**Qatar Airways gets access to UAE corridor**

Qatar Airways gets access to UAE corridor

Montreal
AFP & Agencies

Qatar Airways can now access new routes over international waters in the Gulf controlled by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, the world aviation agency announced.

The Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been working with “national authorities in the Eastern States to ensure equitable access for Qatar-regional aircraft” since announcing an August 6, 2017 meeting in Dubai. ICAO spokesman Anthony Philbin said “some ongoing route-availability has been assured, and some new temporary or contingency routes have also been developed,” including through Bahrain and UAE airspace, he said.

Qatar had asked the ICAO to approve new routes after Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt halted Qatar Airways from using their airspace earlier this year as part of a diplomatic boycott over Qatar’s ties with the Gulf states and the States involved are continuously monitoring related air route suitability and ATM (air traffic management) measures, which may still be subject to further modification if necessary, by mutual agreement,” Philbin said. Saj Ahmad, chief analyst at the aviation consultancy Strategic Aero Research, said the new corridor, through temporary boilers “will not a longer-term solution that may provide much-needed breathing space for Qatar Airways.”

Ahmad told Al Jazeera that while he does not see any resumption of pre-2017 normalcy in terms of flights to and from Doha, “it will enable Qatar Airways to fly a little more efficiently, particularly when it could not previously fly over UAE airspace.”

**LATAM Airlines Group supports QA**

LATAM Airlines Group supports QA

Latin America’s leading airline group, LATAM Airlines, has a very valued partner in Qatar Airways and the State of Qatar, and that we continue to strengthen our links with our valued partners around the world, Qatar Airways has a very strong partnership with LATAM. 

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said: “We were delighted to extend the warmest of welcomes to LATAM’s board members and offer them a taste of authentic Arabian hospitality.”

“LATAM’s presence in Qatar is an important signal that it is business as usual both for Qatar Airways and the State of Qatar, and that we continue to strengthen our links with our valued partners around the world. Qatar Airways has a very strong partnership with LATAM,” Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said.

**Siege countries violating postal movement: Minister**

Siege countries violating postal movement: Minister

QNA

Minister of Transport and Communications HE Jassem bin Saif Al-Salih met yesterday with Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs Enrique Cueto, and his delegation, while the latter also visited the cargo operations and technical facilities, as well as tour first-hand the airline’s hi-tech operational centre and technical facilities.

In response to the complaint that the State of Qatar had submitted to the UPU about blocking countries with similar policies of the UPU Convention and General Regulations, which are the first of its kind in the world and a dangerous precedent in the UPU conventions.

The two officials discussed blocking countries’ violations of UPU systems, particularly Article 4 of the UPU convention relating to freedom of transit of postal items. The meeting also emphasized the postal correspondence as a human right, and delivered them to their destinations in a social matter.

The meeting also reviewed cooperation in the field of post and means of furthering enhancing and developing them, as well as boosting relations between Qatar and the UPU.

**Abdalelah Haroun wins bronze**

Abdalelah Haroun wins bronze

PROMISING Qatari sprinter Abdalelah Haroun won the bronze medal when he clocked 44.44 seconds in the men’s 400-metre final of IAAF World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. The young star Haroun has broken the 44.39 seconds world record for 400 metres.

**Kuwait renews efforts to end Gulf crisis**

Kuwait renews efforts to end Gulf crisis

Agencies

AS THE GULF crisis entered its third month, efforts to break the stalemate intensified yesterday with renewed diplomatic efforts by Kuwait and the US.

Kuwait Emir H H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah’s envoy First Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammed Al Abdullah Al Muwallaki Al Sabah delivered a letter to H M Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Sultanate of Oman on the recent regional and international developments.

The letter was handed to Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of Sultan Qaboos, H E Tariq bin Tamoor Al Said.

Earlier yesterday, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and the Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum received a letter from Kuwaiti Emir addressing the UAE President H H Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Kuwait emir in a letter to the King in Manama, Kuwait, New Agency reported.

**Abdalelah Haroun of Qatar celebrates after the race.**

Abdalelah Haroun of Qatar celebrates after the race.

Belgium and EU fully support Kuwaiti mediation

OUTGOING Ambassador of Belgium to Qatar, Christophe Payot, has said that Belgium and the European Union are playing their due role for the early resolution of Gulf crisis by emphasizing on the process of dialogue and fully supporting Kuwait mediation.

“We hope this crisis will be resolved soon through dialogue as it was solved in 2014. Belgium fully supports Kuwaiti mediation and we appreciate efforts of the Emir of Kuwait in this regard,” he said while talking to The Peninsula.

**Full report on page 3**

**See also page 24**
Minister approves results of Secondary Certificate examination

At Qatar Independent Technical Secondary School for boys, the success rate was 52.17 percent, while Qatar Bankings Studies and Business Administration Independent Technical Secondary School for boys saw a success rate of 75 percent.

The Director of the Evaluation Institute of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Khalid Al Haroon extended congratulations to the successful students, and wished them successful life in their undergraduate studies.

Minister meets Universal Postal Union chief

Minister of Transport and Communications H Jassem bin Saif Al Sulaiti, with Bashir Hussein, Director-General of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), in Doha, yesterday attended by Mohammed Ali Hannan, President of the Communications Regulatory Authority and Faisal Mohamed Al Naemi, Qatar Post Chairman and Managing Director.

Envoy: Dialogue only way to solve crisis

The envoy said that cutting off diplomatic relations and imposing economic sanctions on Qatar is an imposition of the four countries which will put the State of Qatar in a position of unemployment and sovereignty, adding that this cannot be accepted by the Qatari leadership or people.

The Qatari Ambassador said that the closure of immediate laws in the four countries that prevent tempary travel with the State of Qatar confirm their desire to deprive the truth they hear.

He added that despite the threats and warnings, the State of Qatar, since the beginning of the crisis, has maintained its stance that dialogue is the only way to resolve the crisis and therefore it welcomed the mediation of the sisterly State of Kuwait, adding that Qatar also stressed on the need to resolve the crisis within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The State of Qatar and its people, led by HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, have taken a number of effective measures to counter external pressures, threats and blackmail from the first days of the crisis and the siege imposed on the country, and above all to those who want to defame the image of a country lies and perverse claims that the truth is on our side,” he said.

He reiterated the hope that the near future would witness an exchange of visits between business men from the two countries, signing agreements on avoiding double taxation and reciprocal protection of investments. This will give Moldova greater attractiveness and will give Qatari businessmen information about the areas and sectors of the Moldovan economy and the possibility of direct investment in the Moldovan market.

