Shop Qatar begins with dazzling show

Minister of Economy and Commerce, HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani inaugurates the festival that will continue till February 7 with 13 malls participating.

RAYMOND RIVERA
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Shop Qatar 2018, the biggest shopping festival in the country launched a grand fashion yesterday with a dazzling opening ceremony filled with stunning cultural performances at Alkarim Mall's breathtaking Italian-inspired The Galleria.

Minister of Economy and Commerce, HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani officially opened the second edition of Shop Qatar in the presence of VIPs including foreign diplomats, government officials and private sector leaders.

The Minister said, “Shop Qatar reflects the pioneering role that Qatar enjoys as a leading tourist destination in the region. We are currently working on implementing the national investment strategy in order to present lucrative products to investors coming to Qatar.

The Minister noted that the number of visitors coming to Qatar has increased as well as the number of cruise-ships that make calls to Qatar.

A medley of cultural items from Europe to Asia to Africa staged by performers dressed in elaborate costume highlighted the grand launch.

The event also coincided with a series of shows in malls around the country marking the beginning of the month-long festival, organised by Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) in collaboration of the country’s diverse retail offerings, against a backdrop of colourful cultural activities.

The second edition of Qatar’s official shopping festival continues until February under the slogan ‘A Brand New Era’ and includes visitors attractive discounts on popular brands, car and cash prizes worth up to Q8,000, and a rich schedule of fashion and entertainment events.

Hassan Al Ibrahim, Acting Chairman at QTA’s commented, “The inaugural edition of Shop Qatar was launched last year under the directives of His Excellency President of Qatar, and Minister of Interior, and witnessed great success thanks to the wise leadership’s support and the collaborative efforts of our public and private sector partners. We are very pleased to be launching the second edition of Shop Qatar in the presence of our esteemed guests, it is truly a reflection of the government’s support for the tourism sector as an important element in Qatar’s sustainable development in pursuit of the National Vision 2020.”

He added, “With the launch of the next chapter of the National Tourism Sector Strategy 2030 last year, Qatar’s tourism sector embarked on a new phase in its development.

PM meets Iraqi Scholars Group President

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani met yesterday with President of Iraqi Scholars Group and Adviser at the Iraq Presidency Dr Khudair Alabdullah Al-Mulla and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their visit to the country. The meeting reviewed relations between both countries and ways of boosting them.

Ashgahl completes 5km South Sewage tunnelling

The project that witnessed the breakthrough of the Tunnel Boring Machine into the wall of the tunnel shall, in the presence of Eng. Abdullah Hamad Al-Atraiyh, Ashgahl President Assistant, and Eng Khalid Al Saff Al-Khatriss, Drainage Networks Projects Department Manager, along with a number of officials and engineers from the project’s consulting and contracting companies.

This major milestone represents the completion of one of the three main branches forming the Main Trunk Sewer of Doha South Sewage infrastructure project, which will convey the sewage flows from the existing Doha South Treatment Wastewater

Qatar initiates plans to accelerate growth

Qatar has increased as well as order to present lucrative and innovative tourism projects and initiatives for international animal of all countries in all cooperations with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment and international organisations to fight tailed animal disease surveillance network, noting the state of Qatar is free from bird flu, as periodic surveys are carried out, proving safe from bird flu. In addition to careful monitoring of border crossings and sampling for analysis to verify its safety. It is noted that if there is a disease of this kind, the importation of food products from affected countries is automatically prohibited until they are confirmed to be free from flue and highly pathogenious viruses, for the situation to go back to normal.

MoPH called for need to be Legally and ethically informed from its official channels, that the Ministry committed to the principle of transparency and taking necessary measures when recording any disease that poses threat to public health.

Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr Mohammed Abdul Wahed Ali Hamad yesterday visited two schools to review the progress of the ongoing tests. The Minister visited Mesaieed Primary, Preparatory and Secondary Schools for boys and girls, where different categories grades achieved excellence on the progress tests in the two schools.

FAYEZA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Modest weight loss of five to ten percent carries major health benefits for obese people. The seemingly more achievable target provides significant improvements to metabolic health and opens up the possibility of continued weight loss, says Dr Ibrahim, a Senior Consultant, Medicine, Endocrinology/Diabetes, Hamad General Hospital.

The current guidelines for treating obesity recommend a five to ten percent weight loss. Research shows that modest loss of baseline weight can make a huge positive impact on a person’s health. It is associated with improved health outcomes and a reduction in risk factors for chronic disease including lower blood glucose levels, lower blood pressure and reduced cholesterol levels,” said Dr Ibrahim.

Don’t follow short cuts. If you reduce the kilogram, it will affect your health positively. You don’t have to lose like 20 kilograms and reach ideal weight to get important health benefits. If a person weighs 100 kilograms, and reduces to 95 or 90 kilograms, it will give important health benefits. And we encourage them to maintain the weight loss for a long run,” she added. Dr Ibrahim sees an average of 12 to 14 patients daily in the obesity clinic situated in the medical facility and recently treated a patient who was admitted in the Hamad bin Khalifa Medical City.

There are also other clinics related to obesity including post bariatric clinic, which aims at preparing a person for the weight loss surgery as well as monitor and follow up after the procedure.

Also dietitians, physiatrists and psychologists are running clinics to care people with obesity and other metabolic disorders.

“We see any obese patient with the body mass index (BMI) more than 30, either the person has other metabolic disorders or not. They are referred to us by the Primary Health Clinics, hospitals and facilities of HMC and private clinics,” said Dr Ibrahim. Modest weight loss much beneficial

We provide a holistic approach to the patient’s lifestyle and weight management assessment and then decide what type of treatment is required. When we assess we do find that resistance patient does in lifestyle and eating habits. Also we analyse what works. Then depending on the condition will decide if to direct for a diet and exercises only or to prescribe medicines or weight loss surgery,” she added.

BMI is a measure of body fat based on height and weight that applies to adults 18 years of age and older. In females, it is calculated as 18.5 to 24.5 is considered as normal weight, between 25 to 29.9 is overweight, 30 to 34.9 is obesity I, 35 to 39.9 is obesity II and 40 and above is obesity III. According to Mr Ibrahim a patient’s treatment plan will be decided with their concern.

HMC has the most recent medicines for obesity and we have the bariatric surgery. We refer people with a body mass index of 35 with diabetes for surgery.
The one-day master class will provide an exclusive and detailed exploration of the region’s universities’ strengths and opportunities using previously unpublished data from THE.

The master class will be presented by THE Editorial Director, Global Rankings, Phil Baty, who will cover how the World University Rankings are constructed and what data are collected, along with the details of THE methodologies. The class will also provide an exclusive access to previously unseen data on different regions and will advise on how to interpret universities data to evaluate current performances. Furthermore, THE future plans for teaching excellence will also be discussed.

Dr Hassan Al Derham (pictured), President of Qatar University, said: “Qatar University is committed to its goal to rank among the best universities in the Arab world, and will be consulting with universities leaders on how rankings and our performance indicators can evolve to meet the developmental needs of institutions in the region.”

We are thrilled to be working once more with Qatar University, which hosted our inaugural MENA universities summit back in 2015, and which we know will provide excellent thought leadership at this meeting,” he added.

Ashghal completes 5km South Sewage tunneling

Continued from page 1

Engineer Khalid Saif Al Khayareen, Drainage Networks Projects Department Manager at Ashghal, said that the Western branch that was completed today is one of the three parts of the Main Trunk Sewer which will serve Al Sadd, Al Muaumara, Umm Gunwaila, and Al Matar areas.

