious tension as helicopters dropped police leaflets over the capital, warning residents of the risk of harsh penalties if new rallies led by Islamists turn violent.

Widodo sought this week to reassure investors and show his political coalition is united after over 100,000 residents, led by hardline groups, took to the streets on November 4 to call for the ouster of Jakarta's Christian governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, accused of insulting the Quran.

"I just want to convey one word and that is optimism. Let us not forget that word...even though the political situation is a little heated," Widodo said.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population and is home to Christian and Hindu communities.

Widodo has met with top political, security and religious figures since the November 4 rally, after accusing unidentified "political actors" of inflaming the tension.

The trigger was a comment that Jakarta governor Purnama, the first Christian and ethnic Chinese in the job, made about his opponents' use of the Quran in political campaigning.

Police last week named Purnama a suspect in the blasphemy probe. He faces up to five years in prison if found guilty.

Despite moderate Muslim groups now calling for restraint, Indonesia's police chief has said that some demonstrators may use rallies today to destabilise the government.

UK calls for end to Kashmir violence

AFP
Islamabad

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called for an end to violence in Kashmir during a visit to Islamabad yesterday, warning tensions between India and Pakistan are holding the region back from becoming an "incredible boomzone".

Johnson, who said he was visiting Pakistan for the first time, spoke a day after at least nine people were killed in Pakistani-held Kashmir when a civilian bus was hit by cross-border fire.

Johnson warned former colonial power Britain could not act as a mediator in the nearly 70-year-old dispute over the Himalayan region, saying it must be up to India and Pakistan to find a "lasting solution".

He voiced concern over incidents "on both sides" of the de facto Kashmir border, the Line of Control (LoC). "We call for an end to the violence and for both sides to exercise restraint," he said.

Johnson also lamented the "mutual sequestration" of the Indian and Pakistani economies. "Look at the incredible human potential of Pakistan and its neighbours... and then imagine what the future could be like if this was sorted out. What an incredible boomzone it could be."

Tensions in Kashmir reached dangerous levels in September, after India blamed Pakistani militants for a raid on an army base that killed 19 soldiers.

India said it had responded by carrying out "surgical strikes" across the heavily militarised border, sparking fury from Islamabad, which denied they took place. There have since been repeated outbreaks of cross-border firing, with both sides reporting deaths including of civilians.

Johnson, in Pakistan for a two-day visit, also spoke about US President-elect Donald Trump's campaign threats to reconsider defending Nato allies unless they up defence spending.

"We need a strong Nato alliance and I think the president-elect is quite right to draw attention to the need to finance that alliance properly," he said.

Johnson in Pakistan

- **British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson warned that tensions between India and Pakistan are holding the region back from becoming an 'incredible boomzone'.**
- **Johnson said that Britain could not act as a mediator, saying it must be up to India and Pakistan to find a 'lasting solution' that allows for Kashmiri self-determination.**



British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Boris Johnson (left) with Adviser to the Pakistan's Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad yesterday.

Air Force chief warns India against war

PAKISTAN'S air force chief yesterday warned archrival India against escalating the dispute over Kashmir into full-scale war, urging New Delhi to exercise restraint.

Marshal Sohail Aman's warning came as tensions are soaring between Islamabad and New Delhi over the contested Himalayan territory where Pakistan said Indian fire on Wednesday killed 12 civilians and three soldiers — the deadliest incident in weeks of border clashes. The exchange came a day after the mutilated body of an Indian soldier was found in Kashmir. Aman said that if Indian forces escalate the crisis, Pakistani troops "know full well how to deal with them."

Also yesterday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a high-level security meeting to review the Kashmir situation.

"We will never abandon our Kashmiri brethren in their freedom struggle," Sharif later said, according to a government statement.

Afghan soldiers rescued after Taliban kidnap

OVER a dozen soldiers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces abducted by the Taliban militants were rescued in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan.

The Afgan Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the soldiers were released late on Wednesday night in Pashtunkot district.

MoD said the soldiers were kidnapped a year ago after a helicopter belonging to the Afghan army made an emergency landing in Pashtunkot. No further details were given regarding the exact number of the soldiers rescued and circumstances surrounding their release.

Snowfall in Mazar-i-Sharif



Afghan children play in the courtyard of the famous Blue Mosque after a snowfall in Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday.

Salary increase of almost 2-1/2 times for MPs gets nod

Reuters
Islamabad

Pakistan has approved a salary jump of nearly 2-1/2 times for its members of parliament, the information minister said, taking their pay to more than ten times the minimum wage.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif authorised the move on Wednesday, at a time when he faces public pressure, and court cases, over allegations in the Panama Papers data leak that his children owned offshore wealth.

Parliamentarians have received only two modest increases in the last 14 years, said Marriyum Aurangzeb, the junior minister for information and broadcasting.

"We have raised the pay of parliamentarians," Aurangzeb told reporters, adding that the monthly salaries would rise to 150,000 Pakistani rupees ($1,432) from October, versus about Rs61,000 ($580) earlier.

The new salary, which far exceeds Pakistan's minimum wage of Rs14,000 per month ($134), does not include perks, such as housing help.

Pay for federal ministers rose to Rs200,000 from Rs126,387. Federal lawmakers would still receive less pay than provincial parliamentarians, however, Aurangzeb said, adding that assembly members in the southwestern province of Baluchistan get about Rs300,000 ($2,864).

"We have done an exercise, comparing the pay of federal MPs with their counterparts in the provincial assemblies and even after this rise, these rates are the lowest in Pakistan," the minister said.

Public support for Sharif's government was dented this year after documents released as part of the Panama Papers data leak appeared to show his children used offshore companies to buy properties in London.

He denies wrongdoing, as do his children.

A five-member bench of the Supreme Court, led by the chief justice, is hearing four petitions related to the allegations.

In May, the lower house of parliament unanimously passed a measure supporting the pay rise but the package needed the approval of the prime minister.

Kabul vows to reduce violence against women

AFP
Kabul

Afghan ministries yesterday signed an agreement to eliminate violence against women, a largely symbolic effort in a country that foreign observers still consider one of the worst in the world to be female.

The Afghan attorney general's office recorded more than 3,700 cases of violence against women in the first eight months of 2016, with 5,000 cases recorded in the whole of 2015.

"We are seeking ways to cooperate, and for an effective and lawful fight against the existence of violence against women in the country," attorney general Farid Hamidi said at the signing ceremony between his office and four government ministries at the presidential palace in Kabul. He said the Afghan government was determined to fight against corruption and combat violence against women in the country.

The campaign was launched on the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

"Unfortunately, violence against women is on the rise," Maleha Hassan, deputy attorney general, told reporters in Kabul.

"The situation is getting worse," she said, calling it "shocking and disappointing".

Gender equality in Afghanistan has improved somewhat since a US-led coalition toppled the hardline Taliban regime in 2001. Women — particularly from cities — have taken up professional jobs and hold more than a quarter of all seats in parliament.

President Ashraf Ghani has also pledged to place women's rights at the top of his agenda, but major challenges remain as they continue to suffer oppression and abuse, including forced marriages and child marriages.

In March 2015, a 27-year-old woman known as Farkhunda was beaten to death in Kabul after being falsely accused of blasphemy, a case that became a symbol of the endemic violence that women still face.

'Forced conversions' crime in Sindh

AFP
Karachi

A Pakistan province yesterday passed a law making "forced conversions" punishable with a life sentence and forbidding minors from changing their religion, a bid to protect minorities in the conservative Muslim country.

The new bill, passed by legislators in southern Sindh province, also mandates a 21-day waiting period for any person who wants to convert.

"It is necessary to criminalise forced conversions and provide protection for those who are victims of this abhorrent practice," an excerpt of the bill, reads.

Forced conversions, particularly of Hindus to Islam, are an issue in Sindh and throughout the Muslim nation of some 200 million, where minorities have long fought for their rights.

In 2014, an advocate group which campaigns against religious violence in Pakistan told US Congress that forced conversions generally involved the abduction of girls or young women who were made to convert to Islam and married.

The Movement for Solidarity and Peace said girls were often raped or beaten and, when the family complained to police, the abductor claimed the girl had willingly converted.

Exact figures are unverifiable, but hundreds of people are believed to undergo such conversions each year.

The legislation bans anyone under the age of 18 from changing their religion. It calls for a minimum sentence of five years and maximum of life imprisonment for anyone found to be forcing people to convert.

"It is a historic law we have carved and passed," Nand Kumar Goklani, a Hindu legislator and author of the law, said.

"This will end the plight of minority Hindus, who will feel more protected now," he said.

Thanksgiving Day



US soldiers play music during Thanksgiving Day at a Nato base in Kabul yesterday.

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision

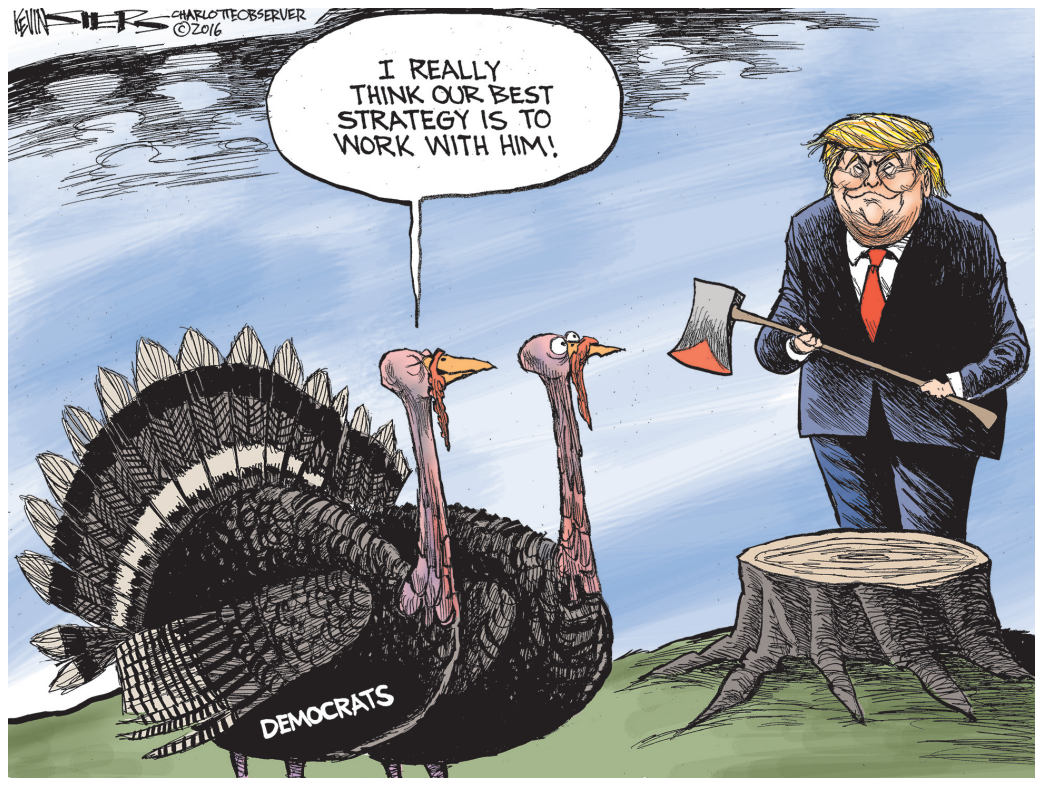
ESTABLISHED IN 1996

CHAIRMAN
SHEIKH THANI BIN ABDULLAH AL THANI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. KHALID BIN MUBARAK AL-SHAFI
editorinchief@pen.com.qa

