Qatar partners with US firm to combat terror financing

Qatar’s National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee (NAMLC) has engaged with the Financial Integrity Network (FIN), based in Washington DC, as its principal strategic adviser for enhancing Doha’s Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorist Financing System (AML/CFT). The partnership will ensure that the country meets the heightened and evolving global standards and expectations for financial integrity.

Under this new partnership, FIN will collaborate closely with NAMLC and its member authorities in reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of Qatar’s AML/CFT legal framework and international commitments, and ensuring their alignment with global standards, including those established by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The engagement was announced jointly in Doha by H E Sheikh Fahad Faisal Al Thani, Chairman of NAMLC and Deputy Governor of the Qatar Central Bank (QCB), and Daniel L. Glaser, on behalf of FIN, in the presence of the Governor of QCB, H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Saud Al Thani.

→ Continued on page 5

Emir receives gift from Oman envoy

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani receiving a gift from newly appointed Ambassodor of the Sultanate of Oman to Qatar, Najib bin Yahya Al Balush, at the Emiri Diwan, yesterday. The Emir also received the credentials of the Omani envoy. → See also page 4

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER
Haidar Al Abadi reportedly turned down an invitation from Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa to boycott Qatar when the two met in Baghdad on Sunday. Al Abadi expressed his desire to see a quick end to the crisis but directly told the minister he was against joining any side of the conflict,” an official said. The hour-and-half-long meeting in Baghdad’s green zone touched on several issues.

Iraq rejects Bahrain’s call to join Qatar siege

Amended Labour Law ensures speedy justice for workers

The National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee (NAMLC) engagement with the US firm FIN reinforces Qatar’s already strong commitment to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Peninsula

To protect workers’ rights and simplify litigation between an employer and worker, Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday issued Law No. 13 of 2017 under which a Labour Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC) will be formed among other legal steps. The Committee will be established within the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. The new law has been issued after amending some provisions of the Labour Law promulgated by Law No. 14 of 2004 and No. 15 of 1990.

→ Continued on page 4

Emir chairs fourth meeting of SCEAI

QNA

EMIR H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Chairman of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment (SCEAI), chaired the Council’s fourth meeting of this year, at Emiri Diwan yesterday.

The Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairman of the Council, and the Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Executive Member, attended the meeting along with Their Excellencies members of the Council. The Council discussed topics on the agenda and took appropriate decisions.

Emir’s message handed over to Kuwait Emir

EMIR H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a written message to the Emir of Kuwait, H H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, pertaining to bilateral relations and means of developing them as well as the latest regional and international developments, especially the Gulf Crisis. The message was handed by Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani during a meeting with the Kuwaiti Emir yesterday.

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→ Continued on page 4
Apples: £1.75 kg

Bananas: £0.375 kg

Brazilian Beef Stew: £2.75 kg

Cheddar Cheese: £19.75 kg

English Mild White Cheddar Cheese: £18.75 kg

Grapefruit: £0.75 kg

Grapes: £0.75 kg

Grilled Chicken: £12.50

Guava: £0.75 kg

Honey: £2.25

Iphone 7: £2,799

iPhone 7 Plus: £4,999

Lettuce: £0.25

Lilac: £2.50

Marhaba Long Grain Rice: £10.00

Milk: £0.75

Nandos: £25.75

Nineteen Multi Pack Chocolate: £26.50

Pineapple: £0.75

Plums: £0.75 kg

Rice: £0.75-

Sausages: £2.75 kg

Scotch Bonnet Pepper: £1.75

Seafood: £0.75 kg

Spinach: £0.75

Stuffed Grapes: £0.75

Sundried Tomato: £0.75

Tangerines: £0.75

Tomato Sauce: £0.75

Tomato Paste: £0.75

Tuna: £0.75

Turkey Breast: £12.50

Vegetables: £0.75

Wine: £0.75

Yoghurt: £0.75

Youth: £0.75

Zucchini: £0.75

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Emir issues instruments of ratifications & decrees

QNA

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued an instrument of ratification approving a draft cooperation agreement in the field of education and higher education, research and technology between Qatar and Kenya, signed in Nairobi on 19/4/2017.

The Emir also issued an instrument of ratification endorsing a draft cooperation agreement in the cultural field between Qatar and Kenya, signed in Nairobi on 19/4/2017.

The Emir also endorsed Cabinet Decision No. (37) of 2017 on the implementation of the provisions of Law No. (24) of 2002 regarding retirement and pensions for Qatar employees in Al Majare Import and Export Co.

The decision shall be implemented and come into force from the date of issuance and to be published in the Official Gazette.


The law is to go into effect and to be published in the official gazette.

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Decree No. 680 of 2017 ratifying an agreement on the encouragement and protection of mutual investments between the Qatar and the Republic of Serbia signed in Doha on 7/3/2016, which text is annexed to this law.

The Decrees shall be implemented and go into force from the date of issuance and to be published in the Official Gazette.

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani receiving the credential of Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador to the State of Qatar, Alfredo Samayoa, at the Emiri Diwan.

The Emir welcomed the new ambassador and wished him success in his mission and in enhancing bilateral relations.

Legal action planned as GCC tournaments cancelled

QNA

President of the Republic of Moldova, Igor Dodon, with Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr Ahmed bin Hassan Al Kuwari, talks covered bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them.

Amended Labour Law ensures speedy justice for workers

The law amended some provisions of some articles in the previous law and stipulated formation of one or more committees: named Labour Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC), which will be established within the Ministry of Administrative Development. Labour and Social Affairs.

