The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision





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Big guns crash on day of upsets as Djokovic advances





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Housing sector records huge growth in 10 years

QNA
DOHA

The number of buildings in Qatar (completed, under construction, and under demolition) rose to 216,740 this year, compared with 148,804 in the 2010 census, an increase of 45.6 percent. The number of housing units showed an increase of 36.9 percent.

The housing sector in Qatar has grown significantly in the last 10 years, which reflects the great economic growth witnessed by the state.

The census data for the buildings and facilities implemented by the Planning and Statistics Authority in 2019 as part of preparations for the census 2020 revealed huge growth in housing and facilities in the country during the last decade.

During the inauguration ceremony of the census 2020, the data showed that the number of buildings in Qatar (completed, under construction, and under demolition) rose to 216,740 this year, compared with 148,804 in the 2010 census, an increase of 45.6 percent. The number of completed buildings in 2019, according to the census, amounted to 200,417 buildings, compared to 128,074 buildings in 2010, an increase of 56.5 percent. Residential buildings were at the top of the list with 80.3 percent, followed by facilities buildings 16 percent, with the rest being distributed to residential and commercial buildings and other buildings.

The number of housing units reached 354,549 units, based on the census this year, compared to 259,067 units in 2010, an increase of 36.9 percent.

Statistics show an increase in the number of active facilities in the country by more than 93 percent over the past ten years, according to the census this year, as the number rose to 64,051 establishments, compared to 33,172 in the 2010 census.

Head of the Department of Censuses, Surveys and Statistical Methods at the authority Nasser Al Mahdi said that the building register has been completed with its full characteristics, based on technical mechanisms, software and techniques that have had a great impact on the construction of a comprehensive and high-quality building register. ➔P3

Prime Minister meets Kenyan Minister of Transport



Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani with the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Kenya, James Macharia, in Doha yesterday. They reviewed relations of cooperation and ways of developing and strengthening them, in addition to a number of issues of common concern.

Agreement signed to increase flights between Doha and Mombasa

THE PENINSULA/DOHA

Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, and Kenyan Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development James Macharia, yesterday signed agreement on increasing the number of Qatar's national carrier Qatar Airways flights between Doha and Mombasa by two flights to go up to six flights a week. This comes within the framework of boosting business, trade and investment opportunities between the two friendly countries.

Mombasa is the principal Kenyan seaport and the second largest city in Kenya behind the capital city Nairobi with a major economic and touristic significance. The two sides also agreed on signing a cooperation agreement before the end of this year between Hamad Port and Lamu Port, in addition to forming a joint working committee for enhancing all aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of transportation and ports. The signing ceremony was attended by Kenya's Ambassador to Qatar Paddy C Ahenda. ➔P2

MOI service office at Search and Follow-up Department

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Search and Follow-up Department (SFD) has launched its new service office in order to expedite the completion of the procedures at the Department in the shortest time through its integrated staff counters. This is part of the Ministry's efforts to save time and effort of the visitors.

"The opening of this office comes as an advanced step in facilitating the access of the citizens and residents to the services provided by the Department," said Brigadier Abdullah Jaber Al Lebda, SFD Director. He added that it is an effort to reduce the time and effort of the visitors to avail the services while ensuring the highest standards of service delivery.

The Department implements the 'Law of entry, exit and residence of expatriates' in the country and work to reduce the run-away and illegal workers and ensures they leave the country if it required so by the relevant authorities after they have received their full legal rights. ➔P3

Qatar wins six awards at Arab Radio and TV Festival in Tunis

QNA/TUNIS

Qatar won six awards at the conclusion of the 20th session of the Arab Radio and Television Festival, which was held in Tunis from June 27 to 30, 2019.

Qatar won two awards in the radio competitions: the first prize in the comedy drama, and the first prize in the radio documentary contest. Qatar also won two gold medals for two programs produced by Qatar Radio, in the framework of exchange with Arab radio stations.

Qatar Television, meanwhile, won the second prize in the Children's programs category for the animated series "Tammour and Tammoura", an awareness work directed to children and adolescents, produced by the Cultural Village "Katara". ➔P2

Planning & Statistics Authority launches census 2020

QNA
DOHA

The Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) has launched the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020 which seeks to provide a comprehensive database through the extensive use of administrative records in statistical operations.

At the launch event, President of Planning and Statistics Authority Dr Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit said the importance of the census stems from the fact that it is the only statistical process that is conducted through an all-inclusive survey. It is an integrated image of the community at a specified moment. The census data represents a key base for population, housing and establishments statistics that concern planners, researchers and decision makers.

He added that the main aim of the census is to create a high quality central register of population, housing and establishments data, with more comprehensive coverage and connected to a system for the continuous and simultaneous updating of this data.

He said the importance of the census 2020 comes from is its support to the development plans which serve as a basis for all planning levels related to population, housing and establishments. It also assesses the availability of basic services for families, to identify areas in need of such services and to prioritize plans. In addition it is considered to be the main source of information related to the size of labor force and its characteristics, His Excellency added.

He said census 2020 will represent a qualitative leap in the methodology of censuses. It will be implemented mainly through the extensive use of administrative records from the country's data source. The methodology of the work depends on the implementation of a comprehensive electronic link with a number of source agencies related to population and linking them to data from field work.

Head of the Department of Censuses, Surveys and Statistical Methods at the authority Nasser Al Mahdi said the census is the first of its kind to be conducted through administrative records of the country's data source.

Al Mahdi said census data are important in various developmental fields such as the distribution of services (schools, hospitals, police departments ...) according to the population numbers and characteristics, the identification of electoral districts. It is also important for the study of population structure of the society, estimating sources of labor force and numbers of workers and the promotion of the role of women, their socio-economic status and other uses that are difficult to enumerate.

Al Mahdi said census 2020 will depend mainly on the latest technologies, systems and manuals adopted internationally, in order to obtain accurate and comprehensive results on the population and their characteristics as well as housing and establishments and extraction of important statistical indicators at different levels. ➔P3



Hong Kong protesters storm government HQ

Anti-government protesters attempt to break into the government headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday, on the 22nd anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China. ➔P14

Thousands benefit from QM Culture Pass programme

RAYNALD C RIVERA
THE PENINSULA

Around 27,000 people are now availing of Qatar Museums (QM) Culture Pass membership programme's many benefits which have been expanded this summer in partnership with Qatar National Tourism Council's Summer in Qatar (SiQ) programme.

"We have around 27,000 members from all categories of public in Qatar, from CEOs to ambassadors to teachers to housewives. Our members are very much engaged with our tours. They attend our exhibitions, participate in workshops and special events, and take advantage of special offers and discounts in cafes," Fahad Al Obaidly, Membership Coordinator, told *The Peninsula*.

Since its launch in 2014, Culture Pass has made Qatar's vibrant culture and arts scene much more accessible to the public through big discounts in QM outlets as well as free access to many of its events and activities. With the rollout of Culture Pass Plus and Culture Pass Family membership in March, the scope of the benefits have been made wider and more inclusive.

"Basically we want to get Qataris and residents even tourists closer to all the beautiful things Qatar has to offer, from archaeological sites to public art tours to art exhibitions and the Culture Pass is the way to get closer to these, so Culture Pass has become channel for Qatar to promote culture and heritage and engage the public with what we do," said Al Obaidly. ➔P3

PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR	03. 18 AM		
SHOROOK	04. 47 AM		
ZUHR	11. 38 AM	MAGHRIB	06. 30 PM
ASR	03.01 PM	ISHA	08. 00 PM

WEATHER TODAY



33°C Minimum | **44°C** Maximum

Hot daytime with slight dust to blowing dust at some places.

HIGH TIDE 02:33 – 16:56 LOW TIDE 10:08

Courtesy: Qatar Meteorology Department

High school results to be announced today

QNA / DOHA

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education will announce the high school results today. The results can be viewed on https://nateeja.edu.gov.qa, after being approved by Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi.

There are 11,329 students, including 5,788 boys and 5,541 girls, who completed the second semester exams for the academic year 2018/2019 during the period from 10 to 23 June in 61 testing centers inside and outside Doha, 32 of which are for boys and 29 for girls.

Qatar and Kenya sign agreement



The Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, and Kenyan Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, James Macharia, signing the agreement.

Doha to host CAPA Qatar Aviation Summit in February next year

THE PENINSULA/DOHA

Qatar Airways in partnership with CAPA — Centre for Aviation, announced the return of the CAPA Qatar Aviation Aeropolitical and Regulatory Summit to Doha on February 5-6, 2020.

As the first aeropolitical gathering of its kind in the Middle East, the inaugural summit in February 2019 was a resounding success, concluding with agreement on the 'Doha Declaration,' a manifesto that calls for a political re-commitment to the principles of liberalisation to foster a more flexible regulatory framework for international air transport. The summit united over 300 local and international delegates to hear from more than 35 expert speakers across the aviation, legal and government sectors.

The 2020 summit will again invite senior aviation and transport executives, regional and national regulatory authorities, ambassadors, officials and members of academia, to tap into the latest developments in aviation regulation and policy over two-days of meaningful discussions. The forum will examine key issues such as regional and global aviation policy trends, institutional and regional challenges to liberalisation, EU comprehensive agreements, the increasing role of politics in aviation and the role of ICAO in the 21st century.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways is delighted to host the CAPA-Qatar Aviation Aeropolitical and Regulatory Summit again in 2020. We look forward to welcoming industry leaders and senior decision makers to Doha to continue these critical discussions to help promote debate on the future strategic direction and ongoing liberalisation of our industry."

CAPA Executive Chairman Peter Harbison said: "CAPA continues to pioneer discussion on critical developments that have a significant impact on the aviation industry. Aviation regulation remains a focal point for discussion in the Middle East and across the globe. It's crucial that we continue to dissect key issues around ownership and control, open skies and market access to ensure the industry propels forward. "We are pleased to partner with Qatar Airways again in 2020 and we invite all industry leaders to join us in Doha to be part of the discussions and engage with senior decision makers across the industry."

OFFICIAL NEWS

Amir receives written message from President of Rwanda

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, pertaining to bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The message was received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, during a meeting on Monday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Richard Sezibera, who is on a visit to Qatar. QNA

Amir greets new Governor-General of Australia

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to David Hurley on the occasion of his swearing-in as new Governor-General of Australia, wishing him success on his duties, and the Australian people further progress and prosperity. QNA

Qatar wins six awards at Arab Radio and TV Festival in Tunis

FROM PAGE 1

Qatar also won the second prize in the public documentary category, with a programme produced by Alrayyan TV Channel, jointly with a programme produced by the Arabic section of China Global Television Network.

Over 140 works participated in the radio competitions from 30 public broadcasting organisations and 16 private radio organisations. The competition for Arab private radio stations, Arabic-speaking international stations, production companies and Arab news agencies included talk shows, public awareness flashes, news briefs, radio news, programme introductions and endings.

As for the main television competitions, they included the television drama television programmes, represented in the documentary on the Palestinian cause, the public documentary program, entertainment programs, children's programs, as well as the main TV news (news report and talk show).





The Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, with graduates of the Qatar Aeronautical College of its class of the 2018-2019 academic year during the ceremony.

QAC celebrates graduation of class of 2018-19

QNA
DOHA

The Qatar Aeronautical College (QAC) celebrated yesterday the graduation of its class of the 2018-2019 academic year, which exceeded a total of 100 graduates spread over different specialisations.

The Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti congratulated the graduates, expressing his appreciation of their success and determination to play a role in the development of the State of Qatar and their countries.

His Excellency stressed that the State of Qatar continuously emphasises the importance of investing in human development and human resources in the implementation of its 2030 national vision. This is clear in the country's strong focus on education, which contributes to social and economic development.

The Minister said that Qatar's education investment in the aviation field yielded 5,578 diploma holders from Qatar Aeronautical College and graduates of short courses who now work in their countries.

The Minister noted that the past few years saw the College conclude several agreements and memorandums of understanding. It has also worked on enhancing the content of its library, modernize its fleet, recruit the most competent trainers, bring in the latest training equipment and increase technical training. These efforts, HE the minister said, were to provide the ideal environment for students to study commercial aviation, aircraft maintenance engineering, air surveillance, meteorology, airport management, security management and other fields.

The Director-General of QAC, Jabor bin Hamad Al Thani, said at his speech that the college is working on achieving its goals of providing training to those who wish to specialize in different parts of the aviation industry. His Excellency noted that the college now provides the local and international market with new cadres.

His Excellency said that the college managed to twin its programmes and develop all aspects of its educational process in order to ensure the training of strong cadres. The college is also working on partnering with international universities in the field of research and higher education that will be completed in the near future.

He noted that the college's activities propelled the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to have the college host the 5th Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium. During that time, the college signed a Memorandum of Understanding with France's ENAC for a master's programme in air safety management. The programme attracted 15 students who were employees in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Hamad International Airport, Civil Aviation Authority. They joined the programme on March 17 of 2019, and are expected to graduate in August of 2020.

The ceremony witnessed the graduation of 33 students of the Ministry of the Interior studying in Diploma in Security and Immigration Management, including 19 graduates from the airport security department, and 14 graduates from the airport passport department.

H E Director of Public Security Staff Major General Saad bin Jassim Al Khulaifi , congratulated the graduates, stressing that the Ministry of Interior is working to keep up with the development and arming its children with knowledge to be a building block in the security edifice and in their role in maintaining security and stability in a modern and sophisticated manner.

50% of surgeries at HGH were emergency cases

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

With the surgical services going through a rapid expansion, a total of 9717 surgeries were performed in different specialities at the Hamad General Hospital (HGH)'s General Surgery Department within the first six month of this year, said a senior official.

Among them more than half were emergency cases, said Dr Mohamed El Akkad, Vice-Chair of Surgery and Head of General Surgery at HGH.

The General Surgery Department deals with common surgeries including surgery of the pancreas, liver, colon, stomach and gallbladder – among others. Various conditions including acute appendicitis, gallstones, pancreatitis, intestinal obstructions, and diabetic foot infections are among the most common conditions that require urgent surgical intervention.

"The services of the General Surgery Department are divided into two on emergency and elective basis. Emergencies represent more than 50 percent of surgeries we do. Emergency surgical services are divided as trauma and others. Trauma is dealt by a separate department . Other emergency surgeries are looked into by a special team and the patients go through multiple triaging according to their condition," Dr. El Akkad told *The Peninsula*.



Dr. Mohamed El Akkad, Vice-Chair of Surgery and Head of General Surgery at HGH.
PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT / THE PENINSULA

"Among elective surgeries, we have the cancer surgeries and other surgeries. Always cancer cases are given priority over the other cases. Multi deciplinary teams decide on different types of cancer surgeries. Non cancer cases go through an elective pathway and decided upon the condition of the patient," he added.

In January the department has conducted 1779 surgeries and 1448 until noon time of June 30.

The expansion of HGH's surgical services is part of an ambitious and comprehensive plan to increase capacity and revitalise the country's largest and busiest hospital. A new surgical services facility is adjacent to the trauma and emergency centre.

"The surgical department has seen many developments including services at the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research , the old Women's Hospital has been transformed into a new surgical complex and several others," said Dr El Akkad.

The third and final phase of the new Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) of HGH has been completed. The completion of the SICU expansion marks the final phase of the HMC's Operating Theatre Expansion project that began in 2013.

"Surgical and medical treatment is more complex and comprehensive .We are working hard to improve the services and opening new facilities. Collaborative efforts among all those facilities will bring good results," said Dr. Dr El Akkad.



Thousands benefit from QM Culture Pass programme

FROM PAGE 1

Al Obaidly **(pictured)** added Culture Pass has been an effective way to expose Qatari culture and heritage in particular and art in general to the public in various formats such as tours, exhibitions, workshops and master classes.

It is QM's goal to "not only position Qatar as a cultural destination but more on what Qatar has to offer in terms of cultural preservation and the awareness of art. What QM is doing is push people to think through its various initiatives like public art." For the first time, QM has partnered with QNTC's SiQ expanding the benefits to Culture Pass Plus and Family card holders huge discounts of up to 70 percent at SiQ entertainment and game providers which include discounts in game parks, concerts, family shows. "This year we have partnered with QNTC for the Summer in Qatar in order to give access to the public to the various benefits that QNTC and their partners are offering with regard to cultural events and entertainment using the QM Culture Pass as a channel," said Al Obaidly.

Members of Culture Pass Plus and Culture Pass Family will enjoy exclusive discounts on entry passes at a range of edutainment and theme parks across Qatar such as Entertainment City, Trimoo Parks, KidzMondo Doha, Megapolis, Minipolis, Go Fun, Circusland, Power Loads, Bounce, Kidzania. Members can avail of 20 percent discounts on ticketed shows including the Smurfs Live, Hello Kitty, the Blue Man Group, Doha Comedy Festival, Marshmello concert, South Indian International Movie Awards and Kadim Al Saher concert.

Housing sector records huge growth in 10 years

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, some field work has been done to collect some missing data in the building registers in source areas, he added.

Al Mahdi pointed out during the presentation of the census today that the registers of housing units and establishments were prepared based on the records of the source bodies in addition to the register of housing units in 2015.

He said that the field will be carried out in November to ensure the data accuracy of the main administrative data of the buildings, units and facilities.

Al Mahdi said census 2020 will depend mainly on the latest technologies, systems and manuals adopted internationally, in order to obtain accurate and comprehensive results on the population and their characteristics as well as housing and establishments and extraction of important statistical indicators at different levels.

Planning & Statistics Authority launches census 2020

FROM PAGE 1

He added that the technology used in the census has a significant impact in the implementation of several tasks for the preparation of the risk study and anticipation of difficulties as well as the implementation of data collection, review, tabulation, processing and dissemination and follow-up field operations and other functions of the census.

Al Mahdi explained that statistical evidence and classifications receive great attention from PSA as well as other statistical agencies in the world and international organizations as it enables the dissemination of statistical data in an international format that facilitates the process of statistical comparisons inside and outside the country.

He explained the stages of the census starting with the analysis of the current situation, which was carried out between January and November 2017, the preparation of the databases of buildings, residential units and facilities between September 2017 and February 2019, then the experimental census in the second quarter of this year, followed by the preparation of databases of households and individuals in the third quarter and then processing census data in March 2020, to prepare for its publication during the second quarter of 2020.

Al Mahdi said PSA conducted an experimental census of the housing and active facilities and stopped the volume of growth in this sector over the past ten years, noting that these data will be confirmed and adopted during the next phase of the census.

Head of the Statistical Analysis Office at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Ibrahim Saad Al Sulaiti, member of the statistical consultancy committee highlighted the importance of censuses in relation to the services provided by the Ministry and the various bodies in the State.

He added that the ministry has placed the issue of statistics among its priorities and has been able to develop a system that contributes to the flow of information and statistics from various departments due to its importance in determining progress on various levels of service and security and address all deficiencies, if any.

The General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments is the only statistical exercise conducted comprehensively, once every five or ten years, and the State of Qatar implemented a number of them in 1986, 1997, 2004, 2010, 2015.

MOI service office at Search and Follow-up Department

FROM PAGE 1

The office, which operates from 6am to 6pm, has a large area that can accommodate more than 150 visitors and with 20 service counters and 2 entrances. This gives the visitors convenience of easy entry and exit and helps in smooth flow of transactions. With the latest electronic and technical systems, it will ensure accuracy and take less time to complete the transactions. The services office has a highly qualified staff of officers and other ranks with integrated counter staff system so that the counter staff performs all the transactions needed by the visitor without need to move to other employees or counters or service halls.

The average number of visitors received by the Office per day is 450. The Office also has five counters for officers to facilitate easy approval of the applications of the visitors, receive their inquiries, listen to their grievances and to solve the problems they face to complete the procedures. These facilities will shorten a lot of time and effort as the issues will be handled with ut-most attention and seriousness. "This office is a great qualitative development in providing excellent services to the visitors, in line with the Ministry of Interior's direction towards achieving its strategy", said Lt. Col. Ali Ahmed Al Kuwari, Assistant Director of the SFD. He pointed out that the Department has trained a number of employees to carry out the functions of the integrated counter staff by providing an electronic system that can finish all the procedures related to the request of the visitors through a single counter.

The visitor of the department can go to the counter to complete all the procedures from the same counter without having to go to another employee or counter. In the case of any violations or fine against the visitor, payment can made directly through the automatic pay-ment machine that place in the new office.

Apart from convenient reception area and counters, ATM machine and awareness screens have been also made available. The parking area can accommodate more than 200 cars, he added. "The office will work in two shifts. From 6am to 1pm, it will receive applications for various services provided by the department. From 1pm to 6pm applications will be received from the expatriates who surrender to leave the country", Lt. Col. Al Kuwari said.

Class of 2019 shines as TNG hosts first graduation ceremony

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Next Generation (TNG) school recently hosted its first graduation ceremony to celebrate the success and achievements of the graduating students of grades 11 and 12 – the class of 2019.

Established in 2009 to bridge the gap of quality education in the emerging State of Qatar, TNG aims to provide quality education which develops confidence, encourages leadership, independent thinking and inspires students to become responsible global citizens.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony, Dr Hamda Hassan Al Sulaiti, Secretary-General of Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, motivated the students and appreciated the efforts of TNG as an educational institute. She shared Qatar's vision of 2030 and emphasised the importance of education for personal development. She expressed that she wants to see these graduates as a part of Qatar's workforce, working to help Qatar grow.

Addressing the young leaders at the ceremony, Ailia Rizvi, Principal TNG, said: "Continue to read, study hard and may your education allow you to touch hearts and be the voice of those who are vulnerable, give you the courage to question stale assumptions and empower you to create a better world."

To recognise the graduates' accomplishments, several awards were announced. The Valedictorian awards for Commerce and Science stream were awarded to Mariam Riyaz Bakali and Minahil Maqsood, respectively. Mahnoor Imran received the 'Overall Top Achiever Award' for achieving the highest number of A*'s in IGCSEs and making outstanding contributions to the school.

Academic Excellence Awards were also given to students who scored A*'s in their IGSCE Examinations. As an educational institute, TNG encourages all stakeholders, especially its students to adopt, assimilate and reflect its organizational values in their behaviour. Therefore, along with the Academic Awards, the students also received values-based awards.

Hafiz Junaid Amir Sial, Defence Attaché of Embassy of Pakistan, and Nimrod Garry D'silva, Accounts Relationship Manager at British Council, were also invited as the Guest of Honours.

Speaking to the students, Hafiz Junaid, said: "You should be a compassionate person and you are assured successful winnings." While Nimrod Garry D'silva, remarked that these young students have the potential to change the world as we know it; from finding a cure to incurable diseases to solving problems that are just now emerging."

Concluding the ceremony, CEO of TNG, Shagufta Bakali, advised the class of 2019 to remain modest, kind, and hard-working. She further added: "You have so much to offer to the world. Go forth and take your place."



Riyaz Amed Bakali, Founder Director of TNG School, with guests and graduates of Class of 2019.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds names raffle draw winners



Malabar Gold & Diamonds announced the first Raffle Draw winners of the 'Sparkling Summer - Win up to 100 grams of Gold & up to 100% Cash Back' campaign in the presence of Saad Al Sulaiti, an official from Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Raju T Johny, Deputy Branch Head and other management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. The winners are Vijay Chougale, (Coupon No-56681), P K Abdu Rahiman, (Coupon No-44931), Nuruddin, (Coupon No-46850), Maimoona, (Coupon No-15880) and Sahla, (Coupon No-42850). The winners won 100 grams of gold each.

Executive Director of QCRI receives award

THE PENINSULA / DOHA



The Executive Director of Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Dr Ahmed K Elmagarmid (**pictured**), received the SIGMOD Contribution Award. He was recognised for his dedicated service to the database research and development community in North America and Mideast, in his capacity as the founder and editor of the Distributed and Parallel Database journal, and Chair for the Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Management of Data. The award honours significant contributions to database systems through research funding, education, and professional service.