Siege won’t prevent Qatar from developing international relations

Qatar’s Ambassador to Spain, H E Mohammed Ali Al Malki, says the siege countries fabricated accusations, which were not agreed by the United States and many Arab countries.

The Ambassador expressed his hope for the development of relations with the Spanish region of Extremadura, which can provide much more of the State of Qatar, especially in the field of agriculture and education. He also expressed Qatar’s interest in investing in Spain, and called on the Head of the Government of Extremadura to visit Qatar with delegations of companies from the region to meet with Qatari officials and companies.

The envoy said he believes that the relations in the food sector could be better developed in view of the region’s medium agricultural sector and extensive experience in this field, stressing keenness to cooperate with the Kingdom of Spain in a number of sectors, such as tourism in which Qatar is currently investing heavily.

The Ambassador said that Extremadura will hold a meeting with the participation of 22 ambassadors from Arab countries with diplomatic missions in Spain on October 9 to discuss development and investments, stressing that the Spanish economy is showing good growth and that it is very important in country.

Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Mohammed bin Abdulwahed Al Hammad yesterday visited the second session secondary school for the students attending the academic year 2016-2017.

The ratio of success in day schools was 72.89, while the ratio of success in night schools was 80.8 percent, at the Religious Institute Preparatory and Secondary Independent School For Boys was 80 percent.

Turkish presence creates ‘balance in the region’

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Chairman, Dr Ali bin Sumaikh Al Marri, met here yesterday with the Chairman of the Arab Permanent Committee on Human Rights, Dr Anjoo Shammar. The meeting dealt with the repercussion of the siege, human rights, the humanitarian situation of the citizens of the State of Qatar and its residents, both the nationals of Gulf Cooperation Council and other countries.

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Strong ties between Qatar Airways and Latam

Qatar Airways also announced it was leasing four Latam Airlines Group A350 aircraft for up to a year to meet increasing demand. Latam Airlines Group, which includes now code-shares on Qatar Airways’ routes between Sao Paulo’s Guarulhos Airport and 25 domestic cities across Brazil including Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Campinas, Montevidoe and Curitiba. For do Iquassa, for example, the new A350s offer 36 seats in Business Class and 247 seats in Economy Class. Qatar Airways currently operates a fleet of 19 Airbus A300-900s.

In December 2016, Qatar Airways made a strategic invest- ment by acquiring a 10 per cent shareholding in Latam Airlines Group. June 2017 marked the seven-year anniversary of the strategic investment between the two airlines, which has provided a great deal of strategic advantage to both airlines.

The agreement follows the successful launch of flights between Doha and São Paulo on September 15, which marked the launch of a new route between the two cities. Qatar Airways operates a daily service using an Airbus A350-900, offering 36 seats in Business Class and 247 seats in Economy Class.

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Turkey is protecting its own interests in this crisis and Qatar, rather than taking sides between the parties at the odor. And Ankara’s interests require stability in the region, therefore Turkey would be against an attack on Saudi Arabia as much as Qatar,” Yasin Akar said yesterday.

Ministry of Education and Higher Education H E Mohammed bin Abdulwahed Al Hammad yesterday visited the second session secondary school for the students attending the academic year 2016-2017.

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Qatar to host Global Aviation Training Symposium

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n the coming year, Qatar will host the 5th Global Aviation Training Symposium on the advanced trainer programme to follow the first of its kind organised by the International Airports Authorities Association (IAA) and the Qatar Aviation Organization (QCAO) in the Middle East and North Africa Aviation Training Symposium (CASP).

Qatar’s hosting of the event is part of a partnership between the Qatar Aviation Science College and the QCAO, for Global Aviation Training Security Training (GAT). The partnership agreement was signed by the Director General of QAC, HE Sheikh Jaber bin Hamad Al Thani, and the Deputy Director of the Technical Cooperation Department of ICAO, and Director of the WHO Office for Global Aviation Security Training, Mohamed Al Fadhel.

This symposium will be an important opportunity for ICAO Member States to meet training authorities and organisations to explore the prospects and opportunities of new partnerships, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of strengthening the key capabilities of aviation training in the near and long term.

410 participants from all over the world are expected to attend the symposium, including universities, specialised training centres and major international organisations working in this sector such as the International Air Transport Association and the International Airports Council and other stakeholders.

Qatar Aviation Science Academy’s hosting of this event will be reflected on its strategic vision towards developing the human element of this vital sector in Qatar and the region, especially that this symposium will be attended by distinguished international experts to highlight the training practices that can be used by the aviation training sector in Qatar and promote it.

The “Trainer” Advanced Programme is a well-structured international training net-work of more than 50 specialised training centres and institutions in more than 70 ICAO member countries.

By Irfan Bukhari
The Peninsula

The outgoing Belgian ambassador to Qatar, Christophe Payot, said that Belgium and the European Union are playing their due role for the early resolution of Gulf crisis by dialogue and fully supporting Kuwait’s mediation.

“We hope this crisis will be resolved soon through dialogue as it was solved in 2016. Belgium fully supports Kuwait’s mediation and we appreciate efforts of the Emir of Kuwait in this regard,” he said while talking to The Peninsula.

The outgoing ambassador said that “MENA region was already facing a number of challenges which needed a collective response. Dialogue is the only way to go to resolve the crisis. Middle East and North Africa is already facing unrest and war in Syria, Libya. Yemen therefore discussion and dialogue are needed to resolve the crisis so that we can all collectively address other challenges and defeat global issues of terrorism and extremism.”

He said that the bilateral Union was also playing its role for “quick resolution” of the standstill as directed by its high official’s visit to Kuwait last month. “The region between the Gulf and Europe is passing through problems therefore EU and Gulf and Europe to have those issues with joint effort.”

He said that the European Union was optimistic that the tension in the region would decrease soon through dialogue and we are in constant contact with all parties involved and fully supporting mediation role of Kuwait. “They [Kuwait] know the region and their brothers well therefore they are in a position to get the crisis ‘quickly’,” he added. He said that if the crisis persisted for longer, it would impact economy of the whole region.

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US chooses Qataris for leadership programme

The IVLP programme counts among its alumni British Prime Ministers Theresa May, Tony Blair, Margaret Thatcher and Gordon Brown as well as international leaders such as Kim Dae Jung (South Korea), Nicolas Sarkozy (France) and Anwar Sadat (Egypt) and luminaries such as Noble prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh).

The Regional Health Challenges Research and Remedies programme is based on fostering international collaboration in health management programmes that prove this unique professional exchange opportunity to select leaders in a variety of fields.

