Investors from siege nations seek openings in Qatar
Huda N V
The Peninsula

As Saudi-led blockade on Qatar goes beyond 60 days, many entrepreneurs from blocking countries are keen not missing out on opportunities in Qatar. A recent call for investment in Qatar saw widespread response from investors based in these countries.

‘Own Your Factory in Qatar’ initiative

Many entrepreneurs from blocking countries are keen not missing out on investment opportunities in Qatar.

At least 41 of the investors who registered were from Egypt, while some 24 were from Saudi Arabia. Also 15 investors who registered were from UAE. Thus, the official Single Window project aimed at providing facilities for industrial investments in Qatar. It assures all approvals, and industrial and environmental licenses within 72 hours of application, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Single Window project aims to eliminate any hassles the investors face in Qatar. Though the initiative was initiated much before the blockade, the current situation has propelled activation of the programme much later, according to an official Single Window.

In less than a month’s time, over 9,300 applicants from some 50 countries have registered for 250 investment opportunities of the initiative.

Baladna Farm plans to meet dairy needs by April 2018
Irfan Bukhari
The Peninsula

By the end of April next year, Baladna Farm’s dairy production would reach the level sufficient to meet total domestic needs of Qatar.

A total of 4,000 cows being imported from various countries will reach Doha by mid-September this year taking our milk production to 200 tonnes per day by mid-November 2017. After the import of 4,000 cows, we have plans to import another 4,000 dairy cows which will arrive in Qatar in different phases,” said John Joseph Doss, CEO of Baladna while talking to The Peninsula.

He said that by the end of April next year, the capacity of Baladna Farm’s dairy production would be touching 300 tonnes per day which would be sufficient to meet domestic need of dairy products.

Separately, Baladna Farm has also started expansion work at the facility to house a big number of livestock. In a post shared on its social media page, Baladna showed the pace of expansion work going on around the facility to house as many as 25 thousand heads of cows.

Last month Qatar Airways Cargo announced that it had transported the country’s first two shipments of 230Holstein cows from Europe on a Qatar Airways Cargo Boeing 777 freighter. These initial shipments were part of a 4,000-head herd that marked the launch of a new dairy industry for Qatar.

Al Jazeera denounces Israel move to shut offices

Al Jazeera Media Network yesterday denounced Israel’s decision to close Al Jazeera Media Network’s bureau in Jerusalem, revoke media credentials of Al Jazeera journalists, and to shut down Al Jazeera’s cable and satellite transmissions. During the press conference held yesterday, Kara accused the network of inciting violence and presenting unprofessional journalism, and then requested from the relevant authorities to act upon this decision and carry out the necessary measures to put it into effect, but did not set a date for implementing the decision.

Al Jazeera in a statement said that Israel’s decision comes in the context of a campaign that was initiated by a statement made earlier by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he accused Al Jazeera of inciting violence during its coverage of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Other Israeli ministers and officials had previously made similar statements following a breaking into Al Jazeera bureau by a number of settlers.

Al Jazeera denounced the decision made by a state that claims to be ‘the only democratic state in the Middle East’ It also finds the justifications made by the minister of communications as odd and biased as they are in unison with the actions carried out by a number of Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, and Jordan) that have closed the network’s bureaus, shut down its cable and satellite transmissions, and blocked its websites and applications.

During the press conference, the Israeli minister could not substantiate his comments by referring to a single news bulletin or situation that proved Al Jazeera had not been professional nor objective during its coverage in Jerusalem.

Al Jazeera stressed that it will watch closely the developments that may result from the Israeli decision, and will take the necessary legal measures towards it. The network also reiterated that it will continue covering news and events in the occupied Palestinian territories in a professional and objective manner in accordance with the common journalistic standards set by the relevant international organisations such as the British Broadcasting Code of Ofcom.

‘Iron Shield’ exercises end

Milha launches Oman operations

Milaha, a Qatar-based maritime, and logistics conglomerate, has announced the launch of its country operations in Oman. Milaha is initially setting up warehousing and 3PL services within the Salala Free Zone, while it continues to explore further expansion in Oman of its diverse portfolio of services.

Huge turnout at Entertainment City

Six WEEKS after it opened doors, the Summer Entertainment City, a major offering at this year’s Qatar Summer Festival (QSF), has been attracting many visitors and audiences are satisfied with the turnout.

“The popularity of QSF Summer Entertainment City has been a testimonial to the decades of Qatar residents have shown to the face of challenges,” Ghanim Al Muhammadi, Vice-Chairman (Sports), organiser of Summer Entertainment City told The Peninsula yesterday.

Emir meets Qatar Paralympic athletes

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met with the Emiri Diwan yesterday with Qatar Paralympic athletes on the eve of their winning world championship at the Asian Para Games. They congratulated the athletes for their accomplishments which represent an achievement for Qatar in the international sports arenas and wished them success in their future participation.

[Baladna Farm plans to meet dairy needs by April 2018]

The Peninsula
Delegation from Oman visits Hamad Port

The delegation toured Hamad Port where it was briefed about the modern facilities, services, marine docks, container terminals and other port facilities.

A member of the Omani delegation being honoured.

Baladna seeks to meet dairy demand

Continued from page 1

Baladna is not only moving fast towards making Qatar self-sufficient in dairy products but also breeding sheep and goats to meet country’s own demand. Talking to The Peninsula’s Rashid Moussa, Sales Manager at Baladna, said that currently they were supplying around 100,000 heads of sheep and goats to the local market. “From next year, we will also start the supply of beef to the local market,” he said.

To a question, Moussa said that no dairy product available on the shelves of local market rather in the whole Gulf region could beat the quality of Baladna products. “Regional plans are using decades-old technology but Baladna has the most sophisticated and latest technology,” he added.

Baladna is a subsidiary of Power International Holding, a well-diversified giant in Qatar’s agri-food company. Baladna has built special cowsheds with a temperature control system to ensure a comfortable environment for the cattle. Baladna Farm, built over 700,000 sqm, includes 40,000 Awassi sheep able to withstand high temperature and produce high-quality milk. The farm also houses 5,000 goats and an animal feed mill yielding 100 tonnes per day.

When first two shipments of cows arrived in Doha, Power International Holding Chairman Montaz Al Khayat said, “We are proud to expand the dairy industry in Qatar, and are thankful to Qatar Airways Cargo for the expedient, safe and secure transportation of the cattle. With the arrival of the dairy cows, we aim to meet 30-35 per cent of the imported milk demand in the country within two months.”

In a statement issued to QNA some days ago, Assistant Under-secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment Sheikh Dr Falah bin Nasser Al Thani had said that new livestock production projects in Qatar included Baladna investments in a farm which targeted 40 percent share in dairy products’ market in the country. He had also said that local dairy brands like Ghdare, Maha and Dandy were also increasing production according to a plan that was likely to make the country self-sufficient in six months.

Iron Shield military exercise ends

Iron Shield military exercise ended yesterday under the patronage of Minister of State for Defence Affairs H E Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, and in the presence of Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces H E Major General (Pilot) Ghannim bin Shaheen Al Ghanim. The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces H E Major General (Pilot) Ghannim bin Shaheen Al Ghanim with military officials.

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Ooredoo launches new business tool

Ooredoo has launched simple and affordable collaboration solutions that enable Qatar’s organisations to make communication faster, smarter and easier. “Using Ooredoo’s suite of collaboration solutions, Qatar’s organisations can hold meetings at a moment’s notice on mobile devices, access real-time business dashboards, and enjoy full integration and security over apps and mobile devices,” he added.

As one example of the services available, businesses will be able to deploy the newly-launched eFax service, which enables companies to share documents more easily. They will also be able to access improved billing and account services, and access their own contact centre solution over the cloud.

The Peninsula

Qatar’s business competitiveness will get a boost with the launch of new enterprise collaboration tools by Ooredoo.

To provide Qatar’s businesses with more communication options, the company has launched a one-stop-shop, cloud-based platform for mid- to and enterprise collaboration services.

The platform will enable companies to add new communication options quickly, easily and cost effectively, enhancing their experience beyond basic collaboration services.

Yousuf Alabdal Ali Khabusi, Chief Operating Officer, Ooredoo Qatar, said: “In response to customer demand for better support for mobile workforces, Ooredoo has launched simple and affordable collaboration solutions that enable Qatar’s organisations to make communication faster, smarter and easier.”

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Summer Entertainment
City pulls huge crowds

Raynald C Rivera
The Peninsula

In its fourth edition, the City has everything to offer for people of all ages, with more than 85 games and rides, 46 dining options and 12 pop-up shops, in addition to live entertainment. To ensure frequent visitors will always have something to look forward to this year, some new features are being added regularly to the already rich lineup of offerings such as new games and weekly artistic performances.

A variety of cultural activities have been announced for this cultural sector activities kicked off at the Qatar National Theatre, Doha Corniche and a number of shopping malls. The events are to continue until August 19 at the Qatar Mall, Ezdan Mall, Villaggio and Festival Walk.

Launched by the Culture and Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the events began yesterday at the Qatar Mall with an artistic performance, including a collection of national music and songs as well as a direct drawing by a group of distinguished artists.

Today and tomorrow, Ezdan Mall will feature children's murals, children's workshops, art galleries, cultural and leisure activities, handi- crafts and others, in two phases starting from 10am to 11pm and 5pm to 9pm in addition to national songs, folk songs and national plays.

Volunteer by Your Thoughts generates 150 project ideas

T omoh for Voluntary Work Management has concluded its latest programme – Volunteer by Your Thoughts – with nearly 150 project ideas, all aiming at contributing to the development and enhancement of Qatar National Vision 2030. The programme contributed to initiating innovative ideas that serve the basic pillars of the National Vision. In addition to activating the role of Qatar media by highlighting the vision and its pillars.

Emir receives message from Algerian President

Emir H E Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani received yesterday a verbal message from President of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune on bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Abdelkader Messahel, conveyed the message when the Emir met him and the accompanying delegation at the Emiri Diwan yesterday.

Digestive and liver clinics open at ACC

The Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) recently welcomed the first outpatients to its digestive IG2 and liver clinics, moved from their previous location at Hamad General Hospital (HGHH). Digestive IG2 endoscopy procedures have also relocated to the Ambulatory Care Center. With a focus on treating patients with digestive system disorders, these are the second clinics of its kind to commence outpatient services at the Ambulatory Care Center and follow the footsteps of our cardiologist and ophthalmic outpatient services earlier this year. Audiology and ENT outpatient clinics are also planned to move to the ACC along with a pre-admission anaesthesiology clinic and surgical services.

With a focus on treating patients with digestive system disorders, the new approach to surgical and clinical care in Qatar, providing day care surgery, some in-patient surgical care and clinical care delivered in the most technologically advanced operating theatres and treatment rooms.

Dr Saad Al Kaabi, Senior Consultant Medical Affairs, and Head of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at ACC, said: “Both myself and the rest of our gastroenterology and endoscopy clinical teams are excited about the relocation to the Ambulatory Care Center. The facility is state of the art and will enable us to provide our patients with the best possible care.”

In addition to continuing to provide patients with our usual high standard of clinical care, we will also continue to build upon recent departmental successes such as introducing new technology and therapies. The new facility will provide and encourage active participation of fellows in a programme that offers comprehensive state-of-the-art clinical training.

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Ministry spots 7 violations during inspection at shops

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce yesterday said that inspection campaigns at shops located in a number of shopping malls resulted in the detection and issuance of 7 violations, which include non-display in Arabic and non-compliance with the licenses of offers and discounts.

The Ministry also revoked the license of three shops violated the terms of license for offers and discounts stipulated by the Ministry.

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce has carried out a surprise inspection campaign targeting retail outlets across a number of malls in a bid to monitor the compliance of suppliers (retail outlets) with their obligations under law No. 8 of 2008 on Consumer Protection and ministerial decision No. 3 of 1984 on discounted sales.

The inspection campaigns come within the framework of the Ministry’s efforts to monitor markets and commercial activities as well as to crack down on price manipulation and uncover violations in a bid to protect consumer rights.

The inspection campaigns resulted in 7 fines for违反 Arabic labels and violations of discounts and promotional licenses, which represent a violation of Article No. 8 of 2008 and Ministerial Decision No. 3 of 1984 on discounted sales.

The Ministry withdrew the license of 3 outlets that have violated the terms of the discount and promotion license granted by the Ministry. Inspectors from the Ministry ensures that retail outlet owners should take the initiative and adopt without any further delay the “Shop with Confidence” mark when it comes to announcing discounts and promotional offers.

The mark should be placed on invoices presented to customers, as it represents clear proof to consumers that the concerned shop has obtained the required license from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce. All offers and discounts are being offered in line with applicable laws and legal regulations.

The Ministry warned that retail shops which have obtained a license should offer real promotions and refrain from take and misleading discounts and practices that hurt consumers. The ministry stressed that retail outlet owners should take the initiative and adopt without any further delay the “Shop with Confidence” mark when it comes to announcing discounts and promotional offers.

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Tickets sold out for music concert on August 17

A t tickets have sold out for the much-anticipated Kadim Al Sahir and Fahad Al Khaini concert, due to take place at Qatar National Convention Centre, on August 17 at 7 p.m. "The audience has been enthusiastic here," said Mashal Shahbik, Director of Event Organisers, The Social Society.

"Between a few hours of announcements the performances of Kadim Al Sahir and Fahad Al Khaini, tickets began to sell out. Is this indication that the audience has a sophisticated musical taste? In makes us very happy," said Hamzeh Zahr, managing director of The Social Society. "It proved the ‘Czar of Arabic Song’ Al Sahir is looking forward to his performance in Qatar. The people would overlook deserves experience sophisticated music which is created in a moment of peace," he said adding that he will be performing from his latest album, ‘Qatar pop art’ among other songs.

Fahad Al Khaini promises his audience a special evening, opening his performance with a double bill of the first time he performed during the ‘Qatar Summer Festival’ in 2018 with a brand new, without a doubt, a sight to behold. It means a lot to me to perform in my own country, giving everybody the opportunity to come together in the spirit of solidarity and love.

The concert comes as part of Qatar Summer Festival (QSF) live entertainment offerings and is being supported by Qatar Tourism Authority as part of its strategy to support and engage local businesses in the tourism sector.

The hosted art activities happening across Qatar under the theme ‘Colour your Summer’. It offers residents and visitors an array of family entertaining and activities, offering shopping discounts and enticing hospitality packages.

The tournament will be overseen by experienced tournament directors including Tafazzoli (Backgammon), Mashal Shahbik, Director of Event Organisers, The Social Society, and Arsal (365), Rabia Ali (423), Arsal (425), Rabia Ali (423), Somaia (386), Amnah (362), Umme (389), Somaia (386), Amnah (362), Umme (389), Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of FBISE, congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers for their combined efforts that helped students stand out in the exam. She assured that PISQ is excelling academically. She further added that it will be a proud academic hunt for Pakistani students in the days to come for FIQBIE stream of study in Qatar.

Shahzad Ahmad, the ambassador of Pakistan to the State of Qatar, also congratulated all the stakeholders at this occasion. He said that education is the only remedy that can curb socio-economic and ethical maladies and guarantee a secure future. He urged the students, parents, and teachers to play their respective roles sincerely to strengthen our nation and country in the years to come.

$100,000 up for grabs at fourth Mindsports World Championships

H undreds of mindsports enthusiasts from more than 40 countries are coming to Doha to compete in the fourth Mindsports World Championships which will be held in the Middle East for the first time.

In total, more than $200,000 prize money is up on offer for grabs for the competitors in turn-based and real-time strategy games. Participants will have the choice to play on computers or mobile devices including iPhone, iPad and more. Prizes will also be on offer to the top four of Qatar in each event along with the top resident.

The event which will be hosted by the Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) is inviting Qatar’s residents and residents to participate in the fourth edition of the Mindsports World Championships. The competition will open up to adults and youth players of all abilities.

The Championships will be held from August 10 to 27 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). Mindsports enthusiasts of all levels, from beginners to professional, will be vying for their mindsports championship title.

The tournament will be overseen by experienced tournament directors including Tafazzoli (Backgammon), Mashal Shahbik, Director of Event Organisers, The Social Society, and Arsal (365), Rabia Ali (423), Arsal (425), Rabia Ali (423), Somaia (386), Amnah (362), Umme (389), Somaia (386), Amnah (362), Umme (389), Nargis Raza Otho, Principal of FBISE, congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers for their combined efforts that helped students stand out in the exam. She assured that PISQ is excelling academically. She further added that it will be a proud academic hunt for Pakistani students in the days to come for FIQBIE stream of study in Qatar.

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PISQ students score high in FBISE HSSC-I exam

P akistani International School Qatar (PIJSQ) has announced the results of the Annual Examination 2017. Among the eleven students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the twelve students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the eleven students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the twelve students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the twelve students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the eleven students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the twelve students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the eleven students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the twelve students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each. Among the eleven students, the first position is held by Maleeha Asif with 451 marks, the second position by Rubab Fatima and Sana Saleem with 448 marks each.

"Win 20 Toyota Camry car "i is a car promotion event from safari group which is an excellent promotion event for customers. In each lucky draw customers can grab 1 Camry car which is of the total 20 cars. The next luckydraw is on 3 cars which is scheduled on August 30 at Safari Mall.

10-20-30 promotion

Safari begins unique 10-20-30 promotion

I n what was termed by many as one of its kind, Safari has come up with a promotional offer that can’t be imitated by any other retail hypermarket, in which customers can enjoy an array of family entertaining and activities. The offer is available in all Safari outlets from today onwards. Safari has made this possible through the direct import from countries like Turkey, Jordan, Iran and India. As per the customer opinion this 10-20-30 promotion will eradicate all the concerns about the market and will act as a booster for them.

Safari Group Director and General Manager Zaamin Ali deeply commented that even in this diplomatic issue, customers can purchase high quality products at a reasonable price in Safari Hyper market at Al Khor Road, Safari Shopping Complex at Umm Salal Mohamm and Safari Mall at Al Sadd. Some of the highlighted offers of this promotion includes a 10-20-30 promotion for just 10 riyals. Anti mosquito braclets for just 20 riyals and 30 riyals. Apart from this, We have also arranged a musical show on August 8, 9 & 10 led by the famous artists from Doha at Safari Mall. New products are also available here.

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Charming Charlie unveils limited edition collection

C harming Charlie, the woman’s contemporary jewelry destination, is known for its shop by colour format. It is announced that it has partnered with the Kendal + Kylie brand to create a limited edition capsule collection of jewelry and accessories which are available in selected stores across region beginning on August 15. Handbag range is featuring 27 pieces, available in selected stores across the region.

The exclusive handbag collection featuring Kendal + Kylie’s stylish personalities showcasing feminine and event guard inspirations elaborated with modern day looks. She added, “In working with MSA to host this event, we have offered residents the opportunity to be part of the most exciting mindsports scene with the added convenience of Qatar.” Dave Braiman, CEO of Mindsports Academy said. "We are thrilled to be organizing this event with the QTA and the sponsors. Mindsports is one of the fastest growing communities in the world and with so many activities taking place, there is something for everyone in all ages and abilities to get involved in and become part of the global mindsports community.”
Israel to close Al Jazeera’s offices: Minister

An employee of the Qatar-based news network and TV channel Al Jazeera is seen at the channel’s Jerusalem office.

No mechanical issues before Emirates crash landing: Report

Dubai AP

Investigators said yesterday no mechanical issues were found in an Emirates flight before it crashed in Dubai and burst into flames last night, as its probe continues to look into the “human performance factors” around the incident.

A report by the United Arab Emirates’ General Civil Aviation Authority stopped short of assigning blame over the August 3 accident, called Flight EK521, coming from Thiruvananthapuram, India.

The 300 passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 777-300 were trapped with their lives, through a subsequent explosion that engulfed the plane like a living nightmare on the ground.

The pilots of the plane tried to take off again after a brief touchdown and had already raised the landing gear when the aircraft skidded off the ground. The investigation is working to determine and analyze the human performance factors that influenced the flight crew during the landing attempt, the report said.

“The most serious accident occurred in Emirates’ more than three decades of operations. Another Dubai government-owned aircraft, passenger carrier Flydubai, suffered a March 2016 crash in Brastian on Don, Russia, that killed 62 people and 19 others aboard one of its 137-7000 planes.”

Iranian soldier opens fire at air base: 3 dead

TEHRAN: An Iranian soldier opened fire on his colleagues, killing three and wounding 12 of them at a military base in the southwest, the semi-official Mehr news agency said today. One 40-year-old Arab Israeli shot dead in south Tel Aviv, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. The report said one of the victims was an officer and the other two were soldiers.

The attack occurred after the soldier was killed in a firefight with a shooter with other soldiers. The soldier opened fire with a Kalashnikov rifle, then took off to an Air Force hospital in southeast of the city, the report said. Mehr’s report offered no motive for the attack, which it said took place in the early hours at dawn.

Lebanese army captures IS positions on Syrian border

BIRJ AL-ABBAD: The Lebanese army captured a number of diesel tanks bordering Syria from Islamic State militants who were demanding a lifting of mounting expectations for a ceasefire, the army said.

The National News Agency said the army captured several diesel tanks because of the front lines of Ras Baalbek and Arsal, and it said the Israeli army in a statement, saying that terror and religious extremism are “one of the outcomes that the channel continued to broadcast from Israel.”

The ministry said it would also demand the revocation of the credentials of journalists working for the channel and cut its satellite connections.

The closure of Al Jazeera’s compound in Jerusalem is an armed insurgent group that frequently criticizes the news network, accusing outlets of seeking to undermine his government. The latest trouble at the holy site in east Jerusalem, which Israel captured during the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed, followed the July 14 incident. The Palestinian police said that 23, says he wants his son’s killer to face justice.

because of legal interpretation. I am going to seek to have the necessary legislation adopted to expel Al Jazeera from Israel – Israel has regularly accused the broadcaster of bias in its coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Netanyahu heads what is seen as the most right-wing government in Israeli history. He accused the broadcaster of bias in its coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, calling for greater decentralization of power.

Jordanian father wants son’s killer to face justice

AMMAN: The father of 17-year-old Jordanian Mohammad Al-Ja’aroudah, who was fatally shot by an Israeli embry habit at Gati on Atarim in the Jordanian authority on Sunday 23, says he wants his son’s killer to face justice.

He accused the broadcaster of bias in its coverage of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, calling for greater decentralization of power.

Netanyahu said without elaborating.

An Israeli father of 17-year-old Mohammad Al-Ja’aroudah, who was fatally shot by an Israeli embry habit at Gati on Atarim in the Jordanian authority on Sunday.

Netanyahu had said on July 27 that he wanted Al Jazeera expelled and for all.

Israel’s attorney general on Friday ordered him to be expelled from Israel.

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“Because of the Bernie Sanders campaign to decisively defeat Hillary Clinton, pelo- steric officials.

Israeli authorities would also seek to limit access by the Jewish state’s Arab citizens to the station’s broadcasts in Arabic, the communications ministry said.

Israelis, the descend- ants of Palestinians who stayed after the state of Israel was cre- ated in 1948, make up 17 percent of the country’s population.

The Al Jazeera channel contin- ues to incite violence around the Temple Mount. Quotations written in a Facebook post refer- ring to the Haaretz-Sha’ar compound in Jerusalem, known in the mosque.

Protests erupted at the con- centration site after Israel last week removed the newly imposed after three Israeli Arabs shot dead the police on duty.

Most of the dead were taken to a navy base in the capital where the Israeli authorities were then water and medical treatment.
Five RSS men acquitted in murder case

MADHYA Pradesh High Court’s Indore Bench has acquitted five Hindus in the murder case of Muslim techieMinor Muhammad Ali in Indore.

A 32-year-old techie from Mandsaur was murdered by eight Hindus at Jagdale’s Mall in Indore on May 10, 2007.

A portion of the complete oral history interviews will be released online on August 10 from Stanford University Library's Digital Repository.

Sheltering from rain

Lashkar-e-Taiba & accomplices behind pilgrim murders: Police

Indian police said yesterday a Pakistani-based Islamist militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Kashmiri Lashkar-e-Tayyab, had carried out last month’s killing of eight Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir.

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Nuclear question

A Japan marks 72 years since it suffered two devastating nuclear attacks which would later build up the strategic narrative that went beyond the region, world powers today led by the United States are grappling with a state that is perceived nuclear threat to the world. It is ironic that the nation which launched the first nuclear attack on their historic rival Japan is today asking another country – Japan’s neighbour – to desist from nuclear testing and firing missiles.

New sanctions slapped by the UN Security Council on North Korea will pare the isolated nation’s exports by 80%, making Pyongyang further into the wilderness as far as trade is concerned. US Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, was very vocal about the costs when she said they would come as a “punish in the gut” for Pyongyang.

North Korea is believed to use the surplus it earns from international trade to develop its controversial nuclear weapons programme. Two Intersessional Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) recently tested by Kim Jong-un range alarm bells across the world with the US defence establishment going into a huddle as Pyongyang eluded over its new-acquired ability to hit US cities as far as Chicago.

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Can Israel transfer its Palestinian population?

Patrick Strickland

Palestinian politicians and rights groups have been pressing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to transfer some Arab-populated vil-

ages to the Palestinian Authority’s control and strip residents of their citizenship.

The plan, which was first reported last week by Israel’s Channel Two News, was sup-

posedly relayed to American officials. It would also permit Israel to annex Jewish-only settlements in the occupied West Bank as part of a final agreement with the Palestinian leadership. “The issue didn’t come up as a separate proposal, but as part of a proposal for a comprehensive arrangement with the Palestinians,” one official told Channel Two, as reported by the Israeli daily Haaretz.

Yoel犹uanah, a legislator in Israel’s Knesset, described both the forced population transfer and the temporary settlements considered illegal under international law as “war crimes.” Arab citizens of Israel were not granted citizenship by grace, but by the fact that they remain on the original home-

land, he told Al Jazeera. “This is in stark contrast to the settlers of the West Bank, who are illegally occupying lands they stoke by force from their Palestinian owners.”

An estimated 1.7 million Palestinians live in cities, towns and villages across Israel and are considered illegal under international law. The largest concentration is in the north of the country, where nearly half of Jewish Israelis thought “Arabs should be expelled or transferred from Israel”, although it did not specify whether the interviewees perceived the occupied West Bank as part of the coun-

try or as a distinct entity. Arguing that Palestinians in Israel have no intention of leaving their lands and homes, Buttu noted that proposals such as Netanyahu’s plan would violate international law.

With upwards of 1.7 million Palestin-

ians in the country, however, the Israeli government has often insisted on keeping the door open for a comprehensive arrangement with the Palestinians. But it makes their citizenship inherently inferior, particularly without the consent of those citizens who would be affected. “Talk of such plans or negotiations - particu-

larly without the consent of those citizens who would be affected - is racist as it makes these citizens inherently inferior, temporary, vulnerable, and subject to the whims of political negotiation,” the statement said. Netanyahu is not the first Israeli official to advocate transferring Palestinian citizens of Israel to the West Bank.

Ofer Zalzberg, a senior analyst on Israel and Palestine at the International Crisis Group, argued that the report should be “taken with a grain of salt.” He noted that Netanyahu has faced a groundswell of unrest gripped occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.

Zalzberg said it was doubtful that the pro-
posal would gain traction under the admin-
istration of US President Donald Trump. “This mediation has no partner in Ramallah and will face substantial resistance from Israel’s Palestinian population, so it would be a major error for the Trump admin-
istration to back this,” he told Al Jazeera.

In recent years hardline Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman has called for the coun-
ty’s Palestinian minority to be expelled, specifically proposing the removal of resi-
dents of The Triangle, a region primarily populated by Palestinians and situated on the

boundary line between present-day Israel and the West Bank. After the news broke of Netanyahu’s proposal, Lieber-
man welcomed the news in a Twitter post on Thursday night. “PM Prime Min-
ister welcome to the club,” Trump Tweeted. Jozie Unum, the US envoy to Israel, reportedly relayed to Al Jazeera. Under that version of the deal, Palestinian citizens of Israel would ostensibly be given the option of remaining in their towns and villages or retaining their citizenship.

Diana Buttu, a policy analyst at Al-

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Network and a former negotiator for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said the idea of transferring Palestinians from present-day Israel is “very wrong under any international law”. “Many Israelis would not see any problem with land swaps. To the Israeli ear, it would sound like a neat, logical approach,” Buttu said.

While Schmidt stressed that poll-

ing data is scarce when it comes to Israeli public opinion about land swaps and expulsion of the Palestinian minor-

ity, support for a two-state solution has remained stagnant between 2010 and 2017, from 71 percent to 51 percent.

Last year, the Washington based Pew Research Center found that nearly half of Jewish Israelis thought “Arabs should be expelled or transferred from Israel”, although it did not specify whether the interviewees perceived the occupied West Bank as part of the coun-
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Kenya's vote tomorrow amid a wave of violence

Kenya will cast their ballots for about 16.6 million voters, policies that have increased corruption and political instability.
**Diplomatic victory for China at ASEAN meet**

Manila

China yesterday scored a diplomatic coup in its campaign to weaken regional resistance against its sweeping claims in the South China Sea when Southeast Asian nations issued a diluted statement on the dispute and agreed to Beijing’s terms on talks.

After two days of tense meetings on the dispute, Asian foreign ministers issued a joint communiqué that diplomats involved said was carefully worded to avoid angering China.

**Communiqué**

- After two days of tense meetings on the dispute, Asian foreign ministers issued a joint communiqué that diplomats involved said was carefully worded to avoid angering China.
- Asian ministers demanded in their joint statement that the hoped-for code of conduct with China be “legally binding.”

The release of the statement came shortly after the ministers met with Chinese Foreign Min-
ister Wang Yi on the sidelines of an informal meeting.

China has sought to expand its influence in the region, and the ministers’ statement is a major defeat for China.

- The ministers demanded that the code of conduct be legally binding, a key demand of the Philippines and Vietnam.
- They also called for a moratorium on new settlements and activities in the South China Sea.

The statement is a significant blow to China, which has been pushing for a more conciliatory approach.

- The statement also marks a significant change in ASEAN’s approach to the dispute, which has historically been one of non-interference.
- It is expected to embolden China, which has been pushing for a more conciliatory approach.

**At least 40 dead in Afghan village massacre**

Kabul

Criminal terrorists have once again killed civilians, women and children in Sayad district of Sar-e Pul province, adding to their crimes. The barbaric act of them is deemed a direct violation of human rights and a war crime.

- The Taliban said in a statement that it had captured Mirzawaluf village but rejected reports of civilians killed or injured.
- The incident occurs after the Taliban claimed last month that Afghan forces had killed 33 civilians in an attack on a hospital in Ghazni province.
- The Taliban has been one of the most vocal critics of China and has accused it of supporting the Taliban.

**Criminal terrorists have once again killed civilians, women and children in Sayad district of Sar-e Pul province, adding to their crimes.**

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Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi has come under criticism for his recent comments in which he referred to the Taliban and the Islamic State as "mercenaries" and "terrorists". The president's words have sparked controversy and raised questions about his suitability for the position.

**Vendors show a large national flag to customers at a roadside stall ahead of the Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations, in Lahore, yesterday.**

**PK**

**I-Day celebrations**

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**Terror probe begins into Eiffel Tower incident**

French prosecutors launched a terrorism investigation after a man wielding a knife and shouting the Arab phrase “Allahu Akbar” (God is great) tried to force his way into the Eiffel Tower in Paris, a judicial source said.

The incident at the world-famous tourist landmark was designated a terrorism case because of the suspect’s statements to police, in which he said he wanted to attack a soldier and his apparent radicalisation, the source said.

A source close to the investigation said the suspect, a 27-year-old Moroccan national, had been in a psychiatric hospital for several months and was granted permission to leave care from August 4 to August 10.

During police questioning, the man said he had wanted to carry out an attack against a soldier and had been in contact with a member of IS group who encouraged him to act, the source said.

He was given a four-month suspended sentence. France has been under state of emergency legislation since November 2015. Muslim attacks in which 100 people were killed and around Paris.

In its interior minister said in a newspaper interview published yesterday that the threat of milit- ants to the country was “very high.”

After pushing his way past a security guard at the entrance to the Eiffel Tower, the man approached a police officer at the site and, holding a blade, shouted “Allahu Akbar,” the source said.

But he complied when the police officer refused to use a weapon and offered no resist- ance when arrested.

Several forces have been targeted in several incidents this year, including on the Champs-Elysees avenue and one outside Notre Dame Cathedral, as well as in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis.

Military targets in France led to a drop in visitor numbers last year but activity has recovered in 2017.

The Eiffel Tower had been hit up on Saturday evening in the colours of soccer club Paris St Germain as part of a promotion on PSG to welcome its world- record signing Neymar.

**Germany’s SPD rejects increase in NATO defence fund**

Germany’s Social Democrats yesterday rejected the European Union’s target of spending 2% of national output on defence and accused German Chancellor Angela Merkel of betraying her commitment to European integration.

“It’s not only unrealistic, it is simply the wrong goal,” they said, in comments aimed at dif- ferentiating the SPD from Merkel’s conservatives after four years in a ‘grand coalition’.

The comments put the SPD on a collision course with US officials, who began pressing Germany long before Trump’s election last November to increase its military spending.

The SPD leaders said Ger- many would have to nearly double current defence spending from 37 billion euros to meet the Nato target. That would make it the larg- est military power in Europe – a European army. The German government has been repeatedly negotiating with the EU to meet the Nato target.

**Hurricane Fiona, the worst hurricane of the season, hit Puerto Rico on Saturday. The government declared a state of emergency for the island as it prepares for the storm, which is expected to make landfall on Monday.**

**More lines as Barcelona airport staff strike again**

**Hitler salute: Berlin detains Chinese tourists**

Two Chinese tourists were detained in Berlin for making the Hitler salute for photos in front of the Reichstag building, a police spokesman said yesterday.

The holidaymakers were spotted on a routine patrol on Saturday snapping smartphone pictures of each other posing with the banned gesture outside the historic landmark in the heart of the German capital.

“A probe on suspicion of using the symbols of anti- constitutional organisations was opened against the two Chinese men, aged 36 and 38, and the spokesman said yesterday. The probe was initiated at a local police station and released after paying 330 euros each.**

**Spain to avoid any Gibraltar issue in Brexit talks**

Spain will not make its recovery of Gibraltar a condition in its formal paper. But in an interview with Spanish news agency TVE, Alfonso Dastis said he didn’t want to “underestimate” by demanding that Gibraltar change its status – a stance that Britain would likely never accept.

“I won’t make an agreement between the EU and the UK condition on recovering sovereignty over Gibraltar,” he added. That Spain’s pro- posal of joint sovereignty over the Rock, which would see people in Gibraltar get Spanish nationality on top of the British one, was “very soft” and “very weak”.

“We will try to convince the British that this is a win–win worth exploring and that it would benefit them too,” he said. Spain has argued this will allow Gibraltar to stay in the EU’s 27-member bloc, but authori- ties there categorically reject the idea.

Gibraltar has already rejected such a proposal in a 2012 referendum and they want to stick with the Union Jack despite voting by 99.96 percent to remain in the EU.

A spokesman for Britain’s foreign ministry said the govern- ment in the UK “fully supports” Gibraltarians’ wish to remain in Europe.

But Britain will still have to wrangle over a clause inserted into the EU’s negotiating position which states that post-Brexit, EU citizens have the right to stay in the UK as well as Gibraltar.

This clause caused huge ten- sions when it was unravelled in March, prompting Britain Prime Minister Theresa May to say the “best” way forward for Gibraltar was for Britain to “leave the European Union in step with the wishes of Gibraltar.”

**Firemen work in a flooded street after thunderstorms and mudslides, in Kobenz, Austria, yesterday.**

**Portugal wildfire forces evacuation of water park**

A wildfire raging in north- eastern Portugal amid scorching temperatures has forced evacua- tion of a water park and the closure of highways, firefigh- ters said.

Over 70 firefighters had been battling the blaze in smallhold land near Vila Caia, located about 55km northeast of Porto, the civil protection agency said.

Firefighters evacuated the Pampa Aquático de Amarante and closed a stretch of the A4 highway as a precaution, according to Commander Jose Pereira, the head of the fire- fighters in the nearby town of Amares.

“It was mainly because of the smoke,” he said adding it was not immediately clear how many people were in the water park at the time.

Portugal’s national weather agency said 13 regions on a yellow alert, the third highest level on its alert system, on Saturday because temperatures reached 38 degrees Celsius in some southern areas.

The wave of hot weather is expected to continue with a spell of high temperatures over the weekend and into the coming week.

**Barcelona airport staff strike again**

Workers handling carry-on luggage checks at Barce- lona’s airport staged a second day of partial strikes yesterday, causing long lines for passengers at one of Europe’s most popular airports.

Passengers waited for up to an hour to pass security checks as the airport at the peak of the midday worker slowdown, with waits then shrinking to 20 minutes, according to regional broadcaster TV3.

More negotiations were held yesterday between workers representatives, the private company, Eulen, which runs the service at the airport, and cantonal and regional govern- ment authorities.

The country’s airport authority AENA, said in a statement that “advances in the negotiations, and long lines for passengers at one of Europe’s most popular airports.”

Workers plan to stage another partial strike today, and the airport authority warned that the only one left to resolve.”

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The airport authority promised that the airport was “under control” and that there had been no stop-strike starting August 14.

The association of Spanish airline companies recently said that about 1,000 people had missed their flights since July 24 because of the dispute.
**Russia and US ready to continue dialogue**

Moscow

Russian Foreign Min-
ister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday he and US Col-
leagues were ready to con-
verse on complex issues despite bilateral tensions.

Lavrov, who met US Secre-
ty of State Rex Tillerson on the sidelines of an international gas conference in Saint Petersburg, said that Tillerson asked about the US sanctions against Russia.

"He was primarily interested in details of those decisions that we gradually made in response to the US anti-
Russian sanctions," Lavrov said.

The meeting was the first since President Donald Trump recently signed into law sanctions that Russia said amounted to a full-scale trade war and ended hopes for better ties.

"We provided an explana-
tion of the situation for Russia's decision to take over a summer-house compound in Moscow seized by the US embassy and to slash US diplomats' visa to enter Russia," Lavrov said.

He also cited President Vladimir Putin who, in an interview to Russian TV last week, explained Moscow's move to remove US sanctions over its recently launched bid to punish Bulgaria for selling gas to Moscow under "unfair" conditions.

"We would be interested to see what impression the US special envoy has on the current state of affairs," Lavrov said.

Washington sent Volker to Ukraine last month to assess the situation in the ex-Soviet republic, where a 2015 ceasefire between Kiev's forces and Russia-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country is regularly violated.

Washington cites the con-
crete, key steps to improved relations between Russia and the US.

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**Rolling Stones guitarist admits cancer scare**

London

**AP**

Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood revealed yesterday that he underwent emergency sur-
gery earlier this year after a cancerous lesion was found on his lung.

"I had this thought at the back of my mind after I gave up smoking a year ago. How can I have got through 50 years of rock'n'roll lifestyle, along with alcohol or takes drugs."

Wood gave up smoking shortly before the birth in May last year of his twin girls with wife Sally, and no longer drinks alcohol.

"But for decades he lived a rock'n'roll lifestyle, along with fellow Stones bandmates Keith Richards.

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Wood revealed that he received the diagnosis last year of a cancerous lesion on his lung.

"But for decades he lived a rock'n'roll lifestyle, along with fellow Stones bandmates Keith Richards.