Al Khayareen pointed out that the main tunnel will withdraw the drainage water in a smoother way via gravitational factors to get it to the treatment plants, which will contribute to eliminate around 20 old pumping stations.

Tunneling works were implemented using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) which was named “Al Zubara”, and it is one of the project’s two TBMs which were designed specifically for the geological features encountered in Doha. Excavation works were implemented using the Earth Pressure Balance (EPB) tunneling technique, which is ideal for Doha’s soft ground and rock conditions, at a depth ranging between 30 and 40 metres, without impacting the traffic flow or the buildings surrounding the tunnel.

The Main Trunk Sewer of Doha South Sewage infrastructure project comprises three branches: Eastern, Western, and Northern with a total length of 56 kilometres. The Eastern branch extends for about 17.5 kilometres from Al Thumama to Old Airport area, passing through the E-Bug Road and its tunneling works are expected to be completed in Q3, 2018.

The Northern branch extends for about four kilometres from Al Thumama to Rawdah Al Khaul area, through Al Najma area, and it is expected to be completed in Q1, 2019.

The project contractor and “CH2M” is the project contractor and “CH2M”, while the project supervisor is “Travaux Publics” and “UCC” is the project supervisor.

The project is the first project in the region to implement the ‘CEEQUAL’ an international evidence-based sustainability assessment rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and works in public spaces.

The Joint Venture “Bouygues Travaux Publics” and “UCC” is the project supervisor.

As a result, it will reduce the environmental impacts through the full control of odours in sewage treatment works and conveying system, and reduce other environmental problems arising from sewage overflows due to excess breakthroughs pressure on the existing drainage network, where sewage flows exceed its capacity.

Ashghal started implementing the Doha South Sewage Infrastructure Project in August 2015, and 70% of the works are completed so far. The project is planned to be completed in Q1, 2019.

It is worth mentioning that the Doha South Sewage Infrastructure Project is the first project in the region to implement the ‘CEEQUAL’ an international evidence-based sustainability assessment rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and works in public spaces.

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DOHA: The total aid provided by the Zakat Fund of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to the needy families in the country last December amounted to QR13,624,806, the fund said.

The aid was distributed to the beneficiaries, including the permanent aid provided monthly and the irregular aid, which is related to specific needs and emergency conditions of the beneficiaries and one-time disposal as needed.

The funds were distributed according to Shariah and after comprehensively researching each beneficiary and case and undergoing a social and field research.

The cases are then presented to specialised committees who must almost on a daily basis to assess the cases, guaranteeing the delivery of assistance to beneficiaries in need.

Zakat Fund aid amounted to QR13.6m in December

QU to host master class on THE World University Rankings

The Peninsula

Doha: Qatar University, in collaboration with Times Higher Education (THE), will host a high-level master class on ‘THE World University Rankings’ on January 16, 2018 at Qatar University campus.

The class will be held in the presence of international, regional and local university leaders. The one-day master class will provide an exclusive and detailed exploration of the region’s universities’ strengths and opportunities using previously unpublished data from THE.

The master class will be presented by THE Editorial Director, Global Rankings, Phil Baty, who will cover how the World University Rankings are constructed and what data are collected, along with the details of THE methodologies. The class will also provide an exclusive access to previously unseen data on different regions and will advise on how to interpret universities data to evaluate current performances. Furthermore, THE future plans for teaching excellence will also be discussed.

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We are thrilled to be working once more with Qatar University, which hosted our inaugural MENA universities summit back in 2015, and which we know will provide excellent thought leadership at this meeting,” he added.

Emir sends verbal message to South Africa

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Monday 8 January 2018

Emir sends verbal message to South Africa

The bore head making the last push.

LEFT: Emir H H Shk Sab Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a verbal message to President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, pertaining to bilateral relations and means of enhancing and developing them. The message was relayed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani during his meeting with the President of the Republic of South Africa Jacob Zuma.

ABOVE: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met yesterday met with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Malek Nkuna-Ndashabane. The meeting discussed the bilateral relations and ways to boost and develop them, especially in the fields of investment and trade. The meeting also discussed the latest regional and international developments.
Transport Minister meets Omani counterpart

Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jasim bin Saif Al Sulaiti met in Muscat yesterday with Oman’s Minister of Transport and Communications Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Salem Al Fakih. Al Sulaiti thanked the Sultanate of Oman for the fruitful cooperation in all fields, especially air and marine transport. The two Ministers discussed cooperation in the fields of transport, communications, ports and aviation and means of enhancing them, as well as the potential investment opportunities available in both countries. They also discussed a number of matters of common interest between the two brotherly countries. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, General Authority of Customs, Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology (OSM), Qatar Ports Management Company (Qawafi Qatar), Mowasalat (Karwa) and Mihla (Qatar Navigation). It was also attended by Qatar’s Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Ali bin Fahad Al Hajri.

Al Sulaiti meets Kuwait Minister

Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jasim bin Saif Al Sulaiti met in Kuwait yesterday with Kuwaiti State Minister for Housing Affairs and State Minister for Services Affairs Dr Jenan Mohsen Ramadan. Minister Al Sulaiti hailed brotherly State of Kuwait’s positive role and positions towards the State of Qatar and expressed sincere thanks for the fruitful cooperation in all fields, especially in the transport sector. The meeting discussed cooperation in the fields of transport and communications services, as well as ports and aviation and means of enhancing them. They also discussed the potential investment opportunities available in both countries and a number of matters of common interest between the two brotherly countries. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, General Authority of Customs, Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology (QOSM), Qatar Ports Management Company (Qawafi Qatar), Mowasalat (Karwa) and Mihla (Qatar Navigation).

Travel packages for 2018 FIFA Cup selling fast

DOHA: With exclusive travel packages offered by Qatar Airways and Qatar Airways Holidays, the leisure division of Qatar Airways Group, selling fast and football fans are urged to book now to secure the experience of a lifetime.

Scenes of incredible travel packages, which include flights, hotels and official match tickets to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia, have already been snapped up for the global tournament, which takes place from June 14, to July 15, 2018. Million will be watching on television but only a relatively few lucky fans will experience the thrill of football’s biggest tournament, Salam Al Shawa, said: “Millions of fans are expected to watch the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia matches on television. But nothing beats being there in person and only Qatar Airways Holidays can offer unbeatable travel packages to give you that ultimate FIFA World Cup experience.”


An extensive range of travel package options are being offered by Qatar Airways Holidays. A specially designed intuitive booking platform features an easy-to-understand online brochure, providing details of all available travel packages, clear prices and what they include. Prices vary depending on match ticket category, chosen hotel type and flight weight. Qatar Airways Holidays’ travel packages for key group stage games and the final phases are available to buy on a first come first served basis and can be bought until January 31, 2018.

Qatar Airways Senior Vice President Marketing and Corporate Communications, Salam Al Shawa, said: “Millions of people are expected to watch the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia matches on television. But nothing beats being there in person and only Qatar Airways Holidays can offer unbeatable travel packages to give you that ultimate FIFA World Cup experience.”

“The world’s No. 1 airline in the Official Frequent Flyer programme, Privilege Club, also has the chance to begin planning their FIFA trip with exclusive travel packages designed to ensure they receive the ultimate FIFA experience. This follows Qatar Airways’ Privilege Club being named the Official Frequent Flyer Team of the FIFA World Cup Russia.”

“With exclusive travel packages offered by Qatar Airways and Qatar Airways Holidays, the leisure division of Qatar Airways Group, selling fast and football fans are urged to book now to secure the experience of a lifetime.”