QDA holds diabetes prevention camp

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), a member of Qatar Foundation, hosted the 10th Diabetes Prevention Camp for 25 overweight teenage boys with a first-degree family history of diabetes.

The 'Eat Healthy, Move More and Take control!' camp has kicked off yesterday and will continue till July 3 at the Education City, will educate the adolescents about diabetes prevention through positive lifestyle changes. Aimed at introducing the young population at risk of diabetes to healthy living, the camp is designed to be an interactive educational experience. Throughout the three days, campers will attend educational sessions on healthy reduced calorie diet aimed at initiating weight loss, counselling sessions to accompany the adolescents in their difficulties in maintaining positive behavioural changes. In addition, the programme consists an active exercise schedule, which includes swimming, volleyball, football, bowling and aerobics classes.

Dr Abdullah Al Hamaq, Executive Director of QDA, said, "QDA prevention efforts target those at risk in order to avoid the onset of type 2 diabetes. And our diabetes prevention camps deliver significant returns in quality of life for our youth at high risk of diabetes; I believe it is an investment in the long term. The aim of the camp is to empower and equip our youth of tomorrow with the practical tools to reduce their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes to live a healthy, happy and productive life."

All participants were assessed on weight, health and nutrition status prior the camp to get an individual diet plan. A follow up sheet committing the young at risk to a regular follow up with QDA will be signed at the end of the camp.



Riham Badoura, a dietician at the Qatar Diabetes Association, giving a presentation on 'Obesity and Diabetes' as part of 10th Diabetes Prevention Camp for boys, at the Student Centre, Education City, yesterday. PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT / THE PENINSULA

الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent
Medical Affairs Division

Tender Announcement :-

Sr.#	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/95-2019	Annual Contract to provide general maintenance services to all medical affairs division buildings.	50,000 Q.R	500 Q.R	01/08/2019

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.

Required Documents:
1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
3. Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents (500qrs) not refunded & account details:
- Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- Bank: Al Rayan.
- Account number:
003-100689-200 / IBAN: QA09MAFR000000000003100689200

For more information: please call: (50044554), or
Email: Tenders.2018@qrcs.org.qa

Liquidation Notice

Based on the ruling of the case No. 241/2018 at Preliminary Court, it has been decided to

dissolve and liquidate the company
Al Jazira Seashore Trading Contracting & Construction Co. & Branches CR No. 22176

The Liquidator, Murad Ahamed Alkot, hereby declare about starting of liquidation process of the above company.

Whoever is having any rights and liabilities with this company is requested to send a registered letter enclosed with supporting documents to P.O. Box 16875, Doha-Qatar within 45 days from the date of this notice.

For enquiries call 55863479.

URGENT HIRING
Sales Executive for Real Estate
1 Experience : 5-6 years in Doha
2 Driving License: Must
3 Language: Arabic & English
4 NOC required
E-mail your CV to: qatarvacancy001@gmail.com
Call Number: +974 3350 4217

COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC - QATAR

The Tender Committee wishes to inform the vendor community of the following:

Tender / RFP Number	TENDER / RFP Title	Deadline for Questions	Tender Registration Fee QR	Tender Bond % of Bid or Fixed Amount QR	Bid System	Tender Closing Date
CNAQ-2019-05	Integrated Library System	July 14, 2019	500	15,000 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 20th Aug 2019
CNAQ-2019-12	Laboratory Equipment - Water Purification System	July 7, 2019	500	14,000 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019
CNAQ-2019-13	Industrial Equipment and Supplies:	July 7, 2019	500	24,000 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019
CNAQ-2019-14	Telecommunications Equipment - Antenna Training System	July 7, 2019	500	175,000 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019
CNAQ-2019-15	Industrial Equipment - Process Control Learning System	July 7, 2019	500	160,000 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019
CNAQ-2019-16	Industrial Equipment - Electrical - Cubicle	July 7, 2019	500	4,800 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019
CNAQ-2019-20	Industrial Equipment - Paper Shredder	July 7, 2019	500	4,200 QAR	Two Envelope	14.00 Hrs 21st July 2019

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NOTE - After download all companies will be automatically registered and any updates on this tender will be communicated to you.
- In order to receive updates, you will need to login from the tender page.
- Eligibility: Manufacturer or manufactures authorized dealer/representative, with a minimum of 5 years' experience in the same field.
- Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the above closing date.
- CNA-Qatar would not be bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and is under no obligation to show reasons thereof.
- Tenders delivered after the closing date and time specified above will not be accepted.
- Tender bids to be submitted no later than 2:00 pm of the closing date, and should be as follows:

Two Envelope System: Separate sealed Envelope for Technical and Commercial - (Enclose 1 Original, 1 Copy, and 1 Electronic (CD or USB) in each envelope.)
Single Envelop System: Technical and commercial combined in one envelop. Enclose 1 Original, 1 Copy, and 1 Electronic (CD or USB)

Envelope should be addressed as follows:
Tender Committee, College of the North Atlantic - Qatar
P.O. Box 24468, Bldg. 16, Level 1, Tender Box,
60 Al Tarfa, Duhail North, Doha, Qatar

Tender/RFP # : _____ Title : _____

CNA-QATAR.COM

For more information contact: procurement@cna-qatar.edu.qa

Texas A&M at Qatar, STEM school in science & engineering innovation

Fawzia Al Khater, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, was keen to create a holistic school program. The academic school program includes university programs that are based on the provision of workshops, training programs and educational courses.

THE PENINSULA
DOHA



The programme had 60 students participating in two-hour sessions over 16 weeks.

Texas A&M University at Qatar spent 16 weeks over two semesters working with the Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys to build a wireless communication system. It was done to encourage science and engineering exploration and innovation in young high school students.

The open-source project, TalkiePi, is a single-button, push-to-talk, Wi-Fi walkie-talkie that allows users to talk with their friends easily over WiFi. Beginning in September 2018, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experts from Texas A&M at Qatar's Office of Development, Engagement and Outreach guided students through the process of designing, building and testing their own TalkiePis to learn mechanical, electrical, programming and prototyping skills.

Fawzia Al Khater, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, was keen to create a holistic school program. The academic school program includes university programs that are based on the provision of workshops, training programs and educational courses.

She said: "I was happy with the outcomes of the program and I did not expect the students to react with this level of enthusiasm. Motivating student and initiating a love for STEM were our targets in the first year of operation. That is exactly what happened with our experience with Texas A&M University at Qatar and was achieved a pace that we didn't expect. So we are now seeking to take further steps to expand after carefully examining the outputs of this year."

The collaboration began with an introduction to 3D modeling using 3D computer-assisted design software. Students learned the basics of 3D design by creating their own cases to hold the components of the TalkiePi. After the design process, the students learned the basics of 3D printing using Dremel 3D printers. The students created and printed test objects, which allowed them to practice their new skills before tackling the TalkiePi case, battery pack and personalization.

In the spring, the students began the semester with an introduction to electronics hardware. The students learned basic circuitry diagramming and prototyping using power supplies, resistors, LEDs and various other components using a solderless breadboard, which was then used to build and test circuits. After completing their circuit prototypes, the students were taught how to solder electronic components into a working circuit.

Some students such as Abdulla T Al Fehaida began the school year and the course not really knowing what engineering is or what engineers do. "When I entered this school, I thought engineering was just construction and buildings," Al Fehaida said. "But after a few months in the school and during this course, I learned that there are many things an engineer can do and I learned the steps that go behind a project. We did a lot of hands-on activities and fabricated a walkie-talkie, and with all of the things we learned, I think engineering is so fun and I have a new perception of this."



CMU-Q graduate creates app for movie lovers in Qatar

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar's (CMU-Q) Abubaker Omer **(pictured),** has created a mobile app for movie lovers in Qatar. 'Qatar Movies' is a tool for film enthusiasts to find movie listings and timings in Qatar theaters and to share them with friends.

Omer first thought of the idea when he tried to coordinate with a friend to see a movie. "When my friend comes from abroad we go to the cinema quite frequently, and I always get annoyed when we are outdoors and I have to turn on my data plan to be able to see showtimes of movies. I told my friend, I can create a mobile app that you can use to see showtimes even when you're offline."

A computer science student, Omer created the app for him and his friend at the beginning of the semester in January 2019. Through word of mouth, people around Qatar began downloading Qatar Movies. By the end of the semester, he had gained more than a thousand users.

"People were really happy with the simplicity and ease of use of the app. My initial objective was making my friend and myself happy through offline mode, and I made hundreds happy by chance. It was a delightful surprise."

As the app has gained popularity, he has devoted his time and energy to improving the functionality and adding features. Available for download both on Apple and Google stores, Qatar Movies allows users to filter by showtime, genre or language, and the latest data is automatically updated and remains visible, even when offline.

Other useful features include the ability to watch trailers, check IMDB ratings, share showtimes with friends via WhatsApp and other messaging services, and even book tickets at some theaters.

The app allows users to book their Uber to the theater, or find the location through Waze or Google Maps.

"I hope more users enjoy the app. And if you ask me what's next: it's making app users even happier," said Omer.

HMC provides support for Summer Entertainment City

THE PENINSULA
DOHA



HMC's interactive stand.

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has again partnered with the organisers of Summer Entertainment City – one of the largest family events held in Qatar. Joining the Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC), Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), and QSports as a strategic partner, HMC is providing the support of its Ambulance Service for the large-scale event, which is now in its sixth year.

"We are inviting all visitors at the event to pass by HMC's interactive stand to find out about our services and the important role we play in the community," said Nasser Al Naimi, Deputy Chief of Quality at HMC, Center for Patient Experience and Staff Experience (CPESE) and Director, Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute (HHQI).

"Summer Entertainment City is a major family-friendly, business, and tourism event that brings together families and the community. This is the second year we have been involved in Summer Entertainment City and HMC is pleased to again play a key role in supporting this popular annual event. Participating in such events is part of our commitment to engaging and interacting with the community as well as educating a wider audience about HMC's facilities and services," added Al Naimi.

Summer Entertainment City 2019 offers a variety of activities for the whole family, including shopping areas, a food market, a play area, and cultural shows. Running until July 13 at the DECC, the indoor family entertainment event features more than 100 games and activities, live performances, more than 120 retail stalls, and 42 food outlets.



Sidra Water extends support to Qatar Cancer Society

Sidra Water has extended its support to Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) for its awareness programmes of cancer prevention methods and emphasize the importance of early detection of disease and treatment. The initiative comes within the framework of the Sidra Water's responsibility programme to promote public health especially cancer prevention.



Qatar highlights important role of women in development

QNA/DOHA

The State of Qatar stressed yesterday the role of women in achieving development and their active contribution to the renaissance of society.

This came in the speech delivered by Second Secretary at Qatar's Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Geneva, Muneera Mohammed Al Rumaihi, at the 41st session of the Human Rights Council day two of the Annual Full-Day Discussion on the Human Rights of Women. She highlighted the important role of women in general, and older women in particular, in ensuring the stability of society and maintaining values and social traditions. She added that woman also play an important role in development and economic progress. She noted that Qatar has adopted a number of institutional and legislative measures to guarantee the access of the elderly and women to social services that they need. The Qatari constitution in article 21 focused on looking after the elderly as well as protecting the family and society. The state also established Ihsan center, which is dedicated to providing the elderly with their basic needs. She stressed that Qatar is focused on empowering women and building their capabilities to contribute to the country's comprehensive renaissance.

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
naufar	Naufar	1146/2019	Supply, Delivery, and installation of Medical and Nursing Equipment	6008	150223.00	Two Envelopes	04/08/2019
naufar	Naufar	1149/2019	Supply, Delivery, and installation of Physio and Movement Equipment	2218	55460.75	Two Envelopes	04/08/2019
	Ministry of Municipality and Environment Major Tenders & Auctions Committee	Bid No. TC/B/41-799/2019	Sale of used materials at the warehouses of Umm Salal Municipality to the account of (Umm Salal Municipality)	500 Qatari Riyals	1,500 Qatari Riyals	One envelope	14/07/2019
	Ministry of Municipality and Environment Major Tenders & Auctions Committee	Bid No. TC/B/54-1050/2019	Purchasing and supplying various size tires and internal tires for governmental vehicles based on the supply on demand basis for two calendar years to the account of (the Department of Mechanical Equipment)	7,000 Qatari Riyals	700,000 Qatari Riyals	Two envelopes (Technical / Financial)	14/07/2019
	Ministry of Municipality and Environment Major Tenders & Auctions Committee	Bid No. TC/B/55-1051/2019	Supplying treated water for irrigating plantation in Umm Salal Municipality to for three calendar years to the account of (the Department of Public Parks)	2,800 Qatari Riyals	280,000 Qatari Riyals	Two envelopes (Technical / Financial)	14/07/2019
	Ministry of Municipality and Environment Major Tenders & Auctions Committee	Bid No. TC/B/56-1052/2019	Maintenance and operation works of the electrical installations in the Cornice for three calendar years to the account of (Doha Municipality)	700 Qatari Riyals	70,000 Qatari Riyals	Two envelopes (Technical / Financial)	14/07/2019
	Ministry of Defense Qatar Armed Forces	51/2019	Supply medals, shields and cups for (3) years	500	27000	(2) Envelopes (Tech. / Fin.)	28/07/2019
	Ministry of Defense Qatar Armed Forces	53/2019	Supply of gifts and prizes for sport champions for (3) years	1300	130000	(2) Envelopes (Tech. / Fin.)	28/07/2019
	Ministry of Defense Qatar Armed Forces	68/2019	Supply of various electrical appliances for (3) years	500	15000	(2) Envelopes (Tech. / Fin.)	28/07/2019
KAHRAMAA	Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation - Kahramaa	GTC/879/2017 Retender	Three (3) Years Call-Off Contract for Maintenance, Replacement and Upgrading of Water Networks Purchase of Tender Documents through KM website: km.qa Maintenance & Field Services Department	50,000	5,750,000	Two Envelopes	22/08/2019
KAHRAMAA	Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation - Kahramaa	GTC/938/2019	Three (3) Years Contract for Skilled & Unskilled Manpower Supply For Water Network Affairs (WP, WO & WM) Purchase of Tender Documents through KM website: km.qa Maintenance & Field Services Department	50,000	Package 1: QAR. 4,900,000.00 Package 2: QAR. 5,100,000.00	Two Envelopes	22/08/2019
KAHRAMAA	Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation - Kahramaa	LTC/1464/2019	Internet Protocol TV Tender Documents through KM website km.qa	500.00	20,000.00	Two Envelopes	21/07/2019
ASHGHAL	Public Works Authority	PWA/ITC/039/2019 (E-Tender)	Secondment of Professional Staff for Operation Maintenance and Rehabilitation Programme Unplanned Works-DNOM AA/DOM/2019/M/1874/1 For more information visit Ashghal website: www.ashghal.gov.qa	17,500	1,750,000	Two Envelopes (Technical + Financial)	21/07/2019
ASHGHAL	Public Works Authority	PWA/STC/061/2018/R (E-Tender)	Operation Maintenance and Rehabilitation Programme Unplanned Works – Design Fabricate and Install Pump Testing Tank AA/DOM/2018/M/1866 R 1/S For more information visit Ashghal website: www.ashghal.gov.qa	1400	140,000	Two Envelopes (Technical + Financial)	22/07/2019
State of Qatar	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1098-2019	SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF LAB EQUIPMENTS FOR CHEMISTRY AND MICRO UNIT, CFL AND HAMAD PORT LAB. - For more information: www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (Five Hundred Only)	20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday 21st of July 2019 12:00 hrs
State of Qatar	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1104-2019	CIVIL AND ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF BALCONY (TERRACE) LOCATED ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF MOPH-HQ - For more information : www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (Five Hundred Only)	20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday 21st of July 2019 12:00 hrs
State of Qatar	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1137-2019	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ANTIMICROBIAL DISINFECTANT FOR MICROBIOLOGY UNIT – CFL - For more information : www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (Five Hundred Only)	3,000.00 (Three Thousand Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday 21st of July 2019 12:00 hrs
State of Qatar	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1134-2019	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSUMABLES FOR MICROBIOLOGY UNIT, CFL - For more information : www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (Five Hundred Only)	20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday 14th of July 2019 12:00 hrs
State of Qatar	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	1135-2019	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SIMPLATES AND PETRIDISHES AND SEWARD STOMACHER BAGS FOR MICROBIOLOGY UNIT, CFL - For more information : www.MOPH.gov.qa Announcement	500.00 (Five Hundred Only)	9,000.00 (Nine Thousand Only)	Two Envelopes	Sunday 14th of July 2019 12:00 hrs

For more details, please refer to the unified website of government procurement **http://monaqasat.mof.gov.qa**

Saudi crown prince ordered Khashoggi murder: US senator

ANATOLIA
ANKARA

"There is no doubt in my mind that he (Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman) ordered the killing of Mr. Khashoggi, that he knew about it, that he's done things like that to other people and that he's been a disruptive force throughout the region," Republican heavyweight Senator Lindsey Graham told CBS News, adding that he has led the effort to sanction the prince.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing last fall in Istanbul of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and President Donald Trump embracing him undermines US credibility on human rights, said Republican heavyweight Senator Lindsey Graham yesterday.

"There is no doubt in my mind that he ordered the killing of Mr. Khashoggi, that he knew about it, that he's done things like that to other people and that he's been a disruptive force throughout the region," Graham told *CBS News*, adding that he has led the effort to sanction the prince.

Graham acknowledged the role of Saudi Arabia as a strategic ally, but said he chose "not to turn my back on an ally who chops a man up in a consulate, violating every international norm," referring to the murder and dismemberment of Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia's Istanbul Consulate.

Graham said he is in a "completely different place" than Trump on the prince, adding that the Congress will not "accept business as usual with Saudi Arabia as long as MBS is around," using the prince's initials.

In his closing speech at the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan on Saturday, Trump called Khashoggi's killing "horrible" but did not point fingers at the prince. Trump has previously cited business deals with the Saudis of billions of dollars as justification for not pressing them on the Khashoggi issue.

Asked by reporters if he is worried about offending the prince, Trump said he does not care about offending people.

"If you look into Saudi Arabia and you see what's happening, 13 people or so have been prosecuted. Others are being prosecuted. They've taken it very, very seriously, and they will continue to," Trump said about the Saudi judicial process, which international observers have criticized as a whitewash.

"And I've let everybody know I'm very unhappy about that whole event," Trump added.

"I get along with Mohammad from Saudi Arabia. Look, I spoke to Saudi Arabia when the oil prices, a year ago, were getting very high. And I wasn't so nice. And I said, 'You got to get some more oil into the system because what's happening is no good." And they did."

"Nobody, so far, has pointed directly a finger at the future king of Saudi Arabia," Trump claimed, just weeks after a damning UN forensic report said the prince should be investigated over the murder as there is "credible evidence" that he and other senior officials are liable.

"It is the conclusion of the special rapporteur that Mr Khashoggi has been the victim of a deliberate, premeditated execution, an extrajudicial killing for which the state of Saudi Arabia is responsible under international human rights law," said Agnes Callamard, the rapporteur. One of the key findings of the report concluded: "There is credible evidence, warranting further investigation, of high-level Saudi officials' individual liability, including the crown prince's."

Khashoggi was killed and dismembered by a group of Saudi operatives shortly after he entered the country's consulate in Istanbul last October.

Riyadh offered various, conflicting narratives to explain the disappearance before acknowledging Khashoggi was killed in the diplomatic building while trying to shift blame for his death on a botched rendition by rogue agents.

Khashoggi's body has not been recovered, and the kingdom has remained silent on its whereabouts.



The ruins of buildings at the site where the US military carried out a strike against Al Qaeda-linked militants in Syria's northwestern Aleppo province, yesterday.

US says targeted Al Qaeda in Syria

AFP
BEIRUT

The United States said yesterday it carried out a strike in northwestern Syria a day earlier that a monitor reported had killed eight jihadists, including commanders, from an Al Qaeda-linked group.

"US forces conducted a strike against Al-Qaeda in Syria (AQ-S) leadership at a training facility near Aleppo Province, Syria, June 30, 2019," US Central Command said in a statement.

"This operation targeted AQ-S operatives responsible for plotting external attacks threatening US citizens, our partners, and innocent civilians," it said, using an acronym for Al-Qaeda in Syria.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said six commanders were among the slain jihadists from the Hurras al-Deen group in Aleppo province.

The killed commanders included two Tunisians, two Algerians, an Egyptian and a Syrian, the Observatory added.

"With our allies and partners, we will continue to target Daesh and Al-Qaeda to prevent both groups from using Syria as a safe haven," US Central Command said, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Hurras Al Deen maintains ties to Al Qaeda and fights alongside the global jihadist network's former Syria branch, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham -- which dominates most of Idlib province as well as parts of neighbouring Hama, Aleppo and Latakia.

The US has targeted jihadists in Syria's northwest, but the strikes appear to have petered out since 2017.

In March 2017, the Observatory said a US strike on a mosque in the north of Aleppo province killed 49 people, most of them civilians.

The Pentagon denied that large numbers of civilians were killed or that it had targeted the religious building, acknowledging only one possible civilian death.

Lebanese authorities to investigate deadly shooting near Beirut

AP/BEIRUT

Lebanon's top defence council has ordered an investigation into a deadly shooting that left two people dead and others wounded. The Higher Defence Council held a meeting yesterday attended by the president, prime minister, Cabinet ministers and heads of Lebanon's security and military agencies.

The meeting came a day after a shooting in a mountain village near Beirut killed two guards of Saleh al-Gharib, the minister of state handling refugee issues.

The shooting came as supporters of the Progressive Socialist Party, led by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, closed roads to prevent Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil from touring the region. Bassil and al-Gharib are allies. The Higher Defense Council said in a statement that it "took decisive decisions to restore security without hesitation and to detain all those wanted."





Condolences

We offer ourr heartfelt condolences to

Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani
Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani
and the Al Thani family

on the sad demise of

HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani

May the Almighty Allah bless the departed soul
and give fortitude to the bereaved family members
to bear this great loss.

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision

Condolences

The Vice Chairman & Managing Director
Board of Directors, Management & Staff of

Video Home & Electronic Centre
Jumbo Electronics and
Oryx Group for Food Services

offer their heartfelt condolences to

Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani
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Video Home & Electronic Centre
Jumbo Electronics
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EDITORIAL

A qualitative leap

The launch of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2020 by the Planning and Statistics Authority represents a qualitative leap in the provision of data with less effort, cost, and more accurately and comprehensively, through automatic linking with the data sources.

The census data represents a key base for population, housing and establishments statistics that concern planners, researchers and decision-makers. President of Planning and Statistics Authority H E Dr Saleh bin Mohammad Al Nabit said the importance of the census stems from the fact that it is the only statistical process that is conducted through an all-inclusive survey.

The General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments is the only statistical exercise conducted comprehensively, once every five or ten years, and the State of Qatar implemented a number of them in 1986, 1997, 2004, 2010, and 2015.

Head of the Department of Censuses, Surveys and Statistical Methods at the Authority, Nasser Al Mahdi, said the census is the first of its kind to be conducted through administrative records of the country's data source. Census 2020 will depend mainly on the latest technologies, systems and manuals adopted internationally, in order to obtain accurate and comprehensive results on the population and their characteristics as well as housing and establishments and extraction of important statistical indicators at different levels, he added.

The census data represents a key base for population, housing and establishments statistics that concern planners, researchers and decision makers.

Census data are important in various developmental fields such as the distribution of services according to the population numbers and characteristics, and the identification of electoral districts. It is also important for the study of population structure of the society, estimating sources of labour force and numbers of workers and the promotion of the role of women, their socio-economic status and other uses that are difficult to enumerate.

Al Mahdi explained that statistical evidence and classifications receive great attention from PSA as well as other statistical agencies in the world and international organizations as it enables the dissemination of statistical data in an international format that facilitates the process of statistical comparisons inside and outside the country.