"I had this thought at the back of my mind after I gave up smoking a year ago. How can I have got through 50 years of rock'n'roll lifestyle, along with alcohol or takes drugs."

But he added: "I was bloody lucky but I've always had a very strong guardian angel looking out for me. By rights I shouldn't be here."
Venezuela crushes protests at military base

Caracas AFP

Troops in Venezuela put an end to an army attack on an army base which they had stormed Monday in the country’s third city of Valencia on Sunday. The attack was said to have been launched by a group of men dressed in camouflage standing by some of them armed, he demanded a transi-
tional government and “free elections”. The opposition leader of Maduro’s Socialists Party, Diosdado Cabello, was the first official to announce the news to the city against the government’s efforts to quell a possible military uprising in Caracas. The head of the armed forces, Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino, tweeted: “They couldn’t do anything against the FANB. They tried to assault it with terror-
ists”. Local media and social networks spoke of a possible military uprising in the city against the government of President Nicolas Maduro, but there was no immediate confirmation.

In the video posted online, a man presenting himself as an army captain declared a “legiti-
mate rebellion” to reject the army leader’s demand to succeed in Venezuela, in its first act on Saturday, speaking with 15 other men dressed in camouflage standing by some of them armed, he demanded a transi-
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Mueller would need go-ahead to expand Russia probe: Official

**Washington**

U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence, speaking yesterday, said he did not know whether or not he was preparing for a presidential election run in 2020, saying the suggestion was "that's foolish and offensive." Pence was responding to a New York Times report that some Republicans were mov- ing to launch a "shadow campaign" as President Donald Trump was not involved. Pence was responding to a New York Times report that some Republicans were moving to launch a "shadow campaign" as President Donald Trump was not involved.

Two planes clip wings on Toronto airport tarmac

**Montreal**

A Canadian and a Polish passenger jet clipped wings on the ground at a Toronto airport, causing "serious" damage but no casualties, according to officials. The Polish plane, operated by LOT, was carrying 286 passengers from Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic to Warsaw. The Polish plane, operated by LOT, was carrying 286 passengers from Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic to Warsaw.

Illegal border crossings rise

A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer talks to migrants after they crossed the Canada-US border illegally near Hemmingford, Quebec yesterday. In recent days the number of people illegally crossing the border has grown into the hundreds.

Trump eyes top policy aide for communications director role

**Washington**

The White House may appoint a senior policy advisor with hardline views on immigration, who recently spared with reporters in a televised hearing, as a new communications director, a sen- tor administration official said.

Focus on Trump agenda with new adviser

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

DOWN

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


**NBK Holding launches national campaign**

Anna Persova Rao
The Peninsula

NBK Holding yesterday launched its new national campaign: “The Journeys of Glory”, allowing people of Qatar to sign Mercedes-Benz vehicles used as billboards to support “Tamim in Glory.”

First of its kind in Qatar, NBK Holding has created two high-profile mobile billboards using two Mercedes-Benz cars, the S-Class and the Vito. It was inaugurated at the NBK headquarters on Sheria Road and Sheikh Nawaf Nasir bin Khaled Al Thani, Chairman and CEO of NBK Holding, was first to sign the two “billboards.” A formal ceremony along with Sheikh Nawaf Nasir bin Khaled Al Thani, second deputy CEO along with NBK Holding staff and valued partners.

Talking to The Peninsula, Sheikh Nasser said, “The national campaign has been a success, we have witnessed unity among Qataris and expats living in Qatar. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this campaign.”

We have faced more than 60 days with unity to prove happiness. The future will be bright with many doors of opportunity and people expanding business with Qatar.”

NBK Holding is parading the cars around Qatar until August 20 to allow the people of Qatar to sign and show testimonials to show their commitment to Qatar and its leadership. The Mercedes-Benz Vito will travel to key landmarks and back to the headquarters and will visit VIP dignitaries. To follow the journeys, people are “Those who will take and to make your journey and follow journey of Glory” speak highly enough about the people from the people of Qatar. NBK Holding will host the Mercedes-Benz Vito in the showroom of Nuaimiya Bin Khadhee, a leading retailer.

The full programme of the Vito tour started yesterday near the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA). It will be at the parking of Mosques Portico Arena today from 6:30pm to 1am and tomorrow at the Madinat Center near Novo from 6:30pm to 1am. On Wednesday at Aspire Park from 6:30pm to 1am. Thursday at Souq Waqif from 6:30pm to 1am. Friday at Doha Festival City from 10pm to 11:30pm Saturday at the Al Hazm Mall from 4:30pm to 11:30pm. Sunday at the Villagio Mall from 4:30pm to 11:30pm.

**Partial lunar eclipse today**

**Officials of the Bedaya Center during the launch of the professional development programme for graduates.**

**Kerala shows solidarity with Qatar**

**Tunisian fencer Azza Besbes praises staff at Aspetar**

From October to November 2016, the world fencing silver medalist, ten-time African champion and the only Tunisian Arab and African fencer to win a world medal in three age categories, took part in the 2008-2012 and 2016 Summer Olympics. Under an extensive rehabilitation and training programme with Aspetar’s world-leading sports consultants and physiotherapists as part of the 2017 FIFA World Cup and the World Cup, Besbes’s passage to the final was tough after the Tunisian won a closely fought semi-final encounter against the renowned Italian. Irene Vechi, eventually beating her 15-14. Besbes’s performance has since been praised by fencing experts and commentators around the world with many saying it demonstrated her current level of athletic conditioning.

Besbes said, “This is a historic moment for myself and my country as it represents Tunisia’s first ever silver medal as a fencing World Championship. I dedicate this medal to my late mother, may her soul rest in peace, and everyone who supported and encouraged me and believed in my abilities.”

Besbes provides comprehensive and world-class medical care to elite athletes.