The law indicated that dispute between employer and employee first need to be considered by Department of Labour Relation which must settle the dispute within seven days. If the department failed to settle the dispute within the designed period then the department must transfer the case to the dispute committee within three working days.

Exceptionally, worker or employer can file case directly to the dispute committee in case of dismissal.

If the committee found that his/her dismissal was arbitrary then committee has the right to return him/her to the job with due payments including allowances and from which he/she deprived because of the dismissal.

The Committee will be formed under the chairmanship of a judge of the Court of First Instance chosen by the Supreme Judicial Council and two members nominated by the Minister.

One of them must have experience in the field of accounting. The Cabinet will decide the rules and procedures to be followed by the committee and also the mechanism for implementing its decisions and rewards.

The Ministry of Administrative Development will decide the office for the committee.

The secretariat of the committee will be staffed by one or more employees of the Ministry, whose competencies and remuneration will be determined by the Minister.

The committee will have jurisdiction in all individual disputes arising from the application of the provisions of the law or the employment contract.

The committee will decide on the dispute before it within three weeks from the date of presentation.

Members of the Committee shall be independent, with no authority over them in their decisions except the law, and no person or entity may intervene in the disputes heard by the committee.

The decisions issued by the Committee will have to be implemented fast and only the competent department of the Court of Appeal may have the authority to suspend implementation of its decisions.

The Emir welcomed the new ambassador and wished him success in his mission and in enhancing bilateral relations.

Any worker before filing complaint to the LDRC must convey his/her grievance to the employer within seven days and the employer must also respond within seven days, but if rejected or no response then he/she can appeal to the labor department at the ministry if same happened then he/she move to the LDRC, said the law.

The LDRC’s decision must include all details and have power to decide on the case mentioned in article (462).

Appeal on the committee’s decision can be held at the appeal court within 15 days from the date of the verdict said the law.

Cases which lay under the mandate of the LDRC will not be considered by other courts and courts are only allowed to continue considering issues which were under these courts before the enforcement of this law.

Amended Labour Law ensures speedy justice for workers

A new free app from Georgetown University in Qatar’s KG-UQ Arabic language program aims to make it easier for expatriates and tourists to strike up conversations with locals in Qatar. The Qatari Phrasebook app is a quick reference guide that provides users with both the written and spoken form of more than 1,500 common Arabic words and phrases, as well as pronunciation tips.

The app, which is available for Android and iOS devices, specifically focuses on the dialect spoken in Qatar. Its creator, mobile learning specialist Hany Fazza, came up with the idea after hearing from Qatar residents who wanted to learn conversational Arabic but couldn’t attend formal classes.

“I thought, they are native speakers, they are working here, and they don’t have time to go to evening classes, what about if I create something that is cheap and easy to use?” said Fazza, an Arabic language instructor at the KG-UQ. “The common mobile applications we have are for Modern Standard Arabic – you will find very few applications that have something to do with the dialect.”

GU-Q launches Qatari Phrasebook App

Commander of Emiri Air Force meets Secretary of US Air Force

Commander of Emiri Air Force H E Major General (Retd) Mubarak bin Mohammed Al Kumait Al Khayarin met with Secretary of the US Air Force, Heather Wilson, during her visit to the Qatari Emiri Air Force at Al-Udeid air base, accompanied by Chief of Staff of the US Air Force, First Lieutenant David Goldfein, and Commander of the US Central Air Force, Lieutenant General Lockard Harrigian. Both sides reviewed the bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander of the Emiri Air Force Major-General Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Maki, in addition to a number of senior officers of the two armed forces of the two friendly countries.

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Deputy Premier meets Ethiopian delegation

ONAHomes and offices of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, together with the Ministry of Finance, have agreed to cooperate with the Ministry of Education of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. They have reviewed bilateral relations and ways of reducing their tensions in some areas of education.

Families express optimism in economy

Families expressed optimism about the current situation in the second quarter of 2017, compared to the first quarter of the same year, reflecting the continued confidence of consumers in the economic situation in the country, and confirming the ability of the Qatari economy to overcome the challenges despite the unjust siege.

The quarterly report of the consumer confidence index showed that the economic performance of the country rose nearly 0.1 points during the second half of 2017 compared to the first quarter of the same year. According to the report issued by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS), the consumer confidence index showed that the index reached 183.8 points during the first quarter of 2017. The index ranges between 0-200 points.

According to the report, Qatar has a strong commitment to combating money laundering and terrorist financing, Qatar’s AML/CFT framework, among the leading and robust AML/CFT frameworks in the region. Qatar’s AML/CFT framework includes all activities related to money laundering and terrorist financing.

The report further emphasized that Qatar has the most effective and robust AML/CFT framework in the region. Qatar’s AML/CFT framework was supported by Juan C. Zarate, who served as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism from 2010 to 2015, and the first ever Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes.

Qatar partners with US consulting firm to combat terror financing

ONACCB Governor H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Saoud Al Thani (third right), NAMLC Chairman and QCB Deputy Governor Sheikh Fahad Faisal Al Thani (third left), with Daniel L Glauser (centre) of FIN and other officials at the signing ceremony. Photo: Courtesy V.F / The Peninsula

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Qatar Airways to start service to Chiang Mai

Qatar Airways has announced it will launch flights to Chiang Mai, its fourth destination in Thailand, as it expands to meet increased demand for Thai destinations for holiday-makers. The new route will run from Chiang Mai to Doha, with the daily service being operated by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The new route will allow Qatar Airways to offer passengers more travel options, connecting them to some of the most beautiful destinations in Thailand.