ACTING MANAGING EDITOR
MOHAMMED SALIM MOHAMED
msalim@pen.com.qa

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR
HUSSAIN AHMAD
hussain@pen.com.qa



EDITORIAL

Corruption and conflict

Before a Ukraine-European Union summit went under way in Brussels yesterday, European Council President Donald Tusk painted the state of the post-Soviet republic in a positive light. "3 years since EuroMaidan," he said on Twitter, referring to the 2014 street revolt that threw out president Viktor Yanukovich. "Ukraine on right track under President Poroshenko's leadership. EU support remains strong."

But Tusk was very charitable in his assessment of the troubled former Soviet Republic. Corruption has overtaken conflict as the most serious issue in the flailing nation's trajectory.

Odessa Governor and former Georgian president Mikhail Saakashvili recently resigned citing difficulties in carrying out reforms. A close ally of Poroshenko, Saakashvili had been appointed to head the troubled province to root out corruption and nepotism that was making it difficult for Ukrainians to find their feet and lead a normal life especially after the Maidan upheaval had shaken the social and economic order.

A West-educated lawyer who was credited with rooting out corruption from his country when he was president, Saakashvili found the task in Ukraine colossus. The country had institutionalised the scourge so much so that even parents of schoolchildren knew they had to part with extra money for getting things done.

EU's push for meaningful reforms in Ukraine may not bring about immediate results.

The case of a journalist who paid $200 to her university professor for getting her doctoral thesis checked shows how strongly embedded is the problem in the social fabric.

Saakashvili tried to take on the corrupt in his own way. At a meeting of senior public officials, he openly accused the interior minister of graft. Saakashvili's rant against privatisation of assets, which he said was being undertaken for vested interests, was met by the furious minister throwing water at the Georgian politician. The water fell on another minister and an enraged Saakashvili left the room.

The European Union has pressed Poroshenko to implement reforms and rein in corruption. Ukraine has been aspiring for EU membership and talks have often revolved around the slow pace of change and deepening political instability. Along with Saakashvili, the head of Ukraine's police force and a senior Odessa ports customs official put in their papers citing hurdles to take on entrenched corruption and nepotism. Fingers have been pointed at Poroshenko for not doing enough to take on oligarchs and a corrupt establishment. EU has dangled a visa-free regime for Ukrainians visiting the bloc in return for speedier reforms within the country.

But there seems to be less movement inside Ukraine for positive changes. How far will EU pressure work in persuading Kiev to look for genuine reforms is doubtful. Poroshenko's administration has to rise above internal squabbles and look at the future of millions of Ukrainians.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The EU should decide whether it wants to continue its future vision with or without Turkey. We expect EU leaders to stand up against this lack of vision.

Binali Yildirim
Turkish Prime Minister



Envisioning Donald Trump's Middle East

Khalil Al Anani
Al Jazeera



When I attended President Barack Obama's speech at Cairo University seven years ago, I felt the optimism he brought to the audience with his hopeful and thoughtful words — a feeling many in the Middle East shared as they hoped to put their frustrations during the previous eight years of President George W Bush behind them.

In the aftermath of the recent election which brought Donald Trump to office, feelings of anxiety and stress have resurfaced across the region. Many believe Trump's stunning victory is nothing short of disastrous for the Middle East.

A man who does not know the difference between Sunni and Shia, Kurds and Arabs, or Ennahda and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) cannot, and should not, be trusted. Some pundits believe Trump will pay little attention to the region because of its complex and chaotic conflicts. However, these very conflicts may end up dragging his administration into the region, and no one has a clue how it would handle them.

Trump's apparent embrace of isolationism flies in the face of the interconnected state of global and regional affairs. The anachronistic strategy of the 19th century, adopted by President Thomas Jefferson and championed by President James Monroe, is a delusion the US cannot afford.

The scariest aspect of Trump's non-interventionist inclination is that it is not based on rational calculations. Instead, it is a reflection of despair and frustration, driven by what Trump perceives as Obama's failures in the Middle East.

In this sense, the underlying problem is not whether Trump would intervene in the region, but that his intervention would be based on his shallow and dangerous worldview.

Three key issues inform how the Middle East may grow increasingly unstable under Trump's presidency. First and foremost is his understanding, or lack thereof, of regional politics.

Trump's view of the Middle East is part and parcel of his wider vision of global politics, which lacks any depth or understanding of how complicated and entangled the world has become.

Trump believes disengagement from the region is the remedy for its problems. Interestingly, he has consistently lambasted President Obama for adopting a similar approach in recent years. Abandoning the region will not resolve its problems and will not make America great again.

In fact, this may have terrible consequences to the region stability including a more powerful and emboldened Iran, an surge in sectarian conflicts, a continued proliferation of radical movements, a collapse of fragile states, and an expansion of Russian influence in the Levant and North Africa.

Second is Trump's vision of Islam, which is ominously hostile and ill-informed. It is frightening that a US president openly loathes an entire faith due to the actions of some individuals. If Trump carries this vision into the White House, it would be catastrophic for both the Middle East and the United States.

On the one hand, this view will facilitate the recruitment efforts of radical groups such as ISIL. On the other, it will increase anti-American sentiment among the ordinary citizens of the Middle East.

If Trump's rhetoric is reflected in his policies, we could be on the precipice of a renewed "clash of civilisations", which is exactly what the Obama administration has tried to dispel over eight years.

The third relates to Trump's authoritarian leanings, which empowers repressive regimes in the region at the expense of democracy, human rights and freedom. It is not surprising that Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was among the first Arab leaders to congratulate Trump on his victory.

Trump's view of the Middle East is part and parcel of his wider vision of global politics, which lacks any depth or understanding of how complicated and entangled the world has become.

Likewise, the Assad regime in Syria is likely to seize on Trump's presidency as an opportunity to double down on its positions and continue slaughtering its own people with the support of the Russian President Vladimir Putin, another autocrat that Trump is fond of.

Following this gloomy path, a Trump presidency may serve as the death knell for American ideals such as democracy and human rights, even if these positions were upheld only rhetorically by previous administrations. This would not only increase regional instability, but would more importantly disenchant millions of young Arabs who are fighting for freedom and dignity.

If President Obama failed to address the Middle East's problems with his rational thinking, intellectual background, and political experience, what should we expect from someone like Donald Trump who embodies the polar opposite of all these traits?

Khalil Al Anani is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar. He is the author of Inside the Muslim Brotherhood: Religion, Identity, and Politics.



Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the US Bank Arena in Cincinnati, Ohio in this file photo.

Is there anyone In Asia who still trusts America?

J Berkshire Miller
Foreign Policy

At the conclusion of the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Peru last week, the Pacific Rim trade group reasserted the importance of free trade in a joint communiqué. The APEC economies, including the United States, further committed to "keep our markets open and to fight against all forms of protectionism" — an intentional pushback to the growth of protectionist rhetoric, especially from the incoming administration in Washington, DC

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed, most recently in a YouTube video released on Monday, to make America's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the US-led flagship free trade deal in the Asia-Pacific, a top priority for his administration. Trump's vitriol has already eliminated any chance that Congress will ratify the pact during the remaining lame-duck period of the current administration.

America's credibility in the region is already crumbling before the TPP's official burial. The almost certain failure of the deal — at least in its current form - is a body blow to key US allies, especially Japan, and other important regional states in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam and Singapore, that viewed the deal as the litmus test of Washington's commitment to Asia. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong put it best on the potential of the TPP failing: "It is your credibility as an ally [that is at stake]. How can anyone believe in you anymore?"

Indeed, the election of Trump has rattled US friends and allies in the Asia-Pacific who are worried that the incoming administration might signal Washington's gradual retreat from the region. The range of concerns among US allies, such as Japan and South Korea, is vast: from the questioning of alliance burden-sharing, to the new administration's plans for North Korea, or the black box that is Trump's strategy — or lack thereof — for dealing with China.

But the most critical of these issues is the likely death of the TPP, which sounds the knell for Washington's wider strategic plans. Specifically, it marks a fatal blow to President Barack Obama's "rebalance" to the Asia-Pacific. This was a policy grounded on three legs - economic, diplomatic, and security — but the economic foundation, and arguably the most critical strategic element, was the TPP, a 12-country deal that encompasses nearly 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product. The TPP was meant to bridge the gap and connect Washington's Asia policy into a long-term strategy, binding the region not only to the United States, but also enhancing regional economic interdependence and cooperation.

Rather than rely on the traditional "hub and spoke" model of US engagement in Asia that focuses on bilateral relationships and alliances, the TPP is meant to support a more integrated and overlapping diplomatic and economic network - led by the United States — that connects like-minded countries in the region. The prospect of this network was especially enticing for most states in the region. Although they have deep interests in nurturing economic ties with China, they are desperately looking for a hedge to the emerging Sino-centric economic order in the region.