Specifically, the IVLP programme was formally established in 1961 and boasts a distinguished alumni of leaders, visionaries, innovators, academics and emerging talent.

Dr Rashid Al Ali, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce, stressed the importance of Talent Consultancy in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at AI Khor Hospital.

"Human breast milk minimises exposure to foreign antigens, provides virtually all of the nutrients most infants require. Babies who receive formula are deprived of the many nutritional, immunologic, and growth-promoting factors they would have received from their mother’s milk," he stated.

According to him, the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly promotes breastfeeding babies but acknowledges that direct breastfeeding is not possible, the next best choice is to feed babies with expressed breast milk.

Dr. Mohammed Ilyas Khan, Senior Lactation Consultant in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of Al Khor Hospital.

"Breastfeeding specialists from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) stressed the importance of breastfeeding babies from birth during a workshop recently organized at Al Wakra Hospital in recognition of World Breastfeeding Week, held each year from August 1 to 7.

In his presentation about the importance of breastfeeding, Dr. Mohammed Ilyas Khan, Certified Lactation Consultant in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of Al Khor Hospital, stated: "A mother’s milk is unique in helping a baby achieve optimal growth and development.”

According to Dr. Khan, the milk of different mammals is not interchangeable. Cow’s milk, even when altered into commercially available infant formula, is not the optimal food to support infant growth and development.

The Peninsula

Dr Rashid Al Ali, above, and Ahmad Al Shadi.

The IVLP programme is the US Department of State’s premier professional exchange programme offered annually to only a handful of select nominees worldwide. The US Permanent Mission to Doha, in collaboration with Al Shadi Graduate Associate—have been selected to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on Regional Health Challenges Research and Remedies programme by taking place in the United States.

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The 50th founding anniversary of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) was celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy of Thailand yesterday.

Ibrahim Fakhroo, Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, joined the ambassadors of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, guests from the business sector, Asean community and local media to mark the occasion.

Thailand Ambassador Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum, who is Chairman of the Asean Committee in Doha (ACD), traced Asean’s endeavours in the past five decades in various fields and its growth as an organisation.

"Today, Asean is more resilient, not only becoming stronger to meet with the new challenges but also forging itself to the next level of cooperation as a community. Asean is also ready to contribute more to the world’s peace and prosperity. Asean’s resolve to cooperate with external partners has made Asean a strong, trusted, and unbiased broker," said the ambassador.

He stressed that politically, Asean had successfully promoted dialogue and cooperation for peace and security.

"Today, Asean with a population of 622 million is collectively the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh in the world, with a combined GDP of $2.6 trillion. It has attracted more than $120 billion in foreign direct investment. With its extensive webs of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) such as Asean plus one, market economies are the region, and an increasing investment in infrastructure and human resources, Asean is poised to become one of the growth areas supporting the emergence of the Asian Century," he said.

As it enters the sixth decade, he said Asean is now embarking upon the formation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which will include 16 countries in the region, covering more than 45 percent of the world population with $21 trillion of combined GDP and 40 percent of global trade.

Thailand Ambassador and ACD Chairman Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum (fourth right), Ibrahim Fakhroo, Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (fourth left) and other Asean ambassadors in the traditional Asean handshake during celebrations of the bloc’s 50th anniversary at Thailand Embassy yesterday. Pic: Baher Amin / The Peninsula

The Thai Ambassador said Asean had successfully promoted dialogue and cooperation for peace and security.

Jumbo Electronics' solidarity with Tamim Al Majd

Raynald C Rivera
The Peninsula

Video Home & Electronic Centre and Jumbo Electronics’ management and employees in a show of support and solidarity to the Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed the ‘Tamim Al Majd’ mural, a symbol of perseverance and unity in these times of crisis in Qatar. Present at the signing were the representatives of the board of directors – Abdulaziz Ahmed Al Khal and Omar Ahmed Al Khal along with CV Rappai, Director & CEO, Video Home & Electronic Centre and Jumbo Electronics. The ‘Tamim Al Majd’ mural is on display at the Jumbo Electronics showroom located at Barwa Village for customers who visit the outlet to leave a message on the mural as a sign of support.
**QFSW honours participants of national event**

Amna Al Mannai, CEO, Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QFSW), with media persons and volunteers, after the honouring ceremony at the Ali bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena in Doha yesterday.

**Registration opens for ROTA Leadership Training 2017**

The Peninsula

**belN Media Group and CBS Studios International in content deal**

The Peninsula

**Katara to screen South African film**

The Peninsula
Gaza City AP

A new Israeli restriction on the movement of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip is fueling speculation among Palestinians that there is a new, more comprehensive, Israeli offensive against their territory.

The Israeli military said on Wednesday that it had begun implementing a new round of restrictions on the Gaza Strip, including a ban on the export of construction materials and a ban on the import of all but a limited number of medical and humanitarian supplies.

The new restrictions, which were ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, are expected to affect all Gazans, including those who work in the private sector, according to the Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli military said the restrictions were necessary to prevent the smuggling of weapons and other materials into Gaza, and to prevent the movement of people and goods that could be used for military purposes.

A senior government official told reporters that the new restrictions were a response to the growing threat posed by Hamas, the militant group that controls the Gaza Strip.

The official said that Hamas was using the restrictions to gain leverage in talks with Israel, and that the Israeli government would not be deterred from taking strong action to contain the threat.

The new restrictions come as the Israeli government is under increasing pressure to do more to curb the activities of Hamas and other entities that it regards as a threat to its security.

The Israeli military said it had increased its surveillance and intelligence gathering efforts in the Gaza Strip, and that it was working closely with its allies in the region to develop new strategies to deal with the threat.

The restrictions, which also affect the movement of people and goods within the Gaza Strip, are expected to cause significant disruption to the lives of Gazan civilians.

The new restrictions follow similar measures implemented by Israel in recent months, including a ban on the export of construction materials and a ban on the import of all but a limited number of medical and humanitarian supplies.

The new restrictions are expected to have a significant economic impact on the Gaza Strip, which relies heavily on the movement of goods and people across the border with Israel.

Gaza City AP

New Israeli restrictions on the movement of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip are expected to cause significant disruption to the lives of Gazan civilians, as well as to the economy of the Palestinian territory.

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Nairobi AP

Kenyatta tallies votes in high-stakes election

Vote counting was underway in Kenya yesterday after elections dominated by a close battle between Prime Minister Raila Odinga and his rival Uhuru Kenyatta, who has raised fears of violence in East Africa’s most vibrant democracy.

Only a few hours after polls closed, more than one-and-a-half million votes had been tallied, the electoral commission said.

"We are nearing the end of the counting process," said the national elections commission head, Wafula Chebukati.

"We are on our final day of counting," he added.

The tallying process has been marred by allegations of vote-rigging and corruption, with both candidates accusing each other of fraud.

The election is seen as a test of Kenya’s democracy, after a series of contested polls in recent years.

The winner will be the first president to take office after a constitutional amendment was passed last year, allowing for re-elections.

Kenyatta has come under intense criticism for his handling of the economy and corruption, while Odinga has accused the president of using his power to suppress opposition.

In a tweet shortly before voting, Kenyatta said: "My vote is my choice, and I will never be blackmailed into voting against my conscience."
Political instability

The disqualification of former Pakistani Prime Minister and head of Pakistan Muslim League–Nawaz, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, by the Supreme Court on charges of concealing assets under certain articles of the country’s Constitution has established rule of law in a State reeling against terrorism and at the same time ensured new wave of political instability granting space to some political parties to challenge decades-old control of Sharif’s party over the biggest province, Punjab.

As usual prime minister Nawaz Sharif is set to start his political rally from capital Islamabad to his stronghold and hometown Lahore, the emergence of cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri, an opponent of the ruling party, on country’s political landscape heralds new era of turmoil in a country which has seen numerous marital dusts since its birth. In a highly-charged political atmosphere developed with the ouster of Nawaz Sharif, further political polarization may create trouble for security establishment to knock out hydra-headed monster of terrorism. Many political leaders and media outlets known for their proximity to the military establishment of Pakistan are criticizing Sharif for flexing his muscles while the PML-N is adamant that his leader will take its streets to not lose grip on general elections scheduled next year.

Pakistan’s politicians should avoid playing tug-of-war which can eventually harm the country and derail its journey to peace and prosperity.

Saudis media endingangering Qatari lives on Haj: Al Marri

It is becoming clear that the measures being adopted are overly broad in scope and implementation and have the potential to seriously disrupt the lives of thousands of women, children and men, simply because they belong to one of the nationalities involved in the dispute.

Zeid Raad Al Hussein
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

The UN Rapporteur on Human Rights and would form the basis of a series of legal actions conducted in local courts, Qatar’s courts and finally in the International Court for Justice (IHC) in The Hague. A team of Swiss human rights lawyers had been engaged by Qatar.

They have a right to cut diplomatic ties. But they have no right under international law to violate the rights of ordinary citizens whose life, religious freedoms, education, property, business and families are being targeted in this way.” Marri said.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have all condemned the human rights violations as a result of the blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt.

Zeid Raad Al Hussein, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said: “It is becoming clear that the measures being adopted are overly broad in scope and implementation and have the potential to seriously disrupt the lives of thousands of women, children and men simply because they belong to one of the nationalities involved in the dispute.”

The writer is Editor in Chief of Middle East Eye. He was chief foreign leader writer of The Guardian, former Associate Foreign Editor, European Editor, Moscow Bureau Chief, European Correspondent, and Ireland Correspondent. He joined the Guardian from The Scotsman, where he was education correspondent.
W e are approaching one month since the liberation of Mosul was announced by Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider Al-Abadi, and the over-whelming size of the challenge ahead to rebuild the city is beginning to loom large.

After a four-month battle to take Mosul, which has led to devastating destruction, and another eight-month battle to retake Tikrit, the Iraqi security forces have defeated Daesh in Mosul and secured a mass exodus of the group's hundreds of thousands of fighters. However, while there have been various reports of incidents taking place, the frequency of such reports has been limited, with sectarian confrontations largely being avoided in Mosul. Significantly, the Mosul offensive was led by the Iraqi security forces, without involvement of the PMFs.

Although Daesh has been pushed out of Mosul and almost all of its other territories in Iraq, it is by no means a dead entity in Iraq. The social impact they have had over the past three years, as well as ongoing sectarian tensions and the group's previous success in using insurgent tactics, means that their threat will endure for years to come as they start to return to asymmetric warfare.

Despite the morose boost of victory felt across the country, the question remains over whether sufficient political progress can be made in the local and national authorities to earn the confidence of local populations.

In this regard, upcoming elections will be important in assessing the ability of the Iraqi state system to be sufficiently inclusive in its governance. Political progress in stabilising the country and reconstructing it will also determine what extent Daesh will be defeated in the long term, as it seeks to expand its insurgent tactics and cause destruction across the country.

Rebuilding Mosul

The destruction experienced in the battle to retake Mosul is difficult to overstate, with the urban warfare in Western Mosul causing particular devastation to buildings and infrastructures. Rebuilding the city is a mammoth task that will take many years and will require billions of dollars in support, as well as strong coordination between the local authorities, national authorities and international donors. Given that Iraq has been plagued with issues surrounding corruption, mismanagement and security problems in delivering such services in the past, major efforts will have to be made by both the prime minister and his cabinet, as well as international actors, to ensure that these shortfalls are addressed.

Children who fled with their families from their homes fill bottles with water at Salamjyah camp, near Mosul.

Planning Minister Salmon Al Jumaili recently announced plans for a 10-year reconstruction plan for Mosul and other areas liberated from Daesh. The cost of this plan is expected to be $100 billion, with the funds being sourced from domestic revenue, international lending and grants.

However, from the outset this plan seems ambitious given the country's economic situation. The Iraqi economy still relies heavily on oil revenues and has recorded a substantial deficit in 2016 estimated to be over 10 percent of GDP. As things stand, the Iraqi government may find it very difficult to reach the $100 billion target they have for reconstruction.

The future of Daesh

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Daesh's history in Iraq since 2013 tells us that it is an adaptive and tactical organi-

nation. Therefore, we can expect that they will revert to their tried and tested method of terror and insurgent tactics.

With provincial and national elections approaching, Daesh will likely seek to cause as much disruption and damage as possible to ensure any international processes and progress are thwarted. Key infrastructure projects will also continue to be targeted.

The next question is whether Iraq's water infrastructure which has repeatedly been destroyed by Daesh is now under the control of the federal government. Ensuring the security and stability of infrastructure services will be a vital safeguard against renewed attacks on local populations and help ensure the demise of Daesh in the long term.

The devastation in Mosul is clear to all to see, but the push by the Iraqi authorities to stabilise the city and begin the rebuilding process is of utmost importance at this critical time. Beginning to implement some of the initial 26 construction projects the Iraqi government has approved and re-establishing security will help build confidence among local popula- tion and encourage the return of thousands of internally displaced people to Mosul.

The writer is a research assistant with the Middle East Institute (MEI) Program at Chatham House, a London- based think tank. He is currently in Iraq and Syria with the UNHCR.
Gandhinagar
IANS
KOLKATA:
Government has dismissed them after con-
cluding its own investigation.

The other two successful candidates
in the election were Union Minister Mewalal
and Union Minister Shripad Naik.

BJP President Amit Shah and
candidates in the election were
tested Rajya Sabha election.

In a jolt to BJP, Congress candidate
Ahmed Patel, 68, the powerful political
secretary to Congress president Sonia
Gandhi, is said to have
afford such expensive
book post by a party worker
about the source of funds of the
questions in the social media
issued a “public warning” to
age.”

We have also considered his
contribution in various fora
three-member commission
referred punitive action against
KOLKATA:

Chidambaram, who was part of
a Congress delegation that met
the Election Commission yester-
day seeking rejection of votes of two
Congress rebels who said
“Money is muscle and manipula-
tion could not win in the Rajya Sabha elections.”

"BJP can break a few weak Congress MLAs but BJP cannot break the Congress party," he
said in his reaction in the Rajya Sabha.

High drama marked the day-
long development in the Delhi
polling in Gandhinagar where two Congress MLAs had voted for the BJP along with
cross-voting by an NCP MLA to
stop that could threaten Patel’s
chances. The false alliance and
the JDU-MLA was unried with his
government Secretary
claiming that it went to the BJP
while the lawmaker said he had
voted for Patil.

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minis-
ter Nitinbhai Patel said that
Election Commission’s decision
that rejected the votes of two
rebels Congress MLAs was
“wrong” and the party may take
legal action against it.

"I believe they had plans since Monday to make this fabricated story and conspiracy," Congress leader Shaktisinh Gehl said who was asked up in anger.

"Shaktisinh Gehl Ji was angry when MLA/Rajya Bhai Patell showed him the vote, he was visible angry. He tried to snatch the ballot paper. He even asked the MLA to show it to twice
and hold his hand. This is against law," Nitinbhai Patel told report-
erns after the decision.

The decision is said to be of
voting to the public, menit that
us the whole nation will say
we are bad people," he said.

Nitinbhai Patel also said: “One polling agent had this issue immediately but we thought that they will have to do it under the poll code. If required we will take legal action.”

The Election Commission ordered rejection of the votes of two rebel Congress MLAs in the Gujarat Rajya Sabha elections.

A new twist to the out-
come involving Congress President’s political secretary Ahmed Patel.

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book post by a party worker
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**Party drops plans for Sharif’s brother to replace him**

Lahore

The brother of ousted Paki-

**Up to 100 feared dead in China quake**

Beijing

A 6.5-magnitude earth-

**Landslide in southwest China leaves 24 dead**

Beijing

A landslide triggered by

**Pyongyang poses new level of threat: Tokyo**

Tokyo

The Chinese navy and air force flexed their muscles in con-

**Tillerson in Thailand; focus on North Korea**

Bangkok

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) with Thailand Prime

Minister Prayuth Chanocha during a meeting at Government

House in Bangkok yesterday.

**As China admits tensions rise**

Shanghai

The Chinese navy and air force flexed their muscles in con-

**Ups and Downs**

At home and plays a leading role 

in advancing regional security and prosperity, a US embassy spokes-

man said.

Tillerson offered no specific

message on human rights when

he spoke to the American com-

munity at the ambassador’s

residence and highlighted the

20-year-old relationship.

“We want to continue to grow

that relationship, even in its ups

and downs,” he said.

Tillerson met with Thailand’s for-

eign minister, Don Pramudwinai,

before joint chief Prayuth.

Donald Trump had earlier sig-

ned a US-Thai security forum

in Manila at the weekend.

The quake occurred around

2.00pm local time.

More than 38,000 people

visited the tourist site yesterday,

according to the official Xinjiang

news agency.

Electricity was cut briefly,

but was then restored, she said.

Some houses at the scenic

spot collapsed following the

quake and authorities were

organising young people to help

evacuate residents, a staff

worker at the park told AFP.

Photos from the area posted
to social media showed masses of

people milling about on streets scattered with light

debris, and a large dam from

being hit by a large boulder.

China’s efforts to expand its military influence and territorial

claims, particularly in waters around Japan.

The US believes

the United States believes

that the US-Iranian relationship will be more

difficult than it has been.

The US has prioritised

the removal of North Korean nuclear

and ballistic missile programmes.

A UN resolution on new sanctions

against North Korea.

Another source of friction is

North Korea’s continued testing of

nuclear weapons and ballistic

missiles.

The US has urged China

to do more to cut funding

streams for North Korea.

North Korean front companies are

been urged by Southeast Asian coun-

tries to use Bangkok as a regional

hub for their activities.

The US has been encouraging

Thailand to take a tougher stance

on North Korean front companies.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-

ocha said Thailand would support a

UN resolution on new sanctions

on Pyongyang over its missile

programme.

The US warned that

a resolution means he is barred from

being prime minister in

Pakistan, effectively scuttling

the seat, a move likely to

cause problems for the

main reason why Shahbaz may

not win is linked to the
general elections and the

governor’s fears that its grip on the
total vitally Punjab province will
weaken if he steps down as
chief minister.

The way Pakistan’s politi-
cal system is set up means any
party that sweeps Punjab will most likely go on to form a
government after the 2018 poll.

Nawaz resigned last month after the

Supreme Court directed him and his

lawyers to declare his assets.

Shahbaz has always denied

that he should continue in his

role as chief minister of the

politically vital Punjab province

that produces more than half of

Pakistan’s 190 million people.

Shahbaz will definitely not

contest the 2018 polls,” said one of

Shahbaz’s aides in Lahore, referring
to the National Assembly seat

left vacant by

the senior PML-N figure in

Lahore confirmed that the chief

minister was not contesting

the seat, a move likely to

leave Abbasi in charge until

the next general elections, likely in mid-2018.

PML-N officials say the

race to the next election.

with tens of thousands displaced.

The latest disaster hit a vil-

lage in Pugu country at around

10km, the US Geological Sur-

vey said.

The affected region, Xinhai-

gou county, includes one of the

country’s most famous national

parks, a UNESCO World

Heritage site known for karst

formations and lakes.

The quake occurred around

9.20pm (0200 GMT), not far from

the site of a massive 8.0-mag-
nitude earthquake that struck in

2008 leaving 87,000 people

dead or missing.

The epicentre was 284km

north of the provincial capital

Chengdu and struck at a depth

of 10km, the US Geological Sur-

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Italian and Malta keep migrant vessel in limbo

Rome AFP

A Spanish vessel with three Libyan migrants aboard is stuck in international waters after Italian and Maltese authorities refused to let it in.