The five-star service will fly to Thailand’s ‘Rose of the North’ from December 7. Beautiful Chiang Mai is Qatar Airways’ fourth destination in Thailand.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker, said: “Thailand continues to grow in popularity with holiday-makers and it’s not hard to see why. Our new flight to Chiang Mai marks our fourth destination in one of the world’s most beautiful countries, reflecting the demand from our customers for more high-quality leisure destinations.

Qatar Airways will be able to provide a well-rounded understanding of how a world-class airline works and the opportunity it can offer kedjins, by providing them the opportunity to enact their preferred roles, with the help of a specially-adapted aircraft. Our highly interactive, small-scale city is self-sufficient and dynamic. It allows us to present firsthand how we inspire the passion for fun-learning, which we at KidzMondo-Doha are very proud of.”

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker, said: “Children and young people love flying with Qatar Airways, and many of them dream of having a career in the airline industry. Through our partnership with KidzMondo Doha we aim to inspire children to be part of the airline’s amazing success story, promote a sense of patriotism and pride, and connect with them in a fun and engaging way.”

General Manager of KidzMondo Doha, Dr. Elyan Baker Abu ElEla, said: “Qatar Airways is pleased to welcome Qatar Airways at our indoor theme park to celebrate International Youth Day. Our aim is to enable them to understand the exciting jobs and careers available to them within the world class airline at Qatar’s one-of-a-kind education city. The KidzMondo Doha indoor experience will offer children a dynamic and fun introduction to their preferred roles as pilots, cabin crew or passengers. The aim is to enable them to understand the exciting jobs and careers available to them within the world class airline at Qatar’s one-of-a-kind education city. The KidzMondo Doha indoor experience will offer children a dynamic and fun introduction to their preferred roles as pilots, cabin crew or passengers. The aim is to enable them to understand the exciting jobs and careers available to them within the world class airline at Qatar’s one-of-a-kind education city. The KidzMondo Doha indoor experience will offer children a dynamic and fun introduction to their preferred roles as pilots, cabin crew or passengers. The aim is to enable them to understand the exciting jobs and careers available to them within the world class airline at Qatar’s one-of-a-kind education city.
AZF uses latest technology in water treatment

The Peninsula

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) has announced the completion of its water treatment station to achieve self-sufficiency in water supplies.

The new purification station has a capacity to treat 27,500 cubic metres per day and will be fully operational in October.

The latest reverse osmosis filters placed at the Aspire Zone Foundation.

The Peninsula

QF’s diversified approach to education highlighted

The Peninsula

Qatar Foundation officials briefing a press delegation from France and Belgium at its headquarters in Education City.

Qatar Foundation (QF) recently welcomed a press delegation from France and Belgium at its headquarters in Education City.

The group was welcomed by Osman Hamad Al Kuwari, Executive Director, Corporate Office, QF; Dr Ahmad Al Hashna, President of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU); Buthaina Ali Al Nuaimi, President of Pre-University (Pre-U) and Michael Mitchell, General Counsel at Qatar Foundation.

During the visit, the delegation was given a comprehensive presentation about QF’s different academic institutes, science and research centres, and community development initiatives.

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Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) has announced the completion of its water treatment station to achieve self-sufficiency in water supplies.

AZF is first in Qatar to use latest technology in water treatment. These supplies are required for irrigation and cooling of the organisation’s facilities. The state-of-the-art upgrade used innovative reverse osmosis to become one of the first in the country to use this latest technology.

The new purification station has a capacity to treat 27,500 cubic metres per day and will be fully operational in October.

The major purpose of AZF’s water supply technology marks a high point in the organisation’s move to meet Qatar’s national strategic objectives of sound natural resource management while making use of the latest technology to improve systems.

Comming to the achievement, Mohammad Al Moos, Chief Capital Project Officer, said: “The station will help decrease the environmental and economic impact of water waste and mark a step forward on our path to becoming a responsible corporate citizen.

The development of new solutions and the delivery of outstanding results for both our local community and our world class facilities at AZF is what propels us forward and supports our place as a favourite destination for international athletes and teams.”

The new underground station stretches across 3,300 sqm of land and covers the daily water requirements of AZF, with an average output of 6,900 cubic meters of purified water. The output could be increased by 25% if needed.

The water purification station was designed to work seamlessly with the smooth structure of Aspire Park. Its surfaces will have a parking area that can accommodate up to 30 vehicles.

The station utilises reverse osmosis, an environmentally-friendly purification technology that removes molecules from water through multi-stage filters. This technology is widely used in many developed countries such as Japan, Singapore and France.

The choice of this technology followed a thorough investigation and consultation with international experts, including several French firms who provided technology that guarantees the highest levels of quality and environmental safety.

Qatar’s Ministry of Municipality and Environment and Asghal played a significant role in bringing this project to completion by contributing their support and expertise in a variety of areas.

AZF is planning to execute similar projects in collaboration with several Qatar organisations to share technology and experience in building one of the largest water purification stations in Qatar.

Qatar Foundation officials briefing a press delegation from France and Belgium at its headquarters in Education City.

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QBQ holds educational workshops

The Peninsula

QBQ launches Zenith’ Chronomaster El Primero workshop. Fama Sald Qalafi, Project Manager, QBQ, said: “We are delighted to be working with El Primero for the second consecutive year. This year’s workshops and activities provided by QBQ proved to be a huge success for the participating students, who all enjoyed their time at Orangpark.

Ammena Aria, General Manager Women’s branch of El Primero, expressed her delight with the visit, which she said helped children learn about the health benefits of the plants, fruits, and trees mentioned in The Holy Quran, through technical workshops and various interactive games. She added that the women’s branch is working to strengthen community ownership that supports the upbringing and development of current generations.