There is no question that the TPP's failure is a boon to Beijing, which held deep suspicion of US efforts to push the deal and resented its framing, which many there believed was intentionally anti-China. Obama tried to promote the deal at home by stressing that the TPP would avoid a situation where "China gets to write the rules" in the region. Beijing saw the TPP as a thinly veiled complement to the Obama administration's security-heavy "rebalance" — all aimed at containing China's rise.

This dissipation of US credibility will be most acute in Southeast Asia, where the TPP originated. The failure of the United States to follow through on its commitments to economically engage with the region will result in weakened relationships. While the United States theoretically has two treaty allies in the region, the Philippines and Thailand (non-TPP members), these relationships are fragile and have become the Achilles' heel of Washington's security network in Asia due to the emergence of strong-man politics in both states — a military junta in Thailand and an erratic nationalist president in the Philippines

The TPP was important because it targeted less established relationships in Southeast Asia with key emerging states such as Vietnam and Malaysia. Trade was the effective unifier for many states here who craved stronger ties with Washington but did not want to fully join in on containing China. The capital developed through the promise of the TPP helped nurture Washington's relations with the region — as evidenced by the unprecedented growth in the defense relationship with Vietnam.

None of this is now likely to happen. While Trump's eventual landing spot on regional security issues remains uncertain, his economic views are clear. He has labeled the reform of international trade policy, including not just the TPP but also the North American Free Trade Agreement, a top priority for his administration.

Most of Trump's critique on the TPP focuses on its alleged bolstering of Asian economies at the expense of American jobs. This protectionist argument holds little water, considering that higher-paying jobs in US companies are largely supported by Washington's ability to sell exports overseas. The TPP, in addition to other free trade agreements the United States has in force, would allow the US lower tariffs and barriers to free trade in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region. According to an analysis by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the TPP would provide an estimated $131m increase in real income in the United States by 2030. This would also be complemented by an estimated $357bn growth in exports by 2030 as a result of a completed pact.

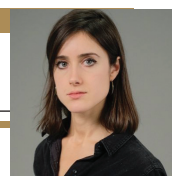
In addition to the economic dividends, the TPP differs from other large trade agreements as a result of its commitment to setting a standard for high-level free trade, which took years of grueling negotiations to establish. Essentially, the TPP is intended not just to lower tariff rates and provide market access, but to go the extra mile by insisting on intensive structural and regulatory reforms among the signatories. Many of these commitments for reforms come at a high political cost for US allies, like Japan, and emerging friends in the region, like Vietnam, who are now stuck with a decision on whether to scrap the deal they invested so much time and capital in, or accept a "TPP-lite" without the United States for the foreseeable future.

The step backward on the TPP has re-energised agreements largely led by China, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). While the memberships of the TPP and RCEP include a large overlap, the most striking difference is the absence of China in the former, and the United States in the latter. Beijing is also likely to push harder on its economic plans for the region by promoting its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and One Belt One Road infrastructure initiative. Beijing may also look to pry away US influence in the region through work to finalise its trilateral trade negotiations with Japan and South Korea. China already inked a bilateral deal with South Korea in 2015. Other possible avenues would be the Free Trade Agreement in the Asia-Pacific — an idealistic APEC-led initiative that would include both the United States and China, but one that seems even less likely than the TPP.

The failure of US commitment on the TPP erodes the legacy of Obama's signature foreign-policy initiative, the rebalance to Asia. It also leads to uncertainty in the region on where to look for leadership. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was originally opposed to the TPP, has ironically become the deal's most prolific salesman. "Success or failure will sway the direction of the global free-trade system and the strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific," he said. The warning is not just a ploy to stoke fear in Washington, but represents the concerns of many of Washington's most trusted friends in the region. Trump should consider the consequences.

The battle for Aleppo, explained

Louisa Loveluck
The Washington Post



Syrian and Russian forces are engaged in an all-out blitz to retake the eastern districts of Aleppo, the northern Syrian city that has become a major flash point in the country's five-year civil war. Here's what you need to know.

Why is Aleppo so important?

Aleppo was a key economic hub for the Damascus government before the war, and its recapture is vital to President Bashar Al Assad's aim of re-establishing full control over the country.

When rebel forces captured the city's eastern districts in 2012, they appeared ascendant, boasting that a march on Damascus would be next. Four years later, the area they control lies in ruins, and opposition fighters have been outgunned.

If government-allied troops fail to recapture the city, questions will be raised about their ability to win the war with force. It would also strengthen the hand of Islamist militant fighters inside the armed opposition, who have played the most important role in the defense of the area.

Who is fighting there?

Pretty much everyone. On the government side, Assad's forces are heavily supported by Iranian troops and Iran-backed militias, as well as by Russian warplanes and commanders.

The rebel groups also fight in a coalition, one dominated by hard-line Islamist forces including Jabhat Fatah Al Sham, Ahrar Al Sham and Harakat Nour al Din Al Zenki. But more moderate forces remain, some of them receiving US-approved weapons.

Aleppo is a city divided. What are conditions like in the east and west?

The eastern, rebel-held districts have been subject to a crippling siege since July, leaving their 250,000 residents with severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

Streets have been shattered by four years of government — and, more recently, Russian — airstrikes. Civilian areas and hospitals have been systematically targeted in the strikes. The area resembled an apocalyptic wasteland in recently released drone footage.



People stand near a crater at a site hit by an airstrike in the rebel-held besieged Al Qaterji neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria

If government-allied troops fail to recapture the city, questions will be raised about their ability to win the war with force. It would also strengthen the hand of Islamist militant fighters inside the armed opposition, who have played the most important role in the defence of the area.

In government-held western Aleppo, civilians are also suffering from shortages — albeit less severe — and civilians close to the front line live in fear of rebel shelling.

How many people have died in the latest offensive?

Reliable numbers are hard to come by. In eastern Aleppo, the White Helmets rescue group said at least 300 civilians have been killed and more than 820 wounded since November 15.

More victims were lying under the rubble, out of reach until the bombing stopped. In western Aleppo, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Tuesday that at least 16 civilians — 10 of them children — were killed by rebel shelling.

Is a military solution the only option for Aleppo's warring parties?

The UN envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has proposed a political solution — rebel fighters leave eastern Aleppo through safe exits, government and Russian forces stop the bombing, and a council from the opposition-held districts takes control of the area.

But the Syrian government has roundly rejected this. According to one minister, retaking Aleppo in full is now a key military priority.

The writer is a Syria-focused freelance reporter working with @WashingtonPost and others. Previously @Telegraph Cairo Correspondent.

The Peninsula
D-RING ROAD
POST BOX: 3488
DOHA - QATAR
editor@pen.com.qa

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OFFICE
TEL: 4455 7741 / 767
FAX: +974 4455 7758

MANAGING EDITOR
TEL: 4462 7505

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR
TEL: 4455 7743

LOCAL NEWS SECTION
TEL: 4455 7769

BUSINESS NEWS SECTION
TEL: 4462 7535

SPORT NEWS SECTION
TEL: 4455 7745

ONLINE SECTION
TEL: 4462 7501
info@pen.com.qa

PUBLIC RELATIONS
TEL: 4455 7613
pr@pen.com.qa

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
TEL: 4455 7837 / 780
FAX: 4455 7870
adv@pen.com.qa

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT
TEL: 4455 7857
adv@pen.com.qa

SUBSCRIPTION & DISTRIBUTION
TEL: 4455 7809 / 839
FAX: 44557819
info@tawseelqatar.com

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 editorinchief@pen.com.qa

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016 | The Peninsula Local focus, Global vision

Notes ban is legalised plunder: Manmohan

New Delhi
IANS

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a globally respected economist, yesterday called the demonetisation drive a case of "organised loot and legalised plunder", warning that it will drag India's GDP by 2 percentage points. The scathing criticism from the Congress leader, who opened up India's economy in 1991, invited a rebuke from Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who alleged that most black money was accumulated in India from 2004-14 when Manmohan Singh headed a coalition government.

The former Prime Minister, a front bencher in the Rajya Sabha, made a rare speech in the House to talk on the government's move of spiking 500 and 1,000 rupee notes and how it was going to impact India's economy.

"The national income, that is the GDP of the country, can decline by about 2 percentage points as a result of what has been done. This is an underestimate, not an overestimate," said the Oxford- and Cambridge-educated economist.

Demonetisation

- **The national income, that is the GDP of the country, can decline by about 2 percentage points as a result of what has been done.**
- **It is no good that every day the banking system comes up with new rules. It reflects very poorly on the Prime Minister's Office, the Finance Minister's Office and the Reserve Bank of India.**

"What has been done can also weaken and erode our people's confidence in the currency system and in the banking system.

"It is no good that every day the banking system comes up with new rules. It reflects very poorly on the Prime Minister's Office, the Finance Minister's Office and the Reserve Bank of India," said the economist who has also served as an RBI Governor.

As the man of few words spoke for about seven minutes, a hushed Rajya Sabha listened quietly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jaitley also present. There were loud cheers from the Opposition benches and some from the treasury nodded their heads.

"In the process of demonetisation, monumental mismanagement has been undertaken about which there are no two opinions in country as a whole," he said.

"It is a case of organised loot and legalised plunder. It is not my intention to pick holes. I sincerely hope the Prime Minister, even at this late hour, will find a solution."



A TV grab shows former prime minister Manmohan Singh during the demonetisation debate.

Manmohan Singh's worries come against the backdrop of a host of economists, experts and think tanks revising downward their growth outlook for India, with the most pessimistic forecast being a mere 0.5 per cent growth by Ambit Capital for the six-month period ending March 31, 2017.

The Indian economy had expanded by 7.2 percent during the third quarter ended December 31 of last fiscal year and by 7.6 per cent for the year as a whole.

The former Prime Minister wondered if the government was aware of the extent of hardship that demonetisation had caused to small businesses, the common man and the rural economy.

He reminded the government that 90 per cent of the work force was in the informal sector and 55 per cent of those in the agriculture sector were in distress now.

"The cooperative banking sector, which is serving a large number of people in the rural sector, is not operational. The way in which demonetisation has been implemented will hurt agriculture and small industries."

He also quoted John Maynard Keynes to counter Modi's appeal to the people to bear with him for 50 days. "Those who say demonetisation is good in long run should recall the quote: 'In the long run we are all dead'."