The three aboard the ship Golfo Azzurro, chartered by Doctors without Borders (MSF), which has not signed up to the new code, were in limbo, illustrating political maneuvers at sea yesterday after Italy and Malta to change crew and load supplies, the Golfo Azzurro was refused to dock.

When the Golfo Azzurro approached the Italian island of Lampedusa, the closest to the Libyan coast, Italian authorities opened fire. Prosecutors’ move to seize the vessel has been under pressure since May 2015, when the NGO was preparing to take the migrants back to Libya because it’s against maritime law” with Libya not considered as a safe port “so we have to take them to a European port,” Proactiva’s executive director, Carlos Echeverria, a citizen in a democracy to take action when the state fails to do so.

Two weeks ago, Turkish police set up a security cordon in a suburb of Brussels yesterday after an avalanche of citizens expressed their views.

The driver ran at least 17 men who have not been identified by their names or family members as assistants, except for the driver’s who has made a point of helping migrants on the move. After the car stopped there was a dispute over the amount of money to be paid. The driver then reversed the car and started to drive again, this time for Macron as opinion polls show his popularity slipping badly.

Several migrants at a disused railway building. The appeals court confirmed the first conviction but reversed the acquittal. Hailed as a hero by his fellow migrants, Herrou is in no mood to compromise. "I say to all the families that I did not regret anything, that I did it with pleasure," he said. "If the immigration was coming from the north of Europe, the courts would be saying the same thing. This is state racism," he added. Herrou is one of several people to appear in court in southern France charged with illegally assisting migrants who have travelled up through Europe after crossing the Mediterranean in rickety boats.

Afghan asylum court yesterday ordered the sentence of a Frenchman who has made a point of helping migrants across the border from Italy, but stopped short of accepting his case.

The court in Aix-en-Provence gave activist Cédric Herrou a four-month suspended sentence – half the length the prosecutor had asked for, but more than his initial sentence.

"This is a warning sentence," the judge told him. "If you are convicted again, you risk having this sentence applied.

Herrou was unrepentant as he emerged from court, where around 30 activists and supporters were on hand to support him. "We will not put up with this," he said.

"I will continue to fight from prison," he said. "It is the role of a citizen in a democracy to take action when the state fails to do so."

President Emmanuel Macron is to create a First Lady position. "We have to be a public role at all times," he said. "The role of Brigitte Macron is more than a political function, welcoming guests, and disabled charities.

And disabled charities.

Georgia slams Putin’s visit to Abkhazia

Moscow AFP

Georgia reacted furiously yesterday after Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Russian-backed separatist region of Abkhazia on the anniversary of the outbreak of a brief war between Russia and Georgia.

Putin met the Black Sea resort of Poti, one of Russia’s main Mediterranean ports, where he was given a tour of an old naval base. The visit, just 10 days after the end of a brief war between Russia and Georgia, was a "cynical action," saying it represented a continuation of Moscow’s “deliberate policy against Georgia.”

"I urged Moscow to cease ‘provocative actions’ and called on the international community to respond to Russia’s ‘aggressive steps’,” Putin said.

"Abkhazia is internationally recognised as part of ex-Soviet Georgia but Russia sees it as a separate country, along with another region, South Ossetia, in the breakaway region of Abkhazia. Abkhazia is considered an occupied region as a cut-price holiday destination, as crucial to security in the region. The unite-based on Abkhazia’s territory continues to provide stability in the region. Georgia in the future.’

Putin’s visit came after two Russian tourists in Abkhazia were killed and dozens injured by an explosion at a munitions depot earlier this month. The region is popular with Russians because it is a cut-price holiday destination.

Meanwhile the exiled former leader of Georgia warned of more potential Russian domination in the tiny separatist region.

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French President Francois Hollande has pledged a rescue operation as the NGO vessel was some 180km off the Tunisian coast as fishermen reported yesterday did allow 127 migrants to be rescued on Sunday, Spain’s Proactiva Open Arms mission head Gerard Canals said.

"We asked to disembark in Lampedusa because it was state racism," he added. Herrou is one of several people to appear in court in southern France charged with illegally assisting migrants who have travelled up through Europe after crossing the Mediterranean in rickety boats.

"We cannot take them back to Libya because it’s against maritime law” with Libya not considered as a safe port “so we have to take them to a European port,” Proactiva’s executive director, Carlos Echeverria, a citizen in a democracy to take action when the state fails to do so.

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**Dutch egg probe widens to chicken meat tests**

The Hague

AP

It is a new twist in Europe’s latest food scandal. Dutch authorities yesterday said tests showed that they had started testing chicken meat from across poultry farms to determine whether it too was contaminated.

Scientists are looking for the presence of the insecticide fipronil, which is potentially dangerous to humans, after suspicions were raised in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Denmark about the presence of eggs from the Netherlands.

“The suspicion is that eating chicken meat in the poultry farms with eggs, will determine whether the meat is contaminated as well.” Tjitte Maatbroek, spokesman for food security agency NVWA said.

The probe focuses on a “few dozen” farms that produce both eggs and chicken meat. NVWA said. Millions of chickens now face being culled that fipronil is used to rid the family dog of ticks, kill lice on birds, and in cockroaches. It is also a prolific killer of blossoming red mites that can devastate crops, but Europe prohibits its use on food-producing animals.

Tests with lab rats have observed toxic effects on the nervous system, and the pesticide is deemed dangerous to bees – crucial crop pollinators – causing it to be banned for farming in many countries. For humans, the World Health Organization lists fipronil as “moderately hazardous”. With traces found in eggs from Dutch and Belgium, consumers are concerned.

At the levels reported, there seems to be little or no risk even for people who have eaten tainted eggs. “Withdrawing the eggs from the market,” is more important than reassuring the public about the safety of their food, rather than protecting their health,” said Alan Borsh, a toxicology professor at Imperial College London.

A scientific paper published in 2004, reported that seven people known to have drank fipronil in Sri Lanka, where self-poisoning is common, failed in their suicide attempts. Two had taken dozens of 500 millilitre each (3.4 fluid ounces).

The group’s symposium included coming agitations and seizures, but all recovered fully within days. Those dosed, said Borsh, were “thousands and thousands of times higher” than anything the tainted eggs may contain.

French authorities consider a concentration of 0.2 milligrams of fipronil per kilogramme of egg, as the maximum safe level, even though this is considered not necessarily dangerous. Eggs are withdrawn from the market at an even lower cut-off – 0.005 mg/kg. Studies so far have too far found no evidence that long-term repeated exposure heightened cancer risk, said Borsh.