As part of the event, students were given tips on planting seeds and caring for plants and plants-related hand.

Commenting on this event, the students have targeted multiple segments of society in Qatar, promoting the greening of cities and the protection of the environment, especially in a dry climate like Qatar. The campus aims to achieve this by growing 2022 trees through various activities throughout the year in support of Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. QBQ, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), seeks to promote student and community participation and to raise public awareness of the importance of agriculture in Qatar to support QF’s mission and Qatar National Development and Environment environmental responsibility.

Students during QBQ’s 2017 Garsah Campaign summer programme of activities. 

The Peninsula

Ooredoo offers free STARZ PLAY subscription

The Peninsula

Ooredoo announced yesterday that it is offering a three-month complimentary subscription of the popular STARZ PLAY service to Ooredoo tv customers this weekend.

The offer, which is valid from 17 to 20 August 2017, will be available exclusively for Ooredoo tv customers only. The offer is provided to ensure every Ooredoo tv customer can access the STARZ PLAY service on their home-box, control remote, then go to www.oredoo.com, and search for STARZ PLAY.

STARZ PLAY is a subscription video on demand service that offers more than 6,500 hours of TV series, blockbuster Hollywood movies, documentaries, and kid’s entertainment. Ooredoo tv customers can look forward to enjoying STARZ PLAY content including the STARZ Original series Power—same as the US series—Ray Donovan and the full kaboom of entertaining Friends.

To ensure that the offer is suitable for the whole family, STARZ PLAY also includes parental control settings and offers an inclusive characters for parents including Despicable Me: Minions on Four Dragons and Home.

Ooredoo has teamed up with the best next-generation television service for Qatar and offers features such as 4K resolution, parental control settings and parental control settings on the Ooredoo tv service for Qatar and offers premium quality service for Qatar and offers premium quality

HMC’s Breast Care Clinic assessed 600 patients

The Peninsula

In support of Hamad Medical Corporation’s (HMC) commitment to providing women with premium healthcare services, a new Breast Cancer Clinic was officially opened at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) this summer.

The new clinic provides patients with a multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer care, known as triple assessment.

Patients are assessed by the Breast Care Clinic’s expert team to determine whether an intervention is necessary. The team comprises experts from Surgery, Radiology and Pathology.

HMC’s Breast Care Clinic is equipped with the latest technology and offers a comprehensive range of services that support women’s health needs.

The clinic is open from 8am to 8pm and has a dedicated parking area.

The Breast Care Clinic is one of HMC’s key priority areas and it is committed to providing the highest quality care for patients.

The Breast Care Clinic is part of HMC’s Breast Cancer Program, which is designed to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients.

The Peninsula

Peering through a different lens, we find that the world of fashion is like a mirror reflecting the historical context, social trends, and artistic movements of its time. It is a residing mirror that reflects the historical context of a society, and the social trends, artistic movements, and historical context of a society can be understood by looking at fashion.
Turkey's presidential office on Tuesday accused European organizations of being biased regarding the judicial proceedings on July 15.

**Talks on Syria**

The Iranian source said yesterday that they were moving to revoke the press credentials of a journalist for Al Jazeera, after having announced plans to close the news network's offices in the country. The government's offi- cial distribution agency is to be closed down in the coming days.

**Israel mobilizes to revoke Jazeera journalist's credentials**

The latest Israeli official to be arrested following the July 15 coup attempt was Al Jazeera's Palestinian correspondent Mohammed Radi, who was detained last week.

**Israel denies coup attempt in Gaza**

The recent Duma no-confidence vote on the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been described as a "national crisis" by the opposition.

**Kenya's Odinga to take poll dispute to court**

Kenya's opposition leader Odinga on Tuesday filed a petition with the Supreme Court to challenge the official results of the presidential election.

**Syria's Closed-in Beirut**

Syria's capital, Beirut, is in lockdown after a series of explosions, including one that targeted a compound of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The explosions have left scores of people dead and injured, and have raised concerns about the future of the country.

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In China, some youngsters wear diapers to avoid taking toilet breaks during online gaming sessions. They believe time away from the screen would worsen their performance at the internet pacetime that has taken far-eastern societies by storm. In 2007, a Chinese man died after playing an online game for three straight days at an internet cafe near Beijing. Four years later, another person in Shanghai passed away after playing World of Warcraft for a continuous 36 hours.

Not only are online games driving people to death, they may also lead to irreparable brain damage. As a teenager bares the hard way in southern China’s Guangzhou. He was diagnosed with cerebral infarction, asking him to live up to it. The challenge is to have been driven to suicide with anxiety as youngsters have been driven to suicide after yielding to a quickly feature that drives the obsession. Detractoriatedly, convicted Russian criminal, it throws a challenge at the player asking him to live up to it. The challenge is scaled up till the administrator of the game exhorts the player asking him to live up to it. The challenge is.

Meanwhile, the charismatic cleric hopes to cement his own standing among Iraq’s parliamentarians next year, part of his makeover from a militia leader whose fighters battled American forces in Iraq in order to fight US and neutron Baghda the street’s with his protesting fellow fighters. Here for any possible alliance between Al Sadr and the Gulf Arab countries could go remains to be seen, the black turbaned Shia cleric meeting with Sunni rulers a body that has stereotyped Iraq.