DOHA: Ministry of Economy and Commerce announced a recall of Isuzu Trucks F-Series models of 2014–2015 because of an incorrect lock pin on the lock plate of the front RH spring shackle pin.

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce in collaboration with the Department of Consumer Protection and the Kuwait Trade and Industry Bureau yesterday said it was implementing a recall of Isuzu Trucks F-Series models of 2014–2015 because of an incorrect lock pin on the lock plate of the front RH spring shackle pin. The ministry said the recall applies to the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait.

The ministry said that it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works.
Speaker arrives in Kuwait

Ooredoo tv launches two South Asian packs

US honour for WCM-Q and HMC researchers

Speaker of the Advisory Council HE Ahmed bin Abdulrahman bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud arrived yesterday evening to head the delegation of the State at Qatar participating in the inauguration of the 11th meeting of speakers and heads of Shura, Representatives Councils and National Assemblies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is scheduled to begin today. The Speaker and his accompanying delegation were received at Doha International Airport by Speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament Dr Sheikha Fatima bint Ishaq Al Noor, a Qatari working woman this option is usually taken around seven days for an order to be delivered from outside Doha and they charge a reasonable shipping cost. There are several online platforms of my Qatari friends which are making it more easy and friendly. They delivered it from our country services coming via Dubai but now the demand of my products has increased. The demand of my products has increased to the last two years. People have liked the quality of my products and now become my regular customer as I offer delivery within 24 hours. Many people select online shopping in order to gift their loved ones on special occasions. The main reason is traffic clogging and chaos on the city roads combined with huge rush at malls and hypermarkets. Online shopping has made my life easy; it provides me with countless choices. The time and money I spend on travelling to a mall I save by shopping online which is now click away. The problem I face while going to the cities is if I buy a dress worth QR35 I will spend another QR30 on taxi fare, in this way online shopping is more convenient.

Different online websites provide me with beautifully designed Turkish dresses with perfect measurements which are rarely found in Qatar. The only thing we have to be careful of is it is a ‘Reliable Retailer’ said Fatima, who is a frequent online shopper.

Siege fails to affect online shopping business in Qatar

Ooredoo tv launches two South Asian packs

DOHA: Ooredoo announced yesterday that Ooredoo tv has introduced two new South Asian channel packages, aimed to provide a host of entertainment for the growing number of expats in Qatar.

The packages, which are available now for all Ooredoo tv subscribers, will cost QR10 per month and will offer the latest entertainment in Bangla, Urdu and other regional languages from Pakistan.

The packages are called ‘Bangla Pack’ and ‘Urdu Pack’. The Bangla Pack will include 11 channels: ATN Bangla, NTV, Channel 9, Asian TV, Boishakhi TV, Ekattor TV, Masaimang TV, and more. Ooredoo tv customers can subscribe to either of these packages by just pressing the home button on their Ooredoo tv remote control, go to TV TY, select ‘Subscription’ and then go to ‘Bundle and Consider’. Based on their preference, they then must select the Bangla or Pakistani Variety Pack poster and press ‘Confirm’.

Ooredoo has also announced to add more channels to both packages in the near future. Talking about the new packages, Manar Khalifa Al Marzabi, Ooredoo Director of PM and Corporate Communications, said: "Ooredoo is investing heavily in making sure our Ooredoo tv service offers the best entertainment for all communities of Qatar and we hope this update helps expats across the country to enjoy that favourite content from home for just QR10 per month.

Ooredoo tv is the best next-generation television service for Qatar and offers features such as 4K resolution, time-shift, parental control, thousands of hours of on-demand content. Ooredoo tv is available now via Ooredoo Shops, Starlink, Techno-Bliss and Jumbo outlets. The service has no upfront charges, no equipment costs and no ongoing contracts.

The new packages include 11 channels: ATN Bangla, NTV, Channel 9, Asian TV, Boishakhi TV, Ekattor TV, Masaimang TV, and more. Existing Ooredoo tv customers can add the new packages to their Ooredoo tv remote control, go to TV TY, select ‘Subscription’ and then go to ‘Bundle and Consider’. Based on their preference, they then must select the Bangla or Pakistani Variety Pack poster and press ‘Confirm’.

Dr Charbel Abi Khalil, Assistant Professor of Genetic Medicine at WCM-Q, Dr Nidal Assad, Chairman of HMC’s Heart Hospital, and Dr Jassim Al Suwaidi, Senior Consultant Cardiologist at HMC and one of the head of the research at the Heart Hospital, were presented with the Paul Dudley White International Award.

Dr Charbel Abi Khalil gave a talk about the genetic predisposition to diabetes and cardiovascular disease. He explained how the genetic determinants and the family history of diabetes can predispose people to certain complications. He also summarized the different genes that he and his fellow researchers have discovered in Qatar and the region.

Dr Al Suwaidi’s lecture entitled The Burden of Diabetes among Cardiac Patients in the Gulf: Lessons from Registries, discussed the high prevalence of diabetes in the Middle East compared to the global average. He told the audience that in the GCC, about 20 percent of the population have type 2 diabetes, compared to just 8.4 percent worldwide.

Additionally, he highlighted the sad fact that among cardiac patients in Qatar and the GCC, up to 50 percent of all patients and up to 70 percent of women with cardiovascular disease, also have diabetes. Finally, he summarised some of the studies conducted by cardiologists and endocrinologists both in Qatar and the region.

Dr Abi Khalil and Dr Al Suwaidi have been presented with the Paul Dudley White International Award at the 2017 annual International Award at the 2017 annual meeting of the American Heart Association for two joint cardio-metabolic research projects.

The first project assessed red cell distribution width, a unique cardiovascular biomarker measured in the blood of patients with type 2 diabetes. They reported that a higher width – red blood cells usually measure between six and 8 micrometers across – is associated with an increased chance of mortality. The second research project focused on the prognosis of patients with diabetes and severe heart failure.

During the same conference, which was attended by thousands of delegates, the investigators were also invited to give lectures in a special session on diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr Abi Khalil gave a talk about the genetic and epigenetic determinants of the cardiovascular complications of diabetes. He explained how the genetic determinants and the family history of diabetes can predispose people to certain complications. He also summarized the different genes that he and his fellow researchers have discovered in Qatar and the region.

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The Public Clean-up campaign is in progress on some of the beaches.

Month-long drive to clean beaches begins

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Public Cleanliness Department of the Doha Beach and Land Section has launched a month-long drive to clean the beaches located at north and north-west part of the country.

The drive ‘Annual Camping’ that started on January 1, 2018 will end by the end of the month, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment in a release.

Order campaign, the beach area from Abu Dukh to Al Zabara are being cleaned.
Qatar Airways & QDF congratulate ExxonMobil Open champion

In his speech, Al Khall focused on the mechanism adopted by the HMC to prepare future doctors and provide them with continuing vocational medical education. He pointed out that in order to develop and nurture future doctors, HMC has established specialized medical training programs.

Dr. Wafa Salah Al Zubadi, Head of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Medicine Department, explained that the administration offers a number of rehabilitation programs and a comprehensive range of services for the medical and rehabilitation management of patients suffering from physical, mental, psychological and social diseases. She added that the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Medicine is working to guide the patients therapeutic path and facilitate the stages of their improvement to enable them to reach their maximum abilities at physical, psychological and social levels.

Dr. Al Zubadi stated that the treatment involves participation of patients and their families in their rehabilitation process. She emphasized on the role that the management of the healthcare system through their constant medical intervention when and where needed.