The census data for the buildings and facilities implemented by the PSA in 2019 revealed huge growth in housing and facilities in the country, reflecting huge economic growth witnessed by the state. The data showed that the number of buildings in Qatar rose to 216,740 this year, compared with 148,804 in the 2010 census, an increase of 45.6 percent. The number of housing units reached 354,549 units, based on the census this year, compared to 259,067 units in 2010, an increase of 36.9 percent.

The role of statistical data and indicators in all fields, whether planning and development or in daily life, is vital. The provision of accurate and timely statistical data and indicators help to formulate policies and monitor progress at all levels.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



There was enough backing for an agreement on how to allocate the European Union's top jobs, but that it was the right decision to pause talks between national leaders because opposition was also strong.

Juri Ratas
Estonian Prime Minister

Trump's diplomacy puts relationships over results



ZEKE MILLER & JONATHAN LEMIRE
AP

For President Donald Trump, a four-day visit to Asia is shaping up to be more about relationships than results.

In Japan for the Group of 20 summit, Trump notched few identifiable accomplishments on a range of pressing challenges as he savored the show of diplomatic backslapping.

He went into his meetings with friends and foes alike against the backdrop of global crises. Eager to avoid a repeat of his past tumultuous international summit visits, Trump traded hard-nosed negotiations for compliments and sidestepped thorny issues in public with even the most troublesome of global figures.

After meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and China's Xi Jinping, all of whom have authoritarian tendencies, the president invoked the imperative of strong relationships nine times in a closing news conference at the G-20. "I really have a good relationship with everybody," he said. Then he moved on to South Korea, holding out hope for another chance to show off what may be his "Art of the Handshake." He invited North Korea's Kim Jong-Un to join him for a quick exchange of greetings at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone.

Trump praised the summit host, Japan's Shinzo Abe, for his hospitality. Trump fondly recounted to Xi the red carpet welcome granted to the American nearly two years ago when he visited Beijing. As he and Xi declared a cease-fire in their countries' trade war, Trump enthused that "Chinese culture is an incredible culture and repeatedly called Xi his friend.

The prioritization of personal ties over concrete achievements revealed the unexpected flip side to Trump's transactional view of foreign policy. Despite his reputation as a dogged negotiator, he often frames developing connections with world leaders as an end unto itself.

At the same time, though, Trump hasn't hesitated to insult and undercut some of America's closest allies, straining ties with partners such as France's Emmanuel Macron, Canada's Justin Trudeau and Germany's Angela Merkel.



US President Donald Trump (left) and South Korean President Moon Jae-in after a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the DMZ separating the two Koreas, in Panmunjom.

He publicly aired grievances against Japan, Germany and India in the days leading up to his trip to Asia. During his travels, he directed valuable attention to weighing in on domestic issues and US politics — a focus that otherwise could have been devoted to diplomacy.

In Osaka, Trump's cultivation of world figures played out in ways big and small. In a meeting with Merkel, he set aside concerns about Germany's defence spending.

He was cavalier with Putin about the issue of Russian interference in American elections, which US intelligence agencies fear will occur again in 2020.

"I honestly don't know what Trump's goals are," said Michael McFaul, ambassador to Russia under President Barack Obama. "He defines a good meeting and a positive relationship with Putin as the goal. That should be the means to achieving the real goals." Trump praised the summit host, Japan's Shinzo Abe, for his hospitality.

Trump fondly recounted to Xi the red carpet welcome granted to the American nearly two years ago when he visited Beijing. As he and Xi declared a cease-fire in their countries' trade war, Trump enthused that "Chinese culture is an incredible culture," and repeatedly called Xi his friend.

Trump aides contend that he is taking the long view on personal diplomacy, believing that while it may seem at odds with his oft-invoked "America First" worldview, it did create images of statesmanship that contrast with the political infighting among the Democrats back home looking to replace him.

Critics deride it as a "Trump First" policy, in which a few flattering words can buy an adversary Trump's silence.

Either way, the affirmations of friendship haven't yet correlated with results. That reality was at the fore as Trump expressed hope for a meeting with Kim at the Demilitarized Zone on Sunday.

US-North Korean talks on nuclear issues and even the repatriation of Korean war remains have broken down in recent months after the failure of their second summit in Hanoi in February.

But Trump is eager for the historic image at the DMZ — he said Saturday that he would welcome becoming the first US president to step over the border into North Korea — and hopes it can help jump-start negotiations he once believed could deliver him a Nobel Peace Prize.

The mere invitation from Trump marks a significant propaganda victory for Kim, who has long sought and been denied recognition on the international stage.

Trump has made clear he considers Kim a friend, even as the North has resumed some ballistic missile testing in recent months that Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, contends violated UN sanctions.

Plastic Free July to raise awareness on plastic waste

BURAK BIR
ANATOLIA

Millions across the globe will join the "Plastic Free July" campaign this month, getting rid of plastic items to create awareness on pollution by "taking the challenge." The month of July is celebrated annually by communities around the world and led by environmental organizations.

"By making small changes to your everyday habits, you can make a huge difference," said a statement that was released by the Plastic Free July Foundation.

People can take the challenge individually by refusing to consume single-use plastics, the statement said. "Once you choose one single-use plastic to avoid, you'll quickly discover others plastics in your life you can start cutting out, too. Our next steps help people who want to take the challenge even further," it said.

Plastic Free July is a campaign led by the Plastic Free Foundation, established in 2017 as an independent non-profit organization.

According to its website, Plastic Free July also runs an award-winning campaign for a world without plastic waste.

Individual action is great place to start but a terrible place to stop in avoiding plastic use, the Story of Stuff movement, which is one of the managing organization of the "Plastic free July" campaign, told.

"We need to take action together to change the system to make doing the right thing, the easy thing. During Plastic Free July, we will be inviting our community to take escalating actions to help get plastic out of their life, their community, and eventually the whole economy," said Brett Chamberlin, the movement's community engagement manager.

Chamberlin underlined that the campaign was a global cultural event in which communities were invited to avoid disposable plastics for the whole month of July.

Touching on the plastic waste trade around the world as the major aspect of the plastic problem, he stressed that communities in the developing world were "paying the price for the convenience culture enjoyed in countries like the US and other developed nations."

Speaking on the philosophy behind the idea of "Story of Stuff", Chamberlin said problems emerged with goods that people have excessive amounts of when they cause increased toxic materials to seep into their environment.

"In a consumer economy like ours, we interact with a lot of "stuff" — our clothes, cosmetics, electronics, and more. Where does all this stuff come from, and where does it go when we are done with it?

This is the Story of Stuff, a story of social and environmental consequences that have gone hidden for far too long," he said.

UN figures estimate 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced since the early 1950s.

"Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year," the UN said in its statement on plastic waste and pollution.

It underlined that the world today produced 300 million tons of plastic every year — nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.

"If current trends continue, our oceans could contain more plastic than fish by 2050," the statement added.

The UN designated this year's World Environment Day slogan, which is celebrated every year on the June 5, as "#BeatPlasticPollution" to raise awareness on the rising threats and dangers of plastic pollution to human life and the environment.

Iran says it has breached nuclear deal stockpile limit

AP
TEHRAN

Iran acknowledged yesterday it had broken the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by the 2015 nuclear deal, marking its first major departure from the unraveling agreement a year after the US unilaterally withdrew from the accord.

Iran had been expected for days to acknowledge it broke the limit after earlier warning it would do so. It held off on publicly making an announcement as European leaders met on Friday in Vienna to discuss ways to save the accord. Iran has threatened to increase its enrichment of uranium closer to weapons-grade levels by July 7.

The announcement comes as tensions remain high between Iran and the US In recent weeks, the wider Persian Gulf has seen Iran shoot down a US military surveillance drone, mysterious attacks on oil tankers and Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen launching bomb-laden drones into Saudi Arabia.

The state-run *Irna* news agency quoted Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as making the uranium announcement. *Irna* reported that Zarif, answering a reporter's question whether Iran had broken the limit, said: "Yes."

"If Europeans do what they have to do, our measures are reversible," Zarif said, according to *Irna*. Zarif did not say how much low-enriched uranium had on hand, *Irna*s aid.

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, confirmed Iran had broken through the limit. IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told the agency's board of governors that it had verified the development.

Breaking the stockpile limit by itself doesn't radically change the one year experts say Iran would need to have enough material for an atomic bomb, if to choose to pursue one. Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, despite Western fears about it.

But by coupling an increasing stockpile with higher enrichment, it begins to close that one-year window and hamper any diplomatic efforts at saving the accord.

Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300kg of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%. Previously, Iran enriched as high as 20%, which is a short technical step away from reaching weapons-grade levels. It also held up to 10,000kg of the higher-enriched uranium.

At the time of the 2015 deal, which was agreed to by Iran, the United States, China, Russia, Germany, France and Britain, experts believed Iran needed anywhere from several weeks to three months to have enough material for a bomb. Zarif was quoted as also saying that the country remained on track to raise its enrichment if Europe did not take any additional steps towards saving the accord.

"The next step is about the 3.67% limitation, which we will implement too," he warned.

In Moscow, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov noted that Iran had warned in advance it was going to exceed the limit set by the deal and emphasized that Tehran's move followed "unthinkable" US pressure. "It didn't come as a surprise, Iran long has warned about it," Ryabkov said.

"Exceeding the 300kg limit causes regret, but shouldn't be overdramatized. It must be seen as a natural result of the preceding events," Ryabkov said. "Iran has faced an unprecedented and unthinkable US sanction pressure, effectively meaning a total oil embargo, an attempt to strangle a sovereign state."

"We are calling on all European members of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action not to heat up the situation," he added, using the accord's formal name.

"We are urging our Iranian colleagues to be extremely responsible regarding their actions, particularly those that concern Iran's fulfillment of comprehensive guarantees with the IAEA and an additional protocol to the agreement."

Toll from clashes at Sudan rallies climbs to 11

AP
KHARTOUM

Sudanese activists said yesterday that at least 11 people were killed in clashes with security forces during mass demonstrations demanding a transition to civilian rule.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese flooded the streets of the capital, Khartoum, and other areas on Sunday in the biggest protests since security forces cleared a sit-in last month. They called for the military to hand over power to civilians following the coup that ousted longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April.

Nazim Sirraj, a prominent activist, said yesterday that three bodies were found next to a school in Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum. The three were shot dead in an area where security forces had barred protesters from marching towards a hospital and had fired tear gas to disperse them, he said. One wounded person died on the way to the hospital in Khartoum, he added.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, the medical arm of the Sudanese Professionals' Association, which has spearheaded the demonstrations, confirmed the death toll.

Sirraj said the total death toll was 11, including one killed in the city of Atbara, a railway hub north of Khartoum and the birthplace of the December uprising that eventually led to Al Bashir's ouster. The Sudan Doctors Committee, the medical arm of the Sudanese Professionals' Association, which has spearheaded the demonstrations, confirmed the death toll.

Authorities said late Sunday that at least seven people were killed and nearly 200 wounded, including 27 wounded by bullets during the demonstrations.

The ruling military council blamed protest leaders for the deaths after they diverted the routes of their marches.

Lt. Gen. Gamal Omar, a member of the council, said in a statement that it was regrettable that the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which represents the protesters, diverted marches toward the presidential palace and the military headquarters.

He said security forces used tear gas to disperse protesters, who hurled stones at them.

He said the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces arrested "elements" who fired at security forces in Omdurman, killing two people and wounding three RSF members. Omar said over two dozen security forces were wounded across the county.

Protest leader Mohammed Al Asam said they would continue in their "revolutionary acts" till the military hands over power to civilians.

"The military council has only one option, which is to respond to demands of the Sudanese people," he said in a video clip posted on the SPA Facebook late on Sunday.

The protests came amid a weekslong standoff between the ruling military council and protest leaders. Talks between the two sides over a power-sharing agreement collapsed when security forces violently broke up a protest camp in Khartoum on June 3.

The ensuing clampdown resulted in at least 128 people killed across Sudan, according to protest organizers. Authorities put the death toll at 61, including three security forces.



Locals and relatives of three Sudanese men riddled with bullets, chanting slogans in the city of Omdurman across the River Nile from Khartoum, Sudan, yesterday.



The ruins of a building near the the Yarmouk military compound, controlled by the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) forces, following airstrikes south of the capital Tripoli.

Six Turkish citizens freed in Libya

REUTERS
ANKARA/BENGHAZI

Six Turks detained in Libya by forces loyal to commander Khalifa Haftar have been released, Turkey's foreign ministry said yesterday, a day after it warned the militia would become a "legitimate target" unless they were released immediately.

Turkey supports the internationally recognised government in Tripoli. Haftar's Libyan National Force (LNA) launched a campaign on April 4 to try and seize the Libyan capital, but has been pushed back by the Tripoli government's forces.

The foreign ministry spokesman said those released wanted to keep working rather than return to Turkey. State-owned Anadolu agency said they were sailors after Turkey's defence ministry denied reports that the detainees included military personnel.

The forces loyal to Haftar said they destroyed a Turkish drone parked at Tripoli's only working airport on Sunday and declared a "general mobilisation" as tensions between Ankara and the eastern administration mounted.

Haftar and his backers say they are trying to free Tripoli from militias that they accuse of destabilising Libya since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in a Nato-backed uprising in 2011. His administration cut all ties with Turkey on Friday, banning its flights and ships from eastern Libya.

Haftar's critics, including Turkey, accuse him of trying to seize power from the legitimate government through force and deepening a conflict between factions based in the east and west of the sprawling North African country.

The LNA said yesterday it will start heavy air strikes on targets Tripoli after "traditional means" of war had been exhausted to "liberate" Tripoli, said Commander Mohammed Manfour.

Israel's foreign minister attends climate summit in UAE

AP/JERUSALEM

Israel's Foreign Ministry says its chief diplomat attended an international climate summit in Abu Dhabi.

The ministry confirmed yesterday that Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz visited the United Arab Emirates and met with a senior UAE official and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the conference.

Israel and the UAE do not have formal diplomatic relations, but the two have developed increasingly close ties over shared concerns about Iran.

Katz says in a statement he was representing "the interests of the state of Israel before the Gulf Arab states."

Visits by senior Israeli officials to Gulf states are rare, but growing in frequency. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Oman last year, but Katz's visit was the first to the Gulf since last week's Mideast peace conference in Bahrain.

Somalia lodges protest after Kenya calls Somaliland a country

AFP/MOGADISHU

Somalia protested formally to Kenya, the foreign ministry in Mogadishu said yesterday, after Nairobi referred to the self-proclaimed Republic of Somaliland as a country.

Somaliland declared its independence in 1991 but is not recognised by the international community, which considers it an autonomous region of Somalia. Kenya invoked the ire of its war-torn neighbour last week after referring in a tweet to a meeting with Somaliland officials as covering "issues of mutual interest to both countries". Somalia's foreign ministry said it summoned Kenya's ambassador on Sunday and presented him a note of protest about the "offensive tweet".

"We consider this tweet an affront to Somalia's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as well as harmful to the relationship between Somalia and Kenya," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Somalia stands for good-neighbourliness, mutual respect and close cooperation with its neighbours, and expects the same from Kenya." Formerly a British protectorate, Somaliland merged with former Italian Somaliland in 1960 to create Somalia.

But it seceded and declared itself independent in 1991 as Somalia plunged into chaos after the fall of autocrat Siad Barre.

Somaliland has been pushing for independence ever since.

It has its own government based in the self-appointed capital of Hargeisa, its own army and prints its own currency.

Turkey, Russia prepping Syria summit

ANATOLIA/MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has discussed with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan holding another trilateral summit on Syria including Iran, the Kremlin said yesterday.

The event will happen soon, as the two leaders discussed the details at a meeting on the sidelines of last week's G20 summit in Osaka, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow.

"This was discussed at the meeting of presidents Putin and Erdogan, indeed, such a summit was discussed. There is an understanding that it will take place soon. As the final dates of this summit are confirmed, we will inform journalists," he said.

Turkey, Russia, and Iran are the guarantor countries that brokered a cease-fire in Syria in December 2016, leading to the Astana, Kazakhstan talks, which are running parallel to the Geneva peace talks.

Syria has been locked in a vicious civil war since early 2011, when the Assad regime cracked down on protesters with unexpected ferocity.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of people are believed to have been killed and millions more displaced by the conflict.

Mauritania poll body confirms Ghazouani as winner

AFP/NOUAKCHOTT

Ex-general Mohamed Ould Ghazouani was declared the official winner yesterday of presidential elections in Mauritania that opposition candidates claim were unfair.

The Constitutional Council, the final authority on Mauritania's founding law, rejected an opposition challenge and confirmed the CENI electoral commission's announcement that Ghazouani had won the June 22 poll with an absolute majority of 52 percent.

He will on August 2 officially take over the presidency from close ally Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who is stepping down after serving the maximum two five-year terms.

On Friday, Ghazouani hailed the beginning of "democratic pluralism" in the conservative West African country. The election represented Mauritania's first democratic transition of power since independence from France in 1960.

But on Sunday night, the four opposition candidates denounced alleged election fraud. There were some polling stations where Ghazouani officially "won 100 percent or more" of the vote, claimed candidate Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid, who officially received just over 18 percent of the vote.

35 dead as bus plunges into gorge in J&K

Three school students and the driver were killed in a separate bus accident in Himachal Pradesh yesterday.

AFP
SRINAGAR, INDIA



Residents and rescue workers gather at the site of a bus accident in the Kishtwar region in Jammu and Kashmir, in India, yesterday.

At least 35 people were killed yesterday when an overcrowded bus plunged into a gorge in Kashmir, officials said.

It was the second deadly crash in less than a week in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, renowned for its mountainous terrain and abysmal road safety record.

The bus skidded off a road in the remote Kishtwar region and fell into a deep, narrow valley, senior police official M K Sinha said.

Thirty-five people died in the accident and 17 were injured, local official Angrez Singh Rana said. Seven of the injured were in critical condition and were evacuated to a nearby hospital, he said.

A separate crash yesterday in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh state killed three school students and their driver, the Press Trust of India reported.

Last week, 11 students on their way to a picnic were killed when their bus fell into a gorge in Shopian district of Kashmir, officials said.

Some 150,000 people die in road accidents on average each year in India, according to official figures.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the loss of lives in the Kishtwar bus accident.

Calling it "heart-wrenching", Modi tweeted: "We mourn all those who lost their lives and express condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest."

Shah too said he was "extremely saddened to learn about the loss of lives".

"My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones," he tweeted.

The bus met the accident after it went out of the driver's control and plunged into a gorge near Sirgwari village.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah also expressed their condolences.

"Saddened to hear about the tragic accident in Kishtwar. Deepest condolences to families of the bereaved," Mufti tweeted.

Abdullah wished for a "swift recovery of the injured".

President's Rule in J&K extended for six months

IANS
NEW DELHI

President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was yesterday extended by another six months, with the Parliament giving its nod amidst the government's assertion that it would hold the Assembly polls in the state by this year end as and when the Election Commission (EC) takes a decision in this regard.

The Rajya Sabha yesterday adopted a statuary resolution for extending the President's Rule in J&K from July 3. The resolution was passed by the Lok Sabha on June 28.

J&K is under Central rule since June 2018, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pulled out of the coalition government with Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The Upper House also passed the amendment bill of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.

Replying to the day-long debate in which 27 members took part, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the government was not happy to extend the Central rule in J&K. He also said that the government did not want to govern the state through remote control, but this measure had to be taken because of certain difficulties.

He said the Assembly elections could not be held with the Lok Sabha polls because security forces expressed their inability to provide security to the candidates whose number would have been around 1,000.

According to Shah, security forces, which were already thinned out due to elections across the nation, would have been further burdened to provide cover for these candidates' neighbourhood and village rallies along with that of their senior party leadership.

Taking a swipe at Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad for saying that the Congress government had held elections in the state, Shah said, "I don't decide the poll timing. It is the EC which decides. Unlike you, we don't decide poll timings. If we do that, you will say that we are controlling even the EC," the Home Minister said, adding: "There is no drought of state governments for us. We have 16 state governments across the country. Only the security concern was the reason. It was the security forces and the state administration's suggestion not to hold polls now."

Two disgruntled Congress MLAs resign from Karnataka Assembly

IANS
BENGALURU

In a blow to the HD Kumaraswamy-led coalition government in Karnataka, two Congress legislators — rebel MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi and Anand Singh — yesterday sent in their resignations from the state Assembly.

In his hand-written letter in Kannada, faxed to the office of Assembly Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar, Jarkiholi complained his party had "ignored" his seniority after dropping from the cabinet last year.

"I have resigned as Gokak legislator for being ignored by the party and the coalition government," he said.

His resignation came within hours of Anand Singh, who represents Vijayanagar in Ballari, quitting to protest the Congress-JD-S coalition government's plans to sell over 3,667 acres in Ballari to JSW Steel Ltd. "I have submitted my resignation letter to Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar at his residence, as I am unhappy with the coalition government's decision to sell the land to Jindal.

"As I said last month that I would resign if the state government went ahead with the lease-cum-sale deed agreement with the Jindal steel company for mining in the entire area, I have submitted my resignation to the Speaker as I am willing to sacrifice anything for the welfare of my people," Singh told reporters. A three-time MLA from the mining-rich district, Singh was Tourism Minister in the BS Yeddyurappa-led BJP government (2008-13) and had joined the Congress before the 2018 Assembly elections.

He is on bail after the CBI arrested him in October 2013 for his alleged involvement in the iron ore export scam from the state's Belikeri seaport. After the Lok Sabha elections, the state cabinet decided to sell the mining land to Jindal steel plant at the cost of Rs1.20 lakh per acre.

Former Congress minister KH Patil also opposed the sale though the state government claimed that it was only honouring the lease-cum-sale agreement entered by the then government in 2006-07 when Kumaraswamy headed then JD-S-BJP coalition set-up.

SC to hear beef ban cases

IANS/NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) of India yesterday agreed to hear cases related to the beef ban in Maharashtra, even as one of the judges of the apex court recused herself from the matter.

Justice Indu Malhotra recused herself, stating that she had represented a party earlier as a lawyer. Justice Abhay Sapre, heading the bench, ruled that the three petitions will be listed before an "appropriate" bench by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. Petitions and cross-petitions have been filed in the top court, challenging various issues — the ban on cow slaughter, the Bombay High Court order allowing possession and consumption of beef brought into Maharashtra from outside, and the petition by Maharashtra government seeking revival of the legal provision criminalising carrying or keeping beef at home in the state.

CONDOLENCES

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision

offers its heartfelt condolences to

Roy George Kattoor
Acting Head of Editorial section, The Peninsula

on the sad demise of his

Mother

May God bless the departed soul and give fortitude to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Two planes overshoot runways

AFP
NEW DELHI

Two incidents of dangerous landings by commercial planes carrying more than 200 passengers were being investigated, Indian officials said yesterday. A state-owned Air India Express flight skidded off the runway and ended up in a muddy grass patch in the southern city of Mangalore late on Sunday. No one onboard the plane was injured, an official said. Officials in the western city of Surat said, meanwhile, they were also investigating a private airline after it overshot the runway on Sunday. The Spice Jet plane was carrying almost 50 passengers and crew. No injuries were reported.



Vehicles running along a flooded street after heavy downpour in Mumbai yesterday.

Four dead as rains pound Maharashtra

IANS
MUMBAI

A man was electrocuted in Mumbai and three others were killed in Solapur in a lightning strike as rains clobbered several parts of Maharashtra for the fourth consecutive day, disrupting normal life besides hitting air, road and rail traffic, officials said yesterday.

Mohammed Ayub Kazi, 30, was electrocuted inside his home in Shivajinagar in Govandi suburb in north-east Mumbai. He was taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where he was declared dead.