The government returned the criticism and targeted Manmohan Singh and his tenure as the head of a multi-party government led by the Congress.



Police clash with members of the Communist Party outside a bank during a protest against withdrawal of high-value banknotes from circulation, in Chennai, yesterday.

Govt extends Rs500 use till Dec 15

New *Delhi*
IANS

The government yesterday extended the last date for use of the denotified Rs500 notes till December 15, doing away with the over-the-counter exchange of cash with immediate effect.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Rs1,000 notes would no longer be allowed to be used for the list of exemptions the government had announced. These notes can, however, be deposited in bank accounts.

"It has been observed that over-the-counter exchange of the old currency notes of Rs500 and Rs1,000 denomination has shown a declining trend. It has further been felt that people may be encouraged and facilitated to deposit their old Rs500 and Rs1,000 notes in their bank accounts," the Ministry said in a statement.

"This will encourage people who are still unbanked to open new bank accounts. Consequently, there will be no over-the-counter exchange of old Rs500 and Rs1,000 notes after midnight of November 24," it added.

The government had earlier permitted various exemptions for certain transactions and activities wherein payment could be made through the old Rs500 and Rs1,000 notes.

"It has been decided that all these exemptions, with the additions and modifications, may be continued for a further period up to December 15," it said.

The government demonetised Rs1,000 and Rs500 notes on November 8 but provided a number of exemptions where they could be used till November 24. The statement yesterday also expanded the exemptions to include payment of fees up to Rs2,000 per student in central and state government colleges as well as central government, state government, municipality and local body schools.

Drought-hit Karnataka seeks farm loan waiver

Belagavi
IANS

Reeling under severe drought, Karnataka yesterday urged the Centre to waive off 50% of the farm loans, as the state government is ready to write off the rest.

"We will write off 50 per cent of the loans if the central government waives off 50 per cent of the money farmers borrowed from banks for the kharif season this fiscal," Chief Minister Siddaramiah told lawmakers attending the 10-day winter session of the state legislature that started here on November 21.

Belagavi is about 500 km from Bengaluru in the state's northwest region.

Deficit rains during the June-September south-west monsoon prompted the state government to declare 139 of the 175 taluks as drought-hit and seek Rs3,000-crore aid from the central government to compensate the farmers.

"About 22 lakh farmers across the state have borrowed Rs35,000 crore from state-run banks and Rs10,000 crore from cooperative banks," said Siddaramaiah in the state assembly during a day-long debate on the agrarian crisis gripping the drought-hit state.

Recalling that the previous UPA government had waived off Rs72,000 crore worth loans of farmers, the Chief Minister accused the NDA government of safeguarding the interests of traders and discarding those of farmers' in the state.

"An all-party delegation would soon meet the Prime Minister to seek his financial support for drought relief in 27 of the 30 districts," Siddaramaiah said.

The main opposition BJP has urged the state government to waive off its part of the loans without waiting for the central assistance, while the Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) pressed for Rs25,000 compensation per acre of crop loss to the farmers, as majority of them are marginal farmers with small land holdings.

The opposition members staged a walkout when the Chief Minister rejected their demand.

In a rare camaraderie, the ruling Congress members also urged the state government to waive off the loans to help the distressed farmers at a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party here.

State Co-operation Minister H.S. Mahadeva Prasad said as the crop loan recovery was 95 per cent in the last fiscal (2015-16), there was no need for loan waiver then.

NEWS BYTES

Two held with Rs27lakh in new currency

TWO persons were apprehended with Rs27 lakh in new currency notes at Nizamuddin Railkway Station, the city police said yesterday evening.

Ajit Pal Singh and Rajender Singh, both residents of Pitampura in Delhi, were arrested by a team of Delhi Police Crime Branch.

"They were carrying Rs27 lakh in new currency notes from Nizammudin Railway Station," Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Ravindra Yadav said.

They were nabbed at the station with the cash, which they had brought with them from Mumbai, the police officer said.

The Income Tax Department and Intelligence Bureau officials, along with a team of the Crime Branch personnel are jointly interrogating them, Yadav added.

Two maoists dead in Kerala shootout

TWO maoists were shot dead in a shootout with Kerala Thunderbolts, an elite commando force of the Kerala Police, yesterday in a forest area near Nilambur in Malappuram district, an official said.

Speaking reporters, Chief of the Forests S C Joshi said the incident occurred deep in the forests and more information from the police was awaited.

"Our force is present at the site but the police are conducting the operation. Initially, I was told that one person has been killed. But later they said two have been killed and another person injured," said Joshi.

Shutdown to protest land acts amendment in Jharkhand

Bhubaneswar
Reuters

Opposition parties in Jharkhand have called for a shutdown today after the BJP government succeeded in getting an amendment to two land acts passed in the state assembly on Wednesday.

The united opposition includes Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-Prajatantrik (JVM-P), Congress, Janata Dal-United, Rashtriya Janata Dal, and Left parties. The opposition parties held a meeting and decided to call for a shutdown today.

P rotests over land rights flared for a second day in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, as activists and indigenous people took to the streets after the state assembly approved amendments to colonial-era land laws despite strong opposition.

Unruly scenes unfolded in the assembly in state capital Ranchi, with an opposition member hurling a shoe at the speaker, while police used teargas and water cannons to disperse protesters outside.

State government officials say amendments to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act will help lure investment to one of the country's poorest states.

Easier access to land in the resource-rich state will also help create critical infrastructure including roads, hospitals and schools, state officials said.

"The changes to the laws will help people use the land for commercial purposes; it will benefit them," Revenue Minister Amar Kumar Bauri told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We did it after wide consultations," he said, denying the opposition parties' charge that consultations were not held.

Conflicts over land in India have increased as the economy expands and more land is sought for industrial use and development projects.

While several laws have been introduced in the past decade to protect the rights of farmers and indigenous people, some laws have been diluted in their implementation and not always helped the most vulnerable, activists say.

Those opposed to the changes to the Jharkhand laws say they will deprive tribal people of their rights and leave them with fewer resources. More than a quarter of the state's population belong to indigenous, tribal communities, and protests have raged for months, with one person killed in Saiko last month in clashes with police.

Former chief minister Babulal Marandi, head of the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha party, said opposition parties have called for a state-wide strike today, and that protests will continue.

"There was no demand for a change in these laws from the people. A large number of industries were set up even with the old laws," he said.

With the amendment agricultural land can now be used for non-agriculture purposes. The state government can acquire land for infrastructure, power sectors, road, canals, Panchayat buildings and others.

Ukraine leader confident of Trump support

Brussels
AFP

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko insisted yesterday he was confident of US support, saying President-elect Donald Trump had raised issue of Russian "aggression" with him in a phone call.

The Ukrainian leader was speaking after winning pledges at an EU summit in Brussels to push through visa-free travel for his citizens, and for continued sanctions against Russia over the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

"I can confirm to you that the question of Russian aggression, of illegal annexation of Crimea, was raised by US President-elect Trump in my phone conversation," Poroshenko told a news conference.

Russia conflict

The question of Russian aggression, of illegal annexation of Crimea, was raised by President-elect Trump in my phone conversation, Petro Poroshenko told reporters.

"Ukraine has strong bipartisan support in the US Congress and among the US politicians, both Republican and Democrat, and we don't expect any significant changes in this bipartisan support."

Trump's election victory has been met with trepidation in Kiev because of the billionaire TV star's praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin and the two men's vow to normalise ties after years of tension.

The EU has also urged Trump to match its commitments to Ukraine following more than two years of conflict in the east of the country between government forces and pro-Kremlin rebels.

The West has imposed sanctions on Putin's Russia over accusations that it continues to support Ukranian-based rebels in a conflict which has claimed 10,000 lives in the past two-and-a-half years, a charge the Kremlin denies.

EU President Donald Tusk said the summit, was "proof of our concrete commitment to Ukraine." Tusk said Trump's comments in a separate phone call with him were "promising compared to some announcements during the campaign time".

Tusk added the sanctions "remain clearly linked" to complete implementation of February 2015 Minsk ceasefire agreement between Russia and Ukraine, backed by France and Germany.

"I hope it's something -- it's something more than only hope—that we will decide on sanctions before our European Council (summit) meeting in December."

Tusk and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker both expressed optimism that EU would finally approve visa-free travel for Ukraine by the end of 2016 after it met conditions including political reforms.

The 28 member states backed the plan earlier this month but final approval by the European Parliament has been held up by disagreements over an emergency suspension clause.



Ukraine's President President Petro Poroshenko (second left) is welcomed by European Parliament President Martin Schulz (left), European Council President Donald Tusk (second right) and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker at the EU-Ukraine summit at the European Commission in Brussels, yesterday.

Danish editor jailed for celebrity credit card snooping

Copenhagen
AFP

A DANISH court yesterday jailed two men, one of them former editor of a celebrity magazine, for buying and selling details of stars' credit card transactions.

The fact that the intention was "to make money from delivering information of no societal value" was an aggravating circumstance, it said.

Henrik Qvortrup, who was editor of the weekly *Se og Hor* magazine between 2001 and 2008, was handed a 15-month jail term, one year of which would be a suspended sentence if he performed 200 hours of community service.

IT expert Peter Bo Henriksen, a former employee at a firm which is now part of a card payment company, was given an 18-month sentence.

Qvortrup could end up serving his three-month sentence at home wearing an ankle bracelet, his lawyer said, adding his client has not yet decided whether to appeal the verdict. Three other journalists were given suspended sentences and community service, while a former acting editor-in-chief was acquitted of any wrongdoing.

Another two journalists and publisher Aller Media were in August given suspended sentences and a 10m kroner (€1.3m, $1.4m) fine, respectively, after pleading guilty.

The magazine's rivals had been baffled by a series of celebrity scoops it had run, including one about Danish Prince Joachim's 2008 honeymoon in Canada, which had been kept secret.

EU leader Schulz to return to German politics

Brussels
AFP

Germany's Martin Schulz **(pictured)** said yesterday he would step down as head of the European Parliament and return to national politics, where analysts say he could emerge as a rival to Angela Merkel.

The outspoken former bookseller from Aachen will quit after four years in office, during which he became one of the European Union's most high-profile politicians and gave its assembly sorely-needed visibility.