The British Food Standards Agency says the number of tainted eggs represented about 0.01% percent of eggs imported into the UK each year, and there was “no need” for concern.

The German BfR food and chemical safety advisory body, however, warns that the highest contamination levels measured in eggs so far may exceed recommended levels for children. In the Netherlands authorities have also warned that eggs from 50 farms contained levels of fipronil too high to be eaten by children.

France, which has blocked production from 53 farms, said fipronil concentrations found so far were “far below” EU limits, and there was a need for a recall. Most of the contaminated eggs have been traced and destroyed.

# Low to no risk from pesticide-tainted eggs: Experts

Paris AP

The pesticide fipronil at the heart of Europe’s latest food safety scare is found in common household products used to rid the family dog of ticks, kill lice on pets, and in cockroaches. It is also a prolific killer of blossoming red mites that can devastate crops, but Europe prohibits its use on food-producing animals.

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**Sea exercise**

LONDON Reuters

Points who think they are being spied on by their children during their holiday could be putting kids and Britains security at a disadvantage, according to a former British spy chief.

“It’s a shame people are spending their holiday unsuccessfully attempting to reassure their children from 0-5. For their digital and social skills, said Robert Hannigan, a former director of the Government Communications Headquarters, who was in the British newspaper The Telegraph. “Your poor parenting may be helping them and saving the country.”

The Home Office issued a GHQ at the start of this year, said parents are often scared of the virtual world because they don’t understand as their kids do.

“We need young people to explore this digital world just as they explore the physical world,” he said, adding Britain is “desperately short” of cyber skills.

“The baseline of understanding is too low and often behind their competitors.”

Robert Hannigan and National Health Service have been hit by cyber attacks in recent months, leaving lawmakers, his aides and hospitals to cope with computers that were locked out of their computer systems.

In a report published in January, the British government opened an National Security Centre - part of GCHQ - to help plug that gap. Hannigan said it’s not too late for parents to get involved. He says they buy a Raspberry Pi, a small computer designed to help their children learn programming skills, and build it with their children.

“Leave aside your fears of being a nerd, that would be a problem to be proud of,” he said.

**Manchester airport pipe bomb plotter found guilty**

London BBC

A man who tried to smuggle a pipe bomb onto a flight from Britains Manchester Airport was found guilty of possessing explosives with intent to harm yesterday.

Nadine Muhammad, 43, was trying to board a Ryanair flight to Italy on January 30, when security officials discovered the explosive device hidden in his carry-on luggage. Build inside a sealed marker pen, the bomb had been designed to be activated manually.

Airport security officials seized the red bomb and called police. The man, Muhammad later returned to the airport and flew to Italy on February 5. He was arrested by the police upon his return to Britain on February 12. Muhammad denied that he had any involvement in the bomb.

But prosecutors said Muhammad intended to disable the device in the Ryanair flight, “Nadine Muhammad’s motive for attempting to take this device onto a plane remains unknown. However it is clear that the consequences, he had been successful, could have been disastrous.” Sue Hemming, Crown Prosecution Service said. He was found guilty and will be sentenced on August 23.

**NEWS BYTES**

British police search for jogger who knocked woman into road

LONDON British police appealed yesterday for help in tracing a jogger who appeared to push a woman off a path of an oncoming bus in a busy west London street. Closed circuit TV footage showed the male pedestrian knock over a woman who was walking with her dog and a boy on a busy west London street. Closed circuit TV footage showed the male pedestrian knock over a woman who was walking with her dog and a young boy on a busy west London street.

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**Memorial to Jewish children vandalised**

LYON A memorial to Jewish children deported during World War II in eastern France has been vandalised, a local Jewish charity said, leading to condemnation from the French government. “We are horrified but we won’t give up. We’ll rebuild,” said a woman sunbathing in her garden, two nudists sitting on a couple making love on their patio, and a woman sunbathing in her garden, two nudists sitting on a couple making love on their patio.

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**UN slams Venezuela on ‘excessive force’**

**Recent demonstrations in Venezuela have stemmed from anger over the installation of an all-powerful Constituent Assembly that many see as a power grab by President Nicolas Maduro.**

**Caracas**

*The United Nations yesterday slammed Venezuela’s use of “excessive force” against protesters, amid worsening tensions and fresh moves against the opposition.*

**Meanwhile, the country’s supreme court nominated a prominent opposition mayor in the middle of the night to 15 months in prison and stripped him of his right to hold political office. Ramon Muchacho, the mayor of the upscale Caracas municipality of Chacao, was one of a group of opposition mayors who had been threatened with arrest for failing to prevent street protests in their jurisdictions.**

**Recent demonstrations in Venezuela have stemmed from anger over the installation of an all-powerful Constituent Assembly that many see as a power grab by President Nicolas Maduro.**

**In a statement after the ruling, Muchacho said he had been convicted for guaranteeing the right to peaceful protest and for “fighting for change in Venezuela.”**

**Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly was to convene in the same building as the opposition-controlled legislature, amid calls for protests. Pro-government militiamen outside were preventing opposition lawmakers from entering.**

**Late Monday, the head of the pro-Maduro assembly, former foreign minister Dicky Rodriguez, led police and other forces into the chamber where the opposition-controlled National Assembly meets. sharping tensions between the rival bodies.**

**The developments followed a raid on an army base over the weekend apparently led by two rogue military officers, one on active duty and the other who had been discharged three years earlier.**

**The military is still searching for rebels who fled with weapons stolen from the base’s armory.**

**Colombia’s Foreign Affairs Minister Maria Angela Holguin attends a meeting with foreign ministers and representatives from across the Americas to discuss issues related to the Venezuelan crisis, in Lima, yesterday.**

**Mexico braces for more Tropical Storm Franklin**

**Mexico City**

*Tropical Storm Franklin swept Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula yesterday. Dumping heavy rain on its pristine beaches but doing relatively little damage – though the country was braced for a second round. Franklin made landfall early yesterday some 350km south of the beach resort of Cancun, and was advancing to the northwest at 20km per hour, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC).*

**It was set to finish crossing the peninsula later and enter the Gulf of Mexico, where it could strengthen – possibly into a hurricane – before cracking back into the Yucatan coastline.**

**The storm’s second landfall is expected tonight or early tomorrow, to the north of the major port city of Veracruz, according to forecasts.**

**The storm currently has maximum sustained winds of 75km per hour, according to the Miami-based NHC in its 1500 GMT bulletin.**