Why has Mbaguda Al Sadr sold himself to the Al Suleqi’s?” the hard-line Iranian newspaper Kavyeh bluntly asked after his return to Iraq. Al Sadr went on to cement his own standing among Iraq’s parliamentarians next year, part of his makeover from a militia leader whose fighters battled American forces in Iraq in order to fight US and neutron Baghda the street’s with his protesting fellow fighters. Here for any possible alliance between Al Sadr and the Gulf Arab countries could go remains to be seen, the black turbaned Shia cleric meeting with Sunni rulers a body that has stereotyped Iraq.

Since that time much has changed. Al Sad’s followers have taken part in Iraqi military offensives against the Islamic State group in Tikrit and other cities. He has organised rallies against government corruption, including breaching the fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, the highly secure area housing government offices and many foreign embassies.

On July 30, Al Sadr travelled to Saudi Arabia to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the next in line to the throne. The state-run Saudi Press Agency published a photograph of King Salman’s son smiling next to the cleric, only saying the two “reviewed the Saudi-Iran relations and a number of issues of mutual interest.”

In the UAE, Al Sadr met on Sunday with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi’s powerful crown prince, and other officials.

“Experience has taught us to always call for what brings Arabs and Muslims together, and to seek the advocates of division,” Shkooli Mohammad said in a statement carried on the state-run WAM news agency.

Amr Garbage, the Emirati minister of state for foreign affairs, tweeted after the meeting: “This was part of an effort to build bridges between the Gulf Arab nations and Iraq.”

Our ambition is to see a prosperous, stable Arab Iraq,” Garbage wrote. “The challenge is great and the prize is bigger.”

Using ‘Arab’ to describe Iraq is no accident for the UAE, which opposed the 2003 American invasion. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia want to limit Shia ruled Iraq’s power in the region.

There are serious questions about how to help encourage Iraq stability and minimise Iranian influence in the coun- try, said Lott Portsadi Baghda, a former US intelligence official who now is a fel- low at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. “Building ties with someone like Al Sadr is part of the Saudis and Emiratis’ answer to this.”

One of the biggest question marks ahead for Iraq is what happens after the war against the Islamic State group.

Shia militias advised by members of Iraq’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard have proved to be among the most effec- tive ground forces in the fight against IS as part of an effort to disband, saying only Iraqi national forces should hold territory in the coun- try. Though many among the militias disagree, saying they have proven their credentials in battle against Al Sadr’s stand could prove Baghda with the cover it needs to do so.

This would be, of course, music to the Gulf countries’ ears, said Fanar Haddad, a senior research fellow at the Middle East Institute at the National Uni- versity of Singapore.

For Al Sadr, whose loyalists represent one of the biggest blocs in Iraq’s parliament, his foreign trips burnish his credentials as an Iraqi leader. However, it remains unclear what he wants — and whether any tilt toward the Sunni Gulf countries truly would represent a total break with Iran for the Iraqi nationalist: “It shows he has options,” Haddad said.

Iraqi Shia cleric’s Saudi & UAE trips show Gulf realpolitik
The US is unlikely to use this as an excuse to launch all-out war with Pyongyang. Rather, it is more likely to test the limits of its provocations in order to provoke Pyongyang to escalate its own actions. If North Korea responds with a series of new provocations, the US will then have a stronger justification to take more decisive action.

While the US is unlikely to launch all-out war, it is also unlikely to give up its threats of force. Instead, it will continue to use a mix of diplomatic and military pressure to try to isolate and weaken North Korea. This will likely involve a combination of economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and military exercises to show that the US is willing and able to use force if necessary.

In conclusion, North Korea is unlikely to back down without giving in to US demands. The US is also unlikely to launch all-out war, but it is likely to continue to use a mix of diplomatic and military pressure to try to isolate and weaken North Korea. It is unclear what the next move will be, but it is likely to involve a combination of economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and military exercises to show that the US is willing and able to use force if necessary.
**US adds Kashmir's Hizbul Mujahideen to terrorism list**

Washington/New Delhi
AP & IANS

The Trump administration has added a Kashmiri militant organization to its terrorism list after a dispute between India and Pakistan over their Kashmir conflict. The addition of Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the largest and oldest militant groups operating in Kashmir, is a significant move by the US government.

**Indian cabinet approves new Metro Rail Policy**

New Delhi
IANS

The cabinet has approved a new Metro Rail Policy that aims to encourage private investment in the sector. The policy includes provisions for fast-tracking projects and reducing timelines.

**UP floods: 400 evacuated from border area**

New Delhi
IANS

The Uttar Pradesh government has evacuated more than 400 people from areas along the border with Nepal, due to rising floodwaters. The affected regions are in Khati, Sulpuri, and Chaurasia areas.

**Indian & Chinese troops hold border talks after scuffle**

New Delhi
IANS

India and China have held border talks after a scuffle between their military personnel in the Ladakh region, with both sides agreeing to use diplomatic channels to resolve the dispute.

**Terrorist tag on Hizbul Mujahideen**

The US State Department has designated Hizbul Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under section 219 of the US Code. This move is expected to affect the group's ability to raise funds and conduct operations.

**US action follows India's designation**

India designated Hizbul Mujahideen as a designated global terrorist organization under section 1(b) of the US designation rules earlier this year.

**Inmates ingesting DDT sprays**

Inmates at a jail in Uttar Pradesh have ingested DDT sprays in a suicide attempt, with several holding aennon surgery. The inmates were said to be protesting against a lack of medical care and facilities in the jail.

**Relatives of dead child wait outside hospital**

The relatives of a dead child who was allegedly killed in a hospital in Gorakhpur are waiting outside the hospital for answers. The child's death has sparked outrage in the state.

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Time to dial down rhetoric on N Korea: Guterres

Thurs 17 August 2017

Sydney Reuters

The Australian government accused a New Zealand opposition party yesterday of trying to stir up conflict by calling on Australia to deploy troops to the South China Sea. The statement came amid a growing row over the role of China in the region.

Australia’s government saw Hiklans question as part of a dark plot between the opposition and Beijing to divide Australia and New Zealand to “undo government.”

“Is extraordinary that a New Zealand member of parliament has allowed himself to be used by a party in a different country with an intent to bring down the Australian parliament,” the foreign minister Julie Bishop said.

“Hiklans is highly unethical, at least. He means more importantly, at risk the reputation of the Australian government in the eyes of the world. The report said it would find it hard to trust members of a political party that had been used to undermine our own government.”

Australia’s government had been pushing for increased cooperation and security between countries in the region.

“North Korea’s provocations. We are deeply concerned about the situation in the region and we urge Brazil, Mexico, and Peru to be engaged and commercial ties to North Korea,” Pence said.

“Obama’s administration has been marshalling the support of nations around the world, and as the President acknowledged this morning, we are beginning to see progress in dealing with North Korea’s provocations.”

He reiterated in recent comments that the US is keen to work together with other countries to achieve a peaceful solution.

Taiwan suffers massive power outage

Taipei Reuters

Taiwan suffered a massive power blackout that affected businesses and residential homes across the island yesterday, leaving millions without the high temperatures hovered around 32 degrees Celsius (89.6°F), while the blackouts cut power to restaurants and small businesses. Electricity stopped working, affecting close to seven million people, but it was not immediately clear why the outage occurred.

“We will not immediately cease to work together with other countries to achieve a peaceful solution,” said the US State Department.

The power outage was caused by a human error, according to the Taiwan Power Co official who said that the company was investigating the cause.

The process collapsed in 2009, when Taiwan still had frequent blackouts and electricity was not always reliable.

Residents complained about the outage and said that it had not had a big impact on their lives, as they shared 2% in early trading, trading a flat broader market.

The power outage was caused by a human error, according to the Taiwan Power Co official who said that the company was investigating the cause.

The process collapsed in 2009, when Taiwan still had frequent blackouts and electricity was not always reliable.

People walk on a street during a massive power outage, in Taipei, yesterday.

Power had been fully restored across the island by Wednesday, local media said. Residents complained about the outage and said that it had not had a big impact on their lives, as they shared 2% in early trading, trading a flat broader market.

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Belgium to file lawsuit over tainted eggs

**HBO Spain accidently airs Game of Thrones episode 6**

HBO Europe said in a note it had “learned that the upcoming episode of Game of Thrones was accidentally shown a week ahead of schedule in Spain and Nordic countries.”

The episode was available to subscribers in these areas one week early and an hour before it was removed as soon as it was noticed.

“The incident wasn’t connected to the recent cyber issue with HBO US.”

**Spain rescues 339 migrants at sea**

Spanish coastguards rescued more than 300 people from seven boats yesterday in the waters between Morocco and Spain. A route increasingly used by migrants trying to get to Europe.

“The high number of boats coming to the Spanish coast this summer is unusual,” she said, adding there were three times as many as the previous year.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 8,865 migrants had arrived in Spain this year by August. At least 12 drowned while attempting the route, compared to 128 deaths for the whole of 2016, as recorded by the IOM.

**France provides sanitation for Calais migrants**

Local authorities said arrangements were planned at another location outside the port to the main launchpad for attempts to slip into Britain by truck across the Channel.

The port town and the city of Calais had appealed against a June ruling that they be able to provide water and sanitation facilities for the migrants. They said they feared that new migrants arriving by truck could “foul up like the notorious ‘jungle’, where up to 8,000 migrants lived in squalid conditions before it was demolished last October.

Civil guards accompany would-be immigrants after being rescued in the waters of the Strait of Gibraltar, in the port of Tarifa, yesterday.

**HBO to file lawsuit over tainted eggs**

The Belgian government said yesterday it would take legal action to obtain compensation for customers who received insecticide-tainted eggs that were distributed across the European Union and as far as Hong Kong.

The government pledged civil and criminal measures to help those hurt by the crisis, which led to the closure of many poultry farms and the destruction of millions of eggs in Belgium alone.

“In a case of fraud committed by operators, their civil responsibility must be engaged in order to repair the damages caused by the criminal action that took place,” Prime Minister Charles Michel’s office said yesterday.

“The crisis is set up to also obtain reparation for damages general economic damage incurred by the operators and all others, it said.”

It did not identify the target of the civil action.

**Easter Sunday, Christmas day and Spain**

HBO Spain and HBO Europe apologized to customers for the accidental airing of the Game of Thrones episode.

The episode was supposed to be available online later in the day, but HBO said it had “learned that the upcoming episode of Game of Thrones was accidentally shown a week ahead of schedule in Spain and Nordic countries.”

The episode was available to subscribers in these areas one week early and an hour before it was removed as soon as it was noticed.

“The incident wasn’t connected to the recent cyber issue with HBO US.”
Britain to review plans to silence Big Ben

London ACP

Britain’s Parliament said yesterday it would reconsider plans to silence Big Ben for four years after Prime Minister Theresa May took her marbles to a growing MP revolt.

Westminster’s Black Rod, one of Britain’s most cherished tourist attractions, is due to return to work and the clock’s bells are set to stop ringing for four years.

It is feared that prolonged exposure to the 13.7-tonne Big Ben bell, which chimes out the hour, could damage the hearing of builders working on the site.

May joined several members of parliament in criticising plans to silence the clocks for four years.

But the lower House of Commons said that in light of concerns expressed by MPs, the Commons commission would “consider the length of time that the bells will fall silent”.

“Of course, any discussion will focus on undertaking the work efficiently, protecting the health and safety of those involved, and seeking to ensure restoration work proceeds as soon as is practicable,”

Yesterday, May said: “Of course we want to ensure people’s safety at work but it can’t be right for Big Ben to be silent for four years. We need to understand that the Commons commission would think about this so that we can ensure that we can continue to hear Big Ben through those four years.

Big Ben’s bells are familiar to people around the world because of their use in BBC radio, and television broadcasts.

The 96-metre high tower is the most photographed building in Britain. The renovation is estimated to cost £37.7 million.

Police claimed that when they agreed to the work, they did not know the chiming would be silenced for four years.

Attorney General David Davis said stopping the bells was “mad” as he urged the parliamentary state’s authorities to “just get on with it”.

Former Home Secretary James Gray described the move as “entirely unnecessary”.

Big Ben is terribly important to the monarchy, the realm of the nation,” he told The Daily Telegraph.

MP Nicholas Soames, a grandson of wartime prime minister Winston Churchill, said: “Tell those poor little darlings to hang their heads on” according to reports.

According to current plans, the last long before the refurbishment will be at 12pm next Monday, although the bells would still ring important occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve.

Some MPs have suggested the bells could ring outside of the four-year period.

They have called for the Commons commission starting and stopping them was “a complex and long process” and threatening to auction its online database. “would not be practical or a good use of public money”.

But Big Ben’s bells are an integral part of Britain and we will ensure that they can become our mighty new warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth.

HMS Queen Elizabeth sails into home port

Portsmouth Reuters

Britain’s most advanced and most expensive warship, the £3.5-billion aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, berthed for the first time at its home port of Portsmouth yesterday.

The 280-metre vessel entered the harbour on England’s southern coast at 0810 GMT, greeted by thousands of spectators.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy, according to the Ministry of Defence.

With the adoration of our mighty new warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, to her home for the very first time,” said Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon.

It is Britain’s statement to the world a demonstration of British military power and our commitment to a bigger global role.”

The ship is currently undergoing sea trials but it cannot yet deploy planes, but flying trials from its deck are due to begin in 2018.

It took eight years to build HMS Queen Elizabeth, with construction taking place in six cities and involving 10,000 people.

Along with its sister ship, HMS Prince of Wales, it is part of a defence programme worth £75bn.

Sweden to boost military budget by $1bn

Stockholm Reuters

Sweden’s armed forces will get an extra $5bn over the coming three years to boost defence capabilities in the face of increased tension with Russia in the Baltic, the centre-left Moderate government said yesterday.

The 2.7 billion crown-a-year increase in the military budget follows an agreement between the ruling coalition of the Social Democrats and Greens with two centre-right opposition parties and is higher than the 6 billion crowns reported earlier by Swedish radio.

“We are seeing increased military and intelligence activity in our region,” Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist said.

“This extra money sends an important signal to the world around us and is good for Sweden,”

Sweden’s military says it needs the money to rebuild its strength after years of under investment and greater demands on its operational capabilities.

HMS Prince of Wales, it is part of a defence programme worth £75bn.

Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May with Commodore Jerry Kyd, Captain of the British aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, during her tour of the ship, after it arrived at Portmouth Naval base, in Portsmouth, Britain, yesterday.

Commanding off Captain Jerry Kyd told the BBC that the carrier “sends the right signals to our allies and indicted potentially to our enemies that we mean business.”

Sweden has proposed an engine for its long-range missile from a Ukraine factory.

However he nevertheless dismissed as “absurd” any suggestion Ukraine had supplied the communist state with its engines.

Ukraine, it has also been drawing closer to Nato, although the government has ruled out becoming a member of the alliance.

It is feared that prolonged exposure to the 13.7-tonne Big Ben bell, which chimes out the hour, could damage the hearing of builders working on the site.

A coordinator for firefighting air operations observes the fire as a wildfire is being contained near Athens. May joined several members of parliament in criticising plans to silence the clocks for four years.

A coordinator for firefighting air operations observes the fire as a wildfire is being contained near Athens, with strong and changing winds.

A fire broke out on Sunday in Kalamos, a coastal holiday spot some 46km north-east of the capital, and spread quickly to three more towns.

Firefighters yesterday combed through the ruins for nearly four days near Athens after it destroyed thousand sands of hectares of pine forest and dozens of homes.

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Cuba struggles to hold back professionals

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"We really appreciate the openness of those in the government who realised they needed help from people," said Yasser Jimenez, 36, who founded the firm with brothers Bencomo and Valdes.

A new generation of Cubans is openly moulding the government and its projects to work in an embryonic socialist system. The government has argued that individuals don’t profit from inequality, from society’s costly investment in free education. Professionals looking for better lives have emigrated by the tens of thousands or turned to unskilled but higher-paying work like waiting tables or driving taxis.

File picture of a child posing for Cuban artist, Maisel Lopez, as he paints the wall of a state art gallery in Havana. Image provided by Reuters.

Venezuelan violinist released from custody

Young Venezuelan violinist Wuilly Arteaga, 23, was freed overnight Tuesday, attorney general Tarek William Saab said on Twitter.

Amerique was arrested in April during a pro-government rally that has sent shockwaves through the western city of Pinar del Rio, population 100,000, since the death of former President Fidel Castro, who died last year.

But officials said insula- tion around wiring in an electrical conduit inside the mast was burn. "It was likely started by a short circuit," Toronto Fire Services deputy chief Stefano Prolu told AFP.

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The Republican Party has voted to remove Confederate statues from its headquarters and to support the removal of Confederate statues elsewhere. The party has also announced it will no longer support the sale of confederate memorabilia.

Confederate statues have been a source of controversy for years, with many calling for their removal due to their association with slavery and racism.

The Republican Party's decision comes as part of a broader effort to distance itself from controversial figures and symbols in light of recent events.

The move has been praised by some who see it as a step towards reconciliation and unity, while others have criticized it as a political move to appeal to a certain demographic.

The Republican Party's decision to remove Confederate statues is a significant milestone in the ongoing debate over how to commemorate and reckon with the legacy of slavery and racism in the United States.
The Peninsula

A n impressive collection of Islamic arms and armour will go on display at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) for the Powder and Damask: Islamic Arms and Armour from the Collection of Fadel Al Mansoori exhibition which opens later this month.

The exhibition, which runs until May, features edged weapons and firearms from Turkey, Iran and India from the 13th to the mid-19th century. The exhibition was curated by MIA curatorial team, Dr Mounia Chekhab Abudaya and Julia Taggwell.

Powder and Damask explores the art of craftsmanship, which reached unprecedented levels in these regions under the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires, when weapons were valued not only for their intended purpose but also as works of art as well. The objects featured as part of the collection are excellent examples of the diverse styles and materials, such as ivory, horn, gold inlay and calligraphy, used to decorate weapons during this time period.

Powder and Damask is impressive in many ways. From the careful preservation of these magnificent pieces is the highly sought after nature of the artifacts. We are honored to be able to give this collection a chance to reach and inspire ever wider audiences. As there are currently no permanent arms and armour displays in Qatar, this exhibition is also an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the important contribution of the Islamic world in the evolution and advancement of arms and armour,” Dr Abudaya said.

One of the collection’s highlights is its access to objects made from Damascus steel, which has long been held by many as an important dermat ion of quality that is generally reserved for weapons made for high ranking members of society and denotes status. The technique was practiced by master craftsmen and metalworkers, whose knowledge has been lost to history.

Another important aspect of Fadel Al Mansoori’s collection is his interest in conservation, encouraging other private collectors to educate themselves on the importance of proper care for the long-term preservation of historic artifacts.

The collection will be displayed in two main sections, with one gallery highlighting the production of edged weapons. The other one provide a glimpse into the production of firearms in the Islamic world. Across both sections, the interconnection between distant cultures is evident through the similar style and taste of decoration used across Turkey, India and Iran around the same time period.

Doha Municipality holds I-Day event

Doha Municipality has interlocked its inspection campaigns on all food outlets, distributors and facilities in preparation for the upcoming Eid Al Adha.

The campaigns aim at ensuring the compliance of retailers and service providers with the necessary health and hygiene conditions when handling foodstuff before selling them.

In this regard, the municipality has set a plan for the work of the health control departments, which will start next Sunday, the work of the most unit in the central market as well as the most unit for the residents’ families, will start work from 5am to 6pm, except Friday, where the work will be on two periods, from 5am to 10am and from 1pm to 6pm.

The camel and cow abattoirs slaughter, the work of the unit is from 5am to 10am on all days of the week, except Friday, where the work is from 1am to 11am and from 1pm to 6pm, while the others with the necessary health and hygiene conditions when handling foodstuff before selling them.

Eid Al Adha Brunch at Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara

The Peninsula

E id Al Adha is a time for family and loved ones to come together to celebrate and connect. Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara, the hotel brand’s first resort in Qatar, celebrates Eid Al Adha, by offering its in-house guests and visitors an array of mouthwatering delights, featuring Eid Al Adha Brunch.

An all-day dining restaurant, one of the resort’s award winning venues, will present its famed brunch buffet. With a buffet and live food stations serving everything from Indian and Arabic specialties to a selection of dishes inspired by Asia and the west, there’s something for everyone at this unique brunch. A specialized plus area equipped with games and entertainment has also been set for families to sit back, relax and enjoy.

While the children’s fun zone, the hotel guests can attend the brunch for just QR100, for adults, and QR200, for children. Inclusive of the buffet, guests can take part for just QR300 for adults and QR500 for children, including luxury catamaran transportation. For reservations, please call +974 40405050 or email reservations.alsdoha@anantara.com or visit http://doha.anantara.com/.

Young chess master to challenge residents at Mall of Qatar

The Peninsula

C hess fans in Qatar will have a golden opportunity to face young chess master Ieysaa bin-Salah during the 4th World Mindsports Chess & Scrabble Championship, which is being held at the Mall of Qatar tomorrow afternoon as he will be there to challenge Qataris and other residents to take him on.

The chess master will play at the 4th World Mindsports Chess Championship, which is being hosted by Mindsports Academy and hosted by Qatar Tourism Authority. Opening on Saturday - Ieysaa will be at the Mall of Qatar from 4pm to 7pm tomorrow, with his chess boards.

Everyone is invited to challenge him and make their moves. It is a unique opportunity for locals of all ages to play against a grand master, especially one so young, and learn more about chess, as well as the wider Mindsports World Championships.

I am really looking forward to the tournament at Qatar and the day I have it will be really fun to meet people in the mall, share my passion for the sport and who knows maybe get beaten,” he said.

Ieysaa will be taking on International and Grand Masters during the nine-day event taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) from Saturday until August 27. The Championships are expected to attract over 1,500 mindsports enthusiasts from all levels from across the globe as they battle in their chosen mindsport to be crowned this year’s champion.

The event comprises various tour- naments in chess, scrabble, esports, hacktagon, bridge and go.