The bearded 60-year-old did not say if he would run for chancellor against Merkel, although he is widely expected to slot into a prime position for the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which is currently in coalition with her.



"I will not run as president of the European parliament for a third term next year, I will run for the German Bundestag as the head of the list of my party, the SPD, in North Rhine-Westphalia," an emotional Schulz told reporters in Brussels.

"It was not an easy decision, as it is an honour to be the president of the European parliament."

Schulz is tipped in Berlin as a possible replacement to Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, who now leads the party but is behind Schulz in latest polling. He is also floated as a possible replacement for Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, another top socialist who is to become Germany's next president.

Until his announcement, Schulz had been working behind the scenes to stay in the EU parliament job, angering the centre-right European People's Party which said it was promised the role as it is the largest group in the assembly.

Last week Schulz even won the support of his friend Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of European Commission, who went against his own EPP party to back Schulz.

Juncker—who reportedly said he could resign if the German stepped down—told reporters yesterday "I regret it " when asked about Schulz's departure.

With Schulz's exit, the EPP group will now announce their own candidate to head the parliament.

"We need to concentrate on a consensus candidate," said EPP group leader Manfred Weber of Germany, a close ally of Merkel.

He declined to say whether he would stand himself, with Irish deputy parliament chief Mairead McGuinness having also said she will stand.

Schulz, who once dreamt of being a footballer, first hit international headlines in 2003 for facing down a Nazi jibe from Italy's then prime minister Silvio Berlusconi in a European Parliament debate.

But Schulz will be better remembered in Brussels as a fierce back room negotiator of EU politics, who also gave the European Parliament much-needed limelight with his outspoken comments.

British expatriate mobilises support for Brexit rights

London
AFP

The Frenchman behind one of several grassroots campaigns for the post-Brexit rights of the three million citizens of other EU countries living in Britain remembers the referendum as a "nightmare".

"Like many, I was convinced that we would win," 46-year-old Nicolas Hatton, who settled in Britain 21 years ago and is married to a British woman.

Hatton's reaction to the result of a vote in which he, like other Europeans living in Britain, was not allowed take part was "as if a relative had died".

He founded "The3Million", a pressure group for non-British EU nationals that now counts 7,000 members on its Facebook group and is planning a protest next month as Britain prepares to leave the EU.

At the group's first meeting in Bristol, 200 people came "with plenty of questions on how we were going to live in a country that no longer wants us".

"We are not bargaining chips, we are people," reads a slogan on group's website—a reference to a comment by a government minister who said EU expats were "one of our main cards" in Brexit negotiations.

Prime Minister Theresa May has said she would like to give guarantees on the status of EU citizens in Britain but that that will depend on a reciprocal deal for the estimated 1.2 million Britons living elsewhere in the EU.

Many Europeans who want to stay and have already been living in Britain for more than five years are trying to obtain status as permanent residents—the first step on the path to British citizenship.

But Hatton said it was "a bureaucratic nightmare requiring an 85-page-long application to be filled in".

Even then, the paper mountain has an uncertain outcome: 40 percent of demands are rejected, according to Hatton. "It's immoral, you can't treat people like that," he said.

Putin jokes Russian borders 'don't end'

Moscow
AFP

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin yesterday joked with a schoolboy that Russia's borders "don't end anywhere".

Putin was speaking at a televised awards ceremony.

Putin questioned Miroslav Oskirko, a nine-year-old prodigy who said he knew the borders of every country in the world. Putin asked the boy where Russia's borders ended, with Oskirko saying "Russia's borders end at the Bering Strait with the US".

Hugging the boy, Putin corrected him: "Russia's borders don't end anywhere," before adding: "That is a joke."

NEWS BYTES

Lufthansa strike: over 315,000 passengers hit

BERLIN: German flagship carrier Lufthansa said it is scrapping 830 flights today, grounding more than 100,000 passengers, as a strike by pilots over wages extends to a third day.

The walkout has affected more than 315,000 passengers, with the airline forced to cancel 2,618 flights over three days.

The Lufthansa pilots going on strike are demanding a pay rise of an average of 3.66 percent per year, retroactive for the past five years.

Lufthansa's hub management board member Harry Hohmeister said it was "not possible" to meet pilots' demand for a bigger wage hike.

Thwarted French attack was slated for Dec 1

PARIS: Suspects arrested last weekend in France under anti-terrorism measures had been planning to launch attacks on December 1 at important and landmark sites in and around Paris, according to a source close to inquiry. Police sources said among the targets were France's counter-intelligence services hub in Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret, grandiose police crime-investigation headquarters at Quai des Orfevres, and the riverside high court building nearby.



Police officer Maria Volpe taking care of Oumoh, in Lampedusa.

Lost migrant from Africa finds mother in Italy

Rome
AFP

A lost four year-old who made the perilous boat journey from Northern Africa to Italy alone will be reunited with her mother from Ivory Coast thanks to an extraordinary coincidence.

Oumoh, who had been taken from her father's family by her mother, was rescued at sea and brought to the Italian island of Lampedusa on November 5, along with around 15 other migrants.

But not one of the other passengers—mostly women and children—seemed to know who she was, according to police inspector Maria Volpe, who is charged with looking after migrant minors arriving in Sicily.

"Mamma Maria", as she is known, went to the island off the coast of Africa to retrieve the youngster and Oumoh was entrusted to a children's community in Palermo.

"She had arrived a few days earlier, she seemed quite calm," Volpe told reporter.

At the island's reception centre, a police officer who wanted a chance to speak to Nassade's mother without interruption let the child look through the photographs on her mobile phone to distract her.

"It's Oumoh, it's Oumoh!" she suddenly exclaimed.

It appears Nassade had met the young girl from Ivory Coast in a reception centre in Tunis. And to the police officer's astonishment, Nassade's mother was able to provide the phone number for Oumoh's mother.

Through her tears, the four year-old's mother said she had taken Oumoh away from home after her husband's family insisted the little girl must undergo female circumcision.

They travelled to Tunis, where she had left Oumoh with a friend while she returned to Ivory Coast to collect some belongings.

But the friend had the chance to set sail for Italy and had taken Oumoh with her, though she kept her distance on their arrival.

"The mother may have been planning to embark too, but she was detained in the Ivory Coast longer than expected and when she returned to Tunis, her daughter was gone," says Volpe, who spoke to mother several times by telephone.

Rome and Tunis are now arranging to re-unite mother and child, "probably via a family reunification visa for the mother", she said. A DNA test will be carried out as soon as possible to confirm their relationship.

During her years of service, "Mamma Maria", 56, has seen thousands and thousands of unaccompanied adolescent migrants, but only about 20 of them have been young children.

Hurricane Otto to make landfall in Nicaragua

Bluefields, Nicaragua
AFP

An intensifying hurricane poised to strike Nicaragua and Costa Rica with powerful winds and heavy rains that are likely to trigger dangerous floods and mudslides.

Packing winds of 175km per hour, Hurricane Otto was about to make landfall, according to the US National Hurricane Center.

Coastal conditions were mostly calm just before, with journalists in Nicaragua and Costa Rica's major cities on the Caribbean coast, Bluefields and Limon, reporting little rain or wind.

Panic-buying in the region has cleared shops of bottled water, battery-powered lamps and plastic bags.

Thousands of residents in the storm's path have been evacuated, while those on the periphery have either fled or, opting to stay, covered windows with metal sheeting or wood.

"This is the first time a hurricane has hit here," said Faucia Pena, an inhabitant of Bluefields. "We are asking God to end it or send it elsewhere. Everybody is afraid."

Marie Rickey, a 69-year-old resident on Corn Island, located off Bluefields and lashed with wind and rain, said: "We're not afraid because God is with us and will look after us."

Both Nicaragua and Costa Rica have closed schools, mobilised emergency crew and issued red alerts for at-risk areas across much of their territories.

Costa Rica has declared a nationwide emergency, sending non-essential public workers home for two days and urging private companies to do likewise.

"Let me be clear: the hurricane is potentially highly destructive," Costa Rican President Luis Guilermo Solis warned in a broadcast yesterday . It will be the first time Costa Rica has taken a direct hit from a hurricane since records began in 1851.

Otto was projected to slowly pass along the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border, a mostly rural path that would miss the two countries' inland capitals.

But the very heavy rain it was bringing with it "will likely result in life-threatening flash floods and mudslides," according to the US hurricane center.

Some Nicaraguans further south crossed the nearby border into Costa Rica, hoping it would be safer there, according to locals. Costa Rican officials met yesterday to evaluate preparations.

"We are doing everything necessary," Solis said, adding there were no shortages of fuel or water reported.

The authorities have ordered evacuation of more than 4,000 people along the sparsely inhabited northern half of Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. But some were defiantly staying.

Evacuations

- **Thousands of residents in the storm's path have been evacuated, while those on the periphery have either fled or, opting to stay, covered windows with metal sheeting or wood.**
- **Costa Rica has declared a nationwide emergency, sending non-essential public workers home for two days and urging private companies to do likewise.**



People arrive at the Bluefields Port before the arrival of Storm Otto in Bluefields town, Nicaragua, yesterday.

"Some people don't want to leave their homes, leave all their possessions, their animals," police officer Christian Rodriguez told the Costa Rican newspaper La Nacion in the village of Batan, close to Limon.

One woman who did evacuate her home near the village of Barra del Colorado, Teresa Romero, 52, told AFP that around 10 male locals had refused to leave. She was taking shelter in a church near the capital San Jose.

High winds and heavy rains could devastate crops—a big blow especially in Nicaragua. Otto "could seriously jeopardize food security for small farmers who rely on maize (corn), beans, cocoa, honey, coffee and livestock for their livelihoods" in Nicaragua, Jennifer Zapata, a regional director for Heifer International, a US-based poverty-fighting charity, said in a statement.

Otto is a rare, late-appearing hurricane in the Atlantic storm season, which runs from June to the end of November.

It is also on an unusually southern trajectory.

Prosecutors: US Capitol attack plotter kept trying to incite

Cincinnati
AP

AN Ohio man who plotted to attack the US Capitol during President Barack Obama's 2015 State of Union address kept trying from behind bars to urge others to violence in support of the Islamic State (IS) group, federal authorities say.

Prosecutors described 22-year-old Christopher Lee Cornell's jail activities in a sentencing memorandum filed this week ahead of a December 5 sentencing hearing. They want a judge to sentence him to 30 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to three charges.

"This case is unusual in the amount of post-arrest conduct and misconduct by the defendant ... his persistence in trying to incite violence and his efforts to obstruct justice through witness intimidation," the filing by US Attorney Benjamin C Glassman's office stated. "These events reflect a profound lack of remorse, or at least, a very lengthy delay in the appearance of remorse by Cornell."

Cornell's attorneys plan to state their recommendations on sentencing next week.

For a precious drop



People stand in line to collect water from a water truck during a drought season in La Paz, Bolivia, yesterday.

12 bodies found in clandestine graves

Chilpancingo, Mexico
AFP

Authorities unearthed 12 bodies in clandestine graves in Mexico's southern state of Guerrero, officials said yesterday.

The pits were found on a mountain near village of Pocjahuxco, part of the municipality of Zitla, a region where drug cartels have been fighting over control of criminal operations.

Seven bodies were exhumed on Wednesday and another five yesterday, said Roberto Alvarez, the state's public safety spokesman. State prosecutors are investigating the crime scene, while soldiers and police guard the area, Alvarez said in a brief statement.

Drug cartels have been burying their victims in hidden graves across the country for years, and authorities regularly find human remains.

Guerrero is one of the country's most violent states and a major opium poppy grower, with the Guerreros Unidos and Los Rojos drug gangs engaged in brutal turf wars.

Last weekend, at least 24 people were killed in the state. The bodies of nine men, including five that were dismembered, were found on a roadside.

Trump calls for national healing

Palm *Beach, Florida*
AP

Thanksgiving message

It's time to restore the bonds of trust between citizens, because when America is unified there is nothing beyond our reach, the President-elect said.

His Cabinet beginning to take shape, President-elect Donald Trump is offering a Thanksgiving prayer for unity after "a long and bruising" campaign season.

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," the incoming president said in a video message released on national holiday. He continued, "It's my prayer that on this Thanksgiving we begin to heal our divisions and move forward as one country strengthened by shared purpose and very, very common resolve."

Trump, who was gathered with family yesterday at his Palm Beach estate, was expected to pause for a day after a two-week scramble to shape his nascent administration from scratch.

He injected the first signs of diversity into his Cabinet-to-be the day before, tapping South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley to serve as US ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his role, which would make him the first black choice but he also suggested he'd be thinking about it. "I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly to making our inner cities great for everyone," Carson wrote on his Facebook page.

Trump is also expected to select billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. to lead Commerce Department, a senior Trump adviser said. The 78-year-old Ross, who is white, is chairman and chief strategy officer of private-equity firm W.L. Ross & Co.

Yesterday, Trump was with his family behind closed doors at Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach estate. He's spending the Thanksgiving holiday there after a week of interviewing potential appointees in New York.

"It's time to restore the bonds of trust between citizens, because when America is unified there is nothing beyond our reach," the president-elect said in his Thanksgiving message, which was posted on social media.

Thanksgiving parade kicks off in NYC

New York
AP

Thousands of people were surrounded by tight security yesterday as they lined the streets for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Charlie Brown led the signature large inflatable balloons as the parade kicked off with the spraying of confetti and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Costumed characters mingled with revelers and crowds cheered as clowns on bicycles rode by carrying bundles of balloons.

Spectators, some 10 deep, lined parade route, which starts on Manhattan's Upper West Side and makes its way down to Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

The Charlie Brown balloon was one of three new giant character inflatables in this year's parade and joined returning favourites including Thomas the Tank Engine, Hello Kitty and SpongeBob SquarePants.

Among celebrities expected to attend were Tony Bennett, Aloe Blacc, Sarah McLachlan and Olympic gold medalists Laurie Hernandez, Claressa Shields and Michelle Carter.

But attendees also saw some somber sights, like more than 80 trucks filled with sand placed at intersections and other places as barriers against any kind of attack. While trucks have been used like this before — most recently to protect Trump Tower — the New York Police Department said they would play a bigger role at this year's parade in wake of truck attack in Nice, France and a recent posting in an English-language IS group magazine that called the parade "an excellent target."

There was a heavy police presence at the parade, including bomb-sniffing dogs and officers in uniform with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors.



A volunteer helps inflate Thomas the Tank Engine balloon for the thanksgiving day parade in Manhattan, New York, yesterday.

SERVICES

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARES

ARTECH
Sage Accounting, Peachtree, QuickBooks, Dynacom, DacEasy, Tally, POS, Bar Code, Fixed Assets Software's.
Tel: +974 **44375654** E-mail: **artech@ar-technology.net**

ADVERTISING OVERSEAS NEWSPAPER

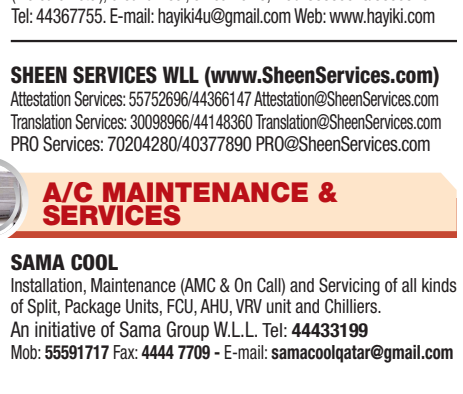
GEM ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS
(Overseas Newspaper Advertisements)
Tel: **44442001** - GSM: **55783303**

ATTESTATION









ASIA TRANSLATION & SERVICES CENTRE
Leading Legal Translators & Document Legalization Since 1987. Indian Certificate Attestation. Head Office: 44364555 - Al Hilal Branch: 44621334 - Salwa Road Branch: 40291307. Mobile Contacts: Sufiyan - 66192881/Yoonus - 77813190

AL HAYIKI TRANSLATION & SERVICES EST.
Authorized & Leading Since 1992. Indian Attestation. Sofitel Complex (Mercure Hotel), Ground Floor, Office No.25, Mob: 55850613/55593464 Tel: 44367755. E-mail: hayiki4u@gmail.com Web: www.hayiki.com

SHEEN SERVICES WLL (www.SheenServices.com)
Attestation Services: 55752696/44366147 Attestation@SheenServices.com
Translation Services: 30098966/44148360 Translation@SheenServices.com
PRO Services: 70204280/40377890 PRO@SheenServices.com

A/C MAINTENANCE & SERVICES

SAMA COOL
Installation, Maintenance (AMC & On Call) and Servicing of all kinds of Split, Package Units, FCU, AHU, VRV unit and Chilliers.
An initiative of Sama Group W.L.L. Tel: **44433199**
Mob: **55591717** Fax: **4444 7709** - E-mail: **samacoolqatar@gmail.com**

BUS A/C EQUIPMENT



BUSINESS SET-UP

LEADER MIDDLE EAST W.L.L.
For fast & reliable BUSINESS SET-UP, LOCAL SPONSORS, Trade Licences, Joint Ventures, Public Relations, Visas & Real Estate Services.
Tel: **+974 55745147** E-mail: bizqatar@yahoo.com

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE



CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE





AL MUTWASSIT CLEANING & PEST CONTROL
Kharaba Street, Behind White Mosque, Tel: **44367555**
Fax: **44367999** GSM: **55875920/55860432**

AL SADEQ CLEANING & CONTRACTING
24 Hrs Cleaning. Monthly/Yearly Contracts.
Mobile: **33020108/33020107**
E-mail: alsadeq_2000@yahoo.com

CAPITAL CLEANING COMPANY W.L.L.
Complete General Cleaning Services for Old and New Villas
Tel: **44582257** Mobile: **33189899/ 55565328**
E-mail: capitalcleaningwll@gmail.com

COMPUTER & IT



COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

FAMILY COMPUTER CENTRE
Al Rayyan Complex, Rayyan Road.
Tel: **44435361/44370779** Fax: **44449130**

ELECTRONICS



FLORIST



FURNITURE

APOLLO FURNITURE
Salwa Road.
Tel: **44689522 (3 Lines)**
www.apollofurnitureonline.com

GLASS COATING

APOLLO ENTERPRISES
Crystal Bond Glass Coating Against The Sun's Harmful Rays, Heat Resistance. Salwa Road. Tel: **44426664**
GSM: **55830870/33599574** E-mail: **mlibor@belzona.org**

GENERAL TRADING SERVICES



IMMIGRATION SERVICES



INVEST IN QATAR

HELPLINE GROUP OF COMPANIES
We provide A to Z support for the Company Formation, Commercial Registration, PRO Services & Real Estate Services. Call Now:
77711129/44351974/44919213 - www.helplinegroups.com

QUEENS LAND SERVICES
Business Set-up and Sponsorship.
Debt Collection. Real Estate Services
Mob: **77776917** E-mail: **info@qlsqatar.com**

JEWELLERY

CANARA JEWELLERY
Al Mansoura, Bin Dirham Street.
Tel: **44422071, 44357283** E-mail: canarajewellery@yahoo.com
canarajewllery@gmail.com - www.4422071.com

MASSAGE

KOTTAKKAL AYURVEDIC MASSAGE CENTRE
Ayurvedic Massage, Philippine & Thai Massage.
Near Badriya Signal, Bin Mehmood.
Tel.: **44360061** GSM: **33453697**

HERBOLIFE MASSAGE (AYURVEDIC)
Indian & Thailand Rejuvanation, Back & Joints Pain, Paralysis, Rheumatic Diseases. Home Services.
D-Ring Road, Nuaiga Hilal. Call: **77521322/77995695**

ROYAL THAI MEN SPA
Authentic Thai Massage! Thai Traditional Massage, Aromatherapy, Hot Oil, Sauna, Body Scrub, Foot Massage. D' Ring Road (High-way), New Salata, Near Al Arabi Stadium.Tel.: **44666745 www.thaimassagedoha.com**

MOVERS

E2E GLOBAL LINES (Q) PACKERS & MOVERS WLL
Worldwide Door To Door Service and Local & International Relocation.
Tel: **4451 6688** Fax: **4468 8631** Mob: **5599 0644**
E-mail: shipping@e2eqatar.com Web: www. e2eqatar.com

