Doha Metro to get ready by 2020

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani visited Doha Metro Economic Zone Station.

SACHIN KUMAR
THE PENTAGRAM

DOHA: The Doha Metro Project will get ready by 2020, providing the residents a chance to ride trains that are among the fastest in the region. Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani visited the Doha Metro Economic Zone Station yesterday. During his visit, he observed progress at the site and also reviewed key achievements made by the company in 2017 as well as future plans.

Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, who is also the chairman of the Doha Metro Project, which is 75 percent complete now, will be fully operable by 2020. He said Qatar Rail has received 20 trains for the project. The work on the Red Line of the project is 93 percent complete, he added.

"We are on the track to deliver this new and paramount transport solution to the nation when the network becomes operational in 2020. The progress made and challenges overcome are a testament to the wise guidance of our patriotic leadership. Sheikh H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the close supervision of Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani made expectations not only being met but exceeded," said Al Sulaiti.

The guidance of H H the Emir facilitated the progress of Qatar Rail projects which was translated into a key tangible achievement. From scoring sufficient capacity at Hamad Port to handle the impact of materials necessary for the successful completion of the projects to the relocation of the building Auto- mation & Control System (BACS) Centre for the Doha Metro Stations from Dubai to Doha, we can promise the nation that we are on track for a fully operational service by 2020," he said.

During the visit, the Prime Minister and Interior Minister travelled on one of the new trains passing through the tunnels and inspected the tunnels to the station by Al Wakra to Al Wakrah. The new fully driverless trains are amongst the fastest in the region, capable of speeds up to 100km/h, and will provide a reliable and fast commuter service for passengers.

2017 has been a year of unprecedented success for the transport sector in Qatar. We have come leaps and bounds in laying the foundations for our interconnected nation and the Doha Metro project forms the fundamental backbone of the integrated public transport system supporting Qatar’s National Vision 2030. We look forward to further progress being made at Qatar Rail in 2018 as a vital contributor to the implementation of the key transport infrastructure project," said the Minister of Transport and Communications.

The state-of-the-art Economic Zone Station is located at the intersection of J Bin Thani Road and the Al Wakra Road. The completed station will be able to accommodate up to 15,000 passengers per hour and will serve as the focal point and main transport hub for the Qatar Economic Zone in Ras Bu’ Fousha, close to Hamad International Airport. According to officials, 69 percent of the Lusail Train project is complete.

The unprecedented challenges for Qatar Rail that were faced in 2017 have served only as a catalyst for adaptability and change," said Eng Abdulrah Al-Safiah, Managing Director & CEO of Qatar Rail.

Emir issues Emiri decision restructuring SC’s Board of Directors

QNA

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Emiri Decision No. 2 for 2018 restructuring the Board of Directors of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC). The decision stipulates that the Board of Directors of the SC’s is to be chaired by H H the Emir, with H H Personal Representative of H H the Emir as Vice Chairman and the membership of E E Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, H H the Emir’s Parliamentary Representative of H H the Emir and Mohammed bin Hamad Al Thani as Managing Director, H E Minister of Finance, H E Minister of Administrative Development, H E Minister of Public Health and Population, H E Minister of Development Planning and Statistics, H E Minister of Transport and Communications and H E Minister of Economic Zones.

This Emiri decision stipulates that the term of Board Membership shