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Amir launches Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani launching the web portal of the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic. RIGHT: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Speaker of the Shura Council, H E Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, and other dignitaries during the launch ceremony.

QNA
DOHA

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani launched the web portal of the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic during a ceremony organised yesterday morning by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies of the Doha Institute for

Graduate Studies.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Speaker of the Shura Council, H E Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud and a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers, senior officials, academics and intellectuals, as well as a

number of university professors, experts and linguists from Arab countries.

At the beginning of the ceremony, verses from the Holy Quran were recited followed by a number of films about the importance of the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic, the stages of its development, the characteristics of the first stage

and information about its web portal.

The Director-General of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and a number of members of the Scientific Council of the Dictionary gave speeches on this occasion, in which they explained the historical and linguistic value of this dictionary. ➔P2

تميم بن حمد
@TamimBinHamad

"Today, I took part in the launch of the Doha Historical Dictionary for Arabic Language, which is the first of its kind in the history of the Arabs and Arabic language. The dictionary is a historical milestone as it indicates the history of the development of words in Arabic language. I congratulate those in charge of this dictionary, speakers of Arabic Language, for this great and important achievement".

World's biggest football model to be unveiled

SIDI MOHAMED
THE PENINSULA

In an attempt to set a Guinness World Record, the Police College will make the biggest football model symbolising the hosting of 2022 World Cup in the country.

It is part of the Police College participation in the events of Darb Al Saai in celebrations of the Qatar National Day 2018. More than 4,000 people including citizens and residents of different ages will join this initiative of fixing 33,500 coloured wooden pieces. These pieces would be put together in the shape of a huge football which will be unveiled on the last day of National Day celebrations.

This was announced yesterday in a press conference held at the Officers' Club of the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

Major Fahad Saeed Al Subaie, Director of Training Department said that: "One of the highlights of the event is the college's attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records by creating a football model that symbolises the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, with the participation of a large number of citizens, residents and school students."

Al Subaie noted that the events also include pavilions displaying latest techniques used by the Ministry of Interior in providing security and humanitarian services to the public, in addition to a model of the Police Museum.

"The College is holding its activities this year under the slogan "Qatar brings us together 2022" and there are many surprises that will be offered by the Police College to the public and the students in Darb Al Saai," Al Subaie added. ➔P3

Qatar applies for ICAO's Council membership

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti announced yesterday Qatar has applied for the membership of ICAO's Council which is elected by the Assembly every three years and consists of 36 members elected in three groups. The Council is a permanent body of the Organisation responsible to the Assembly. He said that the meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held next year.

"Qatar's civil aviation and transport sector witnessed a great leap and continuous development in light of the development boom of the country under wise-leadership," said the Minister while addressing the opening ceremony of 5th Global Aviation Training and TrainAir Plus Symposium yesterday at Qatar

National Convention Center (QNCC).

He said that one of the prominent developments in the aviation industry is Hamad International Airport (HIA) which has become one of the best airports in the world in terms of competence, service and comfort for passengers. "In addition, Qatar Airways (QA) took the lead and won numerous international awards," said the Minister.

"Qatar Aeronautical College (QAC), which is hosting the symposium has exerted great efforts to reach its deserved position through signing many agreements, memoranda of understanding and accreditation with international universities," said the Minister.

H E Al Sulaiti said that by hosting this event, Qatar is able to contribute to its strategic vision towards developing the human factor, given the participation of experts and VIPs from

the aviation industry. It also gives the chance to global experts to highlight the best training practices to develop aviation training as it is an important element for growth.

The Minister said Qatar will not hesitate to provide the required support to ICAO, International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airport Council International (ACI) and other international organizations to help the countries apply global standards especially in civil aviation and the recommended practiced including aviation training.

The Minister said the symposium is an important opportunity to gather ICAO member states with training entities and organizations in order to discuss new aspects and partnerships. In addition to raising awareness on the priorities for strengthening the main capacities of aviation training in the near and long term. ➔P3

Amir to patronise launch of Reservoirs Project today

QNA
DOHA

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will patronise today the launch ceremony of Water Security Mega Reservoirs Project held by the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation at the pumping stations in the Umm Salal Ali area. This project which is strategic for the State of Qatar's water security is considered one of the largest of its kind in the world. The cornerstone of the project was laid in May 2015.

Amir holds phone call with Kuwait Amir

QNA
DOHA

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held yesterday evening a telephone conversation with the Amir of Kuwait, H H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, during which H H the Amir assured about the well-being of H H the Amir of Kuwait, who underwent successful regular medical examinations, wishing him good health and well-being.

Qatar's inventor wins at WSA 2018 for Digital Innovation

QNA
DOHA

Qatar's inventor Mohammed Al Jefairi won the 2018 World Summit Awards (WSA) for Digital Innovation as a representative of the State of Qatar through his project encyclopedia of sign language "Deaf Pedia" for the

inclusion and empowerment category.

During the ceremony held on Sunday to honour the Qatari inventor, Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti said that 2018 WSA for Digital Innovation is an international standard for honouring the best local digital

innovations that have a great impact on improving communities, expressing pride of all the projects that have won over the past years. The Minister congratulated Mohammed Al Jefairi for winning the 2018 WSA for Digital Innovation award for the inclusion and empowerment category and raising the name

of Qatar at this global forum.

Qatar is the only Gulf country to win an award in the eight categories of this year. Qatar and Lebanon and the only two countries from all Arab countries that won an award.

Deaf Pedia is an open-source sign language platform can be used by any user around

the world in any language and dialect and has been selected among 40 winners out of a total of 430 nominations from 182 participating countries.

Qatar Airways Group chief executive Akbar Al Baker congratulated Qatar's inventor for winning at 2018 WSA for Digital Innovation. ➔P2

Included with today's edition is a special supplement

Doha Historical Dictionary a milestone

The executive director of the dictionary confirmed that there is a plan to introduce the dictionary not only in the Arab world but also in the West.

QNA
DOHA

Arabic language experts stressed that Qatar's adoption of the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic provides a great service for the advancement of science in the language of the nation.

A number of those who worked on the dictionary stressed yesterday that completing project, which was first launched yesterday, is worthy of an unprecedented linguistic renaissance. With the dictionary, the Arabic language and its texts will be compiled into an electronic language code that will be the largest ever.

General Director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Dr Azmi Bishara, who is also director-general of the project, said in a speech marking the launch that the dictionary would never have been completed if it weren't for the faith in joint Arab work, solid management, and the Arab experts who worked on it. He highlighted that other similar projects that took place in the past had to end before reaching its desired goal.

Bishara did also discuss the successes of the past, beginning with the establishment of the Arabic language complex in Egypt in 1932 and elsewhere in the Arab world, all of which were certainly remarkable efforts but have not yet reached the milestone of establishing a historical dictionary of the Arabic language.



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani with a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers, senior officials, academics and intellectuals, as well as a number of university professors, experts and linguists from Arab countries during the launch of the web portal of the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic yesterday.

Bishara stressed that what the project achieved in five years, two of which were for establishing a methodology and creating a database, is a major and unique achievement at the Arab and even international levels. In three years, 100 thousand dictionary entries covering seven hundred years were completed until the year 200 Hijri. This was despite the special nature of the Arab language.

He discussed a number of previous experiences with historical dictionaries in other languages, which took a long time compared to this project. The Germans took centuries and two decades to finish 400 years only from the history of their language. It also took 70 years for the English language dictionary to produce its first edition. Bishara said that adding 'Doha' to the name of the dictionary was to reflect that it is a gift from Doha to the entire Arab world.

For his part, member of the

Academic Council for the Doha Historical Dictionary of Arabic Ali Ahmed Al Kubaisi said that Doha Dictionary is a qualitative leap in serving the Arabic language. He added that the Doha dictionary was the first successful Arab attempt in this regard, noting that it would open new horizons for all researchers and scholars in all fields of Arabic language studies and prepares for a sophisticated Arabic dictionary industry. He also stressed that the support of the State of Qatar reflects the commitment of its wise leadership to enhancing the presence of the Arab language.

Executive Director of the dictionary Dr Aze-Eddine Bouchikhi said for his part that any nation exists because of the existence of a historical dictionary for its language. Bouchikhi pointed out that the historical Doha Dictionary of Arabic was unique, as it added 100 thousand dictionary entries covering seven hundred

years until the year 200 Hijri. He said that the project can be constantly updated, and is open to all experts and researchers to recommend amendments.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the impact the dictionary will have on the future of the Arabic language, Bouchikhi said that the dictionary provides an important repertoire of Arabic words that may have been neglected in use, forgotten by people, or do not know their implications, or even the semantic developments that have taken place.

On the existence of a media plan to introduce the Doha Historical Dictionary in the Arab world, The executive director of the dictionary confirmed that there is a plan to introduce the dictionary not only in the Arab world but also in the West. He also said that the e-portal will allow them to gauge the interaction with the dictionary as well.

Head of the Academic

Council Dr Ramzi Baalbaki pointed out that the dictionary kept a balance between the knowledge left by the ancestors, and modern human knowledge which witnessed a scientific revolution in the field of linguistic sciences in general and in dictionaries in particular. He then thanked the State of Qatar and its leadership for supporting such an historic project.

Dr Mahmoud Ghanayem told QNA that the launch of the dictionary represents a new beginning for the Arabic language. He highlighted that there were previous attempts in the last century to create a historical dictionary but were not fully completed, as it needed a scientific and sound management staff. He also said that the period covered in the first phase was the most difficult to cover. Dr Abdulghani Abo Al Azm also said that the project was a leading initiative by Qatar, and called for efforts to continue to complete it.

Malaysian PM praises Qatar's role in fighting corruption

QNA
KUALA LUMPUR

The Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir Mohamad praised the role of Qatar in fighting corruption and supporting development issues in world countries, referring to the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award which is an initiative by Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to support the efforts of the UN to fight corruption and encourage those who contribute to combating it.

This came in a sharing session with winners of the award, which was organised by Malaysia's National Center for Governance, Integrity, and

Anti-Corruption (GIACC) in cooperation with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC). The session was attended by UN Special Advocate against Corruption H E Dr Ali bin Fetais Al Marri. The prime minister expressed his thanks to Qatar and H H the Amir for the international efforts to fight corruption through establishing ROLACC and the Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. He also expressed his pride that Malaysia hosted the awards ceremony.

Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated his commitment to supporting these efforts globally and locally. He called on world countries to join the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and for the

Malaysian youth to work on winning the award. He also presented the efforts made by Malaysia to face corruption such as establishing the GIACC, formulating national policies for bribes and setting up private institutions to fight corruptions.

He highlighted the importance of the rule of law saying that governments would never prosper without integrity and transparency. He said the award is a great incentive for governments, individual initiatives, academic institutions, press and civil institutions to fight corruption, since it is usually the cause for the downfall of many civilizations. Dr Mahathir Mohamad praised the ROLACC which is the main



UN Special Advocate against Corruption H E Dr Ali bin Fetais Al Marri; Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and other officials during the sharing session.

organiser of the award, as well as GIACC, the Malaysian Institute of Integrity and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

After the session, the prime minister along with H E Dr Ali bin Fetais Al Marri and H E Deputy Prime Minister and

head of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail launched the national initiative to fight corruption and the guidelines on correct procedures that help financial institutions prevent corrupt practices in the private and public sectors.

QND celebrations gain new meaning

QNA
DOHA

The Speaker of the Shura Council H E Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud stressed that the celebration of Qatar National Day (QND) this year is gaining new meaning considering the great achievements made by the State under the wise leadership of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as well as his good guidance and wise internal and external policies.

On the occasion of Qatar National Day, H E Al Mahmoud said in remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the anniversary of the national day has

come as the country is proceeding on the path of development and construction and is proceeding at a great and confident pace towards the future, relying on the perspicacity of its loyal people and their ability to create and innovate and meet the challenges with determination, precision steadfastness, self-confidence, self-determination and support for their leader.

His Excellency said: "On this glorious national occasion, we proudly recall the achievements and sacrifices of the founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, who laid the foundations of our modern state and

its development; preserved its sovereignty; safeguarded the dignity of its people and made Qatar a united, cohesive and independent State, feared by enemies, embracing brothers and friends and respectful of covenants, the right of neighborhood and upholding values, ethics and principles."

He stressed that this great legacy was one of the main reasons for our ability to overcome the challenges experienced by the country, most notably this unjust siege, with everything it embodies as blatant violation of international law, humanitarian norms and Islamic teachings, and everything it indicates as

inconsideration to neighbors and authentic Arab values.

"On this occasion, I reiterate the Shura Council's keenness on keeping abreast of the rapid pace of economic, political and social development in the country, through careful and thorough examination of the draft laws and legislation that are presented to the Council and making appropriate recommendations thereon, as well as through close and constructive cooperation with the honorable government," HE Al Mahmoud added.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council praised the motto chosen for this year's National Day celebration, "As

Long As It Was Proven By Our Deeds", which is one of the poetic verses said by the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, and the accompanying slogan "Qatar Will Remain Free".

In this regard, H E Al Mahmoud said that the slogan was in harmony with the speech of H H the Amir at the opening of the current 47th regular session of the Shura Council, where His Highness focused on good morals and the need to adhere to them in all our actions; humility; sense of duty and responsibility and appreciation of the value of work, all of which are among the good deeds that the founder pointed out in his poems.

Amir condoles with Sudan President

Doha: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of condolences to President of the Republic of Sudan Field Marshall Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir on the victims of a helicopter crash in Al Qadarif state in the East of Sudan, praying to Allah Almighty to bless the deceased with mercy.

Deputy Amir chairs QU Board of Regents' second meeting

Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, who is also Chairman of Qatar University's Board of Regents, chaired the Board's second meeting for the 2018/2019 academic year, at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. The Board reviewed what has been achieved of its decisions and recommendations taken in the first meeting for the 2018/2019 academic year

The Board discussed a number of topics on the agenda and approved the establishment of the Faculty of Dentistry in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar National Health Strategies 2011-2016 and 2018-2022, which recommended the creation of the educational and training capacity of dentists in Qatar to provide a sustainable workforce in this area. The Board of Regents also approved a project to develop the Center for Human and Social Sciences, which is specialised in developing and employing scientific research projects for researchers at Qatar University and beyond.

Shura Council approves decrees on Law Practice Act and QFMA

The Shura Council held its regular weekly session under the chairmanship of H E Deputy Speaker of the Council Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Sulaiti. The Council started its session by discussing the report of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee on a Decree Law No. 19 of 2018 amending some provisions of Law Practice Act No 23 of 2006. The Council also discussed Decree Law No. 22 of 2018 amending some provisions of Law No. 8 of 2012 regarding Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA).

The Shura Council approved the said decrees and decided to submit its recommendations thereon to the esteemed Government. The Shura Council reviewed the reports of a number of its delegations, which recently participated in international and regional parliamentary meetings and forums. The reports showed the active participation of the delegations of the Council in these meetings and forums, during which the views of the Council were raised among the topics discussed.

Qatar's inventor wins at WSA 2018 for Digital Innovation

FROM PAGE 1

He pointed out that Qatar Airways, as part of its support to Qatari entrepreneurs and innovators, will support Al Jefairi and his project.

The WSA for Digital Innovation includes eight categories: government and citizen participation, health and welfare, green environment and energy, business and commerce, education and education, tourism and culture, urbanization and smart societies, inclusion, and empowerment.

A local jury was formed by the local expert of the WSA in Qatar and Assistant Under-Secretary for Digital Society Development Sector at Minister of Transport and Communications Reem Al Mansoori. The jury worked on evaluating the work presented by the State of Qatar and selecting one candidate for each category of the award to participate at the global level.

Mohammed Al Jefairi, Qatar's representative, will be honoured at the 2018 WSA on Digital Innovation, scheduled for next March in Portugal. In May, Ministry of Communications and Communications has invited companies, institutions, and individuals in Qatar to compete for the 2018 WSA for Digital Innovation, to identify the qualified to represent the State of Qatar at the global level.

Al Thawadi confirms positive role of 2022 FIFA World Cup

QNA
LONDON

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) Hassan Al Thawadi discussed sport's power to strengthen international ties, increase dialogue and break down social barriers during a summit at the University of Oxford in the UK.

During the 'Sports and Digital Diplomacy: A Vision for the Future' summit, which was organized by the University of Oxford, in collaboration with SOAS University of London, Al Thawadi said sport had the power to positively change people's lives.

"Nothing brings people together — and breaks down social barriers — like sport," said Al Thawadi. "People's passion for sport — in particular football — transcends linguistic and sociocultural differences."

Al Thawadi continued: "In 2022, fans from across the world will visit Qatar, with the vast majority visiting an Arab and

Middle Eastern country for the first time. And like we saw this summer in Russia, I'm confident that through football, people will see our country and region in a positive light. Negative stereotypes will be dispelled and — thanks to football — we will bridge the gap between East and West."

Hosted by Dr. Corneliu Bjola, from the University of Oxford, and Dr. Simon Rofe, from SOAS University of London, the event was attended by academics and practitioners in the field of sport and digital diplomacy, including representatives from UNESCO, the UN, Special Olympics UK and the Red Cross.

"Our Generation Amazing program, which harnesses the power of football to bring people together and teach new skills, is currently active in seven countries," said Al Thawadi. "Whether it's leadership, teamwork or communication skills, football helps us to provide people with the skills they need to succeed in all areas of their lives." Also, during the

event, the SC's Communications Director, Fatma Al Nuaimi, discussed digital diplomacy, including Qatar's approach to sharing information.

"Social media helps us to share our messages directly with members of the public," said Al Nuaimi. "Social media also allows us to have two-way conversations, which I see as a positive when it comes to shaping the fan experience in 2022."

Al Nuaimi also discussed the recent World Cup in Russia and said there was plenty Qatar could learn from the tournament.

"Much of the media — and many fans — had a negative perception of Russia before the World Cup," said Al Nuaimi. "But the tournament was a great success — everyone felt safe and was warmly welcomed by the Russian people. We are already engaging closely with our Russian counterparts, along with our colleagues at FIFA, to see how we can build on this positive sentiment ahead of our own tournament in 2022."

PM reviews ties with ICAO Secretary-General



Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani met here yesterday with the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Dr Fang Liu, and the accompanying delegation on their visit to the country to participate in the 5th ICAO Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium, which is being held in Doha. The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation between the State of Qatar and ICAO, and discussed a number of topics on the agenda of the symposium.

Qatar applies for ICAO's Council membership

FROM PAGE 1

Millions of workers in the industry are playing an important role in developing it to ensure the safety for safe operation. "Commercial aviation has doubled in flight and passenger volumes once every

fifteen years since this data began being analysed in the mid 1970s, and air traffic continues to grow robustly today. Last year for example, airlines worldwide carried more than 4.1 billion passengers on some 37 million flights," said Dr. Fang Liu,

Secretary-General of ICAO at the ceremony. "Quite remarkably, aviation's e-commerce impact grew from 16 to 83 percent in just the six years period between 2010 and 2016," she added.

QFFD signs agreement with Birzeit University

QNA
DOHA

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) signed a cooperation agreement worth \$12.5m, with Birzeit University of Palestine to offer financial aids for students and complete the infrastructure of the university, over five years.

The agreement was signed by Director General of QFFD Khalifa bin Jassem Al Kuwari and President of Birzeit University Dr Abdullatif Abuhijleh. The event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chairman of QFFD and Chairperson of Birzeit University's Board of Trustees Dr Nasir Hanna and representatives from the fund and university.

The grant offered by QFFD aims to expand the university's capacity and offer student financial aids, giving Palestinians the opportunity to complete their university and higher studies in universities accredited by the fund, part of the Qatar scholarships programme.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and Chairman of QFFD, Dr Nasir Hanna, witnessing the signing of the agreement.

World's biggest football model to be unveiled

FROM PAGE 1

Captain Rashid Ali Al Tamimi, Head of Sports Training Section, said that the school students will have opportunity to participate in various police and military training and self-defense activities which are aimed at developing self-confidence and physical fitness. The main event includes the training for 380 students from primary schools in the country.

The participating students will undergo the basic training that the officer candidate

undergoes in the college, such as military parade, military salute, as well as their self-defense skills, by specialised trainers in this field. During the event, a number of barriers will be passed, which will enhance the physical fitness and flexibility of the students. The students group will later learn how a security man work, in various scenarios, such as raids and crime scene. The Police College invites the public to visit Dar Al-Sai and enjoy the special events that the college organizes for all age groups.

A time for celebration and appreciation

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AIRWAYS القطرية
GOING PLACES TOGETHER

Global Aviation Training symposium begins

The opening ceremony was attended by over 800 participants representing Members of the TrainAir Plus Programme, industry stakeholders and academic institutions with the aim of providing them with a forum to learn about new programme features and benefits.

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The 5th Global Aviation Training & TrainAir Plus Symposium kicked off yesterday in a ceremony at Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC). The symposium, a three-day event is being held for the first time in Qatar and the Middle East, hosted by Qatar Aeronautical College in collaboration with ICAO and support from Ministry of Transport and Communication.

The opening ceremony was followed by the TrainAir



Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti with Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary-General of ICAO; Akbar Al Baker, Group CEO, Qatar Airways and other officials on the opening of ICAO 5th Global Aviation Training and TrainAir Plus Symposium 2018 held at QNCC yesterday. PIC: ABDUL BASIT / THE PENINSULA

Membership awarding in the presence of Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Fang Liu, and Director General of Qatar Aeronautical College, Jabor bin Hamad Al Thani.

The ceremony awarded new associate members as well as new full members, and new corporate partners from a host of countries that included Algeria, Oman, China among others.

The opening ceremony was attended by over 800 participants representing Members of the TrainAir Plus Programme, industry stakeholders and academic institutions with the aim of providing them with a forum to learn about new programme features and benefits.

This event provides a forum where ICAO Member States and training organizations come together to forge new partnership opportunities in aviation training, and at the same time increase their awareness of key near- and long-term capacity-building priorities for global air transport.

As part of its efforts to develop its offering through partnerships and agreements with its global peers, Qatar Aeronautical College signed during the opening ceremony a partnership agreement with French National Civil Aviation Collge (ENAC), to

offer Advanced Masters in Aviation Safety Management to students and aviation professionals in QAC.

The ceremony was followed by the first session of the Symposium entitled: Building Aviation Training Intelligence, which was moderated by the Civil Aviation Training Magazine European Affairs Editor Chris Long.

The session focused on building aviation training intelligence methods through identifying and integrating decision useful information, establishing operational plans and training portfolios and meeting aviation growth projections with qualified personnel, all in support of State implementation of standards and recommended practices.

After a networking lunch break, the Symposium continued with the second session of the day entitled: Enhancing the TrainAir Plus Network through Aviation Training Intelligence.

QP and QNB to sponsor Doha Forum

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Doha Forum announced Qatar Petroleum and Qatar National Bank (QNB) as the official sponsors of the 18th annual policy gathering, held under the patronage of the Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, is set for December 15th and 16th at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel.

The Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President & CEO of Qatar petroleum, H E Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, stated: "We are pleased to be part of this important global platform for dialogue on critical challenges facing our world. We are also pleased that energy takes a prominent place in this year's discussions in an effort to see how countries can cooperate to ensure a healthy balance between the growing global demand for energy and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Abdullah Mubarak Al Khalifa, QNB Group Acting Chief Executive Officer, stated: "We are pleased to be the Platinum Sponsor of the Doha Forum, an important forum in the field of policy innovation in the regional and international arena and a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experiences between our Qatari institutions and many prestigious international institutions, benefiting Qatar and the international community as a whole. We also pledge to always be at the forefront of national institutions that back

such events that support local and global development and highlight Qatar's status as a global destination for decision-makers, leaders, and senior officials from all over the world and as a global mediator for peace and stability."

Lolwah Al Khater, Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated: "We are honoured to have Qatar Petroleum and QNB - two champions of Qatar's economy - on board as Doha Forum's official sponsors. As key players in their respective fields, both institutions offer the Forum support, credibility, and knowledge-sharing opportunities that are invaluable to us and to the international community that will convene in Qatar very soon." This year's edition brings together international decision-makers, heads of state, ministers, business executives and advocates to examine policy around the critical challenges facing the world today. Under the theme "Shaping Policy in an Inter-connected World", the Forum organizers and partners are executing high-level panels, plenaries and workshops around four key themes: Security, Economic Development, Peace and Mediation, and Trends and Transitions.

In line with the 2018 Forum's new model and vision to become a leading global hub for policy innovation, this year's edition marks a new phase of partnerships with renowned international organizations and leading local institutions.

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- Should have at least 4 years experience.
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- Attending business events and meetings as assigned.

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- Should have at least 2 years experience.
- Bachelor's degree in mass communication or a related field.
- Should be active on social media platforms.
- Bilingual (Arabic/English) preferred.

Job duties and responsibilities include:

- Updating the website with latest news.
- Writing reports about events and happenings in Qatar
- Manage social media accounts

Qualified candidates are invited to send their CVs at **media.vacancies2016@gmail.com**

Culture Minister meets Unesco Regional Office Director in Doha

QNA
DOHA

Minister of Culture and Sports H E Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali met with Director of Unesco Regional Office in Doha Anna Paolini and the office team on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, which falls on December 10 of each year.

The meeting discussed ways of developing joint work between the two sides to promote human values and achieve the common purpose of Unesco and Qatar. On December 10, world celebrates Human Rights Day, the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a historic document proclaiming inalienable rights that everyone has the right to enjoy as a human being regardless of race, color, religion, gender, language or political opinion.



Minister of Culture and Sports, H E Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali, with Director of Unesco Regional Office in Doha, Anna Paolini.

Qatar ranks among most secure countries globally

QNA
DOHA

Ambassador of the Lebanese Republic to Qatar Hassan Najem stressed that Qatar has become, thanks to its wise leadership, one of the most prosperous, secure and stable countries in the world. He added that the country also enjoys growing regional and international presence.

He said that Qatar has become one of the most prosperous parts of the world and has been able to implement many mega projects, advanced infrastructure and programs in the fields of education, health, security and urban planning, as well as leading media experiences in the Arab world.

The ambassador then congratulated Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the wise governor, the Qatari people and the residents on the national day. Ambassador Hassan Najem also praised

the patriotic spirit enjoyed by every citizen and resident on this land, noting that everyone who lives in Qatar could sense that spirit among people especially their honouring of the sacrifices of the earlier generations. He paid tribute to the founder of Qatar and to H H the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who the ambassador said built on the previous success.

He pointed out that the foundations of Qatar's domestic and international policies have enabled it to overcome the challenges of the region by building developmental projects that reduce the dependence of the State on imports from abroad, adding that Qatar's success during the unjust blockade stemmed from its ability to resort to self-sufficiency in many products. He also said that the success during the crisis is indicative of the sound actions taken by the government last year.



شركة الكهرباء والماء القطرية ش.م.ع.ق
QATAR ELECTRICITY & WATER CO. Q.P.S.C

Announces the following Tender:

Sr. No	Tender No.	Tender Bond (QR.)	Description
1	OT/04/381901	170,000.00	SUPPLY OF BULK CHEMICALS FOR THREE (3) YEARS

- Document for the above Tender can be downloaded from the company website www.qewc.com
- Closing Date and Time: 08-01-2019 at 11:00 AM
- Offer must be valid for 90 days from closing date.
- Tender bond must be included with offers from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Tender bids to be deposited in the Tender Box situated at the Purchase Section of QEWC, and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase Committee.
- Location : Al-Markhiya Street , Opposite Land Mark and Khaliji Bank

For More Information please contact us via email 1482@qewc.com



مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

S. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Bid Closing
1	QF/2018/ID-SC/26764	Rental & Installation of AV, Electrical Equipment's, Tents and other Misc. Items for CHI AL SHAQAB 2019 and LGCT 2019	QAR. 500	QAR. 320,000.00	03-Jan-2019 at 2:00 pm
2	QF/2018/ID-SC/26766	Rental of Temporary VIP Structure for CHI AL SHAQAB 2019 and LGCT 2019	QAR. 500	QAR. 50,000.00	31-Dec-2018 at 2:00 pm
3	QF/2018/ID-SC/76690	Supply & Install Playground Equipment in QA Wakra	QAR. 1000	QAR. 50,000.00	10-Jan-2019 at 2:00 pm
4	QF/2018/ID-SC/76752	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the Stand-by Diesel Generator to Provide the Emergency Power in MATHAF Facility	QAR. 1000	QAR. 75,000.00	14-Jan-2019 at 2:00 pm
5	QF/2018/ID-SL/26679	Supply and Install Recycling Waste Bins	QAR. 500	QAR. 27,000.00	07-Jan-2019 at 2:00 pm

- The Tender Document can be obtained against payment of non-refundable tender fee as mentioned above along with Company Authorization letter, copy of valid Commercial Registration (CR) and copy QID of the nominated person collecting the Tender Document. A cash receipt voucher can be obtained from the "Finance Directorate, located at Qatar Foundation HQ Building, First Floor, Room No. 1.116 (open until 2:30 pm) prior to the collection of the Tender Document.
- The Tender Document can be obtained from the Limited Tender Committee, located at Qatar Foundation, Office No.6, SB1, Ground Floor, QF Education City (Opposite to LAS Building)
- Collection dates: From Tuesday, 11th December to Monday, 17th December 2018 (except Friday & Saturday)
- Collection time: From 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
- Any offer received after the bid closing date & time will not be considered.
- An offer must be valid for 120 days from bid closing date.
- An offer must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for 120 days from the bid closing date.
- The original tender bond must be part of the Technical Offer.
- The successful Tenderer shall submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the Bid Value, valid until Ninety (90) days after the Contract Completion Date as per the specimen provided in the tender document.
- Tenderers should submit the Technical Bid and Commercial Bid in two separate wax-sealed envelopes, each marked with the relevant title and number.
- Bids must be submitted to: LIMITED TENDER COMMITTEE, located at Qatar Foundation, Office No.6, SB1, Ground Floor, QF Education City (Opposite to LAS Building), by the date and time stated above.
- Any tender breaching the conditions stated above will be rejected.

QND Organising Committee unveils National Day gifts

The boxes of the National Day Gift 2018 contains five gifts representing a profession including engineer, health care, business, media and artist. families.

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Organising Committee of Qatar National Day 2018 celebrations unveiled ‘the National Day 2018 Gift’, yesterday. The gifts embodies the message of investing in the human capital and developing an individual to make them an effective and strong pillar on which a strong nation will be built.

The boxes of the National Day Gift 2018 contains five gifts representing a profession including engineer, health care, business, media and artist. Al Adaam (the national flag) is present in every gift of the National Day to encourage national identity among children and their families.

Some of the jobs have been selected to be used to highlight and achieve this national spirit and to be creative and attract children and families in general.



The National Day gifts on display which will be distributed for children.

The gift box is decorated with the National Day 2018 slogan, ‘Qatar Remains Free’. Also the phrase ‘time is gold’ is written in clear reference to the importance of time and its importance in accomplishing the work.

In the gift box for the engineer, children and their families will find tools which motivate children to build and work, in order to achieve the desired development.

Children also will find a doctor’s gift (medical headset), from which they can develop the dream of joining the medical profession. The gift box of business will inspire children to be able to provide initiatives and ideas in order to develop the society.

The media gift box contains tools like ‘micro-phone’, showing the important role media plays in society.

This gift matches the theme of the National Day 2018 which is ‘As long as it was proven by our deeds .. Qatar remains free’, a verse taken from one of the poems by the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, and also from national anthem.

The gift also reflects the vision of the Organizing Committee of Qatar National Day celebration, which aims at enhancing loyalty, solidarity, unity and pride in the national identity of Qatar and emphasizing on the values of inspiration, creativity and transparency.



Officials during the press conference yesterday.

QCA to celebrate QND with Asian stars T20 match

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Qatar Cricket Association and the Ministry of Interior have teamed up for a memorable celebrations of the Qatar National Day at the Asian Town Cricket Stadium on December 18.

The Association, with the support of the Qatar Olympic Committee, will host a 20 cricket match between Asian stars and Qatar national team players, informed Yousef Jeham al Kuwari, President of the QCA.

During a press conference held yesterday, and attended by MoI Public Relations Officer Lt Hamad Ali Jahweel al Marri Al Kuwari said, “The Qatar National Day is a very significant event for all of us in Qatar. We wish to contribute to its massive success like the previous years with a T20 match between Asian Stars(International) and Qatar stars.

“This match, of course, would have not been possible without the support of QOC President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, QOC

Secretary-General Jassim Rashid al Buenain and the Ministry of Interior. We extend our deepest gratitude to them for extending their backing and cooperation in organizing this match at the Asian Town Stadium,” he added.

Al Kuwari stressed that cricket is one of the most popular sports in Qatar and played by a huge number of people from Asian sub-continent communities here. “We love and respect all those who are living here. So this is our social responsibility to host sporting activities to involve them.

“We’ve already launched a social media campaign to reach out to cricket fans. We’re delighted to say that about 50,000 likes and hits we’ve received from mostly members of communities of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

“The feature of the Asian stars team is that we tried to include players from many countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India,

Nepal and Sri Lanka. We hope that a large number of fans will turn up at the venue to support the match and make the Qatar National Day celebrations an event to cherish for a long time,” the QCA president said.

MoI PRO Lt Hamad Ali Jahweel al Marri said, “It is our big pleasure to join hands with the QCA for this big cricket match to celebrate the Qatar National Day. The ministry appreciates the efforts such as this one to involve various communities, cooperate with the QCA at every level and we wish the event a big success.”

QCA Operations Manager Manzoor Ahmad said the QCA has made elaborate arrangements to engage the crowd during the match with a variety of dance and music items. All the players have confirmed their participation and we’re anticipating a thrilling match on the big occasion of the Qatar National Day. Mr Gul Khan said that there is a separate seating arrangement for families and they can enter the stadium through Gate 7.”

NMoQ to offer wide array of multi-layered content

RAYNALD C RIVERA
THE PENINSULA

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), set to officially launch on March 28 next year, will be a feast to the intellect and the senses as an immersive and experiential museum which tells about the country’s past, present and future through an innovative display of multi-layered content.

The innovative museum is organized in three “chapters”—Beginnings, Life in Qatar, and Building the Nation—presented in eleven galleries. The visitor’s chronological journey, which extends through more than 1.5 km of experiences, starts in the geological period long before the peninsula was inhabited by humans and continues to the present day.

The route passes through a succession of impressive, remarkably shaped volumes until it reaches its culmination in the very heart of Qatari

national identity, the thoroughly restored Palace of Sheikh Abdullah.

“Each gallery will be an all-encompassing experience of its own, in which photographs, films, texts, oral histories, rare and precious objects, music, digital displays, and even aromas are blended into a seamless whole,” Dr. Karen Exell, NMoQ Senior Museum Development Specialist, said at a press briefing yesterday.

As the much awaited opening nears, the team comprising representatives from Qatar Museums and NMoQ, who are behind the landmark museum, yesterday provided a glimpse into what people can expect when the desert rose inspired museum designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel opens its doors to the public.

Exell said a rich and multi-layered content was developed in partnership with local and international research centres,

universities, museums and individuals.

In Qatar, a wide range of subjects have been developed with experts at Qatar University and HBKU, including botanical, socio-cultural and political history research. Arthropod collections have been developed with the support of the Friends of the Environment Centre.

International examples include geological and natural history research with Leiden Naturalis, paleontological fieldwork with Raimund Albersdoerfer (Germany) to excavate and reconstruct fossil dugong skeleton, and donations of shells from the Houston Museum of Natural History.

“Working with expert craftspeople from around the globe, we have also created over 1,400 beautiful bespoke models for the museum: natural history, architectural, archaeological, document replicas, boat models, tactile models and models for



Saif Al Kuwari, Deputy Director for Operations, National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ); Dr Haya Al Thani, Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs, NMoQ; Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al Mahmoud, Special Advisor to Chairperson of Qatar Museums, H E Sheikh Al Mayasa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani; and Karen Exell, Senior Museum Development Specialist, NMoQ; at a gala lunch at the IDAM restaurant at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha yesterday. PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT / THE PENINSULA

children,” said Exell, adding local and international artists had been commissioned to create site-specific pieces to enhance exhibition experience.

Dr. Haya Al Thani, NMoQ Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs said information related to oral histories will feature heavily in the museum, bringing to life this critically important aspect of Qatar’s culture and the

heritage and traditions of its people.

Dr. Haya said the museum had worked with partners including the Doha Film Institute over five years to record these memories and preserve information about the country.

More than 70 films will be displayed through the museum galleries, bringing the displays of objects to life through shared

memories of recent history. In all, more than 300 members of the public participated in the project, she added.

The new museum has many other features such as the 112,000sqm public park with family-friendly interactive learning environments, walkways, a lagoon, landscaped exclusively with drought-resistant native vegetation.

NHRC holds awareness event on human rights

QNA
DOHA

As part of its celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th each year, the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) organized an educational lecture for Qatar Steel’s employees on the origins and principles of human rights and the role of the NHRC in promoting and disseminating the culture of human rights.

Director of the NHRC International Cooperation Department Sheikhha Najwa Al-Thani spoke about the historical context of the emergence of human rights, saying it came as a result of the cross-fertilization between different cultures and civilizations, and it is a continuous struggle for all humanity against injustice and exploitation, wherever it may be.

The Director of the NHRC International

The Director of the NHRC International Cooperation Department outlined the establishment of the NHRC, its objectives, powers and competencies, and its accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with ‘A Status’ in 2010 for five years renewed in 2015 for the same period.

Cooperation Department outlined the establishment of the NHRC, its objectives, powers and competencies, and its accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with ‘A Status’ in 2010 for five years renewed in 2015 for the same period.

She also dealt with cooperation between the NHRC and all human rights international organizations, the most important of which are Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, in addition to its efforts to raise awareness about human rights and freedoms to consolidate their principles in thought and practice through training courses, media campaigns and publications.

The Director of the Department of Administrative Affairs of Qatar Steel, Mohammed bin Saleh Al Mahdi stressed the company’s belief in human rights issues and its keenness that all its employees be fully aware of their rights and duties to include their behavior in this culture. On the occasion of the day on which the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the NHRC will hold numerous awareness and educational activities and events.

Quranic Botanic Garden hosts tree-planting event

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Quranic Botanic Garden (QBG), recently hosted a tree-planting event in Education City as part of its popular ‘Ghars’ campaign.

Bringing together representatives from the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority and more than 70 students from various schools in Qatar – including Qatar Leadership Academy, part of QF’s Pre-University Education, Dukhan Primary Preparatory Secondary School for Girls , Omar bin Al-Khattab Secondary School for Boys, and Ali bin Jassim bin

Mohammed Al Thani Secondary Boys School, the participants planted 30 trees. The ‘Ghars’ led event was designed to raise awareness of the importance of environmental conservation, and is in line with QBG’s overarching goal of cultivating 2,022 trees by the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Fatima Saleh Al Khulaifi, Manager, QBG, said, “These ongoing activities reflect QBG’s efforts to raise environmental awareness in Qatar in order to protect and preserve the natural world. Ultimately, we want to help create solutions to global environmental issues, such as desertification, climate change, and biodiversity.”

Techno Blue, Fujifilm open Digital Imaging Service outlet at DFC

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Techno Blue (A HBK Group Company) and Fujifilm Corporation Japan, celebrated the opening of their new trendy Digital Imaging Service outlet at Doha Festival City. The conveniently located “Fujifilm Imaging” outlet near the food-court facilitates an easy and quick access location within the Doha Festival City.

The outlet offers customers with specialised services such as printing high quality print (from Digital Cameras, mobile phones, memory cards etc), customized personal albums and host of other services related to pictures. Customers can get their ID pictures taken within few minutes, which is standardized to the requirement of Government departments and Embassies. The “Wonder” photo station installed in the outlet can receive pictures transmitted through a mobile application and allows customers to collate their sweet memories on fun templates and have them done as prints.

The outlet also caters to the requirement of professional photographers by selling a wide range of Professional cameras, Lenses and accessories.



Techno Blue (A HBK Group Company) and Fujifilm Corporation Japan, celebrated the opening of their new trendy Digital Imaging Service outlet at Doha Festival City yesterday. Sheikh Ali bin Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairman of Techno Blue; Jun Higuchi, the Managing Director of Fujifilm Middle East, and other officials inaugurated the outlet. PIC: QASSIM RAHMATULLAH. / THE PENINSULA

Techno Blue, associates with various regular Photo workshops, Seminars and Photographic clubs in Qatar to organize Competitions to encourage the younger

The outlet offers customers with specialised services such as printing high quality print (from digital cameras, mobile phones, memory cards etc), customized personal albums and host of other services related to pictures.

generation to indulge into the art of photography.

Visitors are encouraged to provide feedback and share their ideas for using photos in their everyday lives. In this way, the store acts as a learning centre giving guests the opportunity to influence product features as they share their own preferences and opinions. These interactions allow Techno Blue and Fujifilm to gain a better understanding of what the market wants and share these learnings with our retail partners as well as ultimately enhancing the customer experience.

Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairman of Techno Blue, while inaugurating the outlet commented that Fujifilm products are synonymous with

Quality and enjoy a huge following and customer base. Fujifilm is the only photographic company from the past era that survived through and grew stronger on the face of onslaught by the Digital revolution. This strength is what encourages us to further invest and expand the Brand and Fujifilm success is attributed to their decades of knowledge in analogue and application of them in combination with the Digital innovation. Sheikh Ali bin Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairman of Techno Blue, graced the occasion with his presence.

Commenting on the occasion Jun Higuchi, the Managing Director of Fujifilm Middle East praised the effort of Techno Blue to grow Fujifilm Photo Imaging and Electronic Imaging business in Qatar and revealed his plan to support more such stores in Qatar aligning to their international agenda.

Prabunathan, Division Manager at Techno Blue commented, “the hottest selling product in the outlet is the Instax products which gives instant photo print from the camera. The main customers for this product are the younger generation who are excited of seeing retro product producing a print which are amusing in their era.

PISQ hosts inter-school football tournament

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Sporting events constitute an important part of a school’s curricula. They work as an alloy and not only support but also enhance learning ability of the students. PISQ, being cognizant of the importance of this physical activity, aptly arranges for its students to take healthy part in such events. Continuing its last year’s tradition, PISQ held the 2nd Quaid-e-Azam U 12 Inter-School Football Tournament on December 3 and 4, 2018.

Nargis Raza Otho, principal PISQ and Muhammed Ali Karatosun, principal Turkish school graced the opening day of the tournament. The programme started with the lining up of all the teams present. This was followed by the recitation of Quran and oath taking by Sarim, a PISQ student, and then the national anthems of Turkey and Pakistan were played. The principal Turkish school inaugurated the event by cutting the ribbon and hitting the football. At this occasion, all vice principals of four wings of PISQ were also

present. For this two-day event, the chief guest was Turki Hussein Alyazidi, manager Al Ahleh Football Club, Doha who honoured the teams with his presence on December 4, 2018 at the final match which started with the national anthems of Qatar and Pakistan.

This year, six teams took part in this event. Pool A comprised Al Jazeera Academy, Oscar Academy, and PISQ Green (host school’s team). Pool B had Turkish School, Stafford Sri Lankan School, and PISQ Blue (host school’s team).

The matches started on December 3, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the PISQ’s football ground. The opening match was between PISQ Blue and Turkish School which was won by PISQ Blue by scoring four goals; whereas, Turkish School scored two. The second match was a walkover for Al-Jazeera School as Iranian School could not manage to come to play. The third match was played between Oscar Academy and PISQ Green where Oscar Academy was defeated by PISQ Green that scored 7 goals against zero. The

fourth match was again a walkover for Stafford Sri Lankan School because the Jordanian School was absent. The first semi-final was between Al-Jazeera Academy and PISQ Green. Therein, Al-Jazeera bagged the victory scoring 4 goals against PISQ Green’s 2 goals. The second semi-final was played between PISQ Blue and Stafford Sri Lankan School. Here, PISQ Blue stood victorious with 4 goals against zero.

The final match was played on December 4, 2018 between Al-Jazeera and PISQ Blue. PISQ Blue won this match by scoring two goals. From PISQ Blue, Muneeb Ahmad scored the first goal followed by the second goal scored by Ahmad Nasir who nailed the victory for his team. The referees were Muhammad Anwar and Noor Hussain. The player of the tournament was Mohsin Hamza, PISQ Blue, who truly enthralled the spectators with his overall great football skills. The tournament ended with the distribution of certificates, medals, and trophies among the players, coaches, and captains of the participant teams.



Safari names ‘Win 10kg Gold’ Promotion winners

The Safari Hypermarket Group in Qatar announced, the 2nd Lucky Draw Winners of Win 10kg Gold Promotion. The draw was held at Safari Mall, Abu Hamour in the presence of a Ministry official and Safari management staff. The first winner of first prize of 1kg gold was Ibrahim Basheer (coupon no. 1086787), second prize of 500gms gold was won by Subair T V (coupon no. 1251714), third prize of 300gms of gold was won by Abdul Harif K (coupon no. 1259766) and fourth prize of 200gms gold was won by Dhaneesh P (coupon no. 1898613).

Expert shares research findings on mental illness stigma

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Dr Vahe Kehyayan, PhD, a researcher and assistant professor at the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), presented his research findings at the recent 7th Qatar International Mental Health Conference hosted by Hamad Medical Corporation.

In a presentation entitled, “Stigma towards Mental Disorders in Patients in Qatar,” Dr Kehyayan shared the findings from this collaborative research that examined

self-stigma in patients here in Qatar.

“The issue of mental health is of great relevance to Qatar,” said Dr Kehyayan. “Qatar’s National Health Strategy 2018-2022 includes mental health as one of its seven priority areas which underscores the importance of stigma reduction as a concern. I am very appreciative of the Qatar National Research Fund for backing this important study. UCQ is pleased to be leading research that supports the goals of Qatar.”

“Stigma associated with

mental illness is a serious issue because it not only socially isolates the individual, but it also prevents them from seeking timely treatment,” said Dr Kehyayan. “The illness can have an impact on other areas of the individual’s health as well, such as increased risks around smoking, reduced activity, poor diet, obesity, and blood pressure. However, very little research on the stigma of mental illness has been conducted in the Middle East, and our study aims to improve understanding of the issue in Qatar and in the region.”



The school officials and team members posing for a group picture.

Tenders and Bids of Government Organizations subordinate to the Law of Organizing Tenders and Bids no. 24 for the Year 2015							
Logo	Organization	Tender No.	Subject	Tender Fees (QR)	Tender Bond Amount (QR)	Tender System	Closing Date
	Public Works Authority	PWA/GTC/032/2018 ((E- Tender))	Roads and Infrastructure in Doha Industrial area (Package 7) IA/2018/C/083/G For more information visit Ashghal website: www.ashghal.gov.qa	100,000	10,000,000	Two Envelopes (Technical + Financial)	15/01/2019
	Al Kass Sports Channels	DKC/T/32/2018	Supply of Installation Materials for OBs. The fees are deposited in QNB account no.: 0060-011333-002	Qr. 500/-	Qrs. 57,252	One Envelope	Sunday 23/12/2018
	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1910-2018	SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE MAIN AIR CIRCUIT BREAKER (ACB) FOR MV-PANEL AT MEDICAL COMMISSION BUILDING. For more Information: www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (five Hundred Only)	3,500.00 (Three Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday, 30th of December 2018 12:00 hrs
For more details, please refer to the unified website of government procurement http://monaqasat.mof.gov.qa							

Increase in number of people with seasonal influenza virus

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Recent national data on this year's seasonal influenza virus shows three times as many people have tested positive for the flu in October and November, compared to the same period in 2017. This indicates a much higher activity of the virus this winter compared to previous winters, resulting in many more people becoming sick due to the flu.

According to Dr Abdullatif Al Khal, Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Head of Infectious Diseases, this is a significant and worrying increase in the prevalence of the flu in Qatar.

"Throughout October and November there have been more than 6,800 respiratory samples testing positive for the flu virus. During the same period in 2017, there were only 2,274 positive tests, so it is clear that seasonal influenza is posing a greater threat to the health of people in Qatar this year, and this is expected to get worse during December and January," said Dr Al Khal.

At the start of October, the Ministry of Public Health, Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), and HMC joined forces to launch a national campaign to provide free flu vaccines to the public in Qatar.

"To date, more than 75,000 people have been vaccinated against the flu. This is very



Dr Abdullatif Al Khal

encouraging, but with the severity of this year's flu virus being clear for us, we encourage even more people to get their free vaccine," said Dr Al Khal.

Influenza is a serious disease; it can lead to hospitalization and, if complications arise, sometimes even death, as Dr Muna Al Maslamani, Medical Director of HMC's Communicable Disease Center said. "Every year, millions of people around the world get the flu and millions are hospitalized as a result of it, while hundreds of thousands end up dying from flu-related complications. Vaccination to prevent influenza is particularly important for people who are at high risk for the flu and its complications. This includes the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and people with chronic medical conditions," said Dr Al Maslamani.

To ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated this year, members of the public can get the influenza vaccine for free

Throughout October and November there have been more than 6,800 respiratory samples testing positive for the flu virus.

at all PHCC health centers across the country, as well as at more than 35 private clinics.

"Primary Health Care Corporation is committed to protecting the health of Qatar's population and providing the flu vaccine free to all Qatar's residents with a valid health card is just one way in which we can do this," said Dr Khalid Hamid Elawad, Health Protection Manager, Preventive Health Department at PHCC.

"Across our 26 health centers, we are currently vaccinating around 4,000 people a week against seasonal influenza. There are three simple ways to receive your flu vaccine from the health center you are registered at: you can ask for the vaccine during an existing appointment, schedule a flu vaccination appointment by calling PHCC on 107, or simply drop in to your health center without an appointment and receive your vaccine swiftly," Dr Elawad added.

For more information about influenza and where to get the vaccine for free in Qatar, go to www.stoptheflu.qa

400,000 homes connected to fibre network: Ooredoo

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

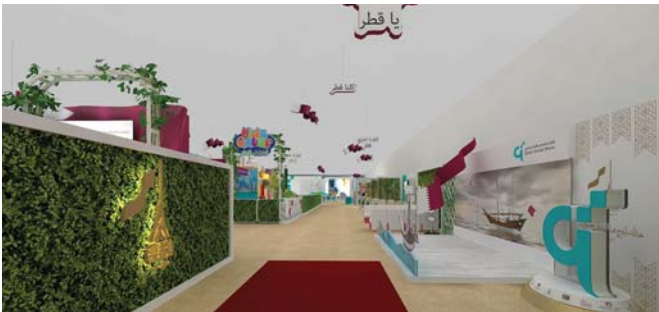
Ooredoo announced yesterday it has reached another historic milestone in its drive towards the future of home entertainment systems, as it confirmed it has connected 400,000 Qatari homes to its fibre network.

This impressive achievement was reached in November 2018, and consolidates Ooredoo's position as a market leader in the telecommunications industry and a driving force behind Qatar's mission to be one of the best-connected nations in the world.

Ooredoo's state-of-the-art fibre network offers customers a groundbreaking network experience with features such as ultra-fast home broadband, with blistering speeds up to 10Gbps, as well as content with 4K entertainment on Ooredoo tv.

With gigabit-speed fibre penetration only commercially available in about ten countries worldwide, Qatar's is the highest in the world – as confirmed by an Arthur D Little report in Q1 2018 – with some 99 percent of Qatar's homes covered by fibre. Over 88 percent of households in Qatar are fully connected to fibre, also the world's highest rate matched only by Singapore.

Waleed Al Sayed, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar, said: "We are delighted to announce such a phenomenal achievement in reaching 400,000 homes connected to our fibre network, and we are proud to be offering Qatari citizens and residents such world-class connectivity. We hope our customers are enjoying making the most of the technology and we look forward to many more such milestones in the future."



A Qatar Social Work tent demonstration at Darb Al Saai.

QSW announces Darb Al Saai activities

AMNA PERVAIZ RAO
THE PENINSULA

The seven centres that operate under the umbrella of Qatar for Social Work (QSW) are geared up to host several exciting events at Darb Al Saai which will start on December 12.

Darb Al Saai, one of the major attractions of Qatar National Day 2018 celebrations, gives many the opportunity to celebrate as well as learn about achievements of the country. This event will be nine days long and will end on December 20.

The seven centres that operate under the umbrella of QSW include Wifaq (Centre for Awareness and Consulting), Aman Centre (Protection and Rehabilitation), Shafallah (Centre for persons with disability), Nama (Empowerment and Entrepreneurship), Ehsan (Elderly Empowerment and care centre), Dreama (Empowerment of the Orphans) and Best-Buddies Initiative-Qatar (Friendship, Support and Inclusion).

These centres will host variety of events which will include, awareness activities and interactive competitions. QSW tent at Darb Al Saai will be divided in four sections; VIP section, information desk, Qatar Kidz area, 9D cinema, Majlis for visitors, gift booth and a stage set for competitions and inter-

active sessions.

Sheikha Najla bint Ahmed Al Thani, Director of the Office of Communication at QSW said: "The participation of QSW will host series of educational and informational games for children in our 'Qatar Kidz' from the seven entities working under QSW. Children will be given coupons on winning these games and will collect a gift from gift booth located at the end of our tent."

"Nama Centre will have mountain climbing game to teach children how to reach their target, Dreama centre will have special puzzles for kids, Ehsan will have racing competition which will teach them physical activities, Wifaq will dedicate a booth for kids to make special cards for their parents and Shafallah and Best Buddies Qatar will give children experience to work on wheel-chairs and blind folded to teach children how disable people cope up with life tasks," she added.

Special 9D theater will have screening of educational film which they can enjoy with their caretakers and parents. This cinema has 12 persons capacity. The tent will include a book vending machine from which kids and elders can buy books of their choice. This entire activities will be free of cost for children in order to teach them throughout nine days.

Infiniti Q30 models of 2017-2018 recalled

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Company, has announced the recall of Infiniti Q30 models of

2017-2018 over wrong description in the owner's manual (Child Lock).

The Ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on

vehicle defects and repairs.

The Ministry said that it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.



A view of Valletta.

Qatar Airways to launch direct Malta flights

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar Airways announced that it will launch direct services to Valletta, Malta, starting on June 4 next year, marking the airline's first gateway to Malta and the latest addition to its rapidly-expanding European network.

The Valletta route will be served with an A320 aircraft, with daily services in summer and four-times-weekly flights in winter.

Valletta, a city with a rich historical and cultural past, offers much for visitors to explore, including some of Europe's finest baroque

Valletta, a city with a rich historical and cultural past, offers much for visitors to explore, including some of Europe's finest baroque architecture as well as many museums.

architecture as well as many museums. Visitors can admire the striking views of Malta's Grand Harbour, often described as the most beautiful in the Mediterranean, or stroll the cobbled streets of the fortified capital, lined with

honey-coloured limestone buildings, fine palaces, shops and cafés.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are tremendously excited to announce the launch of direct services to Malta, one of Europe's architectural gems and a key new addition to our European network. This new direct route demonstrates our commitment to enhancing connectivity for both business and leisure travelling to and from Europe, which we have enhanced during the past year with the launch of non-stop services to Prague, Kyiv, Skopje and many more. We look forward to introducing

travellers from around the world to this captivating city."

Passengers travelling to Malta in Business Class can look forward to relaxing in one of the most comfortable, fully-lie-flat beds, as well as enjoy the five-star food and beverage service, which is served 'dine-on-demand'. Passengers can also take advantage of the airline's award-winning in-flight entertainment system, Oryx One, offering up to 4,000 entertainment options.

Qatar Airways currently operates a modern fleet of more than 200 aircraft via its hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) to more than 160 destinations worldwide.

QTTSC organises workshop for 'Vulnerable Road Users'

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

A training workshop on "Safe Urban Street Design for Vulnerable Road Users" recently hosted by the Qatar Transportation and Traffic Safety Center (QTTSC) at Qatar University's (QU) College of Engineering (CENG) in collaboration with the International Road Federation aimed to provide information on counter measures and technologies that help in providing a safe road environment for vulnerable road users.

This course discussed the reasons why vulnerable road users are involved in road crashes constituting in high ratios of fatalities and injuries. It also discussed different policies and strategies, including engineering counter measures, education, awareness and enforcement that

can be taken to reduce these impacts.

The engineering faculty, students and staff along with representatives from local and international institutions attended the workshop, which was delivered by Eng. Tawab Kazemi from the International Road Federation.

Commenting on the workshop, QTTSC Director Prof Faris Tarlochan said, "Vulnerable road user safety is a critical issue in Qatar, thus QTTSC is working actively to improve the traffic safety status in collaboration with local authorities and international partners. This workshop is one in a number of forums that are addressing sustainable road safety solutions and is in line with the efforts by the Center and the College of Engineering to raise public awareness and responsibility in road safety."

QTTSC workshop coordinator



The officials at the Safe Urban Street Design for Vulnerable Road Users Workshop at QU.

Assistant Professor, Dr Wael Alhajyaseen said that vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, public transportation and

non-motorized vehicles users are at greater risk than vehicle occupants and usually bear the greatest burden of injury during road crashes. In some

countries, vulnerable road users represent more than 45% of the fatalities while in Qatar the percentage is around thirty percent (30%). Generally, vulnerable road users' crashes are due to the lack of proper facilities to accommodate their needs, high speeds of traffic and the lack of separation between these fast moving motorized vehicles and vulnerable users. The course offers different policies and strategies to provide safer roads for vulnerable road users.

He added, "This training course targets Road Agency Executives, Highway Engineers, Traffic Management Professionals, Traffic Safety Professionals, Pedestrian Safety Advocates, Bicycle Safety Advocates, Motorcycle Safety Advocates, Law Enforcement Authority, and Research & Academia Personnel."

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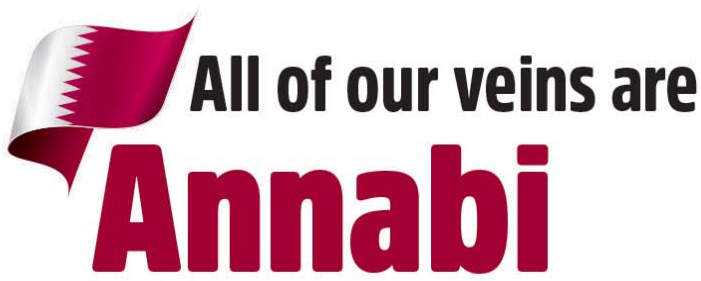


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Turkey calls for justice for Khashoggi under international law

REUTERS
ANKARA

Turkey said yesterday the world should seek justice for slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi under international law after Riyadh ruled out extraditing two senior Saudi officials who Turkish officials suspect planned his killing in Istanbul.

Fahrettin Altun, director of

communications at the Turkish presidency, said Riyadh's refusal to extradite the suspects was very disappointing and would play into the hands of critics "who believe Saudi Arabia has been trying to cover up the murder".

Khashoggi, a critic of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed two months ago at the

Saudi consulate in Istanbul when he went there to collect documents for his forthcoming marriage.

Altun said that Saudi authorities had not been sufficiently cooperative and Turkey has seen "little evidence of the Saudi prosecutors intending to shed light on what happened to Mr. Khashoggi".

Therefore "it will be in the

best interest of the international community to seek justice for the late Saudi journalist under international law," Altun said.

Turkey's foreign minister said last month Ankara may seek a formal United Nations inquiry if its dealings with Saudi Arabia came to an impasse, but Altun's comments appeared to be the most direct call yet to

widen the investigation.

Altun said Saudi intelligence operatives, including an autopsy expert, travelled to Istanbul for the specific purpose of killing Khashoggi. The Saudi consul "was apparently complicit in this crime", he added.

Turkish officials said last week that the Istanbul prosecutor's office had concluded there was "strong suspicion" that Saud

al-Qahtani, a top aide to Prince Mohammed, and General Ahmed Al Asiri, who served as deputy head of foreign intelligence, were among the planners of Khashoggi's killing.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel Al Jubeir ruled out sending them to Turkey for trial. "We don't extradite our citizens," he said at a Gulf Arab summit in Riyadh.

Israeli troops storm Ramallah, raid HQ of Wafa

AFP
RAMALLAH

Israeli forces entered the Palestinian city of Ramallah yesterday and raided the offices of the official Palestinian news agency, the agency and witnesses said, a day after gunmen wounded several Israelis near a settlement.

Seven people were wounded in the drive-by shooting by Palestinian gunmen at a bus stop near the Ofra settlement in the occupied West Bank late on Sunday, with doctors forced to prematurely deliver the baby of one of the wounded, Israeli officials said.

Israeli soldiers entered Ramallah yesterday morning, with low-level clashes breaking out a few hundred metres from the house of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas. They also raided the the headquarters of Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency.

according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Later soldiers raided the headquarters of Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency, including the photography and editing offices, a statement from the news agency said.

An army spokeswoman said she could not comment on the Ramallah raid, including whether it was part of the hunt for the gunmen from Sunday night's incident.



Israeli forces conducting raids in Ramallah in the West Bank, yesterday.

Doctors at the Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem earlier delivered the baby of one victim of the shooting who was pregnant via a caesarean section, the hospital said.

The hospital added that the mother, 21, was stable on Monday but the baby had taken a turn for the worse.

"There has unfortunately been a deterioration in the baby's condition. The family is requesting prayers for him," a hospital spokeswoman said.

The others wounded in the attack were not in life-threatening condition.

The army said that the perpetrators had so far not been located.

"IDF (Israel Defence Forces), border police and security forces commenced extensive searches in the villages in the area as part of the hunt for the terrorists who committed the attack," a statement said.

"The IDF will continue to operate to apprehend the terrorists and ensure the security of civilians."

The Islamist Hamas movement, which runs the Gaza Strip, praised the attack, saying in a statement that it proved

"resistance" was still alive in the West Bank.

Palestinian attacks against Israelis occur sporadically in the West Bank.

On November 26, a Palestinian rammed Israeli soldiers with a car and injured three of them. The assailant in that incident was later killed by Israeli forces.

Sunday's shooting north of Jerusalem was the most serious attack in the West Bank since October 7, when Palestinian Ashraf Naalwa shot two Israelis dead in an industrial zone for a nearby settlement.

Lebanon says police thwarted IS attacks

AP
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouk says the country's police have discovered and thwarted planned bombing attacks by the Islamic State group.

Mashnouk told reporters yesterday that the bombs were smuggled in from the rebel-held northwestern Syrian province of Idlib in buckets of cheese, and were intended for targeting places of worship, gatherings of Christians and military posts.

The minister added that the attacks were supposed to take place during Lebanon's parliamentary elections in May. He added that those planning the attacks were monitored by police intelligence for 10 months through a Syrian informer in Lebanon.

The announcement came ahead of the Christmas season when many Lebanese celebrate in public places. IS and Al Qaeda-linked militants carried have out attacks in Lebanon in the past, killing scores.

Amnesty urges ICC to probe conflict atrocities in Nigeria

ANATOLIA
LAGOS

Amnesty International yesterday said the International Criminal Court (ICC) should launch a probe into atrocities committed by Boko Haram insurgency, accusing Nigerian government of failing to bring perpetrators to justice.

The demand followed claims of a Dec. 5 publication by the ICC that Abuja has not held people to account over numerous rights violations in the country's northeast, where Nigeria is fighting an insurgency that claimed over 30,000 lives and displaced nearly 3 million people.

"The Nigerian government is unwilling and unable to meet its obligations as a member of the ICC to investigate and prosecute both Boko Haram and the Nigerian military (officials)," Amnesty International said in a report yesterday.

Saudi-backed govt rejects UN troops in Hodeidah city

REUTERS
RIMBO, SWEDEN

Yemen's Saudi-backed government is willing to accept a UN role in Hodeidah's seaport, a lifeline for millions of people during the country's war, but not a long-term presence in the city itself, Foreign Minister Khalid Al Yamani said yesterday.

Mediator Martin Griffiths, who opened United Nations-sponsored peace talks between Yemen's warring parties in Sweden last week, wants to avert a full-scale assault on the Red Sea city. Yamani said that Hodeidah, which is currently held by the Iranian-aligned Houthi group, should come under the control of his

government. The Houthis control most population centres, including the capital Sana'a which it seized in 2014 after ousting the internationally-recognised government of Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi that is backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

Control of Hodeidah, the Houthis' main supply line, is one of the trickiest issues at the talks, aimed at paving the way for a political process to end nearly four years of war. The Houthis said they want Hodeidah to be declared a neutral zone.

Yamani rejected this idea. "The concept of peacekeeping or some sort of permanent presence of the U.N. -- boots on the ground -- or making the city as neutral is something that we

will never accept," he said on the sidelines of the talks.

Yamani, who heads the Hadi government delegation, said the city should be placed under the control of the interior ministry's police forces as a matter of sovereignty.

However, the government is willing to accept the deployment of monitors from the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) in the port, the entry point for most of Yemen's commercial goods and aid supplies.

It could also accept the transfer of port revenues to the central bank in Hodeidah instead of routing them to Aden, the Hadi government's temporary base, the minister said.

UN members adopt migration pact rejected by US and others

REUTERS
MARRAKESH

UN members yesterday adopted a deal aimed at improving the way world copes with rising migration, but almost 30 countries stayed away from the ceremony in Morocco.

The pact, meant to foster cooperation on migration, was agreed in July by all 193 UN members except the United States, but only 164 formally signed it at the meeting yesterday.

Ten countries, mostly in formerly Communist Eastern Europe, have pulled out. Six more, among them Israel and Bulgaria, are debating whether to quit, a U.N. spokesman said after the pact was adopted. He did not say whether the rest of the countries absent from the conference in Marrakesh might also pull out. With a record 21.3 million refugees globally, the United Nations began work on the non-binding pact after more than 1 million people arrived in Europe in 2015, many fleeing civil war in Syria and poverty in Africa.

Since July, the accord, which addresses issues such as how to protect migrants, integrate them and send them home, has been criticised by mostly right-wing European politicians who say it could increase immigration from African and Arab countries.



Cars drive past over a suspension bridge in the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

Iraq celebrates victory over IS, opens Green Zone

AP
BAGHDAD

Iraq began removing cement walls from areas surrounding the capital's most fortified enclave yesterday opening parts of the so-called Green Zone to traffic in a symbolic move coinciding with nationwide celebrations marking the anniversary of the country's costly victory over the Islamic State (IS) group.

The partial reopening of parts of the high security area is meant to portray increased confidence in the country's overall security situation and is also being billed as an act of transparency following protests against corruption and poor public services.

The enclave on the west bank of the Tigris became home to foreign

embassies and key government buildings after the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 and has since then been surrounded by blast walls and barbed wire, inaccessible to most Iraqis.

The partial reopening of some side streets - initially just for five hours a day - has been repeatedly delayed and then timed to coincide with the one year anniversary of Iraq's victory over IS. The group has lost virtually all the territory it once held but still carries out sporadic attacks to hang on to its last enclave in Syria near the Iraqi border.

The government declared victory last December after a grueling three-year war in which tens of thousands of people were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. Entire towns and neighborhoods were reduced to rubble

in the fighting.

The government declared Monday a national holiday, and a moment of silence was held at midday. Checkpoints in the capital were decorated with Iraqi flags and balloons, as security forces patrolled the streets playing patriotic music.

"That victory and the relative stability in security is a golden opportunity for the government to rebuild the country and to meet the needs of its people," said Sameer al-Obaidi, who led an initiative in the capital's Sunni-dominated northern Azamiyah neighborhood to distribute flowers to security forces at checkpoints.

"It is important to treat all Iraqis equally so that they feel that their sacrifices are appreciated," Al Obaidi added.

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EDITORIAL

Protecting human rights

Qatar has always been at the forefront in the fight for protecting human rights in accordance with international human rights standards and is making sincere efforts in employing all available resources and global channels to safeguard rights of its citizens.

The National Human Rights Committee, as part of its celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10 each year, held an awareness event highlighting the role of NHRC in promoting and disseminating the culture of human rights. The NHRC stressed that under the wise leadership of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar has taken a legislative approach in line with the principles of preserving, respecting, promoting and protecting rights in all fields. The Committee on Monday commended Qatar's accession to the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which would reflect positively on strategies, policies and legislation, the most prominent of which is its National Vision 2030.

The NHRC said that in light of the unjust siege imposed on Qatar, it has worked continuously without interruption since the first moment to receive those affected by the siege, and it has taken swift action internationally and coordinated with all the authorities concerned to lift the siege, and has exerted all possible efforts to mitigate the siege's consequences on the citizens and residents of Qatar, including nationals of the siege countries.

The blockade has inflicted untold sufferings and hardships and are continuing to date. The siege has prevented hundreds of students from continuing their education, many have been separated from their families, individuals have been denied their right to work or to access their property because of their nationality, and the Saudi authorities are continuing to create obstacles against people of Qatar from performing Umrah and the Haj pilgrimage.

Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee, Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri, after meeting with officials of the Austrian Ombudsman Council, a national human rights institution in Austria, said that the GCC was established as a basis for asserting the unity of the Gulf people. However, the discriminatory and arbitrary measures imposed by the blockading countries on Qatar have caused a deep blow to the social fabric of the Gulf. He pointed out that with every additional day going through the crisis, the rift and gap between the Gulf countries is increasing, and the suffering of the people, who paid the biggest price of this unjust siege, is increasing. Qatar is concerned about the well being of its people. To this effect, Qatar has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council and its relevant mechanisms, to act urgently in a more effective manner to put an end to the human rights violations caused by the siege imposed on Qatar and its people.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



You cannot be safe and secure, you can't help peace and stability of the world without being in peace yourself, having your own army.

Ramush Haradinaj
Kosovo's Prime Minister

Qatar Petroleum continues developing oil and gas sector

QNA

Recently, Qatar Petroleum (QP) was able to achieve rapid steps locally and internationally in the oil and gas sector especially in 2018. With regards to exploratory activity in Qatar, a plan to implement a 3D marine seismic survey south Al Khalij field has been set as well as a petroleum trap has been discovered and the required studies to evaluate this discovery and the petrol potential of the area will be taking place.

Preparations have also been completed for drilling an oil well in the area south of Qatar to explore the country's non-conventional hydro-carbon potential. With regards to global exploratory activities, QP conducted an international technical study to assess the various sedimentary basins at a global level, in cooperation with French Petroleum Institute (IFP). The study will be used to direct QP future plans towards the field of global exploration and production.

In terms of acquisition and global exploration agreements a consortium including QP (25 percent), Shell (55 percent project operator) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) won the bid held by the Brazilian government in October 2017, for the Alto de Cabo Frio-Oeste block in the prolific Santos hydrocarbon basin offshore Brazil.

QP promoted it presence in Brazil by winning along with Exxon Mobil (QP 36 percent, Exxon Mobil 64 percent) a bid for exploration rights for Santos basin.

In addition, in its alliance with Exxon Mobil and Brazilian Petrobras (QP 30 percent, Exxon Mobil 40 percent, Petrobras 30 percent) QP won exploration rights for two blocks in the Campos Basin in a bid organized by the Brazilian government in March 2018.

In Oman, QP agreed with Eni of Italy to acquire a 30 percent participating in the Contractor's interest under the exploration and production sharing located in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Oman.

In Mexico, in its consortium with Shell Global (QP 40 percent, Shell 60 percent) QP won a exploration rights in four blocks in the Perdido basin, in the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico in an exploratory tender organized by the Mexican government in January 2018.

QP also signed an agreement with US ExxonMobil under which they acquired a 30 percent stake in two of the latter's affiliates that that have rights to seven blocks in the Vaca Muerta play in Neuquen in Argentina.

QP also entered into an agreement to acquire a 25 percent participating interest in the exploration block, offshore South Africa.

In terms of production and development, QP's production in 2017 was about 1.76 billion barrels of oil equivalent, about 7.3 trillion cubic foot of natural gas, 210 million barrels of condensate and 232 million barrels of oil, which included QP's share in global operations.

In Dukhan Field the implementation of the improved water injection project continues as part of the field's redevelopment plan for the coming phase. The total production of the field reached 63.02 million barrels of oil during 2017 with a production rate of 172.7 thousand barrels per day. In addition, the rate of production of



condensates reached 14.5 thousand barrels per day and natural gas liquids to 68.6 thousand barrels per day.

The implementation of the first phase of the redevelopment of Bul Hanine Oil Field where the drilling began in early 2017 through two offshore platforms and 11.8 million barrels of oil were produced in 2017 at a production rate of about 32.2 thousand barrels per day. For Maydan Mahzam Field a feasibility study for the redevelopment of the field and the selection mode phase for developing the field and 8.3 million barrels of oil were produced in 2017 with a production rate of about 22.7 thousand barrels per day.

For Al Shaheen oil field the transitions of operatorship from Maersk Oil to North Oil Company, which is a joint venture between QP (70 percent) and Total France company (30 percent). In 2017, 102 million barrels of oil were produced from the field, producing about 261 thousand barrels per day.

In Al Khalij field work began on the development plan adopted in 2016, which includes the drilling of new oil wells and improving the level of separation of water in the main station. 6.5 million barrels of oil were produced in the field during 2017 at a daily production rate of about 18 thousand barrels.

In Idd El Shargi North Dome, the first phase of the fifth field development plan has been completed and eight limited platforms have been constructed and connected to allow the drilling of new oil wells. In addition, four new platforms will be constructed during the period from 2018 to 2024. In the field, 29 million barrels of oil were produced during 2017 with a production rate of about 79 thousand barrels per day.

In Idd El Shargi South Dome, 2.9 million barrels of oil were produced during 2017 with a production rate of about 8.4 thousand barrels per day.

Al Rayyan Field has successfully completed the field operation task from Occidental Petroleum for QP to manage and operate the field starting June 1st which is the expiration date of the sharing agreement signed with the company. In 2017, 1.7 million barrels of oil were produced at a daily production rate of about 4.7 thousand barrels.

In Al Karkara Field, 1.8 million barrels of oil were produced during 2017 at the rate of production of about 5 thousand barrels per day, while Bunduq oil field produced 4.3 million barrels of oil during 2017 with a daily production rate of 11.7 million barrels. In March 2018, a new agreement with signed with Bunduq Company, under which the company's concession was extended for 20 years.

With regards to programs and projects, QP signed an agreement with Shell to develop LNG marine fuelling or bunkering infrastructure at strategic shipping locations across the globe. QP also announced fuel-oil bunkering solutions for all vessels calling on Qatari ports, which is a first and important step towards self-reliance for fuel-oil bunkering solutions for all vessels since Qatari and non-Qatari-vessels heading to Qatar were using Port of Fujairah.

Production of natural gas from the North Field during 2017 was nearly 19.5 billion cubic foot per day and the

rate of production of condensates was 534 thousand barrels per day.

A comprehensive study for Dukhan Field, which aims to highlight the low production and find appropriate solutions to enhance the capacity of the field, showed more than 100 thousand barrels per day of curde oil can be recovered through the technology of water injection and carbon dioxide alternately and economically.

With regards to petrochemical industries, preliminary engineering studies are being carried out to add the sixth furnace to the ethane cracker complex in Qchem to increase production between 20 to 30 percent. There is also a study to improve the energy efficiency of the production lines of ammonia 1 and 2 in Qatar Chemical Fertilizer Company (QAFCO), which could lead to an increase in production by 30 percent by the reuse of the currently wasted energy due to the aging of the plant.

There is also a study to establish a plant for PVC production, using Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) produced by Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) in order to maximize the added value of this raw material. Employment in the petrochemicals and industries sector has been reduced by 12 percent on average, while studies continue to rationalize labor in this vital sector.

For the rest of the achievements, QatarGas and RasGas have been merged to create a world-class operator of scale, service and reliability that will create significant opportunities for operating cost savings of nearly QR 2 billion annually. Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC) has also been merged into QAPCO to enhance competitiveness, improve financial performance and provide flexibility for the two companies while providing more robust and sustainable foundations for growth by using the skills, resources and capabilities of the two companies. QP also launched a forum for offshore field operators to provide a platform for them to work together on continuous improvements in offshore operations, which made nearly \$15 million a year.

QP is also reviewing developing compressed natural gas (CNG) projects as an alternative fuel for the domestic transport sector, and pledged to implement a major project to use CNG as alternative fuel by 2022.

Among QP's successes are the construction of storage and distribution facilities for petroleum products to be consumed domestically and the successful operation of the Laffan Refinery 2. This is a significant reflection of Qatar's strategic expansion in the production and diversification of energy sources, especially as it doubles production capacity by refining an additional 146 thousand barrels of condensates per day from North Field production.

In addition, drilling and maintenance of 148 oil and gas wells in the land and sea fields were carried out, which increased the production capacity of QP fields, and the project of supplying Halul Island with 100 km long power cables through Ras Laffan to provide 100 megawatts of electricity for the island and its facilities, as well as the National Security Shield (NSS) project for offshore facilities.

Why Brexit might not happen



LAURA BEERS
THE WASHINGTON POST

More than two years ago, the British public voted 52 percent to 48 percent in favor of leaving the European Union. In accordance with this outcome, Prime Minister Theresa May invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, formally initiating Britain's exit, which is scheduled to happen March 29.

But just under four months out, it remains an open question whether Britain will actually leave the E.U. In fact, on Tuesday, Britain's political betting markets placed odds against Brexit actually taking place in the spring.

To appreciate why the referendum mandate might not actually translate into Britain's leaving Europe as planned, one needs to take into account the British political system's historically fraught relationship with direct democracy.

Britain and the United States have democratic forms of government. But while the Us political system accords significant weight to the direct voice of its citizens in decision-making processes, the British system does not. British members of Parliament view their role as representing the interests of their constituents in Parliament, not acting on voters' expressed opinions. This is one reason referendums and ballot initiatives, while common in parts of the United States, are extremely rare in Britain.

The distrust of direct democracy runs deep in British history. As the Whig statesman Edmund Burke famously declared during the 1774 election campaign, an MP's will "ought not to be subservient to" that of his (or her) constituents. He saw

"mandates issued, which the member is bound blindly and implicitly to obey, to vote, and to argue for," as dangerous and "a fundamental mistake of the whole order and tenor of our constitution."

These sentiments continued to reverberate over the next two centuries. The referendum has been used only rarely, and then as a political tool, not a celebration of direct democracy. In 1973, Britain joined what was then the European Economic Community without recourse to a referendum, and few questioned the government's right to take that decision on behalf of the country.

And yet debates between pro- and anti-European forces persisted within both main political parties. During the 1974 election campaign, pro-European Labour leader Harold Wilson managed to unite his party by promising that, if elected, Labour would seek to renegotiate the terms of Britain's membership and then subject the revised terms to a referendum. While Wilson promised to abide by the result of the referendum, he was not genuinely interested in taking cues on foreign policy from the man in the street. Rather, he made a calculated gamble that the pro-European forces in both political parties would be able to convince the public of the wisdom of their view, and that the public "mandate" would silence anti-European politicians on both sides.

Wilson's maneuver was a success. The 1975 referendum resulted in a 2-to-1 vote in favor of remaining in the EEC, and those Labour left-wingers who had opposed membership were effectively silenced.

From 1975 to 2016, only one national referendum took place in Britain. But in 2016, Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron made the fateful mistake of trying to repeat Wilson's trick by calling a referendum that he believed would again show majority support for remaining in the E.U. and silence anti-Europeans on his own backbenches.

This time, it backfired. While a majority of MPs in Cameron's party and across Parliament supported remaining in the E.U., the public voted to leave. The result led to Cameron's resignation and his replacement by May, who had previously served as home secretary. After nearly two years of negotiations, May's government has agreed to terms of "divorce" with Europe. The government is now faced with getting the proposed agreement through Parliament. It is not proving an easy task.

The essential issue is whether the House of Commons will be guided by the views of its members or the views of their constituents, as expressed by the result of the 2016 referendum. The government claims that the referendum "mandate" must be adhered to. But an increasing number of MPs are reasserting parliamentary sovereignty to decide Britain's future. As Burke argued in 1774, an MP should never "blindly and implicitly ... obey" the will of constituents at the expense of "the clearest conviction of his judgment and conscience."

Last week, the government suffered a significant defeat with the passage of a motion to allow the House to offer substantive amendments to any new proposals on Brexit put forth by the government in the event that the current Brexit plan fails to win support in Parliament. The motion, which passed 321 to 299, effectively incentivizes pro-remainers to vote against May's current proposal in hopes that they will then be able to intervene in the next round of debate and put forth amendments that would substantially soften, or even potentially halt, Brexit.

These victories for pro-remainers expose the tensions between direct democracy and representative government that have shaped MPs' responses to the Brexit referendum. International Trade Secretary Liam Fox openly warned: "I think there is a real danger that the House of Commons, which is a natural remain majority, may attempt to steal Brexit from the British people, which I think would be a democratic affront."

"Stealing" Brexit could take two forms. MPs could push for an amendment to future Brexit

legislation that mandates a second referendum on the proposed Brexit terms, including an option to remain, which proponents have referred to as a "People's Vote." Alternatively, MPs could simply amend any future proposals to say that, in fact, Britain would remain in the E.U.

Whichever tactic pro-remain MPs decide to pursue has serious implications for the debate over who holds sovereignty in Britain, the House of Commons or the British people.

Parliamentary action to reverse Brexit without a second referendum would be politically risky, as May's government has been insisting for the past two years that the referendum result is a clear mandate on which the government is duty-bound to deliver. Voters, even some remain voters, might well see a reversal as a betrayal. But constitutionally, the referendum result is not binding, and there are historical arguments for reasserting parliamentary sovereignty to decide Britain's future relationship with Europe.

If the first referendum was a mistake, a People's Vote would only be doubling down on that initial error. It is hard to see how a vote for remain in a second referendum could be perceived by the Brexiteers to hold any more finite legitimacy than the leave vote did in 2016. Rather than looking to a second referendum to undo the errors of the first, pro-remain MPs should reassert the sovereignty of their judgment and conscience, and vote to reverse Brexit directly. To do so would not be a democratic affront, but a representative triumph.



After nearly two years of negotiations, May's government has agreed to terms of "divorce" with Europe. The government is now faced with getting the proposed agreement through Parliament. It is not proving an easy task.



ELI LAKE
BLOOMBERG

When employees first learned of the Google project known as Dragonfly, there was an internal uprising.

It is easy to see why. The project, a search engine for China, would not only help a totalitarian regime censor the web, it could also track Internet

into China before writing off a country of almost 1.4 billion people. "The standards of acceptable surveillance are unclear," says an appendix to the letter, which Techcrunch did not publish. Google has yet to announce its plans for Dragonfly. But one core issue raised by this letter goes far beyond Google: how the Chinese government pressures and deploys its citizens in order to expand its power and influence.

It sounds paranoid. But the role of Chinese citizens in Chinese statecraft is raising concerns in official and unofficial Washington. Members of Congress have warned about Chinese students in Us universities. The Justice Department has a new initiative aimed in part at prosecuting unregistered Chinese agents of influence.

Chinese defense universities often task promising students with missions to obtain valuable technology abroad, for example, according to a recent report from the Hoover Institution. Larry Diamond, a senior fellow at Hoover, told me: "If you understand how China operates, it would be shocking to the point of disbelief if they were not in an organized fashion trying to penetrate Google."

Google has a difficult history in China. As my Bloomberg colleague Mark Bergen has reported, Google's leadership was initially (and cautiously) optimistic about bringing its search engine to China in 2006. Google developed a compromise with the Chinese government: Users would be informed when search results were being filtered. By 2009, however, that optimism had turned to dread with the discovery that hackers had stolen

information on Chinese dissidents, along with source code for the company's treasured search engine.

Even after the hack, Google - like all Silicon Valley companies - continued to hire Chinese engineers and computer scientists. Spokesmen for Google would not comment on the record, nor did they provide information on how many of the 80,000 employees of Alphabet, Google's parent company, are Chinese nationals.

Chinese nationals inside Google have at times clashed with its technolibertarian culture. One infamous example, detailed in a book by the former head of Google's "people operations," comes from 2008, when the company cafeteria offered employees a "Free Tibet Goji-Chocolate Creme Pie." This offended a Chinese national at the company, who sent an email to Chief Executive Larry Page. The chef was immediately suspended - then, after a companywide email thread that at the time was the longest in Google history, reinstated. An engineer who was at Google at the time told me the whole controversy was "ridiculous."

The Tibetan pie incident is trivial compared with the implications of Dragonfly. But the basic issue is the same: Chinese citizens are subjects of a totalitarian government. This does not mean that every Chinese national at Google is a spy or a plant. It does mean that Chinese Googlers are more likely to face pressure from their government than Googlers who come from more open societies. Just like the old Soviet Union, the Chinese state views its people as its appendages.



One core issue raised by this letter goes far beyond Google: How the Chinese government pressures and deploys its citizens in order to expand its power and influence.

users. Thousands of Googlers, as they are known, eventually went public with their opposition, signing an open letter in protest of the project. Is it any surprise that a company that canceled a contract with the Pentagon to sort through drone video images would be queasy about helping the Chinese Communist Party consolidate control over its people?

But there is another view within Google: that Dragonfly is not diametrically but crucial to the company's mission. These employees - some 500 of them so far - have also signed a letter making their case on an internal company message board. Interestingly, the campaign was organized by Chinese nationals inside Google.

The letter, which Techcrunch first reported last month, argues that Google needs to at least try to get back

The Peninsula

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RBI Governor Urjit Patel quits setting off a crisis

IAN S
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel resigned from his post yesterday with immediate effect, citing “personal reasons”, setting off a major crisis in India’s politico-economic sphere.

Patel’s resignation comes in the backdrop of the ongoing tiff between the government and the central bank over the liquidity and credit crunch in the economy that provoked an extraordinary meeting of the RBI board on November 19.

“On account of personal reasons, I have decided to step down from my current position effective immediately,” Patel said in a brief statement released by the RBI.

Patel had taken charge as Governor on September 4, 2016, for a three-year term, following Raghuram Rajan’s decision not to seek a second term.

The historic tensions in government-central bank relations were reignited in October when, in a public lecture, RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya talked about the independence of the Reserve Bank, arguing that any compromise could be “potentially catastrophic” for the economy.

The government responded with the Finance Ministry seeking discussions with the central bank under the never-used-before Section 7 of the RBI Act which empowers the government to issue directions to the RBI Governor, who then summoned a meeting of the bank board.

The government’s differences with the RBI centres on four issues - it wanted liquidity support to head off any risk of a credit freeze, a relaxation in

Patel’s resignation comes in the backdrop of the ongoing tiff between the government and the central bank over the liquidity and credit crunch in the economy that provoked an extraordinary meeting of the RBI board on November 19.

capital requirements for lenders, relaxing the prompt corrective action (PCA) rules for banks struggling with accumulated non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans) and support for micro, small and medium enterprises.

Central to the liquidity issue was the government’s demand that the RBI hand over its surplus reserves by amending its “economic capital framework”. Analysts noted that the government’s demand came in the face of a huge fiscal deficit and the need to boost the economy in an election year.

The RBI’s central board has 18 members, which includes the Governor and his four deputies as full-time official directors, while the rest have been nominated by the government, including the Economic Affairs and Financial Services Secretaries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Patel before the board meeting and what emerged on November 19 was seen as settling the debate on the central bank’s autonomy and clearly establishing the government as a stakeholder in policy making.

On the issue of reserves, the RBI board decided to form an expert committee to examine its economic capital framework, which will decide the amount of reserves it can maintain, handing over the balance to the government.

On the matter of relaxing the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) norms for banks with bad loans, it decided that the issue will be examined by the RBI’s Board for Financial Supervision.

Eleven of the 21 state-run banks are under the PCA framework, while NPAs accumulated in the Indian banking system have touched a staggering Rs 12 lakh crore.

“The RBI-government fight has been pushed down, abated for now and postponed, but the NPAs issue continues to remain,” Sudipto Mundle on the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy had said following the RBI board meeting.

Asked about the government-RBI tiff, former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian told reporters here on Saturday that the central bank’s autonomy must be protected because the country will benefit from strong institutions.

“I have myself advocated that RBI should play a pro-active role, but its surplus funds should not go towards routine financing of spending and deficit financing -- that would amount to raiding the RBI,” he added.

On the RBI board, with a majority of government nominees, the former CEA said: “I think that part of maintaining a real autonomy is not to politicise the board. The board should not be politicised. Not only it must not be done, it must not be seen to be done either.”



Vijay Mallya arrives to attend a hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in central London, yesterday.

Extradite Mallya to India for trial: London court

IAN S
LONDON

Beleaguered industrialist Vijay Mallya must be extradited from the UK to India to stand trial on charges of committing huge bank frauds, a London court ruled yesterday, saying there was no evidence that the prosecution was politically motivated.

“The criticism made of the possible effect of the considerable media attention which would attend a prosecution of Mallya is not significant enough for this court to find he would not have” a fair trial, The Westminster Magistrates Court’s Emma Arbuthnot said.

“There is insufficient evidence for this court to find that he will not be tried by a competent and fair court,” the court said.

The judge also noted that any suggestion that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) courts in India were too “pliable” when it came to CBI cases “is not borne out by reliable evidence”.

Arbuthnot, a Senior District Judge, said she accepted the Indian government’s contention that because Mallya had such a high profile, his trial would be under great scrutiny.

“I find that Mallya will be able to raise with the court any overly prejudicial publicity... It will not be a trial by politicians. Courts are used to dealing with high profile cases which are accompanied by often ill-advised political commentary.

“I do not accept that the courts in India are there to do what the politicians tell them to do. As I have already said, the court will be under great scrutiny. I do not find any international consensus which would enable me to find that the judges in India are corrupt.”

Referring to defence argument that there was abuse of legal process, the London judge said: “There is no evidence that the prosecution is politically motivated... I find no grounds for finding an abuse of process.” The judge said she was sending Mallya’s case to

the Home Secretary of State for a decision to be taken on whether to order his extradition.

The court ruling came six days after British national and middleman in the Rs3,600 crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal, Christian Michael, was extradited to India after his arrest in Dubai.

Mallya fled from India in March 2016. But he has repeatedly denied fleeing the country and said he was ready to pay back the money he owed to Indian banks.

Earlier, before appearing in the court, Mallya told reporters: “Whatever the judgement, my legal team will review the judgement if required and take appropriate steps thereafter.” He said he offered to repay the public sector banks and employees what he owed.

“But that has nothing to do with this extradition decision, this is a completely separate matter.” Proceedings are on in the Mumbai Special Court against Mallya under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.

Chandrababu, Mamata and Sonia attend oppn meet

IAN S
NEW DELHI

UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, N. Chandrababu Naidu and Arvind Kejriwal, NCP leader Sharad Pawar and DMK leader M K Stalin were among senior opposition leaders who attended a meeting here yesterday to discuss ways to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections next year.

TDP leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had taken the initiative to call the meeting, a day ahead of the start of winter session of Parliament and the declaration of Assembly election results in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Telangana — seen as a trendsetter for general elections.

Those present also included Janata Dal-Secular leader and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, CPI-M General Secretary Sitram Yechury and Nationalist Congress Party’s Praful Patel.

Others who attended were All India United Democratic Front’s Badruddin Azmal, Muslim League’s P.K. Kulhanikutty, National Conference’s Farooq Abdullah, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajanatrik)’s Babulal Marandi, Rashtriya Lok Dal’s Ajit Singh, Loktantrik Janata Dal’s Sharad Yadav, RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav, CPI’s D. Raja, Revolutionary Socialist Party’s N.K. Premchandran and Hindustani Awam Morcha’s Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Modi seeks smooth winter session; Congress wants JPC on Rafale

IAN S
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday sought cooperation of opposition parties in smooth running of the winter session of Parliament as the Congress sought a JPC probe into Rafale deal, discussion on “misuse” of EVMs and discussion on problems concerning farmers.

Modi, who took part in an all-party meeting convened by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry ahead of the winter session, said the government is always receptive to issues raised by political parties.

The government agenda for the session, which is the last full session before the Lok Sabha elections next year, has 46 items including 45 bills.

Talking to the media after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh said Modi underlined that in a democracy both the government and the opposition share their inputs for efficient governance.

“The Prime Minister said that the government was ready to discuss all issues as per rules and procedures. If anybody wants to bring something to the government’s notice inside the House or even outside, we are open to it,” Tomar said.

Modi urged political parties to create constructive atmosphere during the session and to collectively address issues concerning people. “It is our prime responsibility to contribute to the service of the nation and its people by ensuring smooth functioning of the Parliament,” he said.

Tomar said all political parties present at the meeting have assured full cooperation for smooth functioning of Parliament.

Asked if the government was ready for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale fighter jets deal, he said the opposition had several issues including Rafale, farmers’ plight and economy “but they would have to prioritise things as the session was only four weeks long. “These things can be settled in the Business Advisory Meetings,” he added.

The Minister said a legislation on Ram Mandir was “not the topic of today’s discussion”. “When something to this effect comes up, we will let you know,” he said.

The government will bring three bills to replace ordinances

– Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018, Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 and the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said the Congress will press for a JPC inquiry into the Rafale deal and raise the issue of alleged misuse of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Azad said the party will also seek discussion on “misuse of investigative agencies” by the government to target political rivals, problems faced by farmers, fall in the value of rupee, rise in prices of petroleum products, security of women and “erosion of RBI autonomy”.

“We have been demanding for

a long time that there should be a JPC probe into the Rafale scam but the government has failed to take a decision. We have again urged it to form a JPC,” he said.

Azad said it is important for democracy that voters have faith on EVMs.

“But unfortunately since the BJP came to power, people have lost faith in EVMs because the ruling party is misusing them. In the recent Assembly polls, this crossed all limits. EVM machines were found in houses, hotels, on roads, they were being taken unprotected in buses and jeeps...,” he said.

“There is a big doubt, a question mark whether elections were free and fair or being held under the watch of the government.” The session will have a total of 20 sittings spread over a period of 29 days.



Indo-US joint air exercises

Military personnel deplane from an Indian Air Force C-130J Super Hercules troop transport aircraft at Air Force Station Kalaikunda yesterday, as part of the Cope India joint air exercises between IAF and US Air Force.

DRT serves notice to Nirav Modi and family

IAN S
MUMBAI

The Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) yesterday served notice to absconder diamondaire Nirav Modi, his family members and his companies to recover over Rs7,000 crore owed to the Punjab National Bank (PNB).

The notice by the DRT-1 Registrar, A. Murali, came six months after the beleaguered PNB had moved the tribunal in July to recover around Rs7,029 crore. This includes the principal component of around Rs6,800 crore plus interest.

The accused-defendants include seven individuals and nine group companies, and all are

barred from disposing off, transferring, or entering into any transactions pertaining to the secured properties, the notice said.

They have been allowed time till January 15, 2019, to reply to the notice, failing which the PNB plea would be decided ex-parte.

Besides Nirav Modi, the notice has been slapped on his wife Ami, their children Rohin, Ananya and Apasha, his brothers Nehal Deepak Modi, Neeshal Deepak Modi, Deepak Keshavlal Modi and sister Purvi Mayank Mehta, at their last-known Mumbai addresses.

In the notice, nine companies, besides the branches of some companies in Surat and Japiur have been named.

Pakistan PM reviews ministries’ performance

INTERNEWS
ISLAMABAD

A Performance Review of Pakistan’s each Ministry is being held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Discussions on the actions already taken in terms of service delivery, austerity measures adopted and future plans was held in each case with a view how to improve performance under each of these heads further.

It was decided in the cabinet meeting yesterday that each Ministry would be further tasked with a specific strategic plan for implementation, spread over five years so that all concerned work in tandem for optimum output.

It was also decided that such review meetings would be held every three months to judge performance of the ministries, adopt mid-way course corrections, where required, and to ensure overall performance of the Government is on track-main aim of which is improving the quality of life of Pakistani citizens.

Meanwhile, India’s former spy master has said that Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan

It was decided in the cabinet meeting yesterday that each Ministry would be further tasked with a specific strategic plan for implementation, spread over five years so that all concerned work in tandem for optimum output.

deserves a chance and time to prove his intentions with regards to Pakistan-India relations.

“PM Imran is our best bet after former military ruler general Pervez Musharraf,” said AS Dulat, the ex-Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief, while speaking at a session on wisdom of spies during the Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh on Saturday, *Hindustan Times* reported.

“We need to give him time and a chance to prove his intentions,” he added.

Lieutenant General Kamal Davar (retd), the first Director General of the Indian Defence Intelligence Agency, who was also in attendance at the session, agreed with Dulat’s stance on better ties with Pakistan, saying:

“Imran Khan is a

self-respecting man. Don’t push him into a corner. He can change things in the subcontinent.”

Referring to the ‘better’ relations between Islamabad and New Delhi during the Musharraf regime, Dulat said.

“There has not been a more reasonable leader in Pakistan in the past 30 years,” adding, “It is sad that once Musharraf stepped down, a lot less has been done in terms of Pakistan-India relations.”

Without naming Islamabad’s efforts for better bilateral ties and its stance to resolve all issues through dialogue, the former RAW chief said.

“Talks are the only way forward for both nuclear-armed nations. I would even suggest an institutional arrangement between the intelligence agencies of both countries.”



Relatives of missing Pakistanis hold pictures of their loved ones during a demonstration on Human Rights Day in Quetta, the capital city of Balochistan province, yesterday.

Pakistan observes Human Rights Day

INTERNEWS
ISLAMABAD

International Human Rights Day was observed yesterday in Pakistan to uphold human rights and throw light on the plight of the people being denied those basic rights.

This year, Human Rights Day marks the 71th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The day was commemorated in Pakistan and

across the globe. The United Nations (UN) had declared December 10 as the International Human Rights Day, the date when the world body had adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Seminars, rallies and awareness campaigns were held today across the world to encourage people to stand up for their own rights and those of others. All the member states and interested organizations were

invited to celebrate this day.

The High Commissioner office of the Human Rights was awarded by the Guinness World Record for the collection, translation (around 380 languages) and distribution of the worldwide announcement of the Human Rights.

At this event celebration, a global discussion on the human rights was also hosted by the High Commissioner through the social media websites.

Poll campaigning under way in Bangladesh amid arrests

AFP
DHAKA

There is no opposition candidate for prime minister, hundreds have been arrested and incumbent premier Sheikh Hasina stands accused of ignoring democratic checks on her power, but Bangladesh began campaigning yesterday for a year-end election.

More than 100 million people are registered to vote on December 30 for either Hasina’s Awami League and its allies, or a beleaguered opposition that says it is being hobbled by police.

As the election campaign was launched, with candidates holding processions and distributing leaflets, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which hopes to deny Hasina a record fourth term, said nearly 2,000 of its supporters had been arrested.

Police said those detained since the election was announced in November — including a number of candidates about to hit the hustings



Supporters of Bangladesh Awami League take part in a general election campaign procession in Dhaka, yesterday.

— had prior warrants for their arrest. But the opposition said

Hasina and her party were following a pre-election “blueprint”

designed to stifle her rivals and intimidate their voters.



Vaccination drive

A Pakistani health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during a vaccination campaign in Karachi, yesterday.

Peshawar launches first surveillance vehicle

INTERNEWS
PESHAWAR

The Peshawar district administration has launched first administrative surveillance vehicle for efficient monitoring of administrative matters of the district.

The surveillance vehicle is equipped with CCTV cameras connected with District Smart Control Room where trained staff converts gathered information into actionable data, upon which the deputy commissioner will take decisions.

Sri Lanka’s ousted premier sets deadline to end crisis

AFP
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka’s ousted prime minister promised yesterday to bring tens of thousands of supporters to the capital next week for a massive demonstration unless President Maithripala Sirisena reinstated him imminently.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose dismissal in October plunged Sri Lanka into crisis, said he still commanded the support of parliament and Sirisena had until Friday to recognise that.

Sri Lanka has been trapped in a bitter power feud since Sirisena replaced Wickremesinghe with Mahinda Rajapakse, a controversial former strongman leader.

Parliament has twice voted against Rajapaksa but Sirisena has refused to reinstate his former ally Wickremesinghe —even if he has the numbers on the floor.

The country’s Supreme Court is ruling this week on whether Sirisena’s sacking of parliament in November was unconstitutional.

Wickremesinghe —who is confident of a ruling against Sirisena -- said tens

of thousands of the party faithful would rally in Colombo if the president did not heed the court.

“After the court ruling, we will launch our ‘People Power’ campaign to force the president to end the crisis,” he said in a statement. Wickremesinghe has cobbled together a majority in parliament, which has twice voted against Rajapaksa.

A court of appeal last week also stripped Rajapaksa and his cabinet of their authority until he could prove his right to hold office.

The war-era strongman, backed by the president, has ignored parliament, and has named a cabinet and assumed the duties of prime minister.

But the 225-member legislature has blocked his office from spending any funds, worsening the acrimony between the factions. The chamber has witnessed violence in recent weeks as the power struggle dragged on, with brawls between warring sides.

Last week, Wickremesinghe likened Sirisena to Hitler, his strongest comment yet directed at his former ally.

Myanmar seizes 370kg of heroin worth \$4.7m

AFP
YANGON

Myanmar has seized 370kg of heroin worth \$4.7m during a raid in the northeast, police said, the latest big bust in the world’s second-largest opium producer after Afghanistan.

Weak rule of law and conflict-riddled border areas allow industrial-size trade in heroin, pills and crystal methamphetamine — known as ice — to flourish, even as massive drug seizures routinely grab headlines.

The most recent narcotics batch was discovered in a truck outside a monastery near the Shan state capital Taunggyi on Saturday night, police said in a statement Sunday.

Two men were arrested after officers found them with “62 bags containing 170kg of white heroin and 200kg of brown heroin”, it said, referring to colours indicating levels of purity.

The bust was worth a little more than 7 billion kyat, or nearly \$4.7 million.

Authorities in the area could not be reached for additional comment.

Though still vast, the cultivation of opium -- the base ingredient for heroin -- has declined in Myanmar as demand for methamphetamine surges.

In 2017, 41,000 hectares (101,300 acres) of land were being used to grow poppies compared to 55,000 hectares in 2015, according to estimates by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In the 1970s and 1980s, Myanmar was the leader in global opium production in the “Golden Triangle” -- a region spanning borders of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos -- before Afghan farmers started to dominate the market.

Many of the country’s drug gangs have in recent years switched to meth, feeding the growing popularity across the Asia-Pacific for crystallised “ice” and the lower-grade caffeine-laced “yaba” pills.

Lion Air passenger numbers drop after deadly crash

REUTERS
JAKARTA

Lion Air said yesterday passenger numbers dropped by less than 5 percent in November compared to a year earlier, after one of its Boeing Co 737 MAX jets crashed in late October killing all 189 people on board.

“There was a decline but it wasn’t too significant,” the airline’s CEO Edward Sirait told television network *CNN Indonesia*. “It was under 5 percent compared to the traffic at the same month last year.”

He said Lion Air did not “clearly understand” whether the crash was responsible for the fall in traffic in November, which he said was a low season for travel.

The airline, Indonesia’s

“There was a decline but it wasn’t too significant,” the airline’s CEO Edward Sirait told television network CNN Indonesia. “It was under 5 percent compared to the traffic at the same month last year.”

largest, is privately owned and does not publicly release traffic statistics or financial results.

Sirait said last week Lion Air was considering cancelling orders for 737 MAX jets but it had not yet made a decision.

Sources said that relations

between the airline and Boeing had worsened in a spat over responsibility for the crash.

The airline has 190 Boeing jets worth \$22bn at list prices waiting to be delivered, on top of 197 already taken, making it one of the largest US export customers.

Bankers and some analysts say Lion Air and Southeast Asian rivals over-expanded and would be comfortable with fewer orders.

Boeing has declined to comment on contractual matters but industry sources say aerospace companies rarely leave room for unilateral cancellations except in exceptional circumstances.

The cause of the October 29 crash into the Java Sea has yet to be determined.



Activists march to promote human rights

Activists raise clinched fists as they march during a rally to commemorate the 70th International Human Rights Day, near the Presidential Palace in Manila, yesterday.

China pressures US, Canada ahead of Huawei hearing

AP
BEIJING

China raised the pressure on the United States and Canada as a bail hearing for a top Chinese technology executive was set to resume in Vancouver, British Columbia.

A headline in a Communist Party newspaper called Canada’s treatment of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies, “inhumane.” The editorial published in yesterday’s *Global Times* followed formal government protests to the ambassadors of both Canada and the United States over the

weekend.

Meng was detained on December 1 while changing planes in Vancouver. The US wants her extradited. It alleges Huawei used a Hong Kong shell company to evade US trade curbs on Iran.

Her arrest could fuel US-China trade tensions at a time when the two sides are seeking to resolve a dispute over Beijing’s technology and industrial strategy. Both sides have sought to keep the issues separate, at least so far.

“This is a criminal justice matter,” US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said on

CBS’ “Face the Nation” on Sunday. “It is totally separate from anything that I work on or anything that the trade policy people in the administration work on.... We have a lot of very big, very important issues. We’ve got serious people working on them, and I don’t think they’ll be affected by this.”

The hearing on whether to release on bail was due to resume later. Canadian prosecutor John Gibb-Carsley asked the court Friday to reject Meng’s bail request. Justice William Ehrcke said he would think about proposed bail conditions over the weekend.

Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned Canadian Ambassador John McCallum on Saturday and American Ambassador Terry Branstad on Sunday. He called Meng’s detention “extremely egregious” and demanded that the US vacate the arrest warrant, the official *Xinhua News Agency* said.

Le warned both countries that Beijing will take steps based on their response. Asked Monday what those steps might be, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said only that “it totally depends on the Canadian side itself.”

The Canadian province of

British Columbia has already canceled a trade mission to China amid fears China could detain Canadians in retaliation for Meng’s detention.

Commercial retaliation against firms from countries at odds with China has grown increasingly common as Beijing exercises its leverage as the world’s second largest economy.

Authorities closed most of Lotte’s supermarkets in China after the South Korean retailer sold land at home for a U.S. anti-missile system that Beijing opposed.

At least two companies are rallying to support Huawei.

South Korean cab driver burns self to death in carpool protest

AFP
SEOUL

A South Korean taxi driver burned himself to death yesterday in protest at an Uber-like ride-sharing service being introduced by the country’s largest mobile chat app, reports said.

South Korean taxi drivers have angrily protested against the car-pooling service created by KakaoTalk, saying it would threaten their jobs and livelihoods.

US giant Uber has only a minimal presence in the country, offering only taxi- and licensed-hire vehicle hailing after closing its main ride-sharing service in 2015 in the face of an extensive backlash from drivers.

But Kakao is used by more than 80 percent of South Koreans, and in recent months tens of thousands of taxi drivers have held mass rallies in Seoul to condemn its upcoming car-pooling service, which is due to launch next week.

The 57-year-old driver, surnamed Choi, set himself alight in front of the national parliament in Seoul after complaining about the car-pooling service, according to the police and *Yonhap* news agency. Choi had told another taxi driver he wanted to set himself on fire “because of the Kakao carpool”, *Yonhap* news agency quoted the man as saying. He poured fuel over himself while sitting in his vehicle and set himself alight, police said.



Police investigate after an empty schoolbus crashed in the North Point district of Hong Kong, yesterday.

Four dead as Hong Kong schoolbus mounts pavement, trapping passers-by

AFP
HONG KONG

Four people were killed when an empty runaway schoolbus mounted a pavement in a crowded Hong Kong neighbourhood yesterday, trapping passers-by underneath and injuring 10, police said.

Two women — aged 80 and 70 — and two men — aged 83 and 77 — were killed after the yellow bus careered out of control in the downtown North Point district.

Photographs in local media showed victims sprawled on the ground while others received medical treatment at the scene.

The vehicle rolled down the street after it was parked,

terrifying passers-by as the driver ran towards it and tried in vain to stop it, according to the police.

“We believe he might have forgotten to pull the handbrake or hadn’t properly pulled it,” chief inspector of police Sun Lun-yum told reporters.

The 62-year-old driver became trapped under the bus and was dragged along for about 20 metres before falling onto the road.

Police said the bus travelled for a total of 100 metres, hitting two taxis before finally crashing into a building in a narrow lane lined with shops.

In addition to the driver, who suffered injuries to his head, neck and back, a further nine pedestrians aged between 22 and 89 were

taken to hospital for treatment. Several remain in a serious condition.

Hong Kong prides itself on having one of the world’s best public transport systems but deadly bus accidents are not unknown.

Five people were killed and 32 injured when a coach carrying Cathay Pacific staff to Hong Kong’s airport collided with a taxi last month.

A speeding double-decker overturned in northern Hong Kong in February, killing 19 people and leaving more than 60 injured. The bus driver was arrested for dangerous driving.

And in 2003 a double-decker bus collided with a truck and plummeted off a bridge, killing 21 people and injuring 20.

South Korea charges four with illegally importing N Korean coal

AP
SEOUL

South Korean prosecutors said yesterday that they have charged four people with illegally importing North Korean coal via Russia in violation of UN sanctions.

The indictments, handed down on Friday, came four months after customs authorities accused three of the four of using forged documents to illicitly import 35,000 tons of North Korean coal and other minerals worth \$5.8 million.

South Korean media said prosecutors found an additional person implicated in the case during an investigation.

Prosecutors said in a statement that the four people and their five entities were charged with violating a law requiring government approval to bring North Korean products into the South.

UN sanctions that were toughened in 2017 ban member states from importing North Korean coal and other minerals that had been key sources of foreign currency for the impoverished yet nuclear-armed country.

The prosecutors’ statement said the four people attempted to get profits by selling North Korean minerals whose prices dropped in the wake of the sanctions. North Korea has been

seeking sanctions relief in return for some of the measures the country has taken since entering nuclear talks early this year, such as dismantling its nuclear testing site and suspending weapons tests. US officials want the North to take more significant steps.

South Korea’s liberal president, Moon Jae-in, who favours a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue, has facilitated US-North Korea diplomacy this year. But when he met President Donald Trump recently on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina, the two agreed that sanctions would remain in place until North Korea completes its nuclear disarmament.



Solidarity with Rohingya

Protesters hold banners during a demonstration in support of Rohingya Muslims in front of Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. Indonesian Muslims condemned Myanmar army’s oppressions towards Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State of Myanmar.

May aborts parliamentary vote on Brexit deal

REUTERS
LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday abruptly postponed a parliamentary vote on her Brexit deal, throwing Britain's plan to leave the European Union into chaos after admitting that she faced a rout.

May's move on the eve of the scheduled parliamentary vote opens up an array of possible outcomes, ranging from a disorderly Brexit with no deal to another referendum on EU membership. May's own position could be in jeopardy, with calls from opposition parties for her to step aside.

May said she still intended to put her deal to lawmakers. But she would first ask the EU for more "reassurances" over the main bone of contention: a "backstop" to ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland, which her critics say means Britain could end up indefinitely subject to EU rules after it leaves.

Announcing the delay, May was laughed at by some lawmakers when she said there was broad support for the deal and that she had listened carefully to different views over it — the result of 18 months of tortuous negotiations.

"If we went ahead and held the vote tomorrow the deal would be rejected by a significant margin," May told

May's move on the eve of the scheduled parliamentary vote opens up an array of possible outcomes, ranging from a disorderly Brexit with no deal to another referendum on EU membership. May's own position could be in jeopardy, with calls from opposition parties for her to step aside.

parliament, adding that she was confident it was the right deal.

"We will therefore defer the vote scheduled for tomorrow and not proceed to divide the House at this time," May said. The United Kingdom would meanwhile step up contingency planning for a no-deal Brexit when it is due to leave on March 29.

Sterling skidded to its weakest level since April 2017, falling to \$1.2527. It was trading at \$1.50 on the day of the 2016 Brexit referendum.

May accepted there was concern among lawmakers about the Northern Irish "backstop".

The provision is intended as

an insurance policy to avoid a return to border checks between the British-ruled province and the EU-member Irish Republic. But it also goes to the heart of the Brexit dilemma: allowing Britain to set its own rules outside the EU without disrupting trade.

The backstop requires Britain to abide by some EU rules indefinitely — potentially long after it quits the bloc and gives up say in setting them — unless some future mechanism can be found to ensure a friction-free land border. That prospect is rejected both by supporters of a cleaner break with the EU and those who want to stay inside it.

May said the broader question was whether parliament wanted to deliver on the will of the people for Brexit, or open up the divisions in the world's fifth largest economy with another referendum.

"If you take a step back, it is clear that this house faces a much more fundamental question: does this house want to deliver Brexit?" May asked.

The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said the United Kingdom no longer had "a functioning government" and called on May to "make way" for a Labour government.

The decision to halt the vote came just hours after the EU's



Pro and anti-Brexit protesters argue opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, Britain, yesterday.

top court ruled that Britain could unilaterally withdraw its decision to leave the bloc on March, 29.

The government did not spell out the mechanism for delaying the vote scheduled for Tuesday.

The speaker of the lower house of parliament, John Bercow, called for lawmakers to be given a vote on the decision to defer the vote on the deal itself. "I politely suggest that in any courteous, respectful and mature environment, allowing

the house to have a say would be the right and, dare I say it, the obvious course to take," Speaker Bercow said. In the June 23, 2016 referendum, 17.4 million voters, or 52 percent, backed Brexit while 16.1 million, or 48 percent, backed staying. More than two years since, the United Kingdom remains divided on how or even whether it should leave the club it first joined in 1973. Polls show few voters have changed their minds, despite warnings of economic turmoil.

Both May's ruling

Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party are publicly committed to carrying out Brexit. A no-deal Brexit, though, is seen as so disruptive to business that parliament would be under strong pressure to block it.

A growing number of backbench members of parliament say the only solution would be a new referendum, an option backed by three of the four living former prime ministers but strongly opposed by the government.



Commuters line up in front of a Deutsche Bahn information counter during a rail workers' strike across the country due to a pay dispute with Deutsche Bahn, in Munich, Germany, yesterday.

German rail strike halts trains nationwide

AFP
FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Germany was plunged into transport chaos yesterday as train services were halted by a railworkers' strike over pay, affecting millions of passengers.

Inter-city and regional services as well as many urban commuter trains were cancelled throughout Europe's biggest economy by the four-hour stoppage that started at 5am, Deutsche Bahn (DB) said.

Although the walkout ended as planned at 9am, its ripple effects will be felt for the rest of the day, particularly on long-distance lines, rail operator DB warned. Some 1,400 trains,

including cargo services, were affected, DB said, adding that both sides had agreed to return to the negotiation table today.

The industrial action came after talks broke down on Saturday between the DB and the EVG railworkers' union, which is demanding a 7.5-percent salary rise for 160,000 employees.

"We believe the warning strike was a total success," said EVG head Torsten Westphal.

"The next move is now up to Deutsche Bahn management." DB had earlier described the strike as a "completely unnecessary escalation" in the tortuous negotiations. DB has so far offered a pay rise of 5.1 percent

in two phases, with an option for staff to take extra time off instead, and a one-off payment of €500, DPA national news agency reported.

A DB spokeswoman welcomed the decision to resume talks today. "We never left the negotiating table," she said. "We have told the union that we are prepared to make another offer."

Major transport hubs like Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and Munich were among those impacted by the walkout.

DB said that purchased tickets would remain valid until next Sunday or could be refunded and urged passengers to delay travel where possible.

Sweden stuck in limbo as Centre Party snubs Lofven

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

Attempts to form a government in Sweden were back at square one yesterday after the Centre Party, citing policy differences, said it would vote against a second term in office for Social Democrat leader Stefan Lofven.

The country has been without a government since September, when an election delivered a hung parliament that has already rejected both Lofven and the leader of the four-party, centre-right Alliance as prime minister.

Despite being nominally part of the Alliance, the Centre and Liberal parties said they were ready to support left-leaning Lofven as a means of breaking the deadlock and keeping the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats politically isolated.

But Centre leader Annie Loof said yesterday that Lofven — premier before the election and currently heading a caretaker administration — had not accepted her demands for lower income taxes and more liberal labour laws, which were the price for support.

"We would have need to see considerably more liberal political reforms in order for the Centre party to be able to come to an agreement and allow

Stefan Lofven four more years," she said. Loof's agenda was a hard sell for Lofven, a former welder whose party is heavily backed by unions and who also relies on support from the Left Party. While Lofven's chance of a second term now appear slim, Alliance leader Ulf Kristersson's look little better. "We have not taken any new decision on (whether to back Kristersson)," said Loof, whose party has already voted against him once in parliament.

The election gave the hard-right, populist Sweden Democrats the balance of power.

Loofen said he was still ready negotiate over a government that would sit in the middle ground of Swedish politics. "The most likely alternative to this kind of compromise... is a government that is dependent on forces that have their origin in the white-supremacy movement," he said.

But his position could be further weakened as soon as Wednesday when parliament votes on his budget for 2019.

Without support from the Centre or Liberal parties, it may not pass and parliament could adopt a budget motion put forward by the Moderate and Christian Democrat parties, both in the Alliance, that includes roughly 20bn crowns in tax cuts.

Greek court rejects release request by terror convict

AP
ATHENS

A Greek court yesterday rejected a request for early prison release by an extremist convicted of terrorism for killings by the defunct November 17 group. A panel of appeals judges rejected the request of Savvas Xiros, who applied for early release under legislation designed to ease prison overcrowding by allowing some convicts out on health grounds.

Xiros is serving five life sentences plus 25 years for his participation in November 17, an elusive group that killed 23 foreign diplomats and Greeks between 1975 and 2000. Xiros was caught after a bomb he planted exploded prematurely in 2002, severely injuring him. The blast left him with permanent vision and general health problems.

His interrogation led to the quick unravelling of the group, which included two of Xiros' brothers.

39 babies in Romania hospital diagnosed with superbug

AP
BUCHAREST

Romanian authorities say the number of babies diagnosed with a drug-resistant superbug at a maternity hospital in the capital has risen to 39.

Raluca Alexandru, spokeswoman for Giulesti Maternity hospital, which was closed on November 30 due to the outbreak, yesterday said tests have confirmed the latest figure. It is triple the number of newborns diagnosed with antibiotic-resistant Staphylococcus aureus last month. Health Minister Sorina Pintea said she will decide later whether to keep the hospital closed.

Catalan leader slammed for urging 'Slovenian route' to secession

AFP
MADRID

The Spanish government yesterday criticised Catalonia's separatist president for urging the region to follow the example of Slovenia, which sparked a brief armed conflict when it declared independence unilaterally from Yugoslavia in 1991.

"It's unfortunate, regrettable. I don't know if he forgot that dozens of people were killed and hundreds were injured in

Slovenia," government spokeswoman Isabel Celaa told Spanish radio when asked about Catalan leader Quim Torra's comments. The Catalan government "knows very well that if there is any violation of the law, the Spanish government will act," she added.

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borell also weighed in, telling reporters in Brussels that Torra "appeared to appeal for an insurrection" with his language. During a speech in Brussels on Saturday, Torra urged Catalans

to follow the "Slovenian route" to achieve independence.

"Catalans are not afraid. They do not frighten us. There is no turning back in the path to freedom," added Torra, who recently visited Slovenia, according to the Catalan government's Twitter account.

"Slovenians decided to go ahead with all the consequences. Let's do like them and be ready for anything to live freely," he said. After holding an independence referendum

considered illegal by Yugoslavia won by the separatist camp, Slovenian officials tried unsuccessfully to negotiate their independence with Belgrade.

Slovenia's parliament then unilaterally declared independence on June 25, 1991, sparking a 10-day armed conflict with the Yugoslav army which killed 62 people.

Torra's predecessor, Carles Puigdemont, visited Slovenia during the summer of 1991 to observe its independence push.

Catalonia's parliament unilaterally declared independence from Spain in October 2017 to no avail following a banned independence referendum. Spain's Supreme Court in October ordered 18 former Catalan separatist leaders to stand trial over the independence declaration.

Prosecutors are seeking jail terms of up to 25 years on charges of rebellion or misuse of public funds over the failed secession bid.

Siberian cop guilty of 56 more murders

AFP
IRKUTSK

A Siberian policeman who raped and killed women after offering them late-night rides was found guilty of dozens more murders yesterday, making him Russia's most prolific serial killer of recent times.

A court in the city of Irkutsk found Mikhail Popkov guilty of 56 murders between 1992 and 2007, sentencing him to a second life term. He was already in prison after being convicted of killing 22 women in 2015.

Popkov offered rides to women late at night, sometimes in his police car, while off-duty around his city of Angarsk near Irkutsk, 4,200km east of Moscow.

His murderous spree initially went unnoticed during a period of rampant mafia killings in the crime-ridden city.

He killed his victims using weapons including a hammer and an axe, then dumped their bodies in the woods, at the side of the road and in a cemetery.

He was also found guilty of raping 11 of the women.

Popkov described himself as

A court in the city of Irkutsk found Mikhail Popkov guilty of 56 murders between 1992 and 2007, sentencing him to a second life term. He was already in prison after being convicted of killing 22 women in 2015.

a "cleaner" who was purging his home city of prostitutes.

All but one of his victims were women between the ages of 16 and 40. His one male victim was a policeman he gave a ride to late at night and killed in a forest.

The grey-haired 54-year-old appeared in court in prison uniform, his head bowed. He will be sent to a prison that is exclusively for convicts serving life terms, nicknamed the "Black Dolphin".

As part of his sentence — a rare case in Russia of a convicted murderer being given a second life sentence — Popkov was also deprived of his police pension.



Mikhail Popkov stands inside a defendant's cage during a court hearing in Irkutsk, yesterday.

He intends to appeal against the sentence, regional prosecutor Alexander Shkinev told Russian news agencies.

Prosecutors yesterday described Popkov as having "a pathological attraction to killing people" and "homicidal mania with sadistic elements," but he was ruled sane enough to stand trial.

Investigators had suspected a policeman because of the way the killer carefully covered his tracks.

The murders took place while he was a serving police officer and after he left the force in 1998.

Popkov was caught in 2012 after investigators re-examined the case and carried out DNA testing of residents, focusing on those who drove a make of car

that matched tracks found at crime scenes.

In a 2017 interview with Russia's Meduza website, Popkov said he gave women lifts and targeted those who were living in a way he saw as immoral, adding that "any society condemns the behaviour of a debauched woman".

While in jail, he confessed to 59 further murders but was convicted only of 56 yesterday because investigators had not managed to prove three of the crimes took place, Interfax news agency reported, citing the court's press service.

Investigators said that they uncovered the remains of some of the victims' bodies based on Popkov's account, as well as finding murder weapons including axes, screwdrivers

and knives.

The number of killings for which he has been convicted exceeds the totals of several notorious murderers in Russia and the ex-Soviet Union.

"Chessboard Killer" Alexander Pichushkin was jailed for life in 2007 for 48 murders, mostly of elderly men he met in a Moscow park. He aimed to kill one person for each of the 64 squares on the chessboard.

Andrei Chikatilo was convicted of 52 Soviet-era murders. He was known as the "Butcher of Rostov". He was executed in 1994, before Russia imposed a moratorium on the death penalty.

Popkov reportedly boasted to cellmates that he had committed more murders than Chikatilo.

Italian doctors face probe over football player's death

AFP
MILAN

Two doctors who issued medical certificates declaring former Italian international footballer Davide Astori fit to play despite evidence he suffered from a heart condition prior to his death are under investigation for negligent homicide, the public prosecutor's office in Florence confirmed.

Florentina captain Astori was found dead in his hotel room in the northeastern city of Udine on March 4 this year ahead of a Serie A match against Udinese.

An initial post mortem suggested the 31-year-old died from bradyarrhythmia — when the heart slows so much it stops — but the causes are unclear.

The doctors, who signed the fitness certificates which gave Astori the all-clear to play, work for public bodies in Florence and Cagliari.

The announcement of the investigation comes after *La Nazione* published details of two electrocardiogram tests carried out on the player in July 2016 and July 2017.