**‘Some weakening is likely until the centre moves back over water, and strengthening is expected thereafter until it falls occur in mainland Mexico,’ it said.**

**Mexican authorities had previously evacuated some 300 residents of small fishing villages in the storm’s path.**

**Fortunately, the storm did not receive reports of any problems or accidents related to the storm, the governor of Quintana Roo state, Carlos Joaquin, told Mexican radio network Formula.**

**The international airport in Chetumal the state capital reopened after closing overnight.**

**Maradona defends Maduro over crisis**

**Buenos Aires**

*Argentine football hero Diego Maradona defended Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro yesterday over a deadly political crisis in which the socialist leader’s opponents have branded him a dictator.*

**World Cup winner Maradona, 56, was a friend of Maduro’s late predecessor Hugo Chavez and joined in his anti-“Bolivarian” socialist creed.*

**“We are Chavistas to the death. When Maduro gives an order, I will serve as a soldier for a free Venezuela, not a socialist imperialism,” Maradona wrote in a message on Facebook.**

**“We need admittance for welfare policies for the poor. But under Maduro, Venezuela’s economy has collapsed and a violent political struggle has broken out. Long live Chavez, Long live Maduro. Long live the revolution.” Maradona wrote.**

**“Long live the true Venezuelans, not the ones who are serving their own interests and those of the right-wing.”**

**Maduro’s rivals accuse him of tearing up democracy to cling to power in the oil-rich country. He says he is the victim of a US-backed capitalist plot.**

**US salmonella cases linked to Mexico papayas**

**DES MOINES:** An increasing number of people have been sickened by eating papayas imported to the US from a farm located in southern Mexico, US public health officials said in an update on the outbreak first reported more than two weeks ago.

**Salmonella has now sickened 199 people in 36 states and 32 were serious enough to be hospitalised, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on its webpage dedicated to the outbreak. One person心脏 death in New York City died.**

**Papayas from the Carica de Campeche farm in Campeche, Mexico, appears to be the likely source, the FDA said. The farm is located on the Gulf of Mexico side of the Yucatan Peninsula.**

**Papayas from the Carica de Campeche farm tested positive for five different strains of salmonella bacteria, which can cause diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain and fever. Young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems are the most likely to have severe infections.**

**New York nearly tripled to 36 since the last report on July 21 and New Jersey cases have more than doubled to 29. Virginia has had 11 cases, Pennsylvania seven and Maryland has had six. Connecticut and Minnesota each have four cases, and Massachusetts has had three.**

**‘Torture’ psychologists of CIA to stand trial**

**Washington**

*Two torture psychologists who helped design the CIA’s post-9/11 rendition programme will stand trial in September for promoting the use of torture methods like water-boarding, stare-down and chaining prisoners in extreme stress positions.*

**Federal judges in Washington state late Monday ordered a lawsuit on behalf of three former detainees – one of whom died in a CIA prison following harsh interrogation – to go to a jury trial, rejecting efforts to force a settlement and prevent a full hearing of the case. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the ex-detainees, will be the first involving the torture programme to go to trial.**

**The government has headed off previous efforts, citing what is said is a need to protect sensitive intelligence.**

**The case targets psychologists James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, who were recruited by the CIA in 2002 to design and help conduct interrogations of war-on-terror suspects captured in Afghanistan and elsewhere.**

**The two were paid $80m for their work, which included helping interrogate Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks by Al-Qaeda, and Abu Zubaydah, another top Qaeda official.**

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**LEFT: Nicolas Maduro Guerra, son of the Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro and member of the National Constituent Assembly, arrives to attend to its session in Caracas, yesterday. A view of a session of the National Constituent Assembly in Caracas, yesterday.**
**Qatari artists to create country’s largest mosaic**

Qatari artists Lina Al Ali and Radi Al Hajri, together with citizen and residents will create the country’s largest mosaic dubbed ‘The Love of Qatar’ at Doha Festival City (DFC) from August 10 to 15.

The collective work of art is an initiative of the ongoing Qatar Summer Festival (QSF) and will create a mosaic for Qatar, once completed, will be displayed at the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum.

Mashal Shahbik, Director of Tourism Events and Festivals at Qatar Tourism Authority said: “We are very pleased to be providing a unique platform for artistic expression at QSF this year, especially with so many people seeking an avenue to express solidarity with Qatar and its people. Bringing local artists in a special show is an opportunity to interact with people and at the same time enhancing the mall-goers’ experience.”

She added, “Working with our partners, we are always exploring new ways in which we can create authentic Qatari experiences for our visitors.”

Al Hajri is a multi-talented artist who likes to express himself through poetry, writing and art. Commenting on his upcoming collaboration with QSF, he said: “This event offers the public the opportunity to complete a mosaic of individual feelings and expressions that will create a message on a larger scale, which in turn represents and reflects the Nation’s pride in art.”

Al Ali, who is a children’s book author and full-time visual artist, shared the same sentiments. “I believe that art has the power to transform a common mundane reality to a surreal beautiful expression that speaks to people from walks of life,” she said. “For the Love of Qatar delivers a simple yet powerful message to everyone living in this country.”

The second section introduces visitors to the Ottoman production of works ranging from the 16th to 18th centuries. It includes examples of carpets in addition to other mediums such as manuscripts, metalwork and ceramics.

The exhibition is broken down into three sections, each focusing on a specific empire. The Safavid Empire section (1501-1736) showcases works from the Safavid royal Kitabkhanah, or manuscript workshop, as well as artistic motifs developed under patronage such as Shah Tahmasp. The Safavids played a major role in the transfer of artistic practices by means of both local and outside influences coming from Iranian artists.

The last section highlighting the Mughal Empire (1526-1858), offers a look into the culmination of artistic styles including Safavid, Ottoman and local traditions.

Of note are the detailed floral designs that represent a major part of the decorative repertoire, found particularly in carpets and jewellery. A range of educational programmes, workshops and events continue to be organised alongside the exhibition, which will inspire engagement and provide enriching opportunities for the people of Qatar.

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**MIA extends ‘Imperial Threads’ expo till January on popular demand**

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) latest exhibition, Imperial Threads: Motifs and Artisans from Turkey, Iran and India has been extended until January 27 due to popular demand.

The exhibition shows a new element of MIA’s extraordinary permanent collection by highlighting the connection between three major dynasties that marked the start of the early modern period in Islamic art - the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires.

The Imperial Threads exhibition focuses on the exchange of artistic and material cultures between three neighbouring empires, primarily from the 15th to the 18th centuries. It also illustrates the cultural and artistic background of this time by featuring arts and crafts, manuscripts, metalwork and ceramics.

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