Qatar Charity (QC) in collaboration with Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation (QTSFB), launched third edition of “Posi- tive Society” campaign for highlighting the services provided by Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

Under the campaign a number of HMC officials were awarded. On behalf of Qatar Charity Board Chair Badrya Al Yaqoot, Head of Donation Department at QC presented Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation (QTSFB) President and Chairman of the Organisa- tion Committee, Nasser bin Ghanim Al Khelaifi, a token of appreciation.

Al Khelaifi said: “It was a great pleasure hosting another highly successful tour- nament. Qatar Tennis Federation’s part- nership with Qatar Airways and Qatar Duty Free has raised the level of tennis to greater heights in Qatar and we are delighted to be partners together. It is our desire to keep developing the sport in the country’s best interest.”

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) officials, Salam Al Shawa, said: “Qatar has once again proven itself as a host of high-level international sporting events. Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation (QTSFB) President and Chairman of the Organisation Committee, Nasser bin Ghanim Al Khelaifi announced that it was a great pleasure hosting another highly successful tour- nament. Qatar Tennis Federation’s partnership with Qatar Airways and Qatar Duty Free has raised the level of tennis to greater heights in Qatar and we are delighted to be partners together. It is our desire to keep developing the sport in the country’s best interest.”

Al Shawa added that Qatar Airways & Qatar Duty Free as the official airline and retail sponsor of the Qatar ExxonMobil Open 2018, have congratulated Gaël Monfils, winner of the ATP tournament held at Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex.

The new champion earned his win- ning title after defeating Andy Rublev during a thrilling final match on January 6, with a 6–4, 6–3 victory. The highly- anticipated championship proved to be a great success among international and local fans alike, who came together to watch some of the best tennis players compete in Doha for the coveted prize and winning title.

Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation (QTSFB) President and Chairman of the Organisation Committee, Nasser bin Ghanim Al Khelaifi said: “It was a great pleasure hosting another highly successful tour- nament. Qatar Tennis Federation’s partners- ship with Qatar Airways and Qatar Duty Free has raised the level of tennis to greater heights in Qatar and we are delighted to be partners together. It is our desire to keep developing the sport in the country’s best interest.”

Qatar ExxonMobil Open Men’s Tennis Tournament Director, Karim Alami said: “This year’s Qatar Exxon- Mobil tournament was a thrilling event for many fans around the world who look forward to it on an annual basis. Qatar has once again proven itself as a key player in the global tennis scene and for being an excellent host to many championships. It is our honour to host these world-class tour- naments and we would like to thank Qatar Airways and Qatar Duty Free for supporting and sponsoring our events.”
FC Bayern conclude training at Aspire Zone

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: FC Bayern Munich UAE yesterday successfully finished its eighth annual winter training camp held at Aspire Zone. The winter camp has become a key part of the teams training preparations ahead of restarting the football season.

The team concluded their final training session yesterday and flew back to Germany on the same day.

To mark the success of the training camp with Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF), Mohamed bin Fahad Al Thani, AZF’s External Affairs Representative, presented a commemorative shield to Hasan Saifahmudiz, FC Bayern Munich Sporting Director.

Commenting on the occasion, Hasan Saifahmudiz, Sporting Director for FC Bayern Munich said: “Our winter training camp at Aspire Zone Foundation clearly achieved its objectives, and the players are refreshed and ready to resume playing in the Bundesliga and the Champions League.

AZF’s External Affairs Representative, Mohammed bin Fahad Al Thani, presenting a commemorative shield to FC Bayern Munich Sporting Director, Hasan Saifahmudiz.

He added: “We held morning and evening training sessions which has prepared us well to face Leverkusen on Friday in the Bundesliga, and SC Sommerhof Gvo next Tuesday in a friendly. Were also looking forward to our match against Turkish side Besiktas J K in the Champions League in February.” Saifahmudiz summed up the teams experience at AZF saying: “The weather was ideal here, with temperatures around 25 C. Azrpe Zone has great facilities and the pitches are world class.”

Meanwhile in an interview with local and international Spanish speaking media, FCBs left back Juan Bernat said: “We are totally satisfied with our winter training camp in Doha. The camps has become a key part of our annual calendar and AZF’s facilities are really impressive.” He added: “Our goal is to clinch as many titles as possible this season with our new coach Pep Guardiola. Were going to be interesting. We are looking forward to our upcoming matches, as we have some big games coming.”

Kids tour

Students of Al Risala Kindergarten taking a tour of Al Tawasul Traditional Park yesterday.

QFFD and Unicef sign $5m pact for cholera eradication in Yemen

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) yesterday signed a $5m Cooperation Agreement with Unicef in response to Unicef’s call for the prevention and treatment of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera in Yemen.

Unicef reported that the social service systems in Yemen, including health, water, and sanitation are on the brink of col lapsing. In 2017 only 54 percent of humanitarian funding was received against an appeal of $135m. In 2018, Unicef is appealing for $112m to continue its humanitarian response. There are nearly 16 million people lacking access to clean water and sanitation, while over 11 million children need humanitarian assistance.

The QFFD stressed that this agreement comes in response to an urgent appeal launched by Unicef to donor coun tries in order to combat the spread of the disease. The seriousness of the health situation in Yemen necessitates the response of all countries to this urgent humanitarian appeal, where the State of Qatar has donated $5m to support Unicef’s efforts to eradicate the Cholera disease in Yemen to reach half a million beneficiaries.

“The contribution from the Qatar Fund for Development is critical for Unicef’s response to the acute watery diarrhoea and cholera situation in Yemen, allowing us to continue prevention efforts and the delivery of life-saving assistance in water, sanitation, hygiene, health and nutrition for children across the country,” said Geert Cappelaere, Unicef Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

This support is aimed at building National capacity in the health sector and its staff in order to manage the spread of the disease and respond to new cases of illness. It provides comprehensive assistance through rapid response mechanisms and encouraging the Yemeni society to change human behaviour to prevent and treat cholera.

Safari Win 20 Toyota Camry Promotion

Safari Win 20 Toyota Camry Promotions Key handing ceremony for the winners of 5th and final Lucky draw was held at Safari In Al Khair yesterday. All five winners received a Toyota Camry 2017 Model Cars from Safari Group Director & General Manager Zainal Abideen along with Management and staff.

Safari Win 20 Toyota Camry Promotion

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Safari Win 20 Toyota Camry Promotion
SC launches 2018 World Cup Russia observation

DOHA: The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) in partnership with the QF Research Institute has delivered the first in a series of staff secondment programmes to begin prepping staff and stakeholders for potential observation and secondment programmes to be opened for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia.

Following the successful delivery of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil observation programmes among 88 delegates from the SC and its stakeholders, the secondment programmes to be opened for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia.

The programmes of the workshop was to provide a holistic overview of all FIFA World Cup operation, and to introduce some of the functional areas required to run a mega-event including specific information on security, venue management, media operations, transport and marketing and communications.

Following an introduction and welcome address by TOP Executive Director Dr. Sabi Kat-Sudin, EUFA Hills Oliu Martin Kallen delivered an in-depth analysis of what is required to organise a global world class mega-event.

With a focus on host country operations Martin Kallen, who oversees operations at the recent UEFA European Championship in France, emphasised that possessing a great product in a great sport are two critical success factors. As such, a hosting major event helps to promote the host and the sport.

He provided a vast number of detailed examples including how the Portuguese were able to host the Euro-2004 European Championship with an atmosphere he qualified to be elite.

This reflected his recommendations to ensure people of the country hosting a mega-event have to feel proud.

Then, a workshop would be addressed by Neil Doncaster, Chief Executive of the Scottish Professional Football League; and Dr. Sue Bridge, founder of the University of Liverpool, along with SC speakers Bishi Amran, Observation Programme Senior Specialist and Gary Moretti, Football Events and Education Senior Manager.

Following the workshop, three SC employees Major Al Ali, Deputy Executive Director of Security; Zajid Joseph, Venue Expert; and Khalid Al Noami, Media Relations Senior Officer, would present their own experiences. They would exchange some of the experiences, especially announcing their plans to participate in secondment and observation programmes at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

The SC’s observation programme is designed to ensure the most is made of every opportunity to share your newly acquired knowledge with colleagues and work together to ensure we deliver an amazing 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar,” he said.

Afras Al Noami. Acting Executive Director of Media Affairs.

“With it is with great pride that we work with the likes of these dedicated professionals at the SC to deliver programmes of such magnitude, and importance to us and our legacies. It was an absolute pleasure to host the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil observation programmes among 88 delegates from the SC and its stakeholders. With that experience, the SC is looking forward to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia observation and secondment programmes to be opened for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia.

We must learn from differences, especially announcing your plans to participate in secondment and observation programmes at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, in 2022 and beyond.”

Dr. Buthaina Ibrahim, Senior Consultant, Medicine, Endocrine/ Diabetes, Hamad General Hospital.

“Being a candidate in this year’s presidential elections, reversing a previous pledge to stand. His decision to step aside is likely to placate the poll to be dominated by incumbent Ahmed al-Espirit, who has not yet officially announced his candidacy. His decision to step aside has come after he was returned to Egypt from the United Arab Emirates, where he was hospitalised due to heart problems since 2012.

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THE PILLAR: Food and Nutrition

Ex-PM Shafiq won’t contest for president

CAIRO: Egypt’s former prime minister Ahmed Shafiq said yesterday that he will not be a candidate in this year’s presidential elections, reversing a previous pledge to stand.

His decision to step aside has come after he was returned to Egypt from the United Arab Emirates, where he was hospitalised due to heart problems since 2012.

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Syrian troops retake key Sinjar town

Israel lists 20 groups to be denied entry over boycott calls

Iran’s Guard claims victory against anti-govt protests

Israel calls for closure of UN agency for Palestinians

Syrian troops retake key Sinjar town

Smoke rises after an air strike carried out by the warplanes of Assad regime in the de-escalation zones of Arkan and Harmata in Syria, in the besieged Eastern Ghouta in Damascus, Syria, yesterday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says the gain “paves the way for the regime forces to march on the rebel-held Al-Ruah air base near the town of Darkoush in Idlib province.”

The Observatory, which has a network of sources in Syria, said government forces have managed to capture the town of Barisha, which was controlled by the rebels, and managed to establish control over “some towns and villages” in Idlib province.

Since the start of the operation in late December, Assad’s forces have recaptured roughly 60 towns and villages on the border between Idlib and the neighbouring Hama province.

The drive into the region is aimed at securing a key road that links the government-held city of Aleppo to other regime-controlled areas in northwestern Syria.

Abadi addresses Iraqis in Najaf

Iraq’s Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi speaks during a ceremony in Najaf, Iraq, yesterday.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi addresses Iraqis in Najaf’s al-Naqeeb Mosque during a ceremony yesterday. (AP)

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President Macky Sall condemned what he called an "armored attack of rare barbarity" and ordered his national security council, a government statement said, an attack on the presidential palace early on Saturday.

"We are in the middle of an armed attack on the capital of the Republic of Senegal," Sall said.

The attack comes a day after a deadly attack on Saturday.

"This attack is a direct challenge to the state and to the government," Sall said.

The attack happened when the president was visiting a mosque.

"This attack is an act of terrorism," he said.

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Mahmoud Abbas doesn’t have a Trump strategy

In the waning years of the Abbas era, the truth is that the room for debate over a Palestinian national strategy has withered.

The PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah announced after Trump’s speech. 

The effort to reunite the West Bank and Gaza under one leadership faces challenges that Trump’s speech on Jerusalem will not bridge. Since the latest unity deal was announced in October, the process has been deadlocked over two issues: how to reconcile the parallel civil administrations in the PA and Hamas, and what to do with Hamas’ standing army and use of force in conflict with Israel. In the 10 years since Hamas seized control of Gaza, the two factions’ list of grievances has only grown. Just last month, Hamas reportedly prevented PA workers from returning to Gaza, while on December 21 Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar declared the unity deal on the point of collapse “because some people want to get from it the relinquishing of arms and the closing of the security border.”

If the Palestinian national movement is going to change its strategy, it needs a leader with the vision and charisma to navigate these realities. The alternatives the Palestinian Authority President, particularly after his recent announcement that the United States considers Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

On paper, the plan is to seek support from the United Nations Nations Abbas recently declared that he would again seek full membership at the United Nations — a step also taken in 2018, 2012, and 2014. Addition Abbas is seeking other ways to garner international recognition. He signed 22 international conventions and treaties on December 11 and threatened to keep signing until the Palestinians have joined over 500 organizations, a strategy that has also been around since 2011. But, strategically, these repeated attempts to internationalise the conflict have been a failure.

Successive votes at the United Nations General Assembly like this month’s legislated resolution condemning Trump’s Jerusalem decision, recognition from European parliaments, and accession to international treaties haven’t resulted in more political or economic autonomy for Palestinians. Even in moments when outside countries do offer to intervene — like Japan’s offer last week to mediate between the two parties — it’s with the caveat that the United States is still heavily involved. And when the campaign reaches the United Nations Security Council, it’s met with the American veto.

Thus, the campaign end up antagonising the Americans, while most countries still fail to Washington on the peace process — meaning little actually changes on the ground for Palestinians. This international campaign was initially conceived not as a standalone strategy for achieving statehood but as a tactic for increasing leverage against Israel in peace negotiations. As senior Palestinian officials told me in 2013, they would aim to join these organisations over time in order to increase their bargaining position. And during former US President Barack Obama’s administration, this tactic largely worked. Israel even agreed to release 100 Palestinian prisoners in stages in exchange for a half of Palestine’s international campaign in 2013.

Yet the international campaign is not Abbas’s only option for increasing leverage against Israel. In recent years, prominent Palestinian officials have increasingly called for embracing popular uprisings. Going further. Fatah Vice President Mahmoud Al-Aloul gave a televised speech last week in which he declared, “all forms of resistance are legitimate,” while his party’s parliamentary body called for the formation of local committees to popular resistance. This comes on the heels of repeated calls for “days of rage” — as protests in the streets.

Yet here, too, the rhetoric is deceptive. For while the Palestinian leadership has brought people into the streets, Abbas has quietly shown an unwillingness to let the situation escalate and threaten the Palestinian Authority’s security coordination with Israel. A decision has been made at the highest political levels that there will not be any military confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank, Ahmad Haroun, a Fatah official, told me last week. “We are keen on keeping it this way.”

In the weeks since Trump’s speech, Palestinians have nevertheless taken to the streets in the West Bank and Gaza to protest against Israel and the United States. Scores have been wounded and several killed in widespread, yet reportedly diminishing, clashes. For Palestinian leaders calling on people to take to the streets, this amounts to playing with fire. Last year, thousands protested against Hamas in Gaza, and at the last Palestinian Authority-organised rally in 2014 there was concern that the protesters may have turned back and directed their ire at Ramallah. Trump’s Jerusalem announcement also had the effect of galvanising Palestinians behind rehearsed calls for reconciliation between the two largest factions, Fatah and Hamas. “This is a historical stage requires that we all unite and speak up against the occupation,” PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah declared.