Three others, including a woman, were killed and two injured after being struck by lightning as they took shelter from heavy rain under a shed in Solapur yesterday afternoon.

"The five were waiting for the rains to subside in a tin shed near the Mandrup village when suddenly lighting struck them. The three killed are Parvati M Kore, 55, Chatursingh J Rajpu, 41 and Sanket D. Chormule, 17. The two critically injured have been rushed to the district hospital," Mandrup police official Baburao Rathod said.

One person was reported washed away in a drain due to heavy floods in near Medina Masjid in Vikhroli and the Mumbai Fire Brigade has launched a search for him, an official said.

Overnight heavy spells of rain inundated at least 137 spots all over Mumbai, including Dadar, Sion, Matunga, Parel, Wadala, Mahim, Santacruz, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Malad, Dahisar and virtually halted all vehicular movement, leading to huge traffic snarls since daybreak.

Flights to and from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport were delayed by 35 minutes owing to heavy rain and low visibility,

Six dead, over 100 injured in Taliban attack on Kabul

REUTERS
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Interior Ministry said four civilians and two policemen were killed in the attack and all four assailants were also dead. More than 210 people were rescued as the gun battle raged.

Taliban fighters killed six people and wounded 105 others by blowing up a truck bomb at morning rush hour near an Afghan Defence Ministry compound in Kabul yesterday.

After the blast, five gunmen took up positions in an unfinished building nearby, shooting at rescuers and fighting a battle with security forces for seven hours before themselves being killed.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

"The target was the Defence Ministry's technical installation," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

"Clashes ended with the death of all five attackers," said Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi. "Four civilians and two policemen were killed." He said more than 210 people had been rescued during the operation.

About 100 wounded people were taken to hospital, the Health Ministry said.

Fifty-one children in two schools near the blast site were hurt by flying shards of glass, the Education Ministry said.

The Pashto-language Shamshad TV, whose office was near the blast site, said one of its security guards had been killed and several employees had been hurt in the blast, which sent a plume of black smoke rising over the city and shook buildings.

The area has a cluster of military and government buildings, as well as an office belonging to the Afghan Football Federation, whose chief, Yosuf Kargar, was among several staff who were injured, according to spokesman Shafi Shadab.

President Ashraf Ghani called the attack on civilians a crime against humanity.

About 20,000 foreign troops, most of them American, are in Afghanistan as part of a US-led NATO mission to train, assist and advise Afghan forces. Some US forces carry out counter-terrorism operations.

Less than a week ago, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in Kabul that the Trump administration was hopeful that a peace deal with the Taliban could be achieved by September 1. Despite peace talks gaining momentum, fighting between the Taliban and Afghan forces who are backed by the foreign troops has raged across Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that 67 insurgents had been killed in 11 provinces in the previous 24 hours. The Taliban said their fighters had conducted 52 operations against Afghan forces in which more than 170 people had been killed.

Both sides accuse each other of exaggerating casualty figures.



Smoke rises from the site of the blast in Kabul yesterday.

Sirisena rejects appeal by UN chief to not resume hangings

AFP
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's president said yesterday he had rejected a telephone appeal by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to reconsider his push to reintroduce the death penalty after 43 years.

"I told the Secretary-General that I want to save my country from drugs," Maithripala Sirisena told a meeting in Colombo to mark his anti-narcotics drive.

"He telephoned me last week shortly after I signed four death warrants. I told him to please allow me to stamp out the drug menace," Sirisena said.

Sirisena told reporters on Wednesday that he had signed death warrants for four drug offenders, but did not give their names nor say when and where the executions would be carried out.

He accused the European Union of interfering in the internal affairs of his country, saying that EU diplomats had threatened him with tariffs if Sri Lanka went ahead with the executions.

"The EU told me that they will withdraw the GSP Plus (tariff concession) if I go ahead," Sirisena said. "This is interfering with the sovereignty and independence of our country. It is unacceptable." He also took a swipe at Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and at non-governmental organisations that had criticised him over his stance.

Wickremesinghe had on Sunday said that a majority of parliament members were against Sirisena's decision to resume executions.

Sirisena faces several court challenges to his decision to restore the death penalty.

Justice ministry sources said they were yet to fill the vacancies for two hangmen, although 26 candidates had been shortlisted for the job.

Islamabad, Kabul agree to refrain from hostile statements

INTERNEWS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Afghanistan have decided not to use public forums to blame each other or give 'hostile' statements against each other in order to build trust, considered vital to address some of the pressing issues facing the two neighbours.

The decision was taken during the recent visit of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to Islamabad, where he held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the top military leadership of the country.

This was Ghani's first visit since 2015 and was part of the latest efforts by Pakistan to improve troubled ties with Afghanistan.

Officials familiar with the closed-door meeting between Ghani and Imran, who were both assisted by their respective aides, said that both sides agreed that "to create better atmosphere, it was important that both countries must avoid blaming each other at public forums".

Officials said the two countries agreed to use "appropriate diplomatic channels" to convey concerns instead of resorting to giving public statements.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have remained tense for years largely because of the trust deficit. The Afghan leadership has often in the past publicly accused Pakistan for 'creating mess' in their country.

President Ghani also gave several statements pointing fingers at Pakistan for the unrest in Afghanistan. Islamabad, however, always dismissed such allegations and continued to reach out to Kabul for sorting out all issues through dialogue.

Hostile statements, according to officials here, contributed to further vitiating the environment between the two countries. They cited the recent example of Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and Afghanistan at Headingley, Leeds, where spectators from the neighbouring country attacked the Pakistani fans. "We can avoid such incidents if positive messages come from the leadership of the two countries," the official added while stressing that Pakistan never wanted to indulge in a blame game.

The official said Pakistan had also reservations on several issues including lack of action by Afghan authorities against groups involved in the cross-border attacks but it always tried to avoid accusing Kabul publicly.

"We are always willing to discuss such issues through diplomatic and other channels," the official added while requesting anonymity. The official said the Afghan president acknowledged that both sides need to bury the past and look to the future.

That positive sentiment was also reflected in a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office, in which it said that both Prime Minister Imran and President Ghani agreed to "open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of the two peoples and countries and for advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region." Observers, however, said a lot will depend on the outcome of the ongoing talks between the United States and the Afghan Taliban.

Nepal protester shot dead after boy dies in mining pit

AFP
KATHMANDU

One person was killed in Nepal when police opened fire on protesters after a 12-year-old boy drowned to death in a sand mining pit, officials said yesterday.

Angry crowds blocked the highway holding the young boy's body in the southern district of Sarlahi on Sunday, demanding the government stop rampant sand mining of rivers which they say is putting local communities at risk.

They were also demanding compensation for the family of the victim.

Local police chief Gopal Chandra Bhattarai said that a 26-year-old man was killed "in firing to contain agitated locals".

"Police was compelled to fire after nearly two dozen police personnel were injured by stones pelted by the protesters. Unfortunately, one person died in the firing," Bhattarai said.

The boy fell and drowned in the deep pit on Saturday when he had gone for a dip in the river as the temperature rose to 35 degrees Celsius in the area. His body was recovered on Sunday with help of local authorities.

"We were there to demand an end to rampant sand mining. Today, one child has died, tomorrow we might lose another one," said Ramkaran Mahato, who was standing next to the victim when the bullet hit.



Protest against gas price hike

People protest against natural gas price hike in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday.

Nine of a family murdered in Multan

REUTERS
LAHORE

A man shot his wife, their two children, and six of her family members yesterday and then burned the bodies when he set her family's home on fire in an alleged honour killing in central Pakistan, police said.

Muhammad Ajmal committed the attack as revenge for a suspected affair by his wife Kiran, said Imran Mehmood, a District Police Officer in Multan, where the killings occurred. Ajmal returned to Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a tailor, 25 days ago intending to carry out the killings, he said.

Mehmood said Ajmal confessed to the killings. "This is clearly an honour killing. He saw a picture of his wife with another man and believed she was having an affair," Mehmood said. "He does not repent his actions." In addition to killing his wife and their two children, Ajmal also killed his three sisters-in-law, two of their children, and his mother-in-law.

Ajmal and his father, who was with him at the time of the murder, are both in custody and have been charged with murder, Mehmood said. Police are searching for his brother, who is also believed to be involved.

Kiran's brother Ali Raza said Ajmal and his sister were having marital problems and she had recently moved back to Pakistan and was living with her family.

"I am left with just my father, my whole family is gone," he said.

Mehmood said Ajmal has not been assigned an attorney yet and Reuters was unable to contact any of his family members for a comment.

Pakistan adopted legislation against honour killings in 2016, introducing tough punishment and closing a legal loophole that allowed killers to walk free if pardoned by family members.

Police in Pakistan's most populous province of Punjab said recently that the number of such killings had fallen since the law was introduced.

Another arrest warrant issued for jailed Zardari

ANATOLIA
KARACHI

Pakistan's anti-corruption authorities yesterday issued an arrest warrant for already incarcerated former President Asif Ali Zardari in another graft case, local media reported.

Zardari, who served as the president of the country from 2008 to 2013, is already in the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), a corruption watchdog, for allegedly laundering more than Rs35bn ($300m) through fake bank accounts.

This is the second arrest warrant, in less than a month, for the former president who faces investigations for his alleged involvement in multiple corruption scandals, local broadcaster Dawn News reported.

Zardari has denied the charges.

The development came days after Zardari, the widower of the slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and Co-Chairman of the centre-left Pakistan People's Party (PPP), withdrew his bail applications in all the cases against him, announcing that he would face all the inquiries.

Zardari's supporters claim that these cases are being used to crack down on the opposition.

Opposition parties in the country accuse the government of using NAB for "political victimisation".

Established by former military ruler retired General Pervez Musharraf in 2000, the NAB has often been accused of targeting anti-government politicians.

Senior PML-N leader arrested

INTERNEWS/LAHORE

A senior leader of the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, Rana Sanaullah, was arrested by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) yesterday, officials of the anti-drug body confirmed to local media.

Rana Sanaullah, who is a Member of the National Assembly and president of the PML-N's Punjab wing, is said to have been arrested in a drugs-related case.

ANF officials confirmed to local media that the arrest took place near Sukheke area while Sanaullah was said to be travelling from Lahore to Faisalabad. They said a raiding party of the Lahore ANF arrested the senior PML-N politician and that investigation was underway. They added that Sanaullah was travelling with his guards when he was arrested. ANF officials declined to give any further details when asked for the reason for his arrest, but said that "our mandate is the fight against narcotics". The officials said they would issue a handout within an hour and give further details of Sanaullah's arrest.

HK police retake parliament from protesters

AFP
HONG KONG

Protesters who stormed the parliament tore down portraits of the city's leaders, hoisted a British colonial-era flag in the main chamber and sprayed the city crest with black paint.

Hong Kong police fired tear gas today to regain control of the city's parliament after thousands of protesters occupied and ransacked the assembly in an unprecedented display of defiance on the anniversary of the territory's handover to China.

The financial hub has been rocked by three weeks of huge demonstrations sparked by an unpopular bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland, but yesterday that anger reached levels unseen for years.

Masked protesters — mostly young and many wearing yellow hard hats — broke into the legislature after hours of clashes with police.

They ransacked the building, daubing its walls with anti-government graffiti, in an unparalleled challenge to city authorities and Beijing.

In a rare report on the civic action, China's Xinhua News Agency said the Hong Kong government "strongly condemns and deeply regrets the extremely violent acts committed by some protesters".

Police had warned of an impending crackdown, and just after midnight officers moved in from several directions, firing tear gas and wielding batons as they charged and sending plumes of smoke drifting across the city. Huge crowds of democracy activists earlier staged a march calling for Beijing-appointed Chief Executive Carrie Lam to step down and for a reverse of what they see as years of sliding freedoms.

But the atmosphere deteriorated as the day wore on, and a hardcore group of protesters breached parliament after hours of siege.

Once inside, they tore down portraits of the city's leaders, hoisted a British colonial-era flag in the main chamber and sprayed the city crest with black paint. "There are no violent protesters, just tyranny," read one banner, hoisted above the podium. "Hong Kong is not China," read another.



Police fire tear gas at protesters near the government headquarters in Hong Kong last night, on the 22nd anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China.

The past three weeks of rallies are the sharpest expression of fears over Chinese influence on the territory in decades. Protesters accuse Beijing of stamping down on the city's freedoms and culture with the help of unelected leaders.

But the increasingly hardline tactics from some protesters have alienated some, with a large counter-rally in support of the police taking place on Sunday.

Although Hong Kong returned from British to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, it is still administered separately under an arrangement known as "one country, two systems".

The city enjoys rights and liberties unseen on the autocratic mainland, but many residents fear Beijing is already reneging on that deal. Activists have organised a march every handover anniversary, calling for greater democratic freedoms — such as the right to elect the city's leader.

North Korea hails 'historic' Kim-Trump summit

AFP
SEOUL

North Korea yesterday hailed the weekend meeting between leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in the Demilitarised Zone as "historic".

The two leaders agreed to "resume and push forward productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", the official Korean Central News Agency said.

After a Twitter invitation by the US president on Saturday, the two men met a day later in the strip of land that has divided the peninsula for 66 years since the end of the Korean War, when the two countries and their allies fought each other to a standstill.

Kim and Trump shook hands over the concrete slabs dividing North and South before Trump walked a few paces into Pyongyang's territory — the first US president ever to set foot on North Korean soil.

"The top leaders of the DPRK and the US exchanging historic handshakes at Panmunjom" was an "amazing event", KCNA said, describing the truce village as a "place that had been known as the symbol of division" and referring to past "inglorious relations" between the countries.

New Zealand bans single-use plastic bags

AFP
WELLINGTON

New Zealand officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags yesterday, introducing hefty fines for businesses that continue to provide them.

Plastic pollution has become a growing global concern, with a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals injured or killed every year by becoming entangled in packaging or ingesting it through the food chain.

Companies that break New Zealand's ban will face heavy penalties, including fines of up to NZ$100,000 ($67,000).

French police under fire for teargassing climate activists

AFP
PARIS

The French police drew heavy criticism yesterday after officers were filmed spraying peaceful climate activists in the face with teargas during a sit-in on a bridge in Paris last week.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner has ordered an investigation into the incident on Friday during a protest by the "Extinction Rebellion" group over the government's environment policies.

A video shared on Twitter and since widely broadcast on news channels shows at least two officers spraying protesters at close range with cans of teargas, while the demonstrators try to shield their faces, boo the police and shout "non-violent!". The officers are then seen dragging the protesters off the street one by one.

One demonstrator, who gave her name as Flora, said that the police used teargas after some protesters that had earlier been forcibly removed from the sit-in returned to the scene. "They opted for a strategy of gassing people 20 centimetres from their faces," she said. The Paris police department said the officers had intervened to stop the protesters blocking traffic and that the demonstrators had been ordered "several times" to disperse.

Tokyo restricts exports to Seoul over wartime labour row

AFP
TOKYO

Japan yesterday imposed restrictions on exports used by South Korea's chip and smartphone companies, ramping up long-simmering tensions between the US allies over the use of forced labour during World War Two.

Seoul quickly hit back, saying the measures violated international law and threatening to raise the issue at the World Trade Organisation.

The move raises the stakes in a protracted dispute over South Korean court rulings requiring Japanese firms to compensate victims of a wartime forced labour policy.

The disagreement comes against the backdrop of decades of strained ties as the result of Japan's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

The new measures take effect from July 4 and will significantly slow the export of several key materials used by South Korea's chip and smartphone giants.

Japan said they were the result of a breakdown in trust with Seoul.

"The export control system is built based on international relations of trust," Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) said.

"After reviews by relevant ministries, it must be said that the relations of trust between Japan and South Korea have been significantly harmed," METI added. The new restrictions apply to three chemicals as well as the transfer of manufacturing technologies, removing them from a list that effectively allowed expedited export.

It means that exporters will now have to apply for permission for each batch they wish to export to South Korea, a process that takes around 90 days each time, local media reported. METI said it would also begin soliciting public comment on the removal of South Korea from a list of "white" countries that face minimal restrictions on technology transfer with national security implications.

South Korean trade official Park Tae-sung called the measures "unfair and in violation of international laws".

And Sung Yun-mo, minister of trade, industry and energy, said the government would "take necessary measures on the basis of domestic and international laws, such as bringing the case to the World Trade Organisation".

Indonesia arrests leader of JI

AFP
JAKARTA

Indonesian police said yesterday they had arrested the leader of Al Qaeda-linked extremist network Jemaah Islamiah, which carried out the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people.

Para Wijayanto was detained by counterterrorism police with his wife on Saturday at a hotel in Bekasi, a city on the outskirts of the capital Jakarta, National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said. Police said Wijayanto was a long-time leader of Jemaah Islamiah (JI), one of Indonesia's oldest terrorist groups, which was behind a series of deadly attacks in Indonesia.

Prasetyo said Wijayanto was also suspected in sending at least six batches of Indonesians abroad to fight in Syria, and provided support to militants in the terrorism hotspot of Poso on Sulawesi island. Al-Qaeda-linked JI was founded by a handful of exiled Indonesian militants in Malaysia in the 1980s.

More Manila water shortages ahead as reservoir dries up

AFP
BULACAN, PHILIPPINES

Fishermen now pick their catch from the shallow, muddy slosh of the depleted reservoir which feeds the Philippine capital, as drought once again leaves Manila residents with up to 17-hour-a-day water shortages.

The water dropped to critical levels last week at the Angat Dam reservoir in Bulacan, north of the capital.

The dam provides 97 percent of the city's water and hydrologists say it will take two or three storms to adequately replenish the reservoir and restore regular supply to the capital's 13 million people.

Tribesman living near the dam have noticed the rapid drop in water levels.

"We used to dive here to fish but... because the water is too low and muddy. Now, we just use our hands (to catch fish)," Guillermo San Jose said.

The state weather bureau said weekend downpours were not enough to fill the reservoir.

"We need continuous rain. If the rains stop, the water in the dam will again run out," hydrologist Danilo Flores said.



A fisherman of the Dumagat tribe commuting on a boat at Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Angat dam supplies Metro Manila and nearby provinces with water.

Sea-Watch 3 captain appears in Italy court

AFP
AGRIGENTO, ITALY

The German captain of a migrant rescue ship appeared in an Italian court yesterday, as her case sparked fresh tension between Rome and Berlin.

Sea-Watch 3 skipper Carola Rackete was arrested after hitting a police speed boat while entering Lampedusa port with 40 people rescued from the Mediterranean.

Her vessel, banned from docking by Italian authorities, knocked the speedboat while pulling up to the pier on Saturday after a two-week stand-off at sea.

The 31-year-old, who was escorted by police to court in the Sicilian city of Agrigento, stands accused of putting the speedboat and the safety of its occupants at risk. Rackete, who faces up to 10 years in jail if convicted, is likely to be released pending trial.



Carola Rackete (left), the Sea-Watch 3 captain, disembarks from a police boat, in Porto Empedocle, Italy, yesterday.

"My client will answer all the judge's questions," Leonardo Marino, one of Rackete's lawyers, said on arrival at the court. "Miss Rackete acted out of necessity and had no intention of using violence", he told journalists. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the hearing's only result can be "the release of Carola Rackete". "I will again make this clear to Italy," he added.

Maas had already said that someone who saves lives "cannot be a criminal".

Sweden deploys air defence missile system on Baltic island

AFP
STOCKHOLM

Sweden's armed forces said yesterday it had deployed a new air defence missile system on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea, following years of increased militarisation in the region.

"Through its geographical location the island provides essential military advantages in regards to protection and control of shipping, air control over the Baltic Sea and the ability to place military units and weapons systems," Sweden's Supreme Commander Micael Byden said in a statement.

In 2015, Sweden, noting a deteriorating security environment, decided to again place troops on the Baltic island just over a decade after the previous military presence on Gotland had been disbanded. The move followed Russia's annexation of Crimea, the conflict in Ukraine, incidents with Russian military jets entering Swedish air space and a major naval search operation in Stockholm's archipelago after a suspected submarine sighting.

The surface-to-air missile system deployed with the Gotland regiment is the BAMSE SRSAM, which was developed by Swedish defence company Saab during the 1990s and early 2000s. With a reach of 15 to 20 kilometres, the system means a "significantly" increased range of the anti-air capabilities of the Gotland regiment, according to the armed forces. Last year Sweden's government gave the go-ahead for the military to purchase American defence firm Raytheon's missile system Patriot.

EU leaders fail again to agree on top jobs

BLOOMBERG
BRUSSELS

European Union leaders failed for the second time in 10 days to agree who would take the bloc's top jobs, frustrating investor hopes for a swift decision and reinforcing a perception of deep division and paralysis.

Talks that lasted for more than 18 hours on Sunday and yesterday couldn't build enough momentum among the 28 leaders behind a proposal to make Dutch Socialist Frans Timmermans the head of the EU Commission, the bloc's executive branch. Leaders will resume their efforts today in Brussels, extending the marathon negotiations into a third day.

"Every time you think you are close to a deal, something happens that makes it impossible," Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel said after the meeting. "That's why we want to have more time to have further talks and so tomorrow we will reconvene."

Timmermans, who had been backed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, was opposed by many leaders in her center-right EPP group, who saw her backing for a socialist candidate for the bloc's most powerful job as a capitulation to demands by French President Emmanuel Macron. Several Eastern European leaders and Italy were also unhappy with her proposal, agreed last week on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Osaka, because of Timmermans's tough stance against populist governments.

Every time you think you are close to a deal, something happens that makes it impossible: Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel

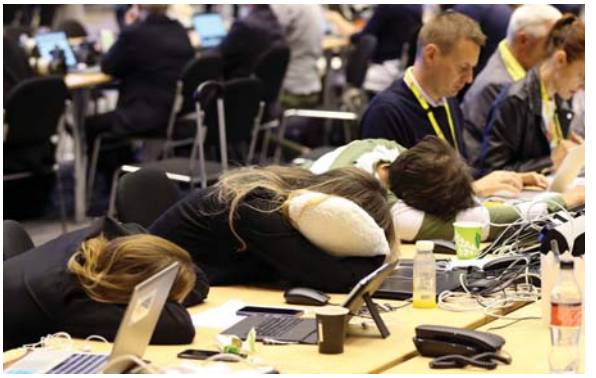
In some ways, the failure to reach consensus reflects a European political landscape that has become more fragmented after elections in May. The two dominant political groups, the EPP and the center-left S&D together lost 10 percentage points of the seats in that election, and they need the backing of Liberals to garner a majority required for the EU Parliament to approve whoever EU leaders nominate for the presidency of the EU Commission.

A deal on the commission, which proposes rules and supervises the EU's vast single market, is seen as a precondition for an agreement on the other top jobs which become vacant this year, including Mario Draghi's successor at the ECB.

The European Council of leaders may also find it has less room to manoeuvre as the EU parliament will choose its next leader in coming days, a post that had been part of the complex equation of backroom dealing. That was the reason leaders decided to continue their meeting on Tuesday, before the assembly returns from its European elections recess.

At the outset of Sunday's Summit, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic had echoed outgoing EU Parliament President Antonio Tajani's misgivings about a socialist executive. Borissov later worked to reach a compromise.

Who is to be the successor to Mario Draghi at the ECB was not formally discussed, so as not to further contaminate already difficult talks, even though France made clear it eyes the job for a female French official.



Journalists taking a break during the extraordinary summit of EU leaders, in Brussels, yesterday.

Finland takes over rotating EU presidency

ANATOLIA/BRUSSELS

Finland for the third time took over the EU Presidency, which has begun yesterday and will last until the end of 2019.

Every six months, the presidency of the council rotates among the EU member states.

Finland, which took over the term from Romania, is expected to focus more on Brexit, situation in Western Balkans, as well as appointment of heads to the leading institutions of the bloc.

Croatia will assume the rotating EU presidency in early 2020.