METAL REPAIRS

APOLLO ENTERPRISES
Belzona Polymerics - Tel: **44426664**
GSM: **55871914/ 55524897** E-mail: apollo@qatar.net.qa - inquiry@apollo-chemicals.com

For advertisements, call: 44557857

SERVICES

MANPOWER SERVICES





PEST CONTROL



NEW STATE CLEANING & PEST CONTROL
Cleaning of Domestic & Industrial Premises. Windows & Carpet Cleaning. Hospitality Services. Marble Polishing.
Mob+: **466517556/55404339** E-mail: newstate.qatar@gmail.com

PARTY ITEMS & BALLOON DECORATION

PARTY KINGDOM
Near Jaidah Flyover, Nasrallah Centre.
Tel: **44353501/ 44366431**
E-mail: partykingdom10doha@yahoo.com

PAINTING & GYPSUM WORK

AL SADEQ PAINTING WORKS
Painting & Gypsum Works along with all Masonary Works.
Mobile: **33020108/33020107**
E-mail: alsadeq_2000@yahoo.com

RENT A CAR

BUDGET RENT A CAR
The Best Car Rental Service in Qatar.
Head Office - **44310411**
Airport Arrival & Airport Departure: **40108880 -55808638 (24 Hrs)**

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL
Cars - 4WDs - Pickups - Buses - Chauffeur Drive
Call: **5547 8150/5547 8151**
E-mail: info@national-qatar.com

REGENCY FLEETS (A Regency Group Co.)
Special Corporate leasing and Rental rates. Price includes Comprehensive Insurance, Maintenance, Replacement Vehicle etc. Driven by Values. E-mail: info@regencyfleets.com Tel: **44433822/44554046/44554048**
Fax: **44554047 Airport Branch (24hrs):** Tel.: **70482655**

E2E FLEETS - The Complete Transportation Solution
Bus Rentals, Staff & School Transportation, Pick and Drop Off Services, etc.
Tel: **4460 5291/44515568** Fax: **4460 2176** Mob: **33199183**
E-mail: fleets@e2eqatar.com Web: www.e2efleets.com

NICE RENT A CAR
Solution for Transport & Leasing all types of vehicle & Heavy Equiment.
Tel: **44413392** GSM: **55514223** Fax: **44317896** Website: **niceqatar.com**
E-mail: **sales@niceqatar.com/ rasheed@niceqatar.com**

AL SULAIMAN RENT A CAR
Main Office C- Ring Road. Tel: **44911711**
Airport Branch: 40108843 Mob: 33533377 Al Khor Branch: 4479-6677
E-mail: info@alsulaimancar.com, airport@alsulaimancar.com

AL MUFTAH RENT A CAR WLL
HO: D' Ring Rd, T: 44634444/44010700 - Airport: 70634433/40108882 Grand Hamad Avenue: 44442003; Ras Laffan: 44748840; Al Khor: 44113344 E Mail: reservations@rentacardoha.com Website: www.rentacardoha.com

RENT A CAR

OASIS RENT A CAR
YOU RENT MORE THAN A CAR WITH OASIS
Tel: **4413 0011** Allen: **6641 7354** Fax**: 4413 0033**
Rental@OasisCars.Com - OasisCars.com - Great deals on long term rentals

GO RENT A CAR
Competitive Rates for Car Rental & Leasing.
Tel: **+974 44325500** Fax: +974 **44375753** GSM: **33697075/ 66971703/55241629** E-mail: info.goqatar@gorentacarme.com.

AL DAR CAR RENTAL
24 Hours. Bin Omran, Ahmed Bin Ali St., PO Box 24816
Tel: **44877789** Fax: **44866637**
aldar-car-rental@hotmail.com

EUROCAR RENT A CAR CO LLC
Head Office at C-Ring Road, Tel: **44660677**
Airport: **40108888** Mobile: **66967787/ 55849587**
E-mail: mktg@europcar.com.qa

AVIS RENT A CAR
Main Office at Al Sharif Trading & Cont. Co. Bldg. at the junction of Airport Street & Suhar St. Road. Tel: **44667744 / 40108887**
Fax: **44657626** E-mail: avis@qatar.net.qa Web: www.avisqatar.com

COUNTRY RENT A CAR - BARWA AL WAKRA
2015 Model Kia Cerato, Honda City. Daily/Monthly Rental - Full Insurance Coverage. Free Maintenance & Replacement. 24 Hrs. Road Side Assistance. Tel.: **44154467/44687507** GSM: **55048720/ 5544042/66995238** E-mail: info@countryrentacar.com - Bldg. No.18, Shop No.50

REAL ESTATE

ADAM REAL ESTATE COMPANY
Al Kuwari Blgd., 8th Floor, Al Sadd, Near Sebstain Rest.
Tel: **44366932** Fax: **44366931**
GSM: **55500789 / 55803731**

APOLLO REAL ESTATE
Salwa Road. GSM: **55864352/55506803/ 55872145**
Tel: **44689522** www.apollopropertiesonline.com
E-mail: apolloprop@qatar.net.qa

AL MUFTAH SERVICES
Tel: **44634444/44010700** Mob: **55542067/55823100**
E Mail: reservations@rentacardoha.com
Website: www.rentacardoha.com

RECRUITMENT SERVICES



SECURITY SYSTEM & SOLUTION



SCAFFOLDING

APOLLO ENTERPRISES SCAFFOLDING DIVISION
Contract/Hire/Sale - Salwa Road. Tel: **44693334**
Fax: **44416274** GSM: **55521089/55560246/55536285**
www.apollo-qatar.net - E-mail: apolloscaff@qatar.net.qa

MALZAMAT QATAR W.L.L.
Steel & Aluminium Scaffolding Sale, Hire & Contracting
Tel: **44504266** Fax: **44502489** GSM: **66715063**
www.malzamatqatar.com E-mail: **info@malzamatqatar.com, malzamat@gmail.com**

QATAR AL ATTIYAH INTERNATIONAL GROUP (QAIG)
Scaffolding Division. Tel: 44503224/25 Fax: 44503227
Mob: 55860313/33397858
E-mail: info@qaigscaff.com.qa

TRANSLATION SERVICES

HELPLINE
C-Ring Road, Near Gulf Times.
Tel: **44919213** Mob: **77711129**
www.helplinegroups.com

WATER TANK CLEANING

AL MUTWASSIT CLEANING & PEST CONTROL
Kharaba st, Behind white Mosque.
Fax: **443679 99**
GSM. **55875920/55860432**

CAPITAL CLEANING COMPANY
Cleaning Water Tanks & Pest Control.
GSM: **55565328/ 33189899** Tel: **44582257**
E-mail: capitalcleaningwll@gmail.com

UNIFORMS





FOR RENT

APOLLO REAL ESTATE

Doha's leading Real Estate Agency can offer you a wide selection of available properties. Apartment to compounds and office space. Give us your requirements and let us find you a place that fits. With over 30 years experience in Doha, we know the market.

Qatar's first Real Estate Company under British Management

Call: Office: 44689522, Maureen 55864352
Abubakar 55850815, Peter 55506803, Dexter 55872145
www.apollopropertiesonline.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ayani Geethika Weerapperuma, holder of Sri Lankan Passport No. N2729603 (Qatar ID No. 28714410403) hereby change my name to **AYANI GEETHIKA HEWAWASAM ALISANDIRIGE.**

Any objection, please contact the Immigration and Passport Office within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

I, Bhsrat Damai, holder of Nepalese Passport No. 08126199 (Qatar ID No. 27252410088) hereby change my name to **BHARAT DARNAL.**

Any objection, please contact the Immigration and Passport Office within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

I, Fakir Mohammed Shaikh Vazir Mohammed, holder of Indian Passport No. Z2505630 (Qatar ID No. 26235604797) hereby change my name to **VAZIR MOHAMMED FAKIR MOHAMMED SHAIKH.**

Any objection, please contact the Immigration and Passport Office within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

LOST

LOST PASSPORT

Philippine Passport No.EC5881217
issued to **EDEN VAYOLESES AVELINO** was lost.
Anyone who has found the passport,
please give it to the Police or call:

GSM: 55060062





CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/04

©2016 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/03

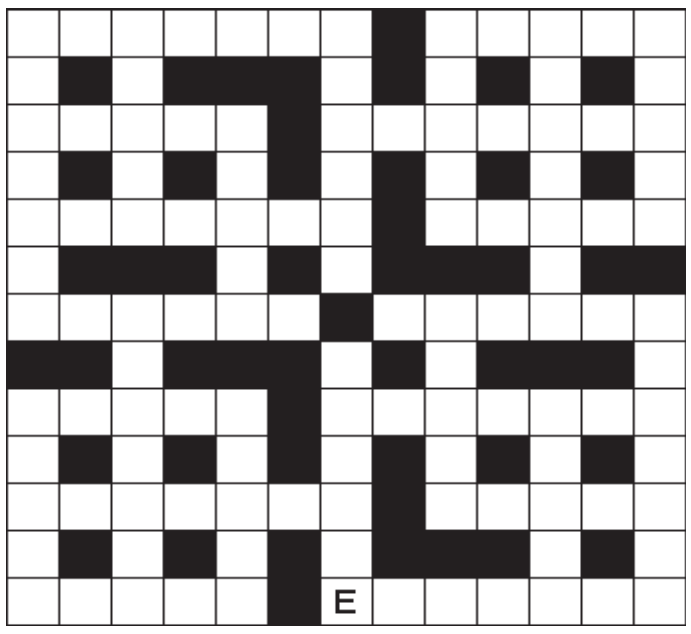
©2016 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Yesterday's answer

Conceptis Sudoku: Conceptis Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9×9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3×3 box contains the same number only once.