I am going into these talks with optimism. At the same time, it is clear to me that we will have an enormous amount of work in front of us over the next few days but we are willing to work hard to bring a good result.

Angela Merkel German Chancellor
Abe cabinet must gain support through long-term policy goals

The cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has announced its intention to change the parliamentary system of government in Japan. The government has long been under pressure to pacify voters, the cabinet said, and has been turning down a higher number of asylum applications than in previous years. This has been a significant policy change in Japan, where the government has traditionally been reluctant to accept new asylum seekers.

Germany must come to terms with refugee crime

About 170,000 of them had applied for asylum. That’s about the fourth highest number in Europe.

The researchers asked for data that specifically concerned asylum applications, both successful and unsuccessful, which had arrived in 2013 and 2016. The state police – in keeping with the government’s pledge to improve their handling of asylum applications – has published such statistics, but the researchers say they are not transparent and do not include data on asylum seekers who have never arrived in Germany. They have also conducted interviews with asylum seekers who had been rejected.

The researchers have found that the vast majority of asylum seekers in Germany are not violent criminals. They have also found that the so-called “paranoid” asylum seekers who are often portrayed in the media as a threat to society are not a significant problem. Instead, they say, the real threat comes from those who arrive in Germany on false pretenses, such as economic migrants who claim to be asylum seekers.

The researchers also note that the so-called “paranoid” asylum seekers are more likely to be from countries with higher rates of violent crime, such as Syria and Afghanistan, where the rate of violent crime is significantly higher than in Germany. They also note that the so-called “paranoid” asylum seekers are more likely to be young men, who are less likely to have a legal status in Germany, and who are more likely to be deported.

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Press bodies condemn FIR against reporter

MUMBAI: Various press bodies including the Press Club of India, the Editors Guild of India, Women’s Press Corps, Press Association and the Mumbai Press Club yesterday condemned the lodging of a FIR against a reporter of The Tribune by an officer of the Information and Publicity Authority of India for writing a story on Indian Security Forces and their actions in Rautahat district, Nepal. The UIDAI has registered an FIR against the newspaper and reporter for a report titled “A direct attack on the freedom of the press.” The press clubs and journalists’ associations dubbed the FIR as “a direct attack on the freedom of the press” and demanded an immediate withdrawal of the case.

Act and Aadhaar Act. The UIDAI on January 4 said its search facility for grievance redressal may have been “misused” in any instance where someone with ulterior motives is able to access it, the statement said. The report by The Tribune news agency reported that 4 weightlifters were killed in a 10-foot-deep manhole in which they had descended to unclog sewage lines due to asphyxia yesterday in a north Bengal area. A Delhi Police official identified the dead as Tikamchand, 27, Yogesh, 24, Harish Roy, 20, and Saarabhai, 18. They were taken to Rajivchandrali Hospital in Narula area and declared dead by doctors, the police officer said. Sakthivel Vaid, 28 who won a gold medal in the 2017 World Weightlifting Championship for India, was seriously injured with an eye injury and in shock, Rohit, 19 a police official said. These two were rushed to Max Hospital in Delhi’s Shalimar Bagh. The car, according to the official, first hit a divider and then crashed into an electricity pole.

4 weightlifters dead in car accident

BENGALURU: Three men died in a car accident yesterday where the Prime Minister will be present on January 27, Yogesh, 24, Harish Roy, 20, and Saarabhai, 18, were among the victims. The victims were on the Delhi-Panipat highway when the car collided with a tree. Three men suffocate in Bengaluru manhole

BENGALURU: Three men died in a car accident on the Delhi-Panipat highway when the car collided with a tree. Three men suffocate in Bengaluru manhole

BENGALURU: Three men died when a 10-foot-deep manhole in which they had descended to unclog sewage lines due to asphyxia yesterday in a north Bengal area.

3 men suffocate in Bengaluru manhole

Cold wave kills nine in Nepal

KATHMANDU: At least nine people died due to an intense cold wave in Nepal’s Terai region, authorities said yesterday. The cold wave has badly affected daily lives, halting regular activities including closure of schools across the region.

Man held for ‘harassing’ Tendulkar’s daughter

KOLKATA: A 12-year-old man was arrested in West Bengal for allegedly disturbing and harassing cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar’s daughter Sara on phone, police said yesterday. The man was arrested by a joint team of Mumbai and West Bengal Police from Multaiyadapur area of East Midnapore district.

Kolkata: A two-member team of Mumbai police came here on Saturday. A joint team of Mumbai police and our personnel arrested Dheerajtul inad and has been taken to police station.

Bihar: A Delhi Police official identified the dead as Tikamchand, 27, Yogesh, 24, Harish Roy, 20, and Saarabhai, 18. The accident took place at around 4am near Alipur village, close to Delhi’s Timoga border with Haryana. The victims were on the Delhi-Panipat highway when the car collided with a tree. Three men suffocate in Bengaluru manhole

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US mulls supply options amid Pakistan spat

AP

WASHINGTON: Pentagon officials are weighing the US's next moves after Washington froze military aid payments to Islamabad, saying it is not doing enough to target Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network bases.

The US said in August it intended to withhold hundreds of millions from its “cooperation support fund” to help Pakistan, with some of these going to retribution measures that might harm America’s warfighting efforts in its neighboring Afghans.

Most problematic for America is its 16-year war in Afghanistan. The US recently pulled out of Pakistan’s worst province of Balak, is trying to remove from his power and he had not really been in a confrontation with Washington.

Unfortunately for Taliban, the US no longer has an air base in Khyber, which had been the main point of attack for the Afghan military personnel and it而出 of Afghanistan but was abandoned amid a peace row in 2014 with the Ouba administration.

Additionally, Washington's dichotomy with Russia could make flying over Central Asia less reliable, with Moscow able to exert influence on its smaller neighbors.

More than 60% of the 13 million remaining American troops in Afghanistan are依托 on the supply lines. Unlike in 2011, the US no longer has an air base in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, which had been the main point of attack for the Afghan military personnel and it而出 of Afghanistan but was abandoned amid a peace row in 2014 with the Ouba administration.

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Mahathir named oppn PM candidate

REUTERS
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's opposition alliance named former premier Mahathir Mohamad yesterday as its prime ministerial candidate for a government it hopes to form this year, although the authoritarian who ruled the country for decades is now 92 years old and faces an uphill task.

With the country's most populous state, former Anwar Ibrahim in jail, Mahathir is seen as the best choice to lead the former Najib Razak, who must call an election if he is exonerated on charges of corruption. Mahathir and former foe Anwar have joined up to oust Najib.

N Korea names delegates for inter-Korean talks

AFP
SEOUL: North Korea has named its delegation for the highest level meeting with the South this week, ahead of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, said yesterday as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe cautiously welcomed the talks.

The two Koreas agreed on Friday to hold their first official discussions in five years and are expected to discuss the North's participation in next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The North Korean delegation for tomorrow's meeting in the border truce village of Panmunjom will be led by Ri Son-Gom, head of the North's foreign affairs committee, the ministry said.

A message from the South that four other officials will accompany Ri, was included in those of charge for a meeting.

The initiative is a response to an offer from the North's leader Kim Jong-Un who, in his New Year speech, said that he had worked success for the Olympics to be held from February 9-25, while Seoul and Washington were said to have said Pyongyang could send a team to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Seoul responded with an offer of talks and last week the hotline between the neighbours was restored after more than two decades.

The message comes a day after South Korea suggested Unification Minister Cho Myoung-Gyon would lead its delegation for the upcoming talks.

Kim said in his New Year speech that his country worked success for the Olympics to be held from February 9-25, while Seoul and Washington were said to have said Pyongyang could send a team to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Mid-sea collision

The shadowy, poorly-equipped and armed forces have given harrowing accounts of lives lost at sea and the deprivations of coasts such as Indonesia which has been a target of international condemnation after a collision with a cargo ship at sea, yesterday. Thirty-two people, mostly Iranians, were missing.

This handout from the Korea Coast Guard shows the Panamanian-flagged tanker "Sanchi" on fire after a collision with a cargo ship at sea, yesterday. Thirty-two people, mostly Iranians, were missing after the collision off the coast of east China, sources said.

Infant found dead on plane in Indonesia

AFP
JAKARTA: Indonesian police yesterday detained the suspected mother of a newborn baby who was found dead in an aircraft toilet at Jakarta's international airport.

Balti, a 37-year-old migrant worker from Campe in West Java, was held soon after arriving from Bangkok at Soekarno-Hatta airport around 3am, said airport police chief Ahmad Yusuf. "She didn't look healthy and won't be questioned until she is in a stable condition at the airport's health centre." Yusuf said.

Police suspect that Hani, the woman they believe is a domestic helper in Abu Dhabi for four years, secretly gave birth during an Eidul fitr flight from there to Jakarta on Saturday.

Rohingya rebels claim ambush on Myanmar security forces

AGENCIES
YANGON: Rohingya rebels yesterday claimed responsibility for an ambush on Myanmar security forces that left several wounded in northwestern Rakhine state, the first attack of the year in a region notorious for violence.

The army said some 650,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh after the refugees were attacked and forced to leave their homes.

The attack is a major blow to Myanmar's military, which has come under scrutiny for its treatment of Buddhist Muslims who have faced systematic oppression and have been driven out of Myanmar's territory.

Buddhist Rohingyas have fled camps in Rakhine state.

'Action in Rakhine will deepen concerns about plans to begin repatriation, which the government is ousted,' the UN said.

The military's action is likely to fuel tensions between Rakhine's two tribes and also to undermine trust in the government.

The attack comes amid a surge of flights to Bangladesh by Rohingya refugees fleeing violence.

Cambodian PM leads huge rally on anniversary of Khmer Rouge's fall

PHNOM PENH: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen led a huge rally yesterday marking the anniversary of thefall of the Arrow Regime, saying the coup had been a failure and that he would continue to rule.

Sen's control over Cambodia is stronger than ever following a string of systematic removal of his rivals.

The crackdown that started in January, 1979, in the dissolution of the main opposition party in November, and a move to strip a dozen political activists of their parliamentary seats, has all but eliminated any opposition to the Hun's regime.

Sen, a former Khmer Rouge cadre who later defected and joined the commune, has been under fire recently for his government's efforts to quash critics.

Hun Sen took credit for the stability and growth his government has overseen since the Khmer Rouge era.

8 JANUARY 2018
Eurozone

**France Gall**

France Gall, die 70

Theresa May

May said in a BBC interview that she had received a “clear message” from the public and would not hold a vote before the next election, due by 2022.

British government set for reshuffle

**France Gall**

One dead in Stockholm metro blast

**France Gall**

French Gall dies at 70

**France Gall**

French Gall dies at 70

Theresa May scraps planned fox-hunting vote

Theresa May's Conservative Party pledged to scrap a long-promised ban on fox hunting as they seek to win back those lost in last month's by-election in the seat of Shropshire, England. The announcement was made as the government faces criticism over its handling of the British fishing industry and its relationship with the European Union.

May said on Tuesday that she would not bring forward plans to introduce a ban on fox hunting, despite a vote that had been due in 2017.

"It is essential that we respect the wishes of the people in this country," she said. "That is why I have decided to respect the clear mandate that was given to us by the people of Shropshire in the by-election last month."

May's decision comes after the Conservative Party lost its majority in the by-election in the constituency of Tiverton and Honiton, which was one of the key battlegrounds in the general election last month.

"I believe that it is right that we listen to the people and respect their wishes," May said. "That is why I have made this decision."
Merkel in new bid to end political impasse

AP

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced optimism as she opened talks yesterday with Germany’s second biggest party on restoring their alliance, in a new attempt at shoring Europe’s biggest economy out of political paralysis after September’s inconclusive elections.

The week of meetings between Merkel’s conservative alliance and the Social Demo- crats (SPD) will examine whether both sides have enough common ground to begin formal coalition negotiations towards a new gov- ernment.

“I am going into these talks with optimism. It is clear to me that we will have an enormous amount of work in front of us over the next few days, but we are willing to take it on and to bring a good result,” Merkel told journalists as she arrived at the SPD’s headquarters for the meeting.

“I think that it can be done. We will work very swiftly and very intensively,” she added.

Merkel was left without a majority in parliament after the centre-left SPD suffered its worst post-war electoral setback.

Austrian to the head of the SPD, which is also the name of a military heroes. Greece and the

The quarrel between Skopje has long insisted that only 45 percent of Germans view a new grand coalition pos-

sible deportation to their home

e-phrase is brewing to the far right, the con-

A survey published by Focus political

A survey published by Focus political

BLOOMBERG

PARIS: Marine Le Pen, still reeling after last year’s French presidential defeat, is pushing to reform the National Front and seek alliances to restore her far-right, anti-establish-
ment party.

“If we are changing the National Front, we should also need to change the name,” Le Pen said yesterday at a press conference in Alencon, north-western France, according to AFP.

“An internal poll shows a majority within the party favore a name change and if the early polls are like-

Le Pen aims to rebrand the National Front as the Rassemblement National. She called upon to ratify any deal.

Some 209 migrants stormed the territories by sea. The Syrians were referred to joint statements. The decision is aimed at pre-

The talks are “open-ended,” said one of the SPD’s negotiators, Michael Groschek, reiter-

The talks are “open-ended,” said one of the SPD’s negotiators, Michael Groschek, reiter-

Barcelona: More than 300 people stormed the heavily militarised border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave Melilla in what author-

Greece name dispute likely to be resolved

Paying tribute

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo (fourth left); French President Emmanuel Macron (fifth left) and other French officials took part in a memorial ceremony outside the Hyper Casher supermarket to pay a tribute to the shoppers at the Kosher Store who were killed three years ago by a gunman in Paris, yesterday.

Oppon calls for abolition of Germany’s online hate speech law

REUTERS

BERLIN: Germany’s opposition parties yesterday called for a law that makes it an offence to post any comments that are insulting to the European Union or Nato to be abolished.

Nicola Beer, general secre-

Anxious to stem the haem-

A survey published by Focus political

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The parties in Poland, Hungary and

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Le Pen seeks to revive France’s National Front

Over 300 migrants storm Morocco–Spain border

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**Bannon apologises for anti-Trump comments**

**AP**

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's former chief strategist has made a statement yesterday softening his support for the president and praising Trump's eldest son as "both a patriot and a good man."

Bannon infuriated with Trump comments with author Michael Wolff this week by announcing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower in New York between Donald Jr., Trump campaign aide and general counsel as "treasonous" and "unpatriotic."

The meeting was aimed at former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, who also attended the meeting, and Trump's son.

"I regret that my delay in responding to the inaccurate report regarding my conversation does not reflect a directed attention from the press which has a history of accomplishing in the first year of his presidency," Bannon said in a statement.

"Bannon said his support for Trump and his agenda was "not treasonous."

"Hours before the statement came out, administration officials used appearances on a news show to rally behind Mr. Trump to undermine Wolff's "Fire and Fury."

The statement, which portrays the 45th president as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of his office and who sometimes speaks without thinking, was an "unusual" and "unprecedented" move by a White House official.

"The White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders said the president is "clear" and "focused" on his task.

**Five human heads found on Mexico taxi**

**AP**

LIMA: Five decapitated human heads have been found in a taxi outside a New York drug violence-plagued Mexican state.

Veracruz Governor Miguel Ángel Steinhardt confirmed that severed heads belonging to five people were discovered on the hood of a taxi and attributed the killings to organized crime.

The heads were found a day earlier in the municipality of Tlacotalpan.

Steinhardt said the heads were discovered in the Veracruz city of Tizatlan. The regional government said the heads had been主动性 attached to the taxi.

The heads were discovered on Monday and one of them was apparently killed during a robbery.

A television reporter said Jose Gerardo Martinez's death "does not seem to be linked to his journalistic work."

Mr. Martinez was reported to have been attacked by a "hundreds of people" and then thrown into a taxi.

More than 2,000 homicides were reported in Veracruz between December 2017 and December 2018, according to the state's attorney general.

Mr. Steinhardt said the state had created a "red zone" in the Veracruz city of Tizatlan in an effort to increase security.

**Trump willing to talk with Kim Jong-Un**

**REUTERS**

CAMP DAVID: US President Donald Trump (inman) said he would "absolutely" be willing to talk on the phone to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and that he hopes a positive development results from talks between North Korea and South Korea.

North Korea agreed on Friday to hold official talks with South Korea next week, the first in more than two years, hours after Washington and Seoul defended a military exercise amid a standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs.

Trump, answering questions from reporters at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, expressed a willingness to talk to Kim but not without preconditions.

"Absolutely. I would do that," Trump said. "I thought I had a problem with that at all."

Trump and Kim have exchanged insults ever since the US president, calling Kim "rocket man" for testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Earlier this week, Trump dismissed Kim's taunt that the North Korean leader has a "nuclear button" on his desk, saying it has a "big button.

The talks between North Korea and South Korea are expected to cover the Winter Olympics, to be held in South Korea in February, and inter-Korean relations. Both Koreas met in October for the first time in 20 months.

"Look, now they are saying they are going to talk," he said. "I'm not involved. I wouldn't be talking at all right now," he said.

"Kim "knows I'm not messing around. I'm not moving around. Not even a little bit, even not one percent."

"If something can come out of these talks, that would be a great thing for all of humanity, that would be a great thing for the world," he said.

**Honduras protest vote results**

**AP**

TEGUCIGALPA: Thousands of demonstrators led by opposition congresswoman Nadirah Narro gathered in Honduras' second-largest city yesterday to protest the re-election of President Juan Orlando Hernandez in a vote they say was fraudulent.

"We will not stop until Hernandez says he is leaving," Narro told supporters, many of whom chanted "OH, OH!" referring to Hernandez.

It was the first such march in San Pedro Sula since the November 26 election, and the losing candidate once again appealed to the Organization of American States and the countries that have recognized Hernandez's victory to listen to the protestors as they oppose an "illegal government."

According to the official count, Hernandez won 42.95 percent to 42.4 percent for Narro, a former sportswoman backed by a left-leaning coalition.

However, the OAS, which had observed monitoring the election, called for a repeat of the vote, saying the official version of the count included "extreme statistical improprieties."

An early lead by Narro disappeared after the public vote count mysteriously stopped for more than a day then restarted.

Hernandez denies the vote was fraudulent and has called on Hondurans to accept his re-election. Some countries, including the US, have recognized the victory.

Supporters of presidential candidate for the Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship, Salvador Nasralla, take part in a march to claim Nasralla's presidency, in San Pedro Sula, 165km north of Tegucigalpa, yesterday.
Fujimori calls for unity after pardon

REUTERS
LIMA: Former president Alberto Fujimori, imprisoned for 25 years for graft, will appeal to unite against violence and crime, appealing to his right-wing political base less than two years after being freed from prison by a presidential pardon.

In his first comments since being released from a hospital for blood pressure and heart problems on Thursday, Fujimori told to reflect on the new mission in his life following a decade in prison serving a 25-year sentence for graft and human rights crimes.

“I am currently in the process of trying to heal my dreams and want to share them,” Fujimori said.

Fujimori’s remarks were the first sign that he will play a more active role in Peruvian politics, potentially supporting his President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski’s administration.

“We’ll be in a country in which security is regained and violence eliminated. We can only achieve these goals by setting aside special interests and opportunism. UNITED WE CAN DO IT!”

Kuczynski survived an impeachment bid in Congress.

The decision ignited protests and a backlash against the political establishment.

Critics of the pardon have slammed it as a blow to the global fight against impunity and efforts to heal the wounds of a conflict between leftist insurgents and Fujimori’s conservative-led government that killed an estimated 60,000 people.

The decision sparked protests and a backlash against the political establishment.

The scandal has ensnared Fujimori in a series of issues for the administration, including four degrees Fahrenheit in record lows for yesterday, the previous day.

Parts of New York saw record lows for yesterday, the previous day.

People look at ice floating along the East River during freezing temperatures, in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, yesterday.

Cold grips northeast after ‘bomb cyclone’

AP
NEW YORK: Brutally cold temperatures broke records on the US East Coast yesterday, but an arctic cold snap is in sight with warmer weather en route, forecasters said.

The deep freeze follows a deadly winter storm, dubbed a “bomb cyclone,” which was last week’s last major blast for at least 22 deaths in the United States.

Many forecasters are calling for similar conditions this week, with temperatures dropping into the single digits or even below zero.

The airport warned of further delays yesterday. Terminal 1, which serves the likes of Air France, Japan Airlines, Korean Air and Lufthansa, was closed to operations.

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Venus at superior conjunction with Sun tomorrow

DOHA: The brightest planet of our solar system Venus will be at super -e� conjunction with Sun tomorrow at 8am, according to Qatar Calendar House (QCH).

During superior conjunction, the centre of three celestial objects (Sun, Earth and Venus) will be on a straight line. Moreover, Sun will be in between Venus and Earth, while Venus will be at the farthest point from the Earth.

Venus will pass very close to Sun, so that it will not be visible from Earth's surface on this day, said astronomer expert at QCH Dr. Bechir Marzouk.

Superior conjunction of Venus is an important astronomical phenomenon as it marks the end of Venus’ apparition in the morning sky before sunrise. It indicates Venus’ transition from morning sky (over eastern horizon) to an evening sky (over western horizon).

Residents of Qatar and other Arab countries will be able to observe Venus with naked eye over western horizon during the first week of February. The duration between time set of Venus and sunset time will be more during next few weeks, added Dr. Bechir Marzouk.

According to the information provided by Qatar Calendar House, Venus was at superior conjunction with Sun June 2, 2016, while the next superior conjunction of Venus with Sun will be on August 14, 2019.

On this day Venus will rise over eastern horizon of Qatar sky (and all world countries sky) at the time of sunrise and both the celestial bodies will be seen more or less together on western horizon.

There are two types of conjunction: inferior and superior. The superior conjunction happens for all our solar system planets, while an inferior conjunction only happens for two planets of our solar system: Mercury and Venus. It is because their orbits around the Sun are inside Earth's orbit, said astronomer expert.