French authorities remove heat wave warning for Paris

REUTERS
PARIS

Paris authorities said yesterday that they had removed the amber-level heat wave alert that had been declared for the French capital since June 23, in the light of soaring temperatures across the country.

Paris had been spared the worst of the heat wave, which was at its most intense in the south of France, where record temperatures were recorded last week.

Although temperatures have eased mostly in the north of the country, Meteo France says average temperatures remain high in the south, with several administrative regions still on the 'level three amber' heat wave alert.

Crackdown on abandoned electric scooters in Lisbon

AP
LISBON

Authorities in Lisbon's old town are cracking down on what locals increasingly describe as a scourge — shared electric scooters abandoned on sidewalks.

The parish council which oversees the neighbourhoods around the medieval St. George's castle and the 18th-century downtown business district introduced fines of up to $340 yesterday for companies whose rented scooters litter sidewalks and other public spaces in the Portuguese capital.

The companies also have to cover the cost of the scooters' removal by officials.

Other European cities are also considering ways of balancing the needs of pedestrians and scooter riders.

British PM hopeful unveils no-deal Brexit plans

AFP
LONDON

British prime ministerial contender Jeremy Hunt pledged billions of pounds to mitigate the effects of a possible no-deal Brexit, but the country's finance minister dismissed the plans as unaffordable.

Hunt is vying with front-runner Boris Johnson to win the support of predominately pro-Brexit Conservative Party members, who will vote this month for Theresa May's replacement as prime minister.

Hunt, the foreign minister, who has previously said leaving the European Union without a deal "would be a mistake we would regret for generations", made yesterday his strongest commitment to back such a move by unveiling a 10-point plan.

"No-deal is obviously not my preferred destination. But if a withdrawal deal is simply not on the cards then the only way to fulfil the democratic mandate of the referendum is to leave without a deal, which is what we will do," he said at the Policy Exchange think-tank event in London.

His plan would cancel all leave in government departments in preparation for a no-deal exit from the EU, and slash corporate tax rates.

The government would also channel $7.6bn to industries most threatened by a no-deal Brexit. "We spent just over £1 trillion bailing out the banks after the financial crisis, so if we did it for the bankers then why wouldn't we do what is needed for our fishermen and our farmers?", he said.

Hunt plans to raid the £26 billion "headroom" built up by a decade of budget tightening since the financial crisis. "When you face an economic shock, it is just basic economics that you find support for the industries that are affected."

"It is temporary support, but it allows them to change their business models."

But finance minister Philip Hammond who oversaw much of those cuts immediately dismissed the plan.

"The 'fiscal firepower' we have built up in case of a no-deal Brexit will only be available for extra spending if we leave with an orderly transition," Hammond wrote on Twitter. "If not, it will all be needed to plug the hole a no-deal Brexit will make in the public finances."

Hunt's rival Johnson also said at the weekend that he would spend about £25 billion to fund his spending plans, including a promise to unfreeze public sector pay increases.

Hunt believes the EU will reopen negotiations if there is a serious threat of a no-deal, and said he would only ask for an extension to the current October 31 deadline if a deal was about to be struck.

Hunt made a thinly-veiled jibe at Johnson over his more vague plans for getting Britain out of the EU.

"Without the right prime minister and the right plan, Brexit is just a wing and a prayer," he said. "We can do better."



Firefighters heading to the site where an army helicopter crashed in Aerzen, northern Germany, yesterday.

German army helicopter crashes, 1 dead

AFP
FRANKFURT AM MAIN

An army helicopter crashed in northern Germany yesterday, killing the pilot, defence officials said, in the second fatal crash in a week for a military plagued with equipment problems.

The aircraft hit the ground in Aerzen, near Hamelin in northwest Germany, at around 1:45pm (1145 GMT). The reason for the crash is not yet known.

Firefighters rushed to the scene of the crash, which caused multiple blazes in a nearby forested area. The impact site is around 30km from Bundeswehr (German army) helicopter training centre in Bueckeburg.

The pilot was killed and one person injured, a defence ministry spokesman said.

Just a week ago two Eurofighter jets crashed in northeastern Germany after colliding in mid-air, with one pilot killed while a second ejected to safety.

The military recovered both planes' black boxes and was investigating the cause of the crash, while some politicians called for a ban on training missions over populated areas.

Germany has in recent years suffered a string of problems with military equipment, with only fractions of its fleets of tanks, ships and aircraft combat-ready at any time.

Russia proposes prisoner swap with US, says report

REUTERS
MOSCOW

Russia called on the United States yesterday to free Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko and proposed a prisoner swap with Washington to win the release of any American national held in Russia, Interfax news agency reported.

The comments may fuel speculation that Moscow is seeking a prisoner exchange involving Paul Whelan, a former US Marine arrested and held in Russia on spying charges that he denies and that he has likened to a political kidnap.

Yaroshenko is a pilot serving 20 years in the United States for conspiracy to smuggle cocaine into the country. He was arrested by US special forces in Liberia in 2010.

"Free Yaroshenko, swap him for an American or Americans who are serving their sentence here," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

The minister did not mention any specific US national being held in custody.

Whelan, who holds US, British, Canadian and Irish passports, was detained in a Moscow hotel room on December 28.

Appearing in court last month, he appealed to US President Donald Trump to intervene to help him, saying "we cannot keep America great unless we aggressively protect" US nationals wherever they are.

Whelan said in May that he was being threatened in prison and subjected to humiliation.

The US Embassy in Moscow said yesterday it had asked the Russian government to allow an independent assessment of his condition, but that the request had been denied and that Whelan's condition had worsened.

Ryabkov also urged the US to return confiscated Russian diplomatic properties as a first step towards mending battered relations between the countries.

Ryabkov spoke few days after Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Osaka.

Former Montenegro president, Momir Bulatovic, dead at 62

AP
PODGORICA

Momir Bulatovic **(pictured)**, who was the president of Montenegro during the turbulent breakup of the former Yugoslavia, died on Sunday at age 62, a close associate said.

Bulatovic died at his family's home near the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica, Milan Knezevic said,adding that Bolatovic apparently had a heart attack.

Bulatovic served as Montenegro's president from 1990 until 1998. He was an ally of then-Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who is widely seen as the main instigator of the ethnic wars that followed the breakup of the former Yugoslav federation.

Bulatovic was a founder of Montenegro's ruling Democratic Party of Socialists along with the country's long-serving leader, Milo Djukanovic. But the two split when Djukanovic turned away from Milosevic to eventually lead Montenegro to independence in 2006.

In the early 1990s, Montenegro sided with Serbia in the ethnic wars that tore the former Yugoslavia apart. During the 1992 to 1995 Croatian war, Montenegrin troops participated in the Yugoslav army's shelling of the ancient Adriatic walled city of Dubrovnik, drawing international condemnation.

Following the split with Djukanovic, Bulatovic remained staunchly pro-Serb and in 1998 assumed the post of the prime minister of then-Yugoslavia, which at the time included only Serbia and Montenegro after other nations split away.

He recently took part in protests by pro-Serb opposition in Montenegro against the country's 2017 Nato membership.

Knezevic, an opposition politician, said Bulatovic "left a permanent trace in the Montenegrin politics as a man who fought for his beliefs until the last day."

In Serbia, President Aleksandar Vucic expressed condolences to Bulatovic's family, saying he will be remembered for "consistently pursuing the policy of union between Serbia and Montenegro."



Panel expands probe into personal email use by White House aides

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

US Representative Elijah Cummings said the panel would begin its own review of e-mails and other communications by the White House that he said violated federal records law.

Top aides in President Donald Trump's White House, including his daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, will come under increased scrutiny for their use of personal e-mails and other unofficial messaging to conduct government affairs, a congressional oversight chairman said yesterday.

US Representative Elijah Cummings, the Democratic chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, said the panel would begin its own review of e-mails and other communications by the White House that he said violated federal records law.

"The purpose of this investigation is to determine why White House officials used non-official email accounts, texting services and encrypted applications for official business," Cummings wrote to White House Counsel Pat Cipollone.

Lawmakers will look at why records sent or received by non-official accounts were not forwarded to official accounts within 20 days as legally required, as well as whether there was a topic White House officials wanted to conceal, he said.

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

Trump pilloried his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, in the 2016 presidential campaign for her use of a private email server when she was secretary of state. He continues to refer to her e-mails in speeches and on Twitter.

The Republican leaders of the oversight panel had also sought information on use of non-official messaging by White House staff in 2017 and 2018. Democrats took over the panel after winning the House of Representatives in 2018 elections.

Cummings said the White House had not produced any documents in response to those requests or his own previous requests, saying it was conducting an internal investigation.

In March, Cummings wrote to the White House counsel with "more troubling information" about apparent violations by Kushner, Ivanka Trump and former advisers Steve Bannon and K T McFarland.

Cummings said that Kushner's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, had told lawmakers that Kushner used WhatsApp for official duties and that his wife, Ivanka, continued to use a personal email account for her White House business.

Lowell, in a reply to Cummings, denied telling lawmakers that Kushner had communicated through any app with foreign "leaders" or "officials" but said Kushner had used such apps for communicating with "some people," who were not specified.

CNN reported last year that Kushner communicated with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman via the Facebook Inc-owned WhatsApp messaging application.



Canada Day

Revellers participate in Canada Day Parade, in East York, in Toronto, yesterday. Canada Day commemorates the July 1, 1867 formation of Canada from three distinct colonies.

Ten dead as plane crashes in Texas

REUTERS
DALLAS

Ten people were killed when their private turboprop airplane crashed into a hangar during takeoff and burst into flames at the municipal airport in Addison, Texas, outside Dallas, an airport official said yesterday.

The twin-engine Beechcraft BE-350 King Air was destroyed by fire from the crash, according to Darci Neuzil, deputy director of Addison Airport, a general aviation facility located about 17 km north of downtown Dallas.

She said the plane had been headed for Florida when it took off at about 9am local time. Nobody on the ground was reported hurt.

The plane had just lifted off the runway at the south end of the airport when it veered left, dropped its left wing and slammed into the hangar, the *Dallas Morning News* reported online, citing Addison fire department spokesman Edward Martelle.

There were no survivors among the 10 people who were aboard the aircraft. Their identities were being kept confidential as authorities worked to notify next of kin.

National Security Adviser lashes out at North Korea nuclear freeze idea



AFP
WASHINGTON

US National Security Adviser John Bolton **(pictured)** lashed out yesterday at a report that Washington might settle for a nuclear freeze with North Korea, calling it a "reprehensible attempt" to box in President Donald Trump.

The unsourced report in the *New York Times* said officials hope the nuclear freeze idea might create a foundation for a new round of negotiations.

The development came after Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un met in the Demilitarized Zone on Sunday and agreed to resume working-level talks within weeks on the North's nuclear programme.

Kim and Trump shook hands over the border line at Panmunjom, the truce village that divides the peninsula, and Trump then walked a few paces into North Korean territory — the first US president ever to do so.

The *Times* said the nuclear freeze concept, which has been taking shape within the Trump administration for weeks, "essentially enshrines the status quo, and tacitly accepts the North as a nuclear power."

IIn a tweet, Bolton said he had read the story "with curiosity."

"Neither the NSC staff nor I have discussed or heard of any desire to 'settle for a nuclear freeze by NK.' This was a reprehensible attempt by someone to box in the President. There should be consequences," he wrote.

The US has insisted on North Korea's complete denuclearization as a condition for lifting punishing US sanctions.

Failure to reach an agreement over sanctions relief and what the North was willing to give in return led to the collapse of the US and North Korean leaders' second summit, which was held in February in Hanoi.

Democrats press case for Trump's business records

BLOOMBERG
WASHINGTON

US lawmakers have the right to see President Donald Trump's personal business records held by his accounting firm, attorneys for a Democrat-led House committee told a US appeals court panel.

"The Oversight Committee is investigating issues of national importance concerning ethics and conflicts of interest across the Executive Branch," the committee's lawyers said in papers filed with the Washington-based appellate court yesterday.

"Mr. Trump and his companies have continually engaged in stonewalling intended to obstruct and undermine these inquiries."

The argument is intended to rebut Trump's contention the committee isn't entitled to the documents, dating back to 2011, because they're not sought for a legitimate legislative purpose.

A lower court judge rejected that argument in May, prompting the president's private attorneys to appeal.

A three-judge panel comprised of two Democratic presidential appointees, David Tatel and Patricia Millett, and one Trump-nominee, Neomi Rao, is scheduled take up the case on July 12.

The Oversight committee's demand that Mazars USA LLP turn over Trump's business records parallels a separate House Financial Services Committee request for records from Deutsche Bank AG and Capital One Financial Corp. The president has appealed a New York federal judge's refusal to block those subpoenas. A hearing hasn't been scheduled in that case.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal has also said he will likely sue to compel the US Treasury Department to produce Trump's tax returns for the past six years.

Mexico leader plans to disband army

REUTERS
MEXICO CITY

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he would like to disband the army and put national security in the hands of the new National Guard militarised police force, though he recognised the proposal was unlikely to happen.

In an interview with Mexican newspaper *La Jornada*, the leftist president said he favoured guaranteeing the nation's security through the National Guard, which he formally inaugurated on Sunday.

"If were up to me, I would get rid of the army and turn it into the National Guard, declare that Mexico is a pacifist country that does not need a military and that the defence of the nation, if necessary, would be done by all," he said.

Only a few countries in the world have abolished standing armies, among them the Latin American nations of Costa Rica and Panama. Mexico's army has traditionally kept on the sidelines of international conflict, but has been deployed to tackle drug gangs since 2007.

Lopez Obrador recognised the political challenges to eliminating the military, adding: "I can't do it because there is resistance. One thing is what is desirable and another thing is what is possible."

The creation of the National Guard, which launched with 70,000 members and which Lopez Obrador intends to grow to 150,000 units across Mexico, has raised concerns about the militarisation of law enforcement in Mexico.

The president has already tapped the force, which was created by a constitutional change, to patrol the country's northern and southern borders in response to US President Donald Trump's demands that Mexico do more to contain migrant flows.

The National Guard has been assembled quickly, drawing on members of the armed forces and federal police, who have often been implicated in abuses during ongoing efforts to subdue gang violence.

Condemnations after Venezuela naval officer's death in custody

AFP/CARACAS

The United States and Venezuela's opposition condemned the death under "torture" of a naval officer detained for alleged trying to oust President Nicolas Maduro.

Washington blamed Maduro for the death of Rafael Acosta Arevalo, which came amid a standoff between Venezuela's opposition chief Juan Guaido and the president that's stretched for more than five months.

"The United States condemns the killing and torture of" Acosta, the State Department said in a statement.

The officer "died while in the custody of Maduro's thugs and their Cuban advisers," it added.

National Assembly leader Guaido, recognised as interim president by the US and about 50 countries, said that Acosta died "after being tortured."

Acosta was part of a group of 13 people arrested for alleged involvement in a failed "coup d'etat" against Maduro, which the government has tied to Guaido.

Maduro's government has claimed the coup was to have taken place on June 23 and 24 and involved the assassination of the president and several other senior officials.

The Lima Group, made up of a dozen Latin American countries and Canada, condemned the "assassination" of Acosta and called for the intervention of UNHCR.

Heat wave in Alaska fuels smoke and melts glaciers

REUTERS
ANCHORAGE

Alaska's heat wave is driving wildfires and melting glaciers, choking the state's biggest cities with smoke and bloating rivers with meltwater.

In Anchorage, home to about 40 percent of Alaskans, the National Weather Service issued a dense smoke advisory warning against prolonged outdoor activity, along with advisories for the elderly and the sick to stay indoors.

The culprit is the Swan Lake wildfire to the south in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, which has burned since a June 5 lightning strike and consumed more than 68,000 acres, fire managers said.

To the north, in Fairbanks, fire officials ordered evacuations in two areas and told residents in a third to be prepared to leave because of the Shovel Creek Fire, which had grown to 5,568 acres by Sunday.

"People should GO, evacuate NOW. Leave immediately. DO NOT delay leaving," the evacuation order said.

In all, there were 354 wildfires covering 443,211 acres in Alaska as of Sunday morning, according to state and federal fire managers.

Along with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, which had multiple active fires, iconic spots with fires burning include Denali National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Record warmth and near-record warmth in most of the state has created flammable conditions from the Canadian border in the east to the Bering Sea coast in the west.

Anchorage was one of the areas that saw record-breaking heat in June, which followed a record-warm spring for Alaska as a whole, said Rick Thoman, a Fairbanks-based climate scientist with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy.



A glacier is seen from Air Force One near Anchorage, Alaska, yesterday.

Melting glaciers and mountain snowfields are bloating rivers and streams across a large swath of south central Alaska, the NWS said.

The melt has brought water levels to flood stage at the Yentna River northwest of Anchorage yesterday, said NWS forecaster Bob Clay.

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People to match technology as top business investments

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Brookfield buys rail operator Genesee for $8.4bn



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QFZA to create new free zone in Msheireb Downtown

MOHAMMAD SHOEB
THE PENINSULA

Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) is planning to create a new free zone in Msheireb Downtown Doha which will be home to the upcoming Media City and top-class IT companies. This was announced by H E Ahmad Al Sayed, Minister of State and Chairman of QFZA.

The Media City, being established under the Law No. 13 of 2019, aims at managing and developing media activity in Qatar, and enhancing its position as a venue for attracting international media, technology companies, research and training institutions in the media and digital media, in addition to supporting and promoting digital and technological media projects, achieving economic and professional integration. Global IT giant Microsoft has already got a cabinet approval for establishing a global data centre in Qatar called 'Azure Cloud Computing'.

"We are identifying the third free zone area in Msheireb Downtown which will be dedicated to media and other offices to provide platform to top technology companies,"Minister Al Sayed told DVZ, a leading German logistics publication in a video interview in Germany.

Al Sayed added: "I think we have a unique value proposition and can built on that to create the best business environment and ecosystem for the companies who are coming to register with us."

During the interview, which was conducted on the sidelines of the recently concluded Transport Logistics Exhibition in Munich, the Chairman of QFZA noted that Qatar has developed the needful infrastructure and put in place all the necessary conditions which are required to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

In addition to providing a detailed outlook of the robust Qatari economy and its journey from the development of its oil and gas industry to the social sector and key infrastructure development, he also highlighted



H E Ahmad Al Sayed, Minister of State and Chairman of QFZA.

the important features and benefits of the other two free zones--Ras Bufontas and Umm Alhoul--, which are strategically located adjacent to the world-class Hamad International Airport and the iconic Hamad Port, respectively.

"We have reached to a stage where we have all the elements and favourable conditions around us to welcome FDI and other investors to run their businesses from Qatar," said Al Sayed, adding that Qatar today has high quality education centres; several leading American universities have opened branches in Doha, and Qatar has also developed state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. "We have 14 top schools on the ground, most of them are international schools. We have world-class infrastructure facilities developed at a cost of over $200bn."

He also noted that Qatar is not only the GTL (Gas-to-Liquid) capital of the world, but also the sport capital of the Middle East as the country is preparing to host 2022 Fifa World Cup, to be held for the first time in the region. Qatar recently won Asia Cup (football) by beating four-time champion Japan.

"If you look into everything around us, we are well-positioned to emerge as a regional hub for many things. We have resources; high level of commitment to develop and diversify our economy; and we have the social, physical and economic infrastructure, the QFZA Chairman added.

Qatar's game-changing economic reforms to trigger growth: PwC

SATISH KANADY
THE PENINSULA

Qatar's ongoing localisation initiatives, privatisation, and digitisation efforts are some of the important developments to watch out in 2019, in terms of the country's future growth. The non-oil growth will be boosted by localisation drive, including the QP-led Tawteen initiative, PwC noted in its "Qatar Economy Watch", yesterday.

On the localisation drive, the PwC analysts said the "Tawteen" program, launched in February, aims to add at least QR8bn a year in value to the economy, create thousands of high-skilled white-collar jobs and help to develop SMEs. This will be achieved through a focus on In-Country Value (ICV). This calculates the portion of revenue of each of QP's suppliers that is spent on local goods and services, workforce training, local supplier development, and investment in fixed assets.

"(Qatar's) economy has recovered from a period of low energy prices and the impact of the regional blockade and is looking ahead to new opportunities. These will come as a result of economic reforms, such as the new foreign investment law, as well as from projects such as the North Field LNG expansion and preparations for the 2022 World Cup. Other important developments to watch out for in 2019 include localisation, privatisation, and digitisation efforts, the opening of new free zones, and infrastructural improvements such as the ongoing rollout of Metro services and the launch of 5G networks", said Bassam Hajhamad (**pictured**), Country Senior Partner, PwC.

The PwC noted Non-oil growth will be boosted by Qatar's ongoing localisation drive. In addition to the QP-led Tawteen initiative, a new round of digital investment—supported by the launch of 5G networks, new government platforms and technology ranging from blockchain to AI—offers growth potential in many sectors.

Qatar's localisation has been supported by public procurement policies and by incubating local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including through Qatar Development Bank. The focus on localisation has intensified in the last few years, ranging from local agricultural production, like Baladna's dairy farming, to many of new light manufacturing facilities.

On the privatisation front, Qatar has been giving a growing emphasis on harnessing the private sector as an engine for growth. The government has already handed over control of some previously public companies, such as Ooredoo, to private shareholders. Even in downstream industries, although QP has maintained control it has shared equity



Qatar's economy has recovered from a period of low energy prices and the impact of the regional blockade and is looking ahead to new opportunities.

ownership through IPOs, most recently of Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company's (Qamco) last year.

Looking ahead, there is growing interest in utilising public private partnerships (PPPs) to both develop infrastructure and deliver services. The existing regulatory framework is flexible and robust enough to implement PPPs. However, Qatar is introducing dedicated PPP Law and regulatory guidelines. This will define a clear governance regime for delivering PPP projects, sending a strong market signal that the government intends to ensure that the projects are bankable and are executed in a way that delivers social and economic benefits.

Qatar has a low tax environment, outside of the hydrocarbons sector, and ranks 2nd globally in the Paying Taxes1 report developed by PwC and the World Bank. The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) already offers a separate tax and legal environment for certain financial and business service firms.

The state has recently allocated $2bn to incentivise foreign investors in these areas through tax holidays, office costs and seed capital. Multinational businesses value a tax territory which helps prevent double taxation and mitigates risk related to compliance with disclosure requirements in other jurisdictions.

The Qatari authorities have worked to create such an environment, including through over 60 double-tax treaties and signing up to both the Base Erosion and Profits Shifting (BEPS) Inclusive Framework and the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent BEPS. Notably, unlike some low-tax territories, Qatar has not appeared in the EU's blacklist of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

The formation in early 2019 of the General Tax Authority (GTA), as an independent body with increased resources, should help further improve the tax environment.

QIC Group wins 'Best Digital Transformation in Insurance Award'

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar Insurance, the largest insurer in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, has been conferred the "Best Digital Transformation in Insurance Award" at the inaugural edition of the Enterprise Transformation Summit that was recently held in Doha. The summit recognised enterprises that demonstrated massive shift in operations as a result of embracing digital transformation.

QIC Group was awarded for its advanced digital capabilities, implementing best-in-class digital technologies in the Retail and Medical Insurance space, thus creating a highly sophisticated and interactive digitized platform for its full suite of online insurance products and services. Not only did this lead to enhanced customer engagement, but it also facilitated increasing overall responsiveness, efficiency and speed.

QIC Insured, the personal insurance division uses its highly digitised online portal www.qic-insured.com for selling insurance products, namely, car, home, travel, Personal Accident Benefit Insurance (PAB) & claims services.

The digitised platform facilitates interconnectedness with several home grown tools such as Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software that has completely transformed QIC Insured's online offering and enriched overall customer experience.

www.QLM-Online.com, QIC's home grown core medical insurance software facilitates Group Medical Insurance business for QIC's Health & Life entity QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. Hospitals and clinics that fall under QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. provider network submit e-claims & prior authorizations to QLM electronically through the online portal. This development has indeed improved efficiencies and reduced time lags significantly.

Commenting on the new accomplishment, Senior Deputy-Group President & CEO of QIC Group, Ali S Al Fadala, said:"QIC is honoured to receive this prestigious award, which highlights the Group's in-house expertise at managing its digital platform & digitised processes."

Qatar-based startup set to disrupt Mena hiring ecosystem

SATISH KANADY
THE PENINSULA

9to5.ai, the cutting-edge Qatar-based startup is set to disrupt the region's talent hiring industry ecosystem. The Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered startup is fast changing the way talent finds jobs and solves the talent hunt problems in Mena.

Currently, the job seekers are sick of the long time they take to apply, to hear back from potential employers as hiring managers have to filter through thousands of unqualified applicants. The AI-powered 9to5.ai helps automate the recruiting process by creating better matches, resulting in a faster-easier-cheaper-happier hiring process, claims 9to5.ai's Co-Founder and a rising entrepreneur Ahmed Mohamed Isse.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* yesterday, Ahmed, who would like to describe himself as a Growth Marketer, said the hybrid model 9to5.ai can mesh together job boards and traditional recruiters, creating a tool where companies can get matched almost instantly to top talent that will match their requirements by over 99 percent, and candidates can get job offers



Ahmed Mohamed Isse speaking to *The Peninsula*, yesterday. PIC: QASSIM RAHMATULLAH/ THE PENINSULA

straight to their inbox without applying.

"9to5.ai is a talent marketplace using artificial intelligence to match companies and their open roles to top talent who are actively looking for jobs, or open to move for the right opportunity, that they've sourced and pre-vetted.. Thanks to our AI-powered platform, we change the recruiting landscape for the better. We provide assistance from beginning to end, from sourcing, qualifying, AI-enabled opportunity matching and scheduling," he said.

On traditional job boards, people will come and just apply. The traditional way is receiving the resume and vetting it before getting the candidates actually on board, which will takes months. Another problem faced by the hiring companies is that only 2 percent of the registered talents have relevancy to the target jobs. "We are here to disrupt this long, time consuming process by using algorithm and AI. We can offer the hiring industry highly qualified candidates whom exactly they are looking for," Ahmed said.

Launched in 2018, 9to5.ai, was founded by a three-member team including Ahmed. The founders came together from different backgrounds of engineering, business consulting, and from the nyc tech world, but with one united vision to help companies in Mena grow with better talent both locally and abroad. A rising entrepreneur, born and raised in Qatar, Ahmed's parents came from Somalia over 30 years ago. He attended the College of North Atlantic in Qatar and studied in Information systems.

With major expansion plans, 9to5.ai is currently looking to raise Series A funding. Series A funding is the first round of institutional funding that could be led by one or more investors.



Qatargas officials and the long-serving employees posing for a group picture.

Qatargas recognises employees at Long Service Award Ceremony

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas) recently recognised more than 1,200 employees at its annual Long Service Award ceremony. The Long Service Award recognises employees for their valuable contribution to the Company over many years of continuous service.

Commenting on the Long Service Awards, Khalid bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer, Qatargas, said: "The Long Service Award recognises the long-term contribution of Qatargas employees, and the crucial role they play in the success of the company. Their commitment enables Qatargas to reliably supply LNG to our global customer portfolio, and reinforce our position in the market as the World's Premier LNG Company."

Qatargas offers employees a unique opportunity to be involved in making history happen. The Company operates 14 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trains with a production capacity of 77 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), with work underway to increase annual production to 110 mtpa. To safely achieve business objectives, Qatargas has developed a structured programme to train, recognise, acknowledge and reward the accomplishments of its employees. Attracting, developing, motivating and retaining a high calibre, diverse workforce forms the basis of the Company's human capital strategy.

Qatargas uses its diverse workforce, as a source of strength and leverages the knowledge and expertise of its workforce and shareholders. In particular, Qatargas is committed to developing its National workforce with its Qatarization development plan, which prepares National employees with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in key roles in the Company.

Doha Bank participates in 'Majd Qatar' launch

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Doha Bank, one of the largest commercial banks in Qatar, participated in the launching ceremony of the "Majd Qatar" campaign and celebrated the publication of its third book edition, which documents the success stories of the governmental and private institutions in recent years that form part of the economic, social and scientific renaissance in Qatar.

Doha Bank's participation in the launching ceremony of "Majd Qatar" book comes under the guidance of Sheikh Fahd bin Mohammed bin Jabor Al Thani, Chairman of Doha Bank, and Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed bin Jabor Al Thani, Managing Director of the Bank, as part of the bank's commitment to supporting the vision of the country's wise leadership and raising awareness of the investment opportunities in Qatar's economy.


Ahmad Ali Al Henzab, Head of Administration & Properties, Doha Bank receiving trophy and appreciation certificate form Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulla bin Mohamed Jabor Al Thani, Chairman, Tawasol Center during the launching of Majd Qatar campaign.

Doha Bank's participation comes under the guidance of Sheikh Fahd bin Mohammed bin Jabor Al Thani, Chairman of Doha Bank, and Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed bin Jabor Al Thani, Managing Director of the Bank.

Ahmad Ali Al Henzab, Head of Administration and Property, represented Doha Bank in the ceremony. He delivered the closing speech, in which he stressed the importance of Doha Bank's role in developing local banking and its keenness to fulfill its social and economic responsibilities towards the citizens and residents of Qatar.

In his speech, Al Hanzab reviewed the most important social, charitable and environmental projects undertaken by Doha Bank each year to develop Qatari communities and support the national economy.

Commenting on honouring Doha Bank in the ceremony, Al Hanzab said: "Doha Bank, one of Qatar's largest private commercial banks, recognizes the fact that no business can succeed if the community is falling apart, this realization, which remains today the core of our mission, is the main motivation for being one of the supporters of the initiatives that contribute to the development of the community since its inception in 1979 up to date.

Qatar's Tawasul Center has launched the book "Majd Qatar" (Qatar Glory) at a ceremony held at the Museum of Islamic Art, on Tuesday, June 25. The book aims to reveal the pillars of the Qatari renaissance achievements and milestone over the past two years of the blockade imposed on the nation, and to inform the public of the ability of state institutions and society."

He added that this will also promote and achieve advanced indicators in all areas. ww This is an ideal opportunity to emphasize the wisdom and perseverance of the Qatari leadership's vision and to honour those who contributed to building this beloved country and to highlight and document their achievements.

LUSAIL

Lusail Real Estate Development Company (LREDC) is tendering for Manufacture and Installation of Vehicular and Pedestrian Signage

Tender No.: 55012210

Tender Title
Manufacture and Installation of Vehicular and Pedestrian Signage

Brief Description of Work
Lusail City seeks to appoint an experienced contractor to supply and install vehicular and pedestrian signage.
1. Vehicular Signage - The scope involves design and execution of foundation, structural support and sign faces as a complete element in accordance to Ashghal standard design and details.
2. Pedestrian signage as per Lusail design – The scope involves design and execution of Foundation, structural support and sign faces as a complete element.
3. All required Electrical design and works for the above as a complete element as addressed in Lusail Tender document.

Eligibility of Tenders
1. Tenderers shall have a valid Commercial Registration in Qatar.
2. Tenderer shall be in the approved vender list of Ashghal wayfinding and signage works.
3. Tenderer shall have experience in similar works and completed a minimum of one (1) Highway project with Ashghal in Qatar during the last three (3) years.

Tender Bond Value
QAR 1,120,000, Valid for 180 days from The Tender Closing Date. (cash will not be accepted)

Bid Closing Date
Wednesday 28th August 2019, not later than 12:00 noon local Doha time

Tender Document Collection Location:
Document Control Section, Archive Building
Lusail Site Office, Doha, State of Qatar.
Tel.: 44977629 Fax: 44977563

Tender Document Collection Date & Time
From Sunday 30th June 2019 onward, between 09.00am. to 01.00 pm. (except Friday & Saturday).

Tender Fee
A non-refundable cheque (cash will not be accepted) in the amount of One Thousand Qatari Riyals (QAR 1,000) made out to Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company and submitted to the Finance Department of Qatari Diar at Lusail Site Office.

Required documents in order to collect the Tender Documents are as follows:
1. Copy of the Company Commercial Registration in Qatar
2. Company Authorization letter and ID of the person who will collect the Tender Document.
3. Presentation of the receipt for the tender fee submitted to the Finance Department of Qatari Diar in Lusail Site Office.
4. Completed Confidentiality Undertaking which shall be collected from the above mentioned office or requested by Fax.

MARKETWATCH

QSE	FTSE100	DOW	CRUDE
10,560.13	7,502.32	26,737.62	$59.30
+104.46 PTS	+76.69 PTS	+137.66 PTS	+0.83
1.00%	1.03%	0.52%	Dow & Brent before going to press

People to match technology as top business investments

THE PENINSULA
DOHA


The investment priorities of business leaders around the world tell us a lot about the near future and how well leading decision-makers are preparing for it."

About a third of businesses expect to change radically in the next two years, from what they sell to where they work, as they seek growth opportunities in a fast-changing world. But while technologies like robotics top their spending plans, firms are now prioritizing investment in the well-being and future skills of their people, according to a new HSBC survey.

'Navigator: Made for the Future', a survey of over 2,500 companies in 14 countries and territories, shows that 34 percent of decision-makers think their technological focus will 'totally' change over the coming 24 months, with a further 45 percent expecting 'slight' change. As they seek to become more customer-centric and to boost productivity, over half (55 percent) plan to invest more in research and development.

Nearly as many though (52 percent) will boost spending on skills training and 43 percent on employee well-being; ahead of logistics (42 percent), plants or equipment (34 percent), and 'bricks and mortar' premises (29 percent).

Abdul Hakeem Mostafawi, Chief Executive officer of HSBC Qatar **(pictured)**, said : "The investment priorities of business leaders around the world tell us a lot about the near future and how well leading decision-makers are preparing for it. A majority of business leaders accept that and know that in the face of radical change, the best preparation is investing in people and technology. In Qatar, investing in human capital is one of the pillars of the 2030 Vision."

By upskilling employees and adopting innovative technologies, the end goal for businesses is to become more efficient, more customer-centric and greener. Over half the companies surveyed plan to increase their investment in customer experience (52 percent) and 45 percent will raise spending to become more environmentally sustainable over the next two years. Almost a quarter (24 percent) want to become greener to attract and retain talented staff, and 30 percent are feeling pressure from customers to improve in this area.

A number of new technologies have already been embraced by businesses and include A.I. (41 percent), the Internet of Things (40 percent), wearables (37 percent) and facial/image recognition (38 percent). The biggest benefits of employing these four technologies are improvements in productivity, customer experience and product or service quality.

While 76 percent of companies think technologies will make their staff more productive and 72 percent think they will enhance well-being, 59 percent also said they think they'll need fewer workers in the future. Three in five (60 percent) intend to introduce or increase flexible working practices to enhance well-being and adapt to a rebalancing between human and automated output. Interviews for the 'Navigator: Made for the Future' survey were conducted in Australia, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, the UAE, the UK and the USA in May 2019.

Asia's factories falter in June

REUTERS
TOKYO



A series of predominantly downbeat business surveys and official indicators released yesterday followed the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, where leaders on Saturday warned of slowing global growth and intensifying geopolitical and trade tensions.

Factory activity shrank in most Asian countries in June as the simmering US-China trade conflict put further strains on the region's manufacturing sector, keeping policymakers under pressure to deploy stronger steps to avert a global recession.

A series of predominantly downbeat business surveys and official indicators released yesterday followed the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, where leaders on Saturday warned of slowing global growth and intensifying geopolitical and trade tensions.

The United States and China agreed at the summit to restart trade talks after President Donald Trump offered concessions including no new tariffs and an easing of restrictions on tech company Huawei, providing some relief to businesses and financial markets.

But analysts doubt the truce will lead to a sustained easing of tensions while lingering uncertainty could dampen corporate spending appetite and global growth.

"It's too early to turn optimistic. The two countries just kicked the can down the road and there's no knowing what could happen next," said Yoshiki Shinke, chief economist at Daiichi Life Research Institute in Tokyo.

"Global manufacturing activity hasn't hit bottom yet. US business confidence, particularly that of manufacturers, has been weakening and if this continues, it may hurt economies across the world." In China, Asia's economic engine, the Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) came in at 49.4, falling short of market expectations and the worst reading since January.

It was the first time in four months that the keenly-watched index has fallen below the neutral 50-mark dividing expansion from contraction on a monthly basis.

Japan also saw manufacturing activity contract in June to hit a three-month low, offering fresh evidence of an economy under the pump as global demand weakens.

Separately, a Bank of Japan (BOJ) survey showed big manufacturers' confidence hit a near three-year low, keeping its central bank under pressure to maintain or even ramp up a massive stimulus programme.

In South Korea, factory activity shrank at the fastest pace in four months in June as the global trade slowdown deepened, prompting companies to cut production.

Activity fell in Malaysia and Taiwan, a sign the US-China trade conflict's impact on the rest of Asia was broadening.

In India and Indonesia, where factories are less dependent on external demand for business, activity continued to grow albeit at a slower pace.

Vietnam's factory activity expanded at faster pace although new orders rose at their slowest pace since February. The Southeast Asian economy has been a rare beneficiary of the trade war as manufacturers shift their Chinese operations to the country to sidestep US tariffs.

The US-China trade war has hurt business sentiment, threatened to disrupt supply chains and jolted financial markets, drawing warnings by policymakers over the widening fallout on the global economy.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde welcomed the resumption of trade talks between the two countries, but warned that more needs to be done to resuscitate a global economy that had already hit a "rough patch." Heightening worries over global growth have forced some Asian central banks, such as those in Australia, New Zealand and India, to cut interest rates.

While the G20 leaders said they stand ready to take further action to prop up growth, many major economies have little fiscal and monetary space to battle another recession.

Expectations of a US Federal Reserve interest rate cut have put pressure on the European Central Bank and the BOJ to follow suit, despite their dwindling options to arrest stalling growth.

"If the Fed cuts rates, the BOJ and the ECB must do something more powerful to contain currency appreciation," said Sayuri Shirai (**pictured**), a former BOJ policymaker who is currently professor at Japan's Keio University.



Brookfield buys rail operator Genesee for $8.4bn

BLOOMBERG/TOKYO

An affiliate of Brookfield Asset Management Inc. agreed to buy Genesee & Wyoming Inc. for $8.4bn including debt to expand its global portfolio of rail companies with a 120-line network spanning North America, Europe and Australia.

Brookfield will pay $112 a share in cash, a 39.5 percent premium from G&W's close on March 8, the last day of trading before Bloomberg News reported that the railroad was exploring a possible sale.

Buying G&W will hand Brookfield more than 3,000 customers, alongside a resilient cash flow. The company, which already attracted activist investor Blue Harbour Group LP, doesn't compete directly with the largest North American railroads such as Union Pacific Corp., CSX Corp. and Canadian National Railway Co. It also has operations in Australia, the UK and continental Europe.

"This is a rare opportunity to acquire a large-scale transport infrastructure business in North America," said Sam Pollock (**pictured**), chief executive of Brookfield Infrastructure. "G&W will be a significant addition to our global rail platform and will expand our presence in this sector to four continents."

The shares have risen 35 percent in the year to date, compared with a 17 percent gain in the Standard and Poor's Midcap 400 Index. The stock is valued at 23 times estimated earnings, compared with the industry gauge, which is trading at 16.6 times. The transaction is expected to close by early 2020.

CROSSWORD

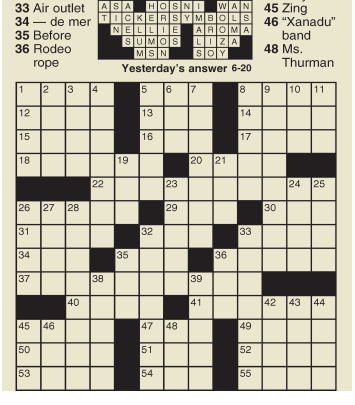
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15 Diner employee
16 Gerund ending
20 Stoic philosopher
22 Baseball film starring Robert Redford
26 Kathmandu's land
29 Census stat
30 Chemical suffix
31 Exploits
32 LPs' successors
33 Air outlet
34 — de mer
35 Before
36 Rodeo rope
37 Baseball film starring Kevin Costner
40 Hawaiian island
41 Phase
45 Quick look
47 Extended lunch?
49 "Doing my best"
50 Vogue rival
51 Brit. record label
52 April forecast
53 D.C. insiders
54 Squealer
55 North Sea feeder

DOWN
1 Bygone Peruvian
2 Betting group
3 Teensy bit
4 Stately duo?
5 A deadly sin
6 Long time
7 Slaloms
8 Reeves of "Speed"
9 Dieters count them
10 "Right you —!"
11 "Kidnapped" monogram
19 Stanley Cup org.
21 Paris summer
23 Consumer crusader Ralph
24 Curry and Landers
25 Jared of "Panic Room"
26 Feeling no pain
27 Birthright barterer
28 Helter-skelter
32 Squad car
33 Dracula, for one
35 College URL ender
36 Vegas lead-in
38 Minnesota's 10,000+
39 Custom
42 Listending abbr.
43 First bed
44 Emmy-winning Daly
45 Zing
46 "Xanadu" band
48 Ms. Thurman

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-20



MALL

Thamasha (2D/Malayalam) 2:00pm; **Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil)** 2:30 & 11:30pm; **Baaji (2D/Urdu)** 4:30pm; **Anna (2D/Action)** 7:00pm; **Article 15 (2D/Hindi)** 9:00pm; **Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy)** 7:15, 9:30 & 11:30pm; **Aladdin (2D/Comedy)** 5:00pm; **Kabir Singh (2D/Hindi)** 8:30pm; **Yesterday (2D/Comedy)** 6:30pm **Thottappan (2D/Malayalam)** 11:30pm;

LANDMARK

Unda (2D/Malayalam) 2:30 & 9:15pm; **Aladdin (2D/Comedy)** 4:45 & 7:00pm; **Kabir Singh (2D/Hindi)** 2:00pm; **Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil)** 11:30pm; **Toy Story 4 (2D/Animation)** 3:00, 5:00 & 6:45pm; **Article 15 (2D/Hindi)** 9:00 & 11:30pm; **Men In Black International (2D/Action)** 5:00 & 7:00pm; **Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy)** 11:30pm

AL KHOR

Thamasha (2D/Malayalam) 12:30, 6:00 & 11:30pm **Thottappan (2D/Malayalam)** 10:45am & 8;15pm **Anna (2D/Action)** 10:30am, 6:45 & 12:00pm **Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil)** 3:15 & 8:45pm; **Dharma Prabhu (2D/Tamil)** 3:45pm; **Unda (2D/Malayalam)** 1:00 & 9:15pm; **Toy Story 4 (2D/Animation)** 1:30 & 6:00pm; **Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy)** 3:45 & 11:00pm

ROXY

Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy) 11:00, 11:30, 1:20, 2:00, 3:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10,11:00, 11:20 & 11:30pm **Article 15 (2D/Hindi)** 10:30am, 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00 & 11:40pm; **Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil)** 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:15pm & 12:00 midnight; **Toy Story 4 (2D/Animation)** 10:30am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50 & 9:10pm **Unda (2D/Malayalam)** 10:30am

6-20 CRYPTOQUIP

UV ZNRRUXM RHXTYEXKBYZR MYYG LQ LUY QVV ZQHYR, EDXL GQ OQN LDUMB LDYO EUKK CXBY? TQRCQ-BMQLR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TWO WEASELLIKE MAMMALS ARE INSEPARABLE. I THINK THEY'RE PROBABLY IN A SABLE RELATIONSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

ROYAL PLAZA

Thamasha (2D/Malayalam) 2:15pm; **Toy Story 4 (2D/Animation)** 2:30, 4:15 & 5:30pm **Kabir Singh (2D/Hindi)** 4:30pm; **Article 15 (2D/Hindi)** 6:00 & 11:30pm; **Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy)** 7:30 & 11:30pm; **Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil)** 3:00pm; **Men In Black International (2D/Action)** 730 & 9:30pm **Hanna's Homecoming (2D/Mystery)** 9:30pm **Unda (2D/Malayalam)** 11:15pm;

FLIK Mirqab Mall

Aladdin (2D/Comedy) 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35pm & 0:15am **Anna (2D/Action)** 11:00am, 1:20, 3:05, 5:20, 8:20 & 10:35pm; **Annabelle Comes Home (2D/Comedy)** 10:45am, 12:55, 3:40, 6:00, 9:00, 10;15, 11:15pm & 0:25am; **John Wick 3: Parabellum (2D/Action)** 22:05pm; **Men In Black International (3D)** 10:00am, 11:10am, 12:20, 1:30, 2:40, 4:00, 5:00, 6:20, 7:35, 8:40, 9:50, 11:00 & 0:05am; **Thamasha (2D/Malayalam)** 9:25 & 12:00pm; **Toy Story 4 (2D/Animation)** 10:35, 11:50, 12:40, 1:55, 2:45, 3:50, 4:50, 5:55, 6:55, 7:20 & 8:00pm **Yesterday (2D/Comedy)** 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35 & 7:50pm

ASIAN TOWN

Sindhubaadh (2D/Tamil) 12:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30pm **Thamasha (2D/Malayalam)** 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00 & 11:45am **Unda (2D/Malayalam)** 7:00pm; **Thottappan (2D/Mal)** 3:15 & 8:15pm **Article 15 (2D/Hindi)** 5:45 & 10:45pm

Note: Programme is subject to change without prior notice.



BAAJI

Baaji is a thrilling and a dramatic tale set against the background of a fading Lollywood and the emergence of a new order in Pakistani cinema. The story focuses on a fading star, Shameera, who yearns to make a comeback and her relationship with a young girl, Neha, from inner city Lahore, who has big dreams of her own.



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TOWERS

BEVERLY HILLS TOWER (WEST BAY): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat w/ centralized A/C, bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining room & kitchen. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, biggest spa in Qatar w/ treatment rooms, massage centre, children's play area, children's swimming pool, sauna room, steam room, coffee shop, beauty salon for men & women. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours help desk, security, maintenance & limousine service. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5554 0779/ 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 6600 2394 / 5589 0207 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE (WEST BAY): Fully furnished 2 bedroom flat: 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, children's play area, children's swimming pool, sauna room, steam room, Jacuzzi & library. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Security, maintenance & concierge. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5554 0779 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0462 / 5589 0207 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE (WEST BAY): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat, bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, children's play area, children's swimming pool, sauna room, steam room, Jacuzzi & library. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 Security, maintenance & concierge. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5554 0779 /5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE (WEST BAY): Fully furnished 2 bedroom flat: 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, children's play area, children's swimming pool, sauna room, steam room, Jacuzzi & library. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Security, maintenance & concierge. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5554 0779 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0462 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BEVERLY HILLS TOWER (WEST BAY): Fully furnished 3 bedroom flat w/ centralized A/C, 3 bathrooms, guest toilet, maid's room w/ attached bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen . PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, biggest spa in Qatar with treatment rooms, massage center, children's play area, children's swimming pool, sauna room, steam room, coffee shop, beauty saloon for men & women. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 Security, maintenance, Limousine service & concierge. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 55540779/ 5589 0462 / 6600 4636 /5551 2734 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 3 (THE PEARL): Semi furnished two bedrooms duplex with terrace in brand new tower in Vivia Bahriya Swimming pool, gym, steam and sauna, & kids play area FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 3329 4321 or EMAIL: a.tamer@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 3 (THE PEARL): Semi furnished two bedrooms duplex with terrace in brand new tower in Vivia Bahriya Swimming pool, gym, steam and sauna, & kids play area FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 3329 4321 or EMAIL: a.tamer@alasmakhrealestate.com

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REGENCY PEARL 3 (THE PEARL): Semi furnished one bedroom apartment in brand new tower in Vivia Bahriya Swimming pool, gym, steam and sauna, & kids play area FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 3329 4321 or EMAIL: a.tamer@alasmakhrealestate.com olha.yarmoliuk@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 1 (THE PEARL): Fully furnished Studio type, bathroom, living & dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, coffee lounge, & kid's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Help desk, security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974)7024 6642/ 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 or EMAIL: thepearl1.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 2 (THE PEARL): Fully furnished Studio type, bathroom, living & dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, coffee lounge, & kid's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Help desk, security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 55898292 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 or EMAIL: thepearl.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 1 (THE PEARL): Fully furnished Studio type, bathroom, living & dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, coffee lounge, & kid's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Help desk, security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 or EMAIL: thepearl1.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 2 (THE PEARL): Fully furnished Studio type, bathroom, living & dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, coffee lounge, & kid's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours Help desk, security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 7024 6642/ 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 5554 1608 / 5552 6140 or EMAIL: thepearl1.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY PEARL 1 (THE PEARL): Fully furnished 1 bedroom + office, bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, coffee lounge, kid's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security, maintenance & concierge . FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5587 8193 / 5589 8292 / 6600 2394 / 6600 2356 or EMAIL: thepearl1.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

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UMM BAB TOWER (WESTBAY): Fully furnished 2 bedroom, 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, guest toilet, kitchen, living & dining area. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Indoor swimming pool, fully equipped gym, laundry, children's playground & basement parking. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 33294321 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0462 or EMAIL: westbay.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

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COMPOUND

VILLA DESTE 2 (AL WAAB): Semi furnished 3 bedroom villa: Master's bedroom w/ attached bathroom, shared bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym & billiard. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours maintenance & security. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 33521713 / 5551 2734 /5589 8292 / 6600 1329 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

VILLA DESTE 2 (AL WAAB): Semi furnished 3 bedroom villa: Master's bedroom w/ attached bathroom, shared bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym & billiard. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours maintenance & security. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 33521713 / 5551 2734 /5589 8292 / 6600 1329 / 5589 0207 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BEVERLY HILLS GARDEN 10 (Al WAAB): Semi furnished 4 bedroom villa: 3 bathroom, guest toilet, laundry room, living & dining area, kitchen w/ split AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, Billiard, Children's play area, Gymnasium. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3352 1713 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 5589 0207or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

AIN KHALID GATE: Fully furnished 4 bedroom villa with 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, shared bathroom, guest toilet, maid's room, laundry room, 2 living room, dining area, kitchen w/ centralized AC's, backyard area & private swimming pool. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming Pools, outdoor Jacuzzi, modern Gym, indoor Jacuzzi, sauna room, steam room, outdoor tennis court, indoor squash room, mosque, supermarket, laundry shop, nursery school & car wash service. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5561 7926 / 5585 5271 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0462 / or EMAIL: ainkhaled.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

AIN KHALID GATE: Fully furnished 2 bedroom villa with 2 bathroom, kitchen (open and closed) w/ centralized AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming Pools, outdoor Jacuzzi, modern Gym, indoor Jacuzzi, sauna room, steam room, outdoor tennis court, indoor squash room, mosque, supermarket, laundry shop, nursery school & car wash service. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5561 7926 / 5585 5271 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0462 / or EMAIL: ainkhaled.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BEVERLY HILLS GARDEN 2 (AL WAAB): Semi furnished 4 bedroom villas: 2 Master's Bedroom with attached bathroom, , family room, shared bathroom, guest toilet, spacious seating area with balcony, maid's room with bathroom, living and dining room, kitchen, shaded car park and backyard. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, billiard room, tennis court, sitting lounge and children's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3352 1713 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BEVERLY HILLS GARDEN 1 (AL WAAB): Semi furnished 4 bedroom villas: 2 Master's Bedroom with attached bathroom, , family room, shared bathroom, guest toilet, spacious seating area with balcony, maid's room with bathroom, living and dining room, kitchen, shaded car park and backyard. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, billiard room, tennis court, sitting lounge and children's play area. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3352 1713 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BEVERLY HILLS GARDEN 13 (AL WAAB): Semi furnished 4 bedroom villas: 2 Master's Bedroom with attached bathroom, , family room, shared bathroom, guest toilet, maid's room with bathroom, living and dining room, fully equipped kitchen, . PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, fully equipped gym, male and femal sauna room, male and female changing room. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3356 7156 / 3343 3168 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 66004636 / 5589 0207 or EMAIL: doha.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

Q BEL AIR COMPOUND (LAQTAH): Semi furnished 5 Bedroom villa: 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, shared bathroom, closed kitchen & guest toilet. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, tennis court, billiard & multipurpose hall. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3329 4321 / 6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 / 5589 0207 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

Q BEL AIR COMPOUND (LAQTAH): Semi furnished 5 Bedroom villa: 2 Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, shared bathroom, closed kitchen & guest toilet. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, tennis court, billiard & multipurpose hall. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3329 4321 / 6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: alwaab.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

COMPOUND APARTMENT

AIN KHALID COMPOUND (AIN KHALID): Fully furnished 2 bedroom flat: 2 bathoom, living & dining area & kitchen. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, restaurant, supermarket & kid's play area. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: akc.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

AIN KHALID COMPOUND (AIN KHALID): Fully furnished 2 bedroom flat: 2 bathoom, living & dining area & kitchen. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool, gym, restaurant, supermarket & kid's play area. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: akc.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BUILDING APARTMENT

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 1 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat: Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna room, Jacuzzi & Steam room. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 6600 1329 / 3399 4266 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 3 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 3-bedroom flat: Master's bedroom, bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Fully Equipped Gym,. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 / 6600 2394 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE ALSADD 3 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 3 bedroom flat: Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, shared bathroom, guest toilet, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 Hours security, maintenance & concierge. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 /6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 10 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 3 bedroom flat: Master's bedroom with attached bathroom, shared bathroom, guest toilet, living and dining area kitchen with centralized A/C. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 /6600 2356 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 12 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat: bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen w/ Split A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Fully equipped gym. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 12 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat: bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen w/Split A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Fully equipped gym. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AL SADD 13 (AL SADD): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat: bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 6600 2394 / 55890207 / 5552 6140 / 66004636 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE MUSHEIREB 1 (MUSHEIREB): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat, bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen w/ centralized A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Indoor Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna and steam room, Jacuzzi, Billiard. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5570 1724 / 5593 6758 / 3399 4266 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: musherieb.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AIRPORT 1 (DOHA AREA): Fully furnished 1 bedroom flat, bathroom, living & dining area kitchen w/ split AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool & Gym. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hour security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3356 7156 / 3039 5287 / 6600 4636 / 5551 2734 or EMAIL: doha.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AIRPORT 1 (DOHA AREA): Semi furnished 2 bedroom flat, bathroom, living & dining area kitchen w/ split AC's. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool & Gym. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hour security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3356 7156 / 3039 5287 / 5589 8292 / 6600 1329 or EMAIL: doha.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY RESIDENCE AIRPORT 2 (DOHA AREA): Semi furnished 2 bedroom flat, bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen w/ split A/C. PROPERTY AMENITIES: Swimming pool. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hour security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3356 7156 / 3039 5287 / 5585 0413 / 3343 3168 or EMAIL: doha.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BIN DIRHAM 1 (MANSOURA): Unfurnished 2 bedroom flat: shared bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3039 5287 / 3356 7156 / 6600 2394 / 6600 2356 or EMAIL: romel.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

BIN DIRHAM 5 (MANSOURA): Unfurnished 2 bedroom flat: shared bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3039 5287 / 3356 7156 / 5552 6140 / 5589 5956 or EMAIL: romel.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

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DOHA GARDENS (AL WAAB): Fully furnished 3 bedroom flat: Master Bedroom, shared bathroom, living & dining area & kitchen. PROPERTY SERVICES: 24 hours security & maintenance. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3310 2646 / 6600 1329 / 5585 0413 / 5554 1608 or EMAIL: alsadd.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

ONE COMPANY DEAL

BRAND NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (WAKRA): Unfurnished 15 Units of 2 bedroom flats: bathroom, kitchen, living & dining area. . FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3039 5287 or EMAIL: romel.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

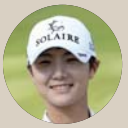
OFFICE & SHOWROOM

AL ASMAKH TOWER (WESTBAY): Brand New Office Tower w/ centralized A/C: male & female toilet per floor & pantry. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 33037738 or EMAIL: tony.allam@alasmakhrealestate.com

REGENCY BUSINESS CENTER 3 (GRAND HAMAD STREET): Commercial Office Space w/ centralized A/C, toilet & pantry, common area cleaning, security with CCTV & Sprinkler fire safety system. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 3039 5287 / 3356 7156 / 5554 1608 or EMAIL: doha.leasing@alasmakhrealestate.com

OFFICE COMMERCIAL BUILDING: Commercial Office Space w/ Basement, Ground + 2 Floors, 114 Parking Slots. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (+974) 5589 0207 / 4448 5111 / 4041 0725 or EMAIL: a.gramonte@alasmakhrealestate.com

It would definitely be good to be back on the top, but to be honest, there was a lot of pressure when I was the No.1.



Park says World No.1 rank sometimes has been a mixed blessing.

TODAY'S ACTION

FOOTBALL
FIFA Women's World Cup (semi-final)
England vs USA

CRICKET
ICC World Cup
India vs Bangladesh at Birmingham

Horse owned by Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani wins in Germany

French King extends unbeaten record

THE PENINSULA
DOHA



Jockey Olivier Peslier, who guided French King to victory in Hamburg poses for a picture on Sunday.



Action from the Group 2 Grosser Hansa-Preis race in Hamburg on Sunday.

After annexing the HH The Amir Trophy (Gr1) and Carl Jaspers-Preis (Gr2) earlier in the season, French King, owned by Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani, stretched his unbeaten record this season to three at Hamburg on Sunday.

The four-year-old chestnut colt landed his new group in the Group 2 Grosser Hansa-Preis.

At the early stages of the 2400-metre run, the son of French Fifteen stayed in third keeping Royal Youmzain in his sights. He pounced after the leader Oriental Eagle switched left with 300m to go. With Olivier Peslier astride, French King's brilliant turn of foot enabled him to nail the race after effortlessly going clear.

Jaber Abdullah's Royal Youmzain was the runner-up for trainer Andreas Wohler with Eduardo Pedroza in the saddle. Stall Reckendorf's Colomano completed the frame. He was saddled by Markus Klug and ridden by Adrie de Vries.

The winning trainer, Henri-Alex Pantall, said that his charge will now be aimed at the Grosser Preis von Berlin (Gr1), adding that a return to Qatar during the winter could also be on the cards.

It is worth mentioning that French King's victory in Carl Jaspers-Preis (Gr2) in May this year made him the first Umm Qarn-bred horse to take home a Group success for thoroughbreds in Europe. On Sunday, he confirmed his class by adding another similar victory in less than two months and the success of Umm Qarn's breeding operation.

McIlroy sees no need for superstar caddie

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Rory McIlroy has little interest in following Jason Day's example and teaming up with a so-called superstar caddie, the Northern Irishman said in the wake of Day's decision to hire the sport's best known bagman.

Day coaxed Steve Williams out of retirement starting at the recent US Open, saying he thought the veteran caddie's experience would be an asset as he tried to play his way back to world number one status.

Williams caddied for Tiger Woods in 13 of the American's 15 major victories.

Day's decision to hire Williams raised the question of whether other top players might follow suit, perhaps trying to lure someone such as Jim 'Bones' Mackay, who worked for Phil Mickelson for 25 years.

McIlroy has been using his lifelong friend Harry Diamond for nearly two years now, with the Northern Irishman saying that he no longer needed an old hand on the bag.

"Maybe back in the day when I wasn't as experienced, but I've been on tour for 12 years," McIlroy said in a recent interview.

"Caddies don't hit the shots. I want someone out there I'm comfortable with first and foremost that's the big thing for me and that's why I have Harry on the bag."

Diamond is expected to work for McIlroy at next week's Scottish Open and the following week's British Open at Royal Portrush, where McIlroy shattered the course record with an 11-under-par 61 in the 2005 North of Ireland Amateur Championship.

McIlroy, 30, has not tasted victory in one of golf's four biggest championships since 2014.

His previous caddie J.P. Fitzgerald was on the bag at all four of McIlroy's major victories between 2011-14.

Nasser takes adventurous spirit to another level

THE PENINSULA
DOHA



Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah and his co-driver Mathieu Baumel pose for a picture during their SxS buggy adventure at the 6 Hours Endurance Race in Orleans.

Three-time Dakar Rally winner Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah took his adventurous spirit to another level as he joined co-driver Mathieu Baumel on a new adventure on the French terrains, taking their SxS buggy to the 6 Hours Endurance Race in Orleans.

The Qatari champion took on the six-hour endurance race of Orléans.

Al Attiyah and Baumel tested the French terrains of Orléans in six continuous hours of off-road racing.

"This is a new type of race for us. It's casual, more about having fun and enjoying the experience. The goal of participating in a rally like this is we get to know the drivers and the organizers. We're still exploring these kinds of events", said Al Attiyah.

The challenge behind endurance races is to see how long the drivers and their vehicles can go on for. Coming in first would be a bonus, and that's exactly what the dynamic duo plan to do.

"We had a great day at the qualifiers, setting the fastest time and securing the first position. This means that we'll be taking off as the first out of 52 cars. We're always aiming for the best", explained Al Attiyah.

Al Attiyah and Baumel partnered up with French rally veteran Thierry Magnaldi, and all three took part as drivers during the main event. The race wasn't a piece of cake for the dream team who had out their utmost effort to stay in the lead. Yet Mechanical failures came in their way. "This will still be a very special experience for us and we will definitely come back again for more SxS adventures with Nasser next year," added Baumel.

Ferrari decide not to appeal

AFP
SPIELBERG

Ferrari decided not to appeal the decision to uphold Max Verstappen as winner of Sunday's spectacular Austrian Grand Prix in the best interests of Formula One, said team boss Mattia Binotto.

The Italian explained that Ferrari believed the decision to confirm Red Bull's victory, after examination of Verstappen's wheel-banging passing move on Charles Leclerc, was wrong, but they respected the stewards' decision.

The stewards said it was "a racing incident" and did not merit any further action.

The ruling brought Verstappen his and Red Bull's first win of the season and in 11 races, ending Mercedes' record run of season-opening victories.

"We still believe this is a wrong decision, that's our own opinion," said Binotto.

"We believe that Charles left the entire space, he had no fault, a collision has happened and he has been pushed and forced off the track. "We believe these are clear rules, which we may appreciate or not -- and these are exactly the same rules which have been applied in past races.

"Having said that, we respect fully the decision of the stewards. They are the judge and we need to respect that and more than that I think that as a Ferrari fan, I think it's time for F1 to turn the page and to look ahead." Ferrari's decision came just a week after the French Grand Prix where their bid to overturn another decision - against a five-second penalty that deprived Sebastian Vettel of victory in Canada - had failed at a stewards' hearing.

"As we often said, we should leave the drivers free to battle," he added.

"So, we may not be happy at the decision, we are not supporting the decision, but somehow we understand the fact that we need to move forward and, overall, I think that's good for the sport and good for F1."



Kevin Durant of the Golden State Warriors reacts against the Toronto Raptors in the first half during Game Five of the 2019 NBA Finals at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Canada in this June 2019 file picture.

Durant opts for Nets as NBA free agent frenzy begins

AFP
LOS ANGELES

Two-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Kevin Durant announced on Sunday that he will leave the Golden State Warriors, his team since 2016, to join the Brooklyn Nets.

The 30-year-old star forward made his announcement on social media moments after the start of the NBA's free agency period, saying he will sign a maximum-level deal with the Nets.

Durant commands top dollar despite suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon in game five of this year's finals, and is expected to miss all of the 2019-20 season.

"Kevin Durant has confirmed he will sign a max deal with the Brooklyn Nets," said a post on the Instagram and Twitter accounts of The Boardroom, his company-owned sports-business network.

A max deal for Durant would be worth some $164m over four years. The Warriors could have offered him $221m over five years to stay.

Under NBA rules, teams cannot sign contracts with players until Saturday, but there was still plenty of action in the opening hours of the free agency period.

Multiple US media outlets reported that Boston Celtics playmaker Kyrie Irving would be joining Durant in Brooklyn on a four-year deal worth $141m.

It could give the Nets a formidable duo once Durant returns from an upcoming year of rehabilitation, provided Durant can regain the form that helped power the Warriors to the 2017 and 2018 NBA crowns.

Durant had the Warriors looking like champions again this year before a right calf injury sidelined him. He missed nine games before returning in game five of the NBA Finals against Toronto. He scored 11 points in 12 minutes before suffering the ruptured tendon that required surgery two days later.

Durant and Irving were both reported to be targets of the New York Knicks -- who were coming off a league-worst 17-65 season and had cleared salary cap space to sign proven talent to join their inexperienced squad.

India defend Dhoni after limp end to chase

AFP
BIRMINGHAM


India's MS Dhoni hits a four during the ICC Cricket World Cup match against England at the Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Sunday.

India team bosses yesterday defended M.S. Dhoni after the wicketkeeper-batsman came under fire for slow batting towards the end of his side's World Cup defeat to England.

Chasing a stiff target 338 to win, previously unbeaten India needed 71 runs from the last five overs of Sunday's match at Edgbaston, with veteran big-hitter Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav at the crease.

But the pair added just 39, scrambling singles but failing to find the boundary regularly, to finish on 306-5. Dhoni was unbeaten on 42 off 31 deliveries while Jadhav was 12 not out off 13 balls.

The two batsmen were criticised in the Indian press and on social media, with pundits labelling their approach as "baffling".

But assistant coach Sanjay Bangar said the criticism levelled at the former captain surprised him, adding that 37-year-old Dhoni was "doing the job for the team".

"Except for one odd innings, he has done the job for the team," said Bangar. "If you see the earlier games, against South Africa he stitched together a partnership of 70 (the partnership was 74) with Rohit (Sharma). After that, what was required of him against Australia he did that.

"In Manchester on a difficult track (against West Indies) he got a vital fifty for us. Here also he was striking the ball really well. I'm surprised that this question continues to come up every now and then." A powerful middle-order batsman who led India to World Cup glory at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in 2011, Dhoni's finishing prowess has recently been questioned.

Earlier in the current tournament he faced flak for his slow knock against Afghanistan, when he scored just 28 off 52 deliveries.

Bangar said England's excellent bowling was the reason for India's struggles in Birmingham, rather than Dhoni's alleged lack of intent.

"If you look at the way they bowled towards the end, they used the dimensions really well and created difficult angles for our batters to hit," said Bangar.

"In those large boundaries and with the type of balls they were bowling -- slower bouncers, a lot of into-the-wicket deliveries, slower balls, I just felt maybe last one or two overs, the difference between runs required and balls left were a bit too much."

> **Here also he was striking the ball really well. I'm surprised that this question continues to come up every now and then: Sanjay Bangar**

Rising star Rishabh Pant impressed with his cameo at number four and Bangar said the young batsman would keep his place in the side for today's match against Bangladesh, also at Edgbaston.

The 21-year-old Pant, who joined the team in the middle of the tournament after an injury to opener Shikhar Dhawan, made 32 off 29 balls.

India need one win from their remaining two matches to guarantee a place in the World Cup semi-finals.

India aim to seal semis spot with Bangladesh win

AP
BIRMINGHAM


Bangladesh's captain Mashrafe Mortaza attends a training session at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday, ahead of their 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match against India.

When India's players get on the bus to Edgbaston for their Cricket World Cup match against Bangladesh, there's one thing they can no longer take onboard: An unbeaten record.

That should spur India on Tuesday, two days after a 31-run loss to England at the same venue, as it seeks again to join Australia in the semi-finals.

India was criticized for its slow run chase on Sunday, with MS Dhoni appearing unhurried until it was too late.

It sparked claims that India was already thinking ahead to the semifinals by concentrating on its net run-rate and keen to avoid losing any more wickets. India captain Virat Kohli saw it in far simpler terms, saying England's bowlers were hard to score against.

That won't placate the conspiracy theorists, who will note how desperate India wants to win today in terms of its final four place.

The semi-finals next week are No. 1 vs. No. 4 at Old Trafford, and No 2 vs. No 3 at Edgbaston, which turns more.

India has an outside chance of topping standings leader Australia. India, even if it wins its last two matches, is more likely to finish No. 2. But it still has a shot at finishing the group stage No. 1. Regardless, it will be without allrounder Vijay Shankar for the rest of the tournament after he broke his toe while facing teammate Jasprit Bumrah in the nets two weeks ago. Shankar has been replaced by Mayank Agarwal, a top-order batsman who has played two Tests for India but has no ODI experience.

The key player for India remains Kohli. The master of the white ball, with 41 ODI centuries, has hit 382 runs in the tournament at an average of 63. After getting only 18 in India's opener against South Africa, his scores in the five completed matches since then have been 82 (against Australia), 77 (Pakistan), 67 (Afghanistan), 72 (West Indies) and 66 (England). Mohammed Shami went for 69 runs against England but took five wickets. Fellow Bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravindra Jadeja, both handy with the bat, could be set to return for India.

"If you don't have major contributions from the middle order then someone like Bhuvneshwar Kumar lower down becomes really important," Bangar said.

"Anyone who is handy at No. 8, and it could be Jadeja, gives you some freedom. It takes the pressure off those batting at six and seven so that they can start going at the bowling a little earlier."

After losing to England, India expressed some concern over the short boundary at Edgbaston but Bangar wasn't bothered, saying "it will be the same wicket and same ground for both teams."

Bangladesh has beaten India five times - admittedly in 34 matches - and once at the World Cup, so won't be intimidated. Instead, it is highly motivated as it has an outside chance of advancing.

It has a game in hand and will go level with fifth-placed Pakistan, one point behind England, if it beats India.

Pakistan and Bangladesh meet in their last group game on Friday at Lord's in a match which could potentially offer the winner a coveted last-four place.

Roy's return gives England needed boost

AP
BIRMINGHAM


England's Jason Roy (right) plays a shot during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match against India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, central England, on Sunday.

Jason Roy and James Vince make a good double act for England: Roy hits bowlers, Vince catches batters.

England revived its struggling Cricket World Cup campaign on Sunday with a 31-run win over previously unbeaten India, and opener Roy played a key role after missing three games with a left hamstring injury.

So did Vince, the man he replaced in the team, who took two catches as a substitute fielder because Roy was unable to field.

Roy, an explosive right-hander, smashed 66 before he was the first to depart in a 160-run opening partnership with Jonny Bairstow, who made 111.

Roy appeared to run between the wickets competently but carefully. But he did not come on to field during India's innings. England said Roy took a blow on his forearm from India pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

"When he was batting, he got hit on the arm and had quite a big bruise. It is just a bruise, and he should be fine," England captain Eoin Morgan said.

England called on Vince's services and he ended up taking two catches off Liam Plunkett to dismiss two major threats from India - Virat Kohli for 66 and Hardik Pandya for 45.

As well as his half century against India, Roy also hit 54 against South Africa in the tournament opener and blasted Bangladesh's attack for 153 in 121 balls, including 14 boundaries and five sixes.

That innings remains the second highest score of the tournament after David Warner's 166, also against Bangladesh.

Roy has failed only once at this edition with 8 against Pakistan.

His return has also bolstered Bairstow in Morgan's mind, the captain saying "They complement each other."

"Obviously, having him back on the team is quite a big confidence booster for everybody, particularly when he plays like the way he did," Morgan added. "He's very intimidating, hard to bowl to, and he's a gun player."


Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando plays a shot against West Indies in Chester-le-Street, northeast England, yesterday.