CROSSWORD

C. Stringed instument (5)
C. Windstorm (7)
E. Sincere (7)
E. Encrypt (6)
E. Obliterate (5)
I. Dialect (5)
J. Top prize (7)
J. Fairness (7)
L. Large feline (7)
M. Cereal grass (5)
N. Emerging (7)
O. Happen (5)
O. Mediterranean fruit (5)
O. Greek letter (5)
O. Threatening (7)
P. Breed of dog (6)
P. Go forward (7)
R. Right-hand page (5)
R. Hazards (5)
S. Fusillade (5)
S. Scorch (5)
S. Lance (5)
S. Impassive (7)
T. Stories (5)
T. Tropical bird (6)
T. Clan (5)
U. Imaginary creature (7)
V. Fiddle (6)



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

Yesterday's answer

ALL IN THE MIND

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

ALIBI, ARREST, CAPTURE, CAUTION, CHARGE, CLUE, CRIME, CRIMINAL, DETECTIVE, EVIDENCE, FORENSIC, INVESTIGATION, MOTIVE, MURDER, MYSTERY, OPPORTUNITY, PERPETRATOR, PLOT, POLICE, PURSUIT, SENTENCE, SOLVE, SUSPECT, WEAPON.

ALJAZEERA

08:00 News
08:30 Rewind
09:00 Al Jazeera World
10:00 News
10:30 Inside Story
11:00 News
11:30 The Stream
12:00 News
12:30 101 East
13:00 NEWSHOUR
14:00 News
14:30 Inside Story
15:00 Once Upon a Time in Punchbowl
16:00 NEWSHOUR
17:00 News
17:30 The Stream
18:00 newsgrid
19:00 News
19:30 Fault Lines
20:00 News
20:30 Inside Story
21:00 NEWSHOUR
22:00 News
22:30 UpFront
23:00 Indian Hospital

Discovery HD

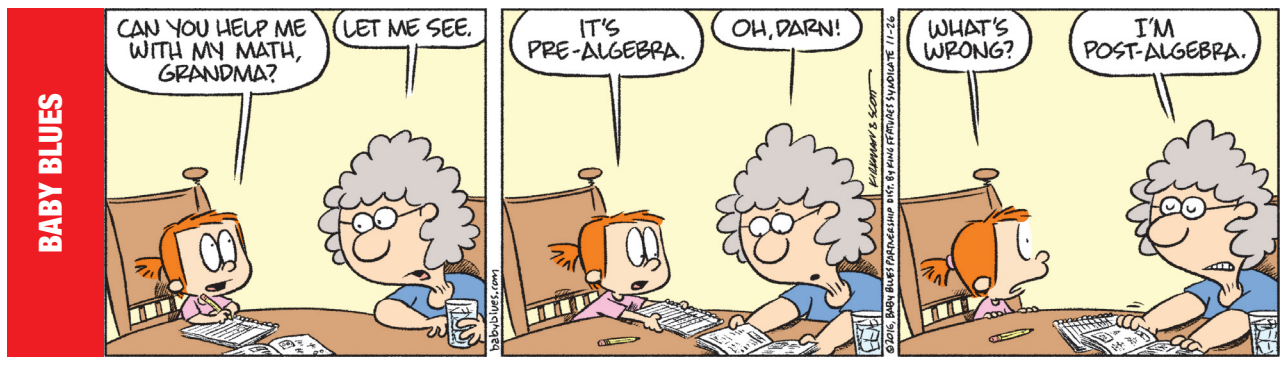
10:10 Dive Wars Australia
11:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
11:50 Car vs Wild
12:40 Telescope
13:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
14:20 Sacred Steel Bikes
15:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
15:35 How It's Made: Dream Cars
16:00 Street Outlaws
20:10 Street Outlaws
21:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
21:50 Sacred Steel Bikes
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Telescope

ANIMAL PLANET

10:10 Mutant Planet
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Wildest Europe
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Mutant Planet
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Wildest Africa
18:25 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
19:20 Big Fish Man
20:15 Tanked
21:10 The Real Lion Queen
22:05 Mutant Planet
23:00 Big Fish Man
23:55 Gator Boys

HISTORY

10:35 Ice Road Truckers
11:25 American Restoration
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Aussie Pickers
13:55 Time Team
14:45 Battle 360
15:35 Hoard Hunters
16:25 Counting Cars
16:50 Time Team
17:40 Pawn Stars Australia
18:30 Alone
19:20 Ice Road Truckers
20:10 Mountain Men
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
21:50 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
22:40 Barbarians Rising
23:30 Time Team



NOVO

Allied (2D/Action) 10:30, 11:00, 11:30am, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 11:30pm & 12:00midnight
Fantastic Beast And Where To Find Them (2D/Adventure) 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 & 11:00pm
Dear Zindagi (2D/Hindi) 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 & 11:00pm
Trolls (2D/Animation) 10:00am, 12:00noon, 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm
Havenhurst (2D/Horror) 8:00, 10:00pm & 12:00midnight
Doctor Strange (2D/Adventure) 11:30am, 4:30 & 9:305pm
Bleed For This (2D/Action) 2:00, 7:00 & 11:55pm
Operation Chromite (2D/Action) 10:00am, 2:40, 7:20pm & 12:00midnight
The Accountant (2D/Action) 12:10, 4:50 & 9:30pm
Arrival (2D/Drama) 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm & 12:00midnight
Fantastic Beast And Where To Find Them (3DIMAX/Adventure) 10:00am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 & 11:45pm

MALL

Thoppil Joppan (2D/Malayalam) 2:00 & 9:00pm
Trolls (2D/Animation) 2:15 & 4:30pm
Echoes of War (2D/Drama) 2:30pm
Fantastic Beast And Where To Find Them (2D/Adventure) 4:00pm
Arrival (2D/Drama) 4:15 & 11:30pm
Kavalai Vendam (2D/Tamil) 6:30pm
Havenhurst (2D/Horror) 6:15pm
Dear Zindagi (2D/Hindi) 6:30 & 10:45pm
Dobara Phir Se (2D/Urdu) 8:15pm
Allied (2D/Action) 9:15 & 11:30pm

LANDMARK

Dear Zindagi (2D/Hindi) 2:30 & 10:30pm
Fantastic Beast And Where To Find Them (2D/Adventure) 2:30pm
Trolls (2D/Animation) 3:00pm
Arrival (2D/Drama) 5:00 & 9:30pm
Havenhurst (2D/Horror) 5:00 & 9:00pm
Thoppil Joppan (2D/Malayalam) 5:30 & 8:00pm
Echoes of War (2D/Drama) 7:00 & 11:00pm
Allied (2D/Action) 7:15 & 11:30pm

ROYAL PLAZA

Thoppil Joppan (2D/Malayalam) 2:30 & 11:00pm
Dear Zindagi (2D/Hindi) 2:30, 5:00 & 8:00pm
Trolls (2D/Animation) 3:00pm
Havenhurst (2D/Horror) 5:00pm
Echoes of War (2D/Drama) 7:00pm
Allied (2D/Action) 9:00 & 11:15pm
Arrival (2D/Drama) 9:00 & 11:15pm

ASIAN TOWN

Kavalai Vendam (Tamil) 12:30, 3:15, 8:30, 11:15pm & 01:45am
Force 2 (Hindi) 6:00pm
Thoppil Joppan (Malayalam) 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00pm, 01:30 & 02:00am
Dear Zindagi (Hindi) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm & 01:00am
Puli Murugan (Malayalam) 12:30 & 6:00pm

AL KHOR

Dear Zindagi (Hindi) 11:00am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 & 11:00pm
Trolls (Animation) 11:00am & 1:00pm
Fantastic Beast And Where To Find Them (2D/Adventure) 5:45 & 8:30pm
Thoppil Joppan (Malayalam) 10:45am, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45 & 11:15pm
Kavalai Vendam (Tamil) 3:00 & 11:15pm

SHOWING AT
VILLAGGIO & CITY CENTER



GULF MALL: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
VILLAGIO: 11.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI) / CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 1.00 + 3.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) / AL KHOR: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM



GULF MALL: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
GULF MALL VIP I: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
VILLAGIO: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE VIP: 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)



GULF MALL: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
VILLAGIO: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN



11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM



CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM



GULF MALL: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM



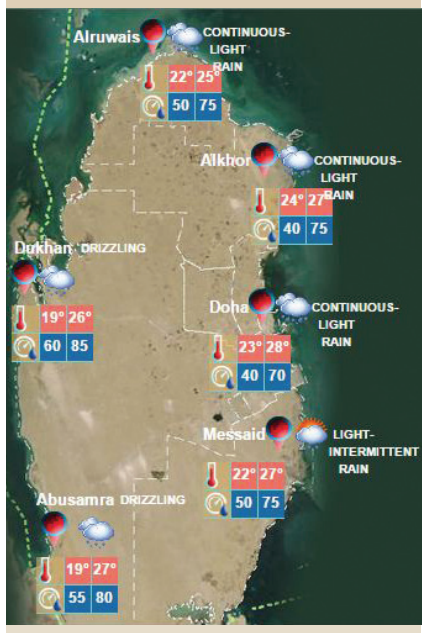
PRAYER TIMINGS



FAJR	04.37 am		
SHOROOK	05.58 am		
ZUHR	11.21 am	MAGHRIB	04.46 pm
ASR	02.23 pm	ISHA	06.16 pm

WEATHER TODAY

23°C Minimum | **28° C** Maximum



Expected thundery rain at places associated with sudden strong wind. Partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rain.

HIGH TIDE 03:15 - 13:30 LOW TIDE 08:00 - 20:45

Courtesy: Qatar Meteorology Department

LATEST NEWS UPDATE

www.thepeninsulaqatar.com

Ashghal announces traffic diversion on Al Thakhira Road & Al Shamal Road

The *Peninsula*

The Public Works Authority 'Ashghal' announced that it will implement two traffic diversions today, November 25, 2016, to enable the works of laying Treated Sewage Effluent rising mains as part of design, build, operate and maintain of Al Thakhira Sewage Treatment Works and Transfer Pumping Station and Associated Pipelines.

Diversion 1:

The entrance and exit of Woqod Petrol Station from Al Thakhira Main Road (Near Al Meera) will be closed, and traffic will be diverted to new entrance and exit parallel to the closed. The diversion will last for a period of 77 days.

Diversion 2:

The entrance of the service road to Umm Birka road will be closed and traffic will be diverted to Umm Birka Interchange. The diversion will start last for a period of 60 days, Ashghal announced.

The Public Works Authority has requested to all the road users to abide by the speed limit and follow diversion road signs to ensure their safety.

With the camping season now underway, Ashghal also reminded road users to exercise special care while driving to their campsite, by further reducing speed as necessary.

'Characters' Village' comes to life