Both reportedly showed anomalies, in particular the latter, which allegedly demonstrated that the player suffered from a ventricular extrasystole, or irregular heartbeats.

Suspected drug kingpin goes on trial in France

AFP
PARIS

Briton Robert Dawes, believed to be one of Europe's biggest drug traffickers, went on trial in Paris yesterday accused of importing 1.3 tonnes of cocaine into France.

The drugs, stuffed in 30 unregistered suitcases, were discovered in 2013 after an Air France plane arrived at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport from Caracas.

Dawes, 46, was arrested in 2015 at his luxury resort in Benalmadena, southern Spain, after police intercepted a conversation in which he reportedly claimed ownership of the cocaine, with a street value of \$275m.

Dawes is on trial alongside two other Britons and three Italians, who risk up to 30 years in prison and fines of up to 7.5 million euros.

Airport protesters in UK convicted of aviation offenses

AP
LONDON

British prosecutors said that 15 people who attached themselves to a plane at a London-area airport last year have been convicted of aviation security offenses.

The demonstrators used bolt cutters to create a hole in the perimeter fence at Stansted Airport on March 28, 2017 and then used expanding foam, scaffolding poles and lock box devices to secure themselves to the wheel and wing of a Boeing 767. The plane had been chartered by the Home Office to repatriate passengers to Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Judith Reed of the Crown Prosecution Service said that the group "placed themselves, the flight crew, airport personnel and police at serious risk of injury or even death due to their actions."

France says protests no excuse to curb climate battle

AFP
KATOWICE

France said yesterday at the UN climate talks it fears certain countries will exploit the "yellow vest" protests to curb their ambitions in the fight against global warming.

The "yellow vests", clad in the luminous safety jackets carried by law in all French cars, began slowing or blocking traffic on roads around France last month in protest against anti-pollution fuel tax hikes.

The demonstrations have snowballed, leading to calls to topple French President



Emmanuel Macron, accused of favouring the rich.

"It would be dangerous to blame the environment for this entire crisis. It's a broader

political, economic and social problem," said Brune Poirson (pictured), French secretary of state for ecological transition.

She spoke to reporters on the margins of the UN climate talks in Katowice, Poland, adding that she was notably there "to help countries decode" the situation in France.

"The 'yellow vest' movement is much broader and goes way beyond the single issue of ecological transition, so I believe one should not conflate things," Poirson said.

"The risk is that other countries... will use what happened in France and reduce it to a

question of ecological transition and a poorly received carbon tax in order to also curb their ambitions regarding the climate."

Conceding the need to figure out a way to transition to clean energy "in the fairest way possible", Poirson said "the end goal remains the same, namely to get over our oil dependence and speed up the ecological transition".

Officials from nearly 200 countries are meeting in Katowice until the end of the week to try to flesh out the promises agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

The Paris deal saw nations

agree to limit global temperature rises to below two degrees Celsius and under 1.5C if possible.

The UN's expert climate panel in October warned that fossil fuel emissions must be halved by 2030 to have any hope of reaching the 1.5C goal by the end of the century.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday cited the French protests as proof that he was right to reject the Paris agreement on fighting climate change.

Polish President Andrzej Duda for his part said: "We can't enforce climate policies that go against the will of the people."



Acting Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (right) with members of 'My Step' alliance celebrate their victory after the announcement of snap parliamentary elections' results, in Yerevan, yesterday.

Armenian Premier wins in snap vote

AFP
YEREVAN

Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has won a landslide victory in snap parliamentary elections, results showed yesterday, cementing his authority months after sweeping to power in a peaceful revolution.

Pashinyan has pledged to root out endemic corruption and address widespread poverty in the impoverished, landlocked ex-Soviet republic of three million people.

With all votes counted, the

bloc led by Pashinyan's Civil Contract party had taken 70.43 percent of the vote, the central election commission said.

The Prosperous Armenia party led by influential oligarch and former arm wrestler Gagik Tsarukyan came a distant second with 8.27 percent.

Pashinyan hailed his victory yesterday morning, thanking the "mighty people" of Armenia.

"I am proud of you... Let's be courageous," he wrote on Facebook.

He became prime minister in May after spearheading weeks of peaceful anti-government

rallies that ousted veteran leader Serzh Sarkisian.

But efforts at reform stalled in the face of opposition from Sarkisian's Republican Party, which dominated the National Assembly until Pashinyan resigned last month and triggered the snap vote.

The Republican Party took 4.7 percent in Sunday's elections, failing to clear the five percent threshold needed to make it into parliament.

The only other party to clear the threshold was the liberal pro-Western Bright Armenia, which garnered 6.37 percent of the vote.

EU blacklists nine over 'rebel' votes in Ukraine

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Union blacklisted nine locals involved in last month's rebel elections in east Ukraine yesterday, but was unlikely to heed swiftly Kiev's call for more reprisals against Moscow over the latest flare-up of tensions in the Azov Sea.

Ukraine's Pavlo Klimkin asked the EU's 28 foreign ministers in Brussels to step up sanctions against Moscow but the bloc is deeply divided on Russia and is not seen acting swiftly, if at all.

Instead, it will look at offering more assistance to Ukraine.

The ministers discussed with Klimkin "the support of the European Union to Ukraine, to Ukrainian people, to territorial integrity of the country", said the bloc's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini.

Klimkin said he asked the EU to push for the release of Ukrainian sailors held by Russia after the incident off Crimea in late November and to consider setting up an international monitoring mechanism to ensure freedom of navigation in the Kerch Strait.

"I've asked about different types of sanctions," Klimkin said, adding he had proposed options from targeting more

individuals to hitting Russian ports and assets in Azov Sea.

Yesterday, the EU added nine locals in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of east Ukraine to its blacklist as a follow-up to the separatist vote held there earlier in November, bringing the total number of people barred from the EU over turmoil in Ukraine to 164.

"They further undermined the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine," the bloc said. "The EU considers these 'elections' illegal and illegitimate and does not recognise them."

Any assets they have in the bloc are also frozen, as are those of a further 44 entities.

Kiev has called for more Western sanctions against Moscow after Russian patrol boats fired at Ukrainian navy ships in the Azov Sea.

Klimkin said the EU promised him to consider that and also to look into aid for Donbas and southern Ukraine, including safeguarding water supplies for the Azov Sea port of Mariupol. Ukraine fears Mariupol could be a future target for Russia.

But the bloc is split on whether to go ahead with any new economic sanctions, a move that would require unanimity of all 28 member states.

Russian probe: Trump warned of impeachment

AP
WASHINGTON

Top House Democrats have raised the prospect of impeachment or the real possibility of prison time for President Donald Trump if it's proved that he directed illegal hush money payments to women, adding to the legal pressure on the president over the Russia investigation and other scandals.

"There's a very real prospect that on the day Donald Trump leaves office, the Justice Department may indict him, that he may be the first president in quite some time to face the real prospect of jail time," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the incoming chairman of the House intelligence committee. "The bigger pardon question may come down the road as the next president has to determine whether to pardon Donald Trump."

Rep Jerry Nadler, the incoming chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, described the details in prosecutors' filings on Friday in the case of Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, as evidence that Trump was "at the centre of a massive fraud."

Rep Jerry Nadler described the details in prosecutors' filings in the case of Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, as evidence that Trump was "at the centre of a massive fraud."

"They would be impeachable offenses," Nadler said.

In the filings, prosecutors in New York for the first time link Trump to a federal crime of illegal payments to buy the silence of two women during the 2016 campaign. Special counsel Robert Mueller's office also laid out previously undisclosed contacts between Trump associates and Russian intermediaries and suggested the Kremlin aimed early on to influence Trump and his Republican campaign by playing to both his political and personal business interests.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and has compared the investigations to a "witch hunt." Nadler, D-NY, said it was too

early to say whether Congress would pursue impeachment proceedings based on the illegal payments alone because lawmakers would need to weigh the gravity of the offense to justify "overturning" the 2016 election. Nadler and other lawmakers said they would await additional details from Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference and possible coordination with the Trump campaign to determine the extent of Trump's misconduct.

Regarding the illegal payments, "whether they are important enough to justify an impeachment is a different question, but certainly they'd be impeachable offenses because even though they were committed before the president became president, they were committed in the service of fraudulently obtaining the office," Nadler said.

Mueller has not said when he will complete a report of any findings, and it isn't clear that any such report would be made available to Congress. That would be up to the attorney general. Trump on Friday said he would nominate former

Trump defends hush money payments

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump yesterday defended hush money payments reported by his former lawyer after the Democrats said the US president could face impeachment and jail time if the transactions are proven to be campaign finance violations.

Trump, in early morning tweets, said Democrats were wrongly targeting "a simple private transaction" after court filings last week drew renewed

attention to six-figure payments by his personal lawyer to two women during the 2016 campaign so they would not discuss affairs with Trump.

Under US law, campaign contributions, defined as things of value given to a campaign to influence an election, must be disclosed. Such payments are also limited to \$2,700 per person.

Trump earlier this year acknowledged repaying his former lawyer Michael Cohen for the \$130,000 paid to actress Stephanie Clifford, also known as Stormy Daniels. He previ-

ously disputed knowing anything about the payments.

Yesterday, the president again denied wrongdoing and shifted any blame on Cohen.

"There was NO COLLUSION. So now the Dems go to a simple private transaction, wrongly call it a campaign contribution, which it was not," Trump tweeted. "But even if it was, it is only a CIVIL CASE, like Obama's — but it was done correctly by a lawyer and there would not even be a fine. Lawyer's liability if he made a mistake, not me."

Attorney General William Barr to the post to succeed Jeff Sessions.

Nadler indicated that Democrats, who will control the House in January, will step up their own investigations. He said Congress, the Justice Department and the special counsel need to dig deeper into the allegations, which include questions about whether Trump lied about his business arrangements with Russians and about possible

obstruction of justice.

Schiff, D-Calif, also stressed a need to wait "until we see the full picture." He has previously indicated his panel would seek to look into the Trump family's business ties with Russia.

"I think we also need to see this as a part of a broader pattern of potential misconduct by the president, and it's that broad pattern, I think, that will lead us to a conclusion about whether it rises to the level of warrant

removal from office," Schiff said.

Democratic Sen Chris Murphy of Connecticut urged Mueller to "show his cards soon" so that Congress can make a determination early next year on whether to act on impeachment.

"Let's be clear: We have reached a new level in the investigation," Murphy said. "It's important for Congress to get all of the underlying facts and data and evidence that the special counsel has."

Accused Russian spy to change plea in US court

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Accused Russian agent Maria Butina appeared poised this week to plead guilty in the case, after her lawyers and prosecutors filed a joint motion asking a federal judge yesterday to schedule a change of plea hearing this week.

The filing comes after Butina's attorney and prosecutors revealed last month they were actively in talks to settle the case.

Butina had previously pleaded not guilty to charges that she was acting as an agent of the Russian government and conspiring to take actions on Russia's behalf.

Specifically, prosecutors have accused the former American University graduate student of working with a Russian official and two US citizens to try to infiltrate the National Rifle Association, a powerful lobby group that has close ties to Republican politicians including President Donald Trump, and influence American foreign policy toward Russia.

Butina has been in jail since her arrest in July this year.

In the joint motion filed yesterday, prosecutors and defense lawyers proposed holding a hearing sometime between today and Thursday of this week.



Two men preparing to pull a vehicle out of the snow after a motorist slid off the road, in Charlotte, North Carolina, yesterday.

Winter storm hits southern US

AP
CHARLOTTE

A lingering storm kept dumping immobilizing snow, sleet or freezing rain across five southern states, leaving dangerously icy roads and hundreds of thousands of people without electricity. Authorities urged people to stay home yesterday in areas where driving was dangerous.

Accidents on snow-covered interstates caused major delays on Sunday, hundreds of flights were canceled and drivers in North Carolina and Virginia got stuck in snow or lost control on icy patches. But the commuters' nightmare provided pre-winter thrills for kids and the young at heart, who were able to go

sledding and build snowmen in places that don't often see so much of the white stuff.

The National Weather Service said a "prolonged period of snow" began late Saturday and would last until today in the region, with the heaviest snow in northwest North Carolina and southern Virginia. Some areas of North Carolina and Virginia saw 30cm of snow by Sunday afternoon.

More than 300,000 power outages were reported across the region, with North Carolina bearing the brunt of it, and nearly 270,000 remained without power yesterday-morning, according to power-outage.us.

South Carolina and Virginia, along with parts of Alabama,

Georgia and Tennessee, also saw outages.

Police in North Carolina and Virginia said they'd responded to hundreds of snow-related traffic accidents as of Sunday afternoon, as cars, trucks and tractor-trailers all struggled with the snow and ice.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper strongly urged residents to stay off the roads, asking drivers not to put lives of first responders needlessly at risk. Cooper said emergency crews, including the National Guard, worked overnight to clear traffic accidents on major roadways.

"Stay put if you can," Cooper said. "Wrap a few presents, decorate the tree, watch some football."

Pence aide turns down chief of staff job offer

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Nick Ayers (pictured), Donald Trump's top choice to be his next chief of staff, is no longer in the running and the US president is now considering other candidates, sources familiar with the matter said, the latest sign of a chaotic White House staff shake-up.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Republican Representative Mark Meadows, chairman of the right-wing House Freedom Caucus, are among the possible contenders to replace current White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, one source said.

Ayers, 36, chief of staff to Vice-President Mike Pence and known as a skilled Republican political tactician, had been in discussions for months about taking the job, but was unable to agree to terms with Trump, another source said.

Ayers tweeted that he would instead be leaving the White House soon, apparently to return to his home state of Georgia. One of the sources said Ayers would return to "America First Policies," a combative group that he helped found before joining Pence in the White House.

"I will be departing at the end of the year but will work with the #MAGA team to advance the cause," he wrote on Twitter, in a reference to Trump's slogan, "Make America Great Again."

One source said Trump had



sought a two-year commitment from Ayers but that he was unable to agree to that. Ayers, the father of young triplets, was willing to serve only until the spring of 2019 for family reasons, an administration official said earlier.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A source familiar with Mnuchin's thinking said Mnuchin sees his role at Treasury as best suited to help the president and feels very committed to remaining in his current position.

A spokesman for Meadows had no comment on the matter.

With Ayers out of the running, it is unclear who will take over the top administrative post in the West Wing at a time Trump has been weakened by Democrats winning control of the House of Representatives in congressional elections last month.

Trump will decide on his new chief of staff by the end of the year, the sources said.

Trump backs \$750bn defence budget request

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has backed plans to request \$750bn from Congress for defense spending next year, a US official said yesterday, signaling a Pentagon spending hike at a time of potential belt-tightening elsewhere in the government.

Trump, faced with a budget deficit at a six-year high, told his Cabinet earlier this year to come up with proposals to cut spending by their agencies by 5%, but he suggested the military would be largely spared.

The \$750bn would be even

more than the \$733bn request that the Pentagon had been expected to make for fiscal year 2020. It is also well above a \$700bn figure Trump cited in October.

A US official said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had discussed the budget with Trump in recent days and outlined the risks of flat defense spending.

The official said that it was clear during that discussion that Trump wanted to "accelerate the progress his administration has made in rebuilding the military."

In August, Trump signed a \$716bn defense policy bill.

'Fearless Girl' statue gets permanent home at NYSE

AP
NEW YORK

The "Fearless Girl" statue that inspired millions with a message of female empowerment was installed yesterday at her new home in front of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

"Welcome to the neighborhood, 'Fearless Girl,'" said Betty Liu, executive vice-chairman of the stock exchange. "You're among friends here at the New York Stock Exchange."

The four foot bronze statue's unveiling at what officials said would be her permanent location happened nearly two years after Boston-based financial firm State Street Global Advisors first deposited her opposite Wall



The 'Fearless Girl' statue is unveiled by Cyrus Taraporevala (left), President and Chief Executive Officer of State Street Global Advisors, at its new location outside the NYSE, yesterday

Street's "Charging Bull" in what the company said was an effort to spur companies to put more

women on their boards.

State Street CEO Cyrus Taraporevala, who rang the stock

exchange's opening bell yesterday, said 301 companies that State Street identified as having no women on their boards have added at least one since "Fearless Girl" made her debut in 2017.

There are currently three women on State Street's 11-member board, according to its website.

Taraporevala said the presence of female directors is crucial for companies' success. "All else being equal, these companies tend to be better managed," he said. "This is about value, not values."

The girl was removed from her original spot on November 27, partly because of the traffic hazard caused by the crowds around the two statues.

House blaze in Ohio leaves 5 children dead

AP
YOUNGSTOWN

Five children, including 1-year-old twins, died in a late-night fire that swept through an Ohio house after neighbors were awakened by a loud boom, firefighters said yesterday.

Only the children’s mother, who jumped from a second-floor window, survived the Sunday night blaze in Youngstown, said Capt. Kurt Wright of Youngstown Fire Department.

The other three children who died were ages 9, 3 and 2, Wright said. The mother was taken to a hospital and is being treated for injuries, he said.

The Mahoning County coroner’s office hadn’t publicly identified the children by midday yesterday as officials were still working to notify relatives.

State and local investigators were just beginning to search for a cause of the deadly blaze. Fire officials said nothing so far indicates the fire was suspicious.

Most of the damage was on the home’s first floor, leading investigators to believe the fire started there, Wright said.

Mourners piled stuffed animals beneath balloons in a makeshift memorial to honor the children outside the charred



Fire officials said so far, there’s nothing that indicates the fire was suspicious.

and boarded-up home yesterday afternoon.

Neighbors said the family had moved into the house about six months ago. The two-story wood home was built more than 90 years ago.

Deborah Rivera, who lives across the street, told *The (Youngstown) Vindicator* she’d heard a loud boom and called 911. Her boyfriend, Justin Viera, said flames were shooting out of the first-floor windows.

Firefighters found flames throughout the first floor when they arrived and were able to pull out three of the children, but they died at a hospital, Wright said.

“We have a relatively young department and most the guys have children. So it hits pretty hard and the fact that it’s so close to Christmas hits even harder,” Fire Chief Barry Finley said.

One firefighter was treated at the scene, and another was taken to a hospital for treatment and released.

Maduro’s party wins local elections

AP
CARACAS

Socialist President Nicolas Maduro further consolidated power in Venezuelan local elections, while accusing President Donald Trump of plotting to overthrow him.

The majority of nearly 2,500 council seats spread across the crisis-stricken country went to members of Maduro’s United Socialist Party of Venezuela, election officials loyal to Maduro said.

After casting his ballot, Maduro spoke on state TV scoffing at Trump and other foreign leaders who have labeled him a dictator.

“An attempt is under way today coming straight from the White House to destroy our way of life in Venezuela and to overthrow our constitutional democracy,” Maduro said.

The election came as an economic crisis rocks the once-wealthy oil country after two decades of socialist rule. Millions of Venezuelans have fled searching for a better life.

Maduro’s government has banned the most



Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro during the municipal legislators election in Caracas, yesterday.

popular opposition parties from elections, while leading figures in the movement are jailed or go into exile fearing for their safety.

Other anti-government leaders urged a boycott of the municipal elections, not wishing to legitimize what they consider a corrupt process.

The broader anti-government movement is focused

on rallying international condemnation of Maduro on January 10, the start of his second six-year term.

The US, many European nations and most Latin American countries have rejected the May 20 election that Maduro won by a landslide as a sham.

Little more than 27 percent of some 20 million eligible

voters cast ballots in Sunday’s council races, said Tibisay Lucena, president of the National Electoral Council, praising the election as strengthening Venezuela’s democracy.

Maduro said many opposition leaders are waiting for a US-led invasion without giving details.

Trump on *Time* ‘Person of the Year’ shortlist

BLOOMBERG
NEW YORK

Time magazine released the 10-member shortlist for its annual ‘Person of the Year’ selection, an eclectic assortment ranging from the US and Russian presidents to immigrants, victims of violence and Britain’s newest duchess. The magazine

plans to officially reveal its choice today.

On the list are: US President Donald Trump, migrant families separated at the US border, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Special Counsel Robert Mueller, “Black Panther” director Ryan Coogler, Christine Blasey Ford, who accused now-Supreme Court Justice Brett

Kavanaugh of an assault, Murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the students who organized the ‘March for Our Lives’ gun-control demonstrations after the deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex.

FBI charges two for plotting separate attacks

AP
TOLEDO

Federal authorities said they’ve charged two people in Ohio involved in planning separate attacks, including one who wanted to carry out a shooting at a synagogue.

The FBI and Department of Justice said that the attacks were in the planning stages and that there was no immediate threat to the public.

But they said both people who are from the Toledo area had identified specific places they wanted to target.

The FBI said a suburban Toledo man arrested on Friday wanted to carry out an attack on behalf of IS militants and began focusing on a synagogue and talked of killing many people, adding that, the other arrest involved a woman who wanted to shoot up a club and also blow up a pipeline.

Russia sends two bombers to Venezuela

AP
MOSCOW

Two Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers arrived in Venezuela yesterday, a deployment that comes amid soaring Russia-US tensions.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said a pair Tu-160 bombers landed at Maiquetia airport outside Caracas yesterday following a 10,000km flight. It

didn’t say if the bombers were carrying any weapons and didn’t say how long they will stay in Venezuela.

The ministry said a heavy-lift An-124 Ruslan cargo plane and an Il-62 passenger plane accompanied the bombers to Maiquetia.

The Tu-160 is capable of carrying conventional or nuclear-tipped cruise missiles with a range of 5,500km. Such bombers

took part in Russia’s campaign in Syria, where they launched conventionally-armed Kh-101 cruise missiles for the first time in combat.

The bombers’ deployment follows Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro’s visit to Moscow last week in a bid to shore up political and economic assistance even as his country has been struggling to pay billions of dollars owed to Russia.

Russia is a major political ally of Venezuela, which has become increasingly isolated in the world under growing sanctions led by the US and the European Union, which accuse Maduro of undermining democratic institutions to hold onto power, while overseeing an economic and political crisis that is worse than the Great Depression.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said at last week’s

meeting with his Venezuelan counterpart Vladimir Padrino Lopez that Russia would continue to send its military aircraft and warships to visit Venezuela as part of bilateral military cooperation.

Russia sent its Tu-160 strategic bombers and a missile cruiser to visit Venezuela in 2008 amid tensions with the US after Russia’s brief war with Georgia. A pair of Tu-160s also visited Venezuela in 2013.

Nasa’s spacecraft reaches interstellar space

AP
WASHINGTON

Nasa’s Voyager 2 is now the second human-made object to zip away from the sun into the space between the stars.

Voyager 2 last month exited “this bubble that the sun creates around itself,” longtime Nasa mission scientist Ed Stone said yesterday. The spacecraft is now beyond the outer boundary of the heliosphere, 18 billion kilometers from Earth.

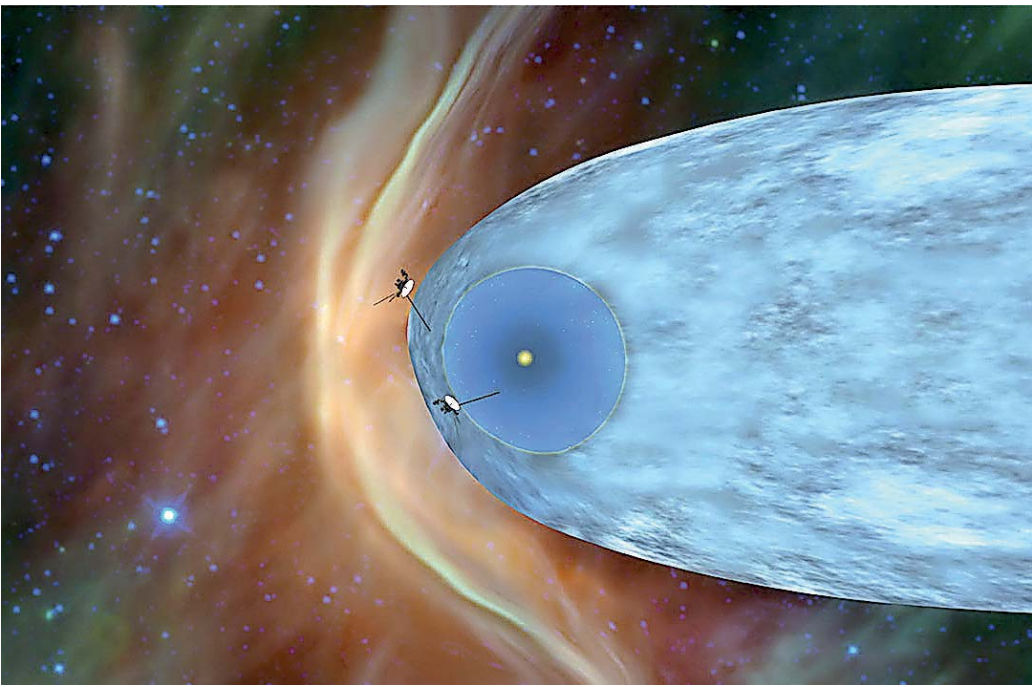
It’s trailing twin Voyager 1, which reached interstellar space in 2012 and is now 21 billion kilometers from Earth. Interstellar space is the vast mostly emptiness between star systems.

Even though they are out of the sun’s bubble, the Voyagers are still technically in our solar system, Nasa said.

Scientists maintain the solar system stretches to the outer edge of the so-called Oort Cloud. It will take about 30,000 years for the spacecraft to get that far.

Scientists know that Voyager 2 has left the sun’s influence because of four different instruments that are measuring solar particles and different types of rays.

They showed a dramatic change on November 5, indicating the spacecraft was now in between the stars. One of the



The Nasa artist’s concept shows the general locations of Nasa’s two Voyager spacecraft, Voyager 1 (top) has sailed beyond our solar bubble into interstellar space, the space between stars, and Voyager 2 (bottom) is still exploring the outer layer of the solar bubble.

instruments measures solar plasma and this is the first time Nasa saw a drop in that key instrument; the same instrument wasn’t working on Voyager 1.

The twin Voyagers launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in 1977, and zipped by Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 2 has already logged more than 30 billion kilometers

on its interstellar trip going 34,191 mph (55,025 kph).

“Both spacecrafts are very healthy if you consider them senior citizens,” Voyager project manager Suzanne Dodd said.

She said the probes should last at least five, maybe 10 more years, but the cold – the temperature outside the vehicles is about 49 degrees below zero (minus 45 Celsius) – and waning

power supply will eventually end their usefulness.

Yet the two Voyagers will keep travelling and in 40,000 years or so they’ll get close to the next stars, or actually the stars, which are moving faster, will get close to them, Stone said.

It receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education.

Social media tops print as news source for Americans: Study

AFP
WASHINGTON

Social media has overtaken print newspapers as a news source for Americans, researchers said yesterday, highlighting the growing importance of services such as Facebook and Twitter as well as the troubled state of legacy news organizations.

The Pew Research Center report found 20 percent of US adults said they often get news via social media, compared with 16 percent from newspapers.

In 2016, newspapers were more important than social networks and in 2017 the percentages were roughly even for both sources, according to Pew surveys.

Despite the rise of social media, television remains the most important source for news, cited by 49 percent of American adults, Pew said.

The researchers found sharp differences among age segments in accessing the news, with younger adults far more likely to rely on social media and older consumers favoring television and print.

In the 18 to 29 age group,

social media was the most important news source, cited by nearly three in 10 respondents, with only two percent favoring print newspapers.

A large majority of those 65 and older (81 percent) get news from television, with 39 percent using print newspapers and just eight percent social networks.

“Younger Americans are also unique in that they don’t rely on one platform in the way that the majority of their elders rely on TV,” said Pew research analyst Elisa Shearer.

“No more than half of those (aged) 18 to 29 and 30 to 49 get news often from any one news platform.”

The report, based on a survey of 4,581 US adults in July and August, highlights the ongoing woes of print newspapers, which have been seeing steady readership declines for more than a decade.

A Pew study last year showed total US daily newspaper circulation (print and digital combined) in 2017 was 31 million for weekday and 34 million for Sunday, down 11 and 10 percent, respectively, from the previous year.

Sidra Medicine hosts its first Women in Science workshop

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Sidra Medicine hosted its first Women in Science Workshop on the second day of its Functional Genomics Symposium 2018, recently.

The Women in Science workshop featured an array of scientists including Professor Dame Kay Davies, the Professor of Genetics from Oxford University, UK, Dr Elizabeth Ross, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience from Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, Dr Elizabeth Phimister, Deputy Editor of The New England Journal of Medicine, USA, Professor Mariam Al Ali Al Maadeed, Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies,

The panellists highlighted their main motivation for joining the science and research fields; the challenges they had to overcome and what it took for them to be successful in their careers.

Qatar University and Dr Souhaila Al Khodor, Research Investigator from Sidra Medicine.

The panellists highlighted their main motivation for joining the science and research fields; the challenges they had to overcome and what it took for

them to be successful in their careers.

The conference scientific committee also awarded Professor Dame Kay Davies, as the inaugural Sidra Medicine Plenary Lecturer and for her contribution to science, medicine and training of future scientists.

Workshop organizer and moderator, Dr Bernice Lo who is a Research Investigator at Sidra Medicine said, "We are incredibly honoured to have amongst us a spectrum of distinguished, accomplished and inspiring female scientists and researchers. Our main aim for the Women in Science workshop was to empower and encourage young women, especially in Qatar, pursuing careers in science.



The members of the panel and moderators at the Women in Science workshop.

Awarding Prof. Davies was especially momentous as her contribution to science and genetics will have a key impact on future generations of young scientists."

Moderator, Kholoud Al Shafai said, "As a young researcher at

Sidra Medicine, I was very excited to hear from our female trailblazers. The workshop clearly showcased that despite the challenges and obstacles we face as women in science, success is absolutely possible. I was particularly

interested in Prof. Mariam Al Maadeed's insights, as a Qatari woman leading the way in the field of science. I enjoyed moderating such an inspiring session and the audience interaction was terrific."

NU-Q Debate Club scores victories

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

At a time when some people seem to struggle to disagree agreeably, students at Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) are learning how to debate opposing viewpoints collegially through the university's Debate Club – and they are winning awards and recognition.

The Debate Club is led by Ayman Al Rachid and Sikandar Ali Chaudary, who serve as co-presidents with NU-Q Professor Torsten Menge as the faculty advisor. Since the club relaunched in 2017, the students have been participating in several tournaments and earning awards in recognition for their speaking abilities.

"Being able to converse calmly but confidently with someone who does not share the same perspective is a valuable and necessary skill to develop in life, and this club – one of many at NU-Q – trains students in that life skill," said Everette E. Dennis, dean and CEO of NU-Q.

Most recently, NU-Q's team members Lina Draidia and



NU-Q Debate Club receives the award from QatarDebate.

Natasha Das placed within the top 10 speakers during the first English Qatar Universities Debate League (QUDL) tournament, and the team overall made the top 10. At the second English QUDL tournament last month, NU-Q debaters Mohamed Eltayeb and Ali Chaudary defeated the Qatar National team coming in third,

behind Qatar University and Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar.

The members of the club participate in monthly tournaments and additional events, and last year, hosted a QUDL tournament – a first in NU-Q's Debate Club history. NU-Q now has hosted three debating tournaments so far with plans to continue. The club

members meet weekly to prepare – splitting into two teams to train and compete in both English and Arabic debates.

"Debating is a fun way for students to practice their research, public speaking, and presentation skills. It's also a great way to build confidence," said Menge. "Students also learn how to

persuasively support their own beliefs with arguments and how to constructively and respectfully challenge views they disagree with—skills that are particularly dear to me as someone who teaches philosophy. These are important skills for anyone, and for future journalists and media professionals in particular."

Al Rachid believes that in order to be a leader, you have to have the ability to bring your ideas together into a logical argument while also respecting other views presented and considering the other side of a story.

Ali Chaudary also noted that the skills he is developing in the club will be helpful in his professional career. "Being a member of the NU-Q debate club has helped me to dissect topics in terms of cost-benefit analysis, stakeholder comparison, and principal ideas," said Ali Chaudary. The Debate Club at NU-Q is one of several student-run organizations at the University from The Daily Q, its online newspaper to Studio 20Q, which provides opportunities for students to experience filmmaking outside of class.

QAST students attend engineering camp

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST), part of Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education, kicked off its inaugural school year with an engineering camp. It was organised in collaboration with Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), a QF partner university.

During the week-long camp, students designed and built their own model drones, and were introduced to basic microcontrollers, aviation dynamics, and programming. The camp concluded with a programming challenge, which saw students autonomously fly their drones through an obstacle course.

Fajer Al Shamari, a Grade 9 QAST student, said, "I really enjoyed programming the drones. It was really interesting – you do not know what you are capable of until you try something, and practice. It gave me a whole new perspective on perfecting work through precision."

Haiqa Massoudi, another Grade 9 QAST student, said: "It was a unique experience and I learned something new through collaborating with fellow classmates and teachers during the process."

Dr Gregory J. Moncada, Director, QAST, said, "The program was created to introduce engineering fundamentals to the students, while highlighting creativity and skill development. Ultimately, the objective of the program is to prepare students to, in the future, address Qatar's challenges through research and innovation." The drone program was developed by members of TAMUQ through the STEM Hub, a joint initiative of TAMUQ and Qatar National Research Fund, a member of QF, and aims to nurture innovative thinking and a talent for original design in Qatar's young students.

Birla Public School to hold higher education fair on December 14

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Birla Public School is organising a higher education fair on December 14. About 10 Universities and Institutes of higher learning from India, like University of Petroleum and Energy Studies – Dehradun, Hindustan University Chennai, K.J. Somaiya Group of Colleges Mumbai, Audisankara Group of Institutes – Nellore, S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chhatarapati Shivaji Maharaj University – Mumbai, Dhanvantari Ayurveda College-Karnataka, Jnanavikas Institute of Technology- Bangalore, Anna University- Chennai etc will participate in the fair.

They will showcase their graduate and post-graduate courses in Engineering,

Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine, Management, Humanities etc. offering about 200 plus courses.

To encourage and enable the students for all the competitive exams like IIT JEE / BITSAT / NEET / AIIMS / JIPMER etc, free online mock test will be conducted every one hour at the Venue and immediate evaluation for the exams will be given.

Free online aptitude tests are aimed at Grade 11 students for Engineering and Medical. Prizes for the students and parents every one hour is a special feature of the fair.

All the students of Grade 11 and 12 can take advantage of this opportunity. Entry to the event is Free. Office of the Indian Embassy will grace the occasion on December 14 at 3pm.

HEC Paris in Qatar to host program on enhancing managerial skills

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

HEC Paris in Qatar will be hosting 'Managing Business in Challenging Times' Short Executive Program designed to enhance the skills needed for managers to anticipate uncertainty times in their companies.

The two-day program will take place on tomorrow and Thursday at the Tornado Tower. This interactive program led by Roger Hallowell, Affiliate Professor at HEC Paris, will include numerous case studies to complement theories, frameworks and best practices.

Company leaders and executives considering launching their business can leverage this short program's offerings to grow and prosper as it intends

to prepare participants to be strategic and decide when to focus on revenue growth rather than cost-cutting. The program blends strategic thinking with leadership qualities necessary to steer business in an adverse environment by helping participants to understand and accept reality and acknowledge that there will be a recovery.

Prof. Hallowell has designed and delivered customized executive education programs throughout the world. His academic work focuses on leadership for organizations seeking to increase the value they deliver to customers. His programs are designed to help executives and senior managers enhance their leadership skills. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College

and an MBA & Doctorate from Harvard Business School.

Prof. Roger Hallowell, said, "Through this program, managers will attain the skills needed in times of headwinds and uncertainties to navigate with prudence and wisdom. Most of the time, well-managed companies do not need to engage in the kind of brutal cost-cutting that we frequently see during economic downturns. Well-managed companies prepare for inevitable downturns, they engage in best practices that serve them well in good times and bad. Even those who are in the unenviable position of not having prepared for the current turbulence in our economy, will learn valuable tools to deal with challenging times such as ours."

QC organises educational camp for orphans in Tunisia

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar Charity (QC) organised a four-day educational and entertainment camp for a group of orphans, whom it sponsors in Tunisia, during the autumn holidays.

The camp, which was held with the support of sponsors in Qatar in cooperation with the Jendouba Governorate, included

cultural and sports activities and visits, during which outstanding students were honored to encourage them to continue following the path of positive behaviors, creativity and academic excellence.

The number of participants in the camp, held at a tourist resort, has reached 35 orphaned boys and girls, aged 9-12 years, belonging to the remote areas of the governorate.

The organizing of the camp came within the framework of QC's comprehensive care for orphans. The camp included swimming, water sports, trips to the zoo, the Carthage Land, a water park, Science City, Planetarium, and the Bardo National Museum, and a tour through a tourist train, in addition to other games, cultural competitions and recreational activities. During the camp, the

participants were honored as students making excellent academic achievements and they were given valuable gifts.

The camp has left a good impact on the participating orphans, as it provided them with the opportunity to enhance communication with others, develop their mental and motor capabilities, and improve their general knowledge.



The boys and girls pose a group photo during the educational camp.

PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR04. 47 AM

SHOROOK06. 09 AM

ZUHR11. 27 AM

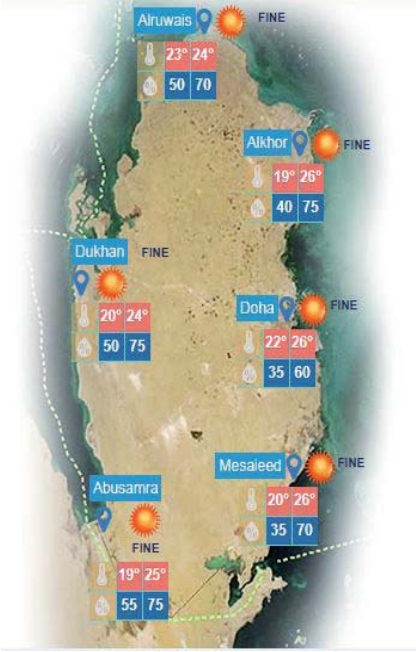
ASR02. 25 PM

MAGHRIB04. 47 PM

ISHA06. 17 PM



WEATHER TODAY



20°C

26°C

Minimum

Maximum

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Courtesy: Qatar Meteorology Department

The Peninsula

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Qatar-Indonesia ties ‘at an all-time high’

RAYNALD C RIVERA
THE PENINSULA

Indonesian Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Basri Sidehabi underlined the strong bilateral ties between Indonesia and Qatar during the celebration of Proclamation of Indonesia's Independence on Sunday.

Addressing the occasion, the envoy described the current state of relations between the two countries “at an all-time high” with the exchange of high level visits and significant progress in cooperation in various fields.

In 2015, Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited Qatar while Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani visited Indonesia last year, he noted.

“The bilateral trade volume of the two countries was recorded at \$977.8m from January to August of this year. There is also a significant increase of visitors from Qatar to Indonesia and vice-versa,” said Sidehabi.

He added: “As Qatar has increased its presence in Indonesia through investments in telecommunication, energy, retail and banking sectors, Indonesia has also played a role in the development of Qatar. To date there are approximately 8,000 Indonesians working as professionals throughout Qatar and their families.”

He said that a 50-member delegation of Indonesian government officials and Indonesian chamber of commerce and industry are currently in Doha to discuss matters of mutual concern with their counterparts, as well as to pursue new linkages with the people of Qatar.

“I believe increased people-to-people contact will



Guests and dignitaries at the celebrations of the 73rd anniversary of Proclamation of Indonesian Independence at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel on Sunday. BELOW: A performance of Saman dance also known as ‘the dance of a thousand hands’ during the celebrations. PICS: ABDUL BASIT / THE PENINSULA

“The bilateral trade volume of the two countries was recorded at \$977.8m from January to August of this year. There is also a significant increase of visitors from Qatar to Indonesia and vice-versa,” said Indonesian Ambassador to Qatar, Muhammad Basri Sidehabi.

foster everlasting ties and bonds between our two countries. In turn, it will form a strong platform to launch new venues of cooperation,” he stressed.

As Indonesia marked its 73rd independence, Sidehabi also underscored the country's pursuit “to actively contribute in establishing a world order founded on freedom, everlasting peace and social justice.”

“To this end, thanks to the support of many, I am glad that we have earned a seat as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period of 2019-2020. Rest assured, we will use this mandate to pursue an everlasting world peace and prosperity to all,” said the ambassador.

Minister of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs, Dr. Gaith bin Mubarak Al Kuwari; Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Hassan Al-Hamadi; Director of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro; and Dean of Diplomatic Corps,

Eritrean Ambassador to Qatar Ali Ibrahim Ahmed were among the guests at the event held at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort and Convention Hotel.

Ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic community, guests and other dignitaries as well as members of the Indonesian community were among those who attended the auspicious occasion during which Sidehabi took the opportunity to thank everyone for their longstanding support to Indonesia-Qatar relations and to the Indonesian Embassy.

“On behalf of the government and people of the

Republic of Indonesia I would like to thank His Highness the Amir and the Qatari Government for supporting the Embassy and the Indonesian society in Qatar,” he said.

The celebration also featured cultural presentations including Saman dance also known as ‘the dance of a thousand hands’ and performance of Angklung, a native Indonesian instrument. Both Saman dance and Angklung have been declared by Unesco as Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity which need to be safeguarded, transmitted and promoted.



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