Sri Lanka survive scare to beat Windies

AFP
CHESTER-LE-STREET

Sri Lanka held off a West Indies charge at Chester-le-Street yesterday to win an exciting battle of two World Cup also-rans by 23 runs.

Both teams came into the match aware they could not reach the semi-finals but the Caribbean side came close to pulling off the highest successful chase in World Cup history.

Sri Lanka batted brightly to post an imposing total of 338 for six in their 50 overs, thanks largely to Avishka Fernando's first one-day international century.

That total looked beyond the West Indies in the early part of their innings but Nicholas Pooran dug deep, also scoring his maiden ODI ton.

The West Indies found themselves in early trouble at 22-2, with Sunil Ambris and Shai Hope back in the dressing room, both dismissed by veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga.

Chris Gayle flickered briefly but was caught for 35 from a steepling top edge by Jeffrey Vandersay off the bowling of Kasun Rajitha.

Pooran, 23, held the innings together but the West Indies' hopes were badly hit when Carlos Brathwaite was unluckily run out when bowler Isuru Udana diverted the ball into the stumps off his fingertips, with the batsman well out of his ground.

The West Indies looked down and out at 199-6 in the 35th over but Pooran put on 83 for the seventh wicket with Fabian Allen to keep them in the hunt before a second run-out.

The Caribbean side needed 31 runs off the final three overs when captain Dimuth Karunaratne summoned Angelo Mathews to bowl for the first time in an ODI since 2017.

He struck with his first ball, removing a distraught Pooran, who slashed at an innocuous wide delivery and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Kusal Perera.

Earlier, Fernando hit a sparkling maiden ODI century, with all of the top order chipping in to help him.

The 21-year-old reached three figures off exactly 100 balls with eight fours and two sixes but was caught by Fabian Allen off the bowling of Sheldon Cottrell for 104.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Dimuth Karunaratne c Hope b Holder	32
Kusal Perera run out (Cottrell/Brathwaite)	64
Avishka Fernando c Allen b Cottrell	104
Kusal Mendis c and b Allen	39
Angelo Mathews b Holder	26
Lahiru Thirimanne not out	45
Isuru Udana c Holder b Thomas	3
Dhananjaya de Silva not out	6
Extras: (4b, 5lb, 5w, 5nb)	19
TOTAL: (for 6 wickets in 50 overs)	**338**

Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-104, 3-189, 4-247, 5-314, 6-327

Did not bat: Jeffrey Vandersay, Kasun Rajitha, Lasith Malinga.

Bowling: Sheldon Cottrell 10-0-69-1 (2w), Oshane Thomas 10-1-58-1 (2nb), Shannon Gabriel 5-0-46-0 (1w, 1nb), Jason Holder 10-0-59-2 (1w, 2nb), Carlos Brathwaite 7-0-53-0, Fabian Allen 8-0-44-1 (1w).

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle c Vandersay b Rajitha	35
Sunil Ambris c Perera b Malinga	5
Shai Hope b Malinga	5
Shimron Hetmyer run out (Dhananjaya)	29
Nicholas Pooran c Perera b Mathews	118
Jason Holder c sub (J Mendis) b Vandersay	26
Carlos Brathwaite run out (Udana)	8
Fabian Allen run out (Udana/Rajitha)	51
Sheldon Cottrell not out	7
Oshane Thomas lbw b Malinga	1
Shannon Gabriel not out	3
Extras: (3b, 2lb, 20w, 2nb)	27
TOTAL: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	**315**

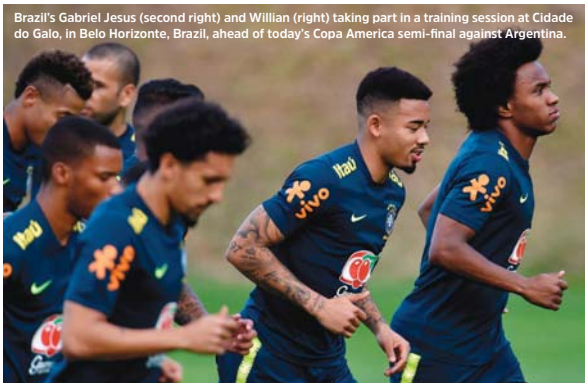
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-22, 3-71, 4-84, 5-145, 6-199, 7-282, 8-308, 9-311

Bowling: Malinga 10-0-55-3 (4w, 1nb), Dhananjaya de Silva 10-0-49-0, Udana 10-0-67-0 (3w), Rajitha 10-0-76-1 (4w, 1nb), andersay 7-0-50-1 (4w), Karunaratne 1-0-7-0, Mathews 2-0-6-1.



Brazil, Argentina set for blockbuster semi

AP
SAO PAULO


Brazil's Gabriel Jesus (second right) and Willian (right) taking part in a training session at Cidade do Galo, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, ahead of today's Copa America semi-final against Argentina.

After producing some uninspiring soccer in the group stage and quarterfinals, the Copa América reaches the last four with a blockbuster match-up between host Brazil and Lionel Messi's Argentina.

It will be the "Superclásico de las Américas" deciding one of the finalists, and the "Clásico del Pacífico" the other as two-time defending champion Chile takes on surprising Peru, which on Saturday ousted continental powerhouse Uruguay from the decisive stage of the South American competition.

Peru eliminated Uruguay in a lackluster quarter-final round in which three of the four matches ended in penalty shootouts after scoreless draws, with the exception being Argentina's 2-0 win over Venezuela.

The quality of soccer in the group stage also disappointed, with a series of poor performances even by the favorites. Brazil struggled and was booed by the home crowd in a couple of matches, while Argentina barely escaped early elimination. Uruguay and Colombia were among the teams that impressed the most, but both failed to advance past the last eight.

Bad field conditions at several of the stadiums in Brazil also didn't help, with Messi and several other players and coaches loudly complaining.

"The ball looks like a rabbit," Messi said.

With expensive tickets and uninteresting match-ups early on, many games had extremely low attendances. The smallest crowd came to the match between Ecuador and guest team Japan at the 62,000-capacity Mineirão Stadium, when only about 2,100 fans paid for tickets. The final attendance was 7,623 because of gratuity entrances.

There were no tickets left for today's much-anticipated game between Brazil and Argentina, the longtime South American rivals who will arrive in Belo Horizonte under heavy pressure to succeed. Playing at home, only the title will satisfy Brazil fans and ease the pressure on coach Tite, while failure for Argentina will extend the team's winless run without a trophy with Messi in the squad.

"Argentina will always be Argentina, even if it's not going through a good moment," Brazil defender Thiago Silva said.

The high-profile match will take place at the Mineirão, the same venue where Brazil was stunned 7-1 by Germany in the World Cup semifinals in 2014.

"Nobody will forget what happened then. That match against Germany was horrible for us," Silva said.

Brazil's last match at the Mineirão was against Messi and Argentina in qualifying for the 2018 World Cup, and that time the hosts easily won 3-0 with one of the goals scored by Neymar, who missed this year's Copa América because of an ankle injury.

Brazil, seeking its first South American title since 2007, is unbeaten against Argentina in official matches at home.

Argentina needs to get past Brazil to keep alive its hopes of ending a 26-year title drought for the senior squad. It lost the last two Copa América finals on penalty shootouts against Chile, which will face Peru tomorrow at the Arena Grêmio in Porto Alegre.

Led by Manchester United forward Alexis Sánchez, Chile will be trying to reach its third straight Copa América final and win its third continental title. It can become the first nation to win three consecutive Copa titles since Argentina in the late 1940s.

Peru, led by veteran striker Paolo Guerrero, also is a two-time South American champion, but its last title was in 1975. It reached the semi-finals in two of the last three tournaments, finishing third both in 2011 and 2015.

Messi, Aguero will have to sweat against Brazil: Jesus

AFP
BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

Argentina forwards Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero will have to sweat if they're going to break down Brazil's watertight defence in their Copa America semi-final, says Selecao striker Gabriel Jesus.

Hosts Brazil have yet to concede a goal in four matches at the Copa while Argentina have improved defensively and kept clean sheets in their last two matches.

Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte today and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch.

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," the Manchester City forward said of Argentina's backline.

"But it won't be easy for Argentina to get behind us. Obviously they have Messi who is the best player in the world, and they have Aguero, one of the best center-forwards, but they're going to have to sweat to get in behind."

Jesus said he was sure "Argentina will attack us" and he's looking forward to joking around with his City team-mates Aguero and center-back Nicolas Otamendi, but only after the match.

What's clear, though, is that this is the most keenly anticipated match on the continent, between the two regional giants.

Brazil are the most successful team in World Cup history with five titles to Argentina's two, but at a continental level, the roles are reversed as Argentina have won the Copa 14 times compared to eight for Brazil.

Should Argentina win again, they would match Uruguay's record of 15 titles.

These two sides' defenses have been on top so far but given the attacking talent that will be on show, a goalless draw would be unthinkable, even though there have been three already in the knock-out stages out of four matches.

Brazil will likely line up with Liverpool's Roberto Firmino flanked by Jesus and the exciting Gremio forward Everton, a reported target for Manchester City.

Argentina are almost certainly sure to stick to the trio that played their last two matches -- 2-0 victories over Qatar and Venezuela -- with Lautaro Martinez joining Messi and Aguero.

England look to derail USA as women's World Cup grand finale looms

AFP
LYON

England are aiming to make history as they prepare to take on the USA with a first ever women's World Cup final squarely in their sights, as a landmark tournament moves towards a nail-biting climax.

The World Cup in France has generated record TV audiences for the women's game and Phil Neville's side come into today's clash against the reigning champions in Lyon with more people than ever expected to tune in to see the Lionesses push to go one better than in the previous two editions, when they lost out in the semis.

"You get to these moments in life and you think grasp it with both hands, both feet and all your body and that's what we've been saying to the players: don't get to a semi-final and have any regrets," Neville told reporters on Sunday.

England face an American side brimming with talent and on a high from two hard-fought 2-1 wins over Spain in the last 16 and against hosts France in the quarter-finals, both gained thanks to the attacking exploits of Megan Rapinoe.

The 33-year-old is one of the stories of this tournament, with her match-winning displays paired with intense media scrutiny after a spat with President Donald Trump over her stated refusal to visit the White House while he remains in charge.

Rapinoe hit two penalties to squeeze her side past the Spanish in an underwhelming team display and then won a thrilling clash at the Parc des Princes with another brace to win what was probably the match of the tournament so far.

"Megan is someone I've from day one that I really admire. I remember in my first She Believes (Cup) when a ball bounced on the touchline and I went to catch the ball and her studs came right through my Apple watch," Neville said.

Foe the USA, the match is another on their march towards an expected fourth world crown -- Neville calls them the "best team in the world without a shadow of a doubt".

The United States is the citadel of women's football, with their team bringing in more revenue than their men's side in the last three years, and coach Jill Ellis has benefited from the seriousness with which it is taken.

Ellis was born in the English city of Portsmouth but moved across the Atlantic with her family in her teens. In the US she found room to express her passion for football.

"I had zero opportunity to play football over here (in Europe) so that's really what America gave me, an environment to put on my first ever team uniform," Ellis said.

The Netherlands face Sweden in the other semi-final in Lyon tomorrow. The final takes place in the same stadium on Sunday.


England's players taking part in a training session in Limonest near Lyon, yesterday, ahead of their France 2019 Women's World Cup semi-final match against USA.



Al Gharafa SC's new Serbian coach Slavisa Jokanovic holding a team jersey with club officials during a press conference held in Doha, yesterday.

Al Gharafa unveil new coach in bid to reclaim past glory

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Seven-time QSL champions Al Gharafa look to bounce back after finishing in 8th spot last season as coach Jokanovic promises to improve the team's results.

Former Fulham FC coach Slavisa Jokanovic was yesterday unveiled as the new manager for Al Gharafa SC.

At a press conference held at the club premises, the 50-year-old Serbian promised to help the former Qatar Stars League (QSL) side to glory in the new season.

Jokanovic, after signing a two-year deal, said yesterday: "My goal is to improve the team's results and make better compared to last season. The QSL is among the strongest leagues in Asia."

He added: "We have a great bunch of players and a positive management. We have ample time to work together before the start of the season. We promise fans that we will try to improve our side on a technical level. We know our fans want to start winning but remember it takes time to get support from everybody and to achieve the dreams of the fans of the club."

Last season, Al Gharafa finished in 8th spot winning only seven matches from 22 rounds.

In a stunning run of dominance, Al Gharafa produced three back-to-back QSL titles from 2007 to 2010.

The seven-time league winners haven't won a trophy since that season.

The new QSL season will commence next month.

Godin signs for Inter; Pellegrini joins Juventus

AFP
ROME

Veteran Uruguayan central defender Diego Godin, who announced his departure from Atletico Madrid in May, signed a three-year deal with Inter Milan yesterday.

In a busy day of Serie A transfer activity, Luca Pellegrini became reigning champions Juventus' first summer signing after moving from Roma on a €22m ($25m) four-year deal.

The promising Pellegrini, 20, came through the ranks at Roma before spending last season on loan at Cagliari. Fellow defender Leonardo Spinazzola moved the other way as part of the deal.

Juventus are expected to tie up the transfer of French midfielder Adrien Rabiot from Paris Saint-Germain later Monday.

Roma paid out €29.5m for 26-year-old Spinazzola, the seven-time Italy international who also signed a four-year contract with the capital club.

Also joining Roma will be Guinea midfielder Amadou Diawara on a €21m three-year contract. That follows the departure from Roma on Sunday of Greek international centre-back Kostas Manolas who joined Napoli for a reported fee of be €36m.

Godin, 33, signed for Inter after coming to the end of his contract with Atletico, where he spent nine seasons and was captain.

"There's a new sheriff in town," Inter tweeted of the uncompromising Godin, who has won 131 caps for his country but could not prevent his country being knocked out in the quarter-finals of the ongoing Copa America.





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Nasser Al Attiyah takes adventurous spirit to another level

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Copa America: Brazil, Argentina set for blockbuster semi-final



Follow The Peninsula on twitter

@PeninsulaQatar

Cherif, Ahmed through to next round

THE PENINSULA
HAMBURG

Top Qatari beach volleyball duo, Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan maintained their unbeaten run to top their group and made it to the next round at the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships yesterday.

In Hamburg, Germany, the world's number-six ranked pair had no difficulty in defeating their Belgian counterparts Dries Koekelkoren and Tom Van Walle in straight sets (21-15, 21-15) advance to the round of 32 in the $1m event.

Cherif were among eight pairs who topped their respective groups to advance in the men's and women's divisions yesterday.

Yesterday's win was their third back-to-back win in the tournament this year.

In their previous Pool D matches, Cherif and Ahmed had beaten their Czech counterparts, Ondrej Perusic and David Schweiner 2-1 (18-21, 21-13, 18-16). They had beaten Italy's Enrico Rossi and Adrian Ignacio Carambula in their opening match last Friday in a similar manner.

The three wins have earned them six points and now they will wait for draw which decides their opponents in the elimination round which begins on Thursday.

The Qatari pair is the leading duo in Asia, having won the Asian Games and Asian Championship staying undefeated throughout. Besides, they have won three bronze medals in high-ranking events on the FIVB Beach World Tour.

Today, the second Qatari pari at World Championships, Assam Ahmed Mahmoud and Tamer Abdelrasoul will meet Stafford Slick and William Allen of USA in their last Pool E match.

Assam and Tamer have lost both of their previous matches in the first round.



Qatar's Ahmed Tijan (left) and Cherif Samba celebrate after scoring a point during their third and final Pool D match yesterday.

Wimbledon: Osaka, Venus, Zverev, Tsitsipas suffer painful exits

Big guns crash on day of upsets

AFP
LONDON

Naomi Osaka, Venus Williams, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas crashed out of Wimbledon on a black Monday for the stars at the All England Club.

Japanese superstar slumped to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 defeat to 39th-ranked Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan who had defeated the world number two on grass in Birmingham two weeks ago.

She was joined at the exit door by German sixth seed Zverev and Tsitsipas, the seventh seed, both players tipped as potential champions this year.

US Open and Australian Open winner Osaka is the first top-two seed to lose in the first round since Martina Hingis in 2001.

The defeat follows her third round exit at the French Open.

"Can we stop now? I think I am going to cry," she told reporters as she made a quick exit from her post-match news conference.

Osaka has yet to make a final since her Australian Open win in January.

"There are answers to questions that you guys ask that I still haven't figured out yet," she admitted.

Zverev, 22, lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely, the world number 124.

Just 15 minutes after Zverev's defeat, 20-year-old Tsitsipas lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 to world number 89 Thomas Fabbiano of Italy.

Tsitsipas had reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open in January and the last-16 at Roland Garros as well as the fourth round at Wimbledon last year.

Canadian 18-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime kept 'NextGen' hopes alive by beating Canadian compatriot Vasek Pospisil 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Victory made the 19th seed the first player born in the 2000s to win a match at Wimbledon.

Cori Gauff, at 15 the youngest ever qualifier for the Wimbledon singles, pulled off a major shock later yesterday beating five-time champion Venus 6-4, 6-4 in their first round clash. The teenage American - who was not even born when Williams had won her first two Wimbledon singles titles -- showed not an ounce of fear on Court One and made light of the 24 years age difference.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic got his campaign for a fifth Wimbledon title off to a winning start with newly-hired coaching team recruit, and 2001 winner, Goran Ivanisevic helping steer the ship.

Djokovic, chasing a fifth title at the All England Club, saw off 35-year-old Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.



Djokovic begins title defence with victory

Defending Wimbledon champion, Serbia's Novak Djokovic in action during his first round match against Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain, yesterday.

If his victory was routine, there was nothing predictable about Djokovic's decision to bring Ivanisevic into his inner sanctum over the weekend.

Fourth seed Kevin Anderson, runner-up to Djokovic in 2018, eased into the second round beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Anderson will now play Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic who registered his first win at the tournament in seven years when he defeated Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

In the women's event, third seed Karolina Pliskova made it through, beating China's Zhu Lin 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

Czech former world number one Pliskova, fresh from winning the Eastbourne title, has never got past the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova, a semi-finalist in 2017, put out 10th seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-4 in just 70 minutes.

Also heading home was French Open runner-up and 16th seed Marketa Vondrousova. The 19-year-old Czech lost 6-4, 6-4 to America's Madison Brengle who is used to pulling off Wimbledon shocks having knocked out two-time winner Petra Kvitova in 2017.

Former French Open champion Simona Halep overcame an injury scare to make the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Halep, seeded seven and a semi-finalist in 2014, needed to have her left ankle strapped after a worrying fall on Court One.

US Open and Australian Open winner Osaka became the first top-two seed to lose in the first round since Martina Hingis in 2001.

The 15-year-old qualifier Cori Gauff who was not even born when Venus Williams, claimed two of her five Wimbledon titles to become the youngest woman since 1991 to seal a first-round win in the tournament.

Alexander Zverev lost to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely, the world number 124 before Stefanos Tsitsipas suffered a loss against world number 89 Thomas Fabbiano of Italy.



Japan's Naomi Osaka reacts during her first round match against Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva yesterday.



American teenager Cori Gauff celebrates during her first round match against Venus Williams.

WIMBLEDON: RESULTS - DAY 1

MEN: FIRST ROUND

Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER) 6-3, 7-5, 6-3
Denis Kudla (USA) bt Malek Jaziri (TUN) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3
Leonardo Mayer (ARG) bt Ernests Gulbis (LAT) 6-1, 7-6 (14/12), 6-2
Hubert Hurkacz (POL) bt Dusan Lajovic (SRB x32) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4
Félix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x19) bt V Pospisil (CAN) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3
Daniil Medvedev (RUS x11) bt P Lorenzi (ITA) 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/2)
Alexei Popyrin (AUS) bt Pablo Carreño-Busta (ESP) 7-6 (7/2), 7-5, 6-2
Jérémy Chardy (FRA) bt Martin Klizan (SVK) 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4
Fernando Verdasco (ESP) bt Kamil Majchrzak (POL) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4
Ivo Karlovic (CRO) bt Andrea Arnaboldi (ITA) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4)
T Fabbiano (ITA) bt S Tsitsipas (GRE x7) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3
K Anderson (RSA x4) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
Janko Tipsarevic (SRB) bt Y Nishioka (JPN) 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2
Andreas Seppi (ITA) bt Nicolás Jarry (CHI) 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 6-1, 6-2
Guido Pella (ARG x26) bt Marius Copil (ROU) 7-6 (13/11), 5-7, 6-3, 6-4
Stan Wawrinka (SUI x22) bt Ruben Bemelmans (BEL) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2
Reilly Opelka (USA) bt Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (GER) 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1
Robin Haase (NED) bt Jozef Kovalik (SVK) 6-1, 6-3, 6-1
Milos Raonic (CAN x15) bt P Gunneswaran (IND) 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 6-2
Karen Khachanov (RUS x10) bt S Kwon (KOR) 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5
Feliciano Lopez (ESP) bt Marcos Giron (USA) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4
Steve Darcis (BEL) bt Mischa Zverev (GER) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4
Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP x23) bt P Gojowczyk (GER) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3
Benoît Paire (FRA x28) bt J I Londero (ARG) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4)
Pablo Cuevas (URU) bt D Dzumhur (BIH) 4-6, 7-6 (10/8), 2-6, 6-4, 6-2
Jiri Veselý (CZE) bt Alexander Zverev (GER x6) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5

WOMEN: FIRST ROUND

Elina Svitolina (UKR x8) bt Daria Gavrilova (AUS) 7-5, 6-0
Margarita Gasparyan (RUS) bt Anna-Lena Friedsam (GER) 6-4, 6-4
Marie Bouzkova (CZE) bt Mona Barthel (GER) 6-3, 6-3
Maria Sakkari (GRE x31) bt Bernarda Pera (USA) 7-6 (7/4), 6-3
Petra Martic (CRO x24) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
Anastasia Potapova (RUS) bt Jil Teichmann (SUI) 2-6, 6-4, 6-1
Danielle Collins (USA) bt Zarina Diyas (KAZ) 6-3, 7-5
Anastasija Sevastova (LAT x12) bt Kristie Ahn (USA) 6-3, 6-4
Madison Brengle (USA) bt Markéta Vondrousová (CZE x16) 6-4, 6-4
Karolina Muchová (CZE) bt Aleksandra Krunic (SRB) 7-5, 6-2
Heather Watson (GBR) bt Caty McNally (USA) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2
Anett Kontaveit (EST x20) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4
Kirsten Flipkens (BEL) bt Dalila Jakupovic (SLO) 6-1, 6-3
Monica Puig (PUR) bt Anna Karolina Schmiedlová (SVK) 5-7, 6-4, 7-5
Karolina Pliskova (CZE x3) bt Zhu Lin (CHN) 6-2, 7-6 (7/4)
Simona Halep (ROM x7) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 6-4, 7-5
Mihaela Buzarnescu (ROU) bt Jessica Pegula (USA) 6-4, 6-4
Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) bt Darya Kasatkina (RUS x29) 6-3, 6-1
Madison Keys (USA x17) bt Luksika Kumkhum (THA) 6-3, 6-2
Polona Hercog (SLO) bt Viktoria Kuzmova (SVK) 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5
Magdalena Rybarikova (SVK) bt Aryna Sabalenka (BLR x10) 6-2, 6-4
Veronika Kudermetova (RUS) bt Ysaline Bonaventure (BEL) 6-2, 6-4
Yanina Wickmayer (BEL) bt Rebecca Peterson (SWE) 6-4, 6-3
Sofia Kenin (USA x27) bt Astra Sharma (AUS) 6-4, 6-2
Dayana Yastremska (UKR) bt Camila Giorgi (ITA) 6-3, 6-3
Viktorija Golubic (SUI) bt Iga Swiatek (POL) 6-2, 7-6 (7/3)
Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) bt Naomi Osaka (JPN x2) 7-6 (7/4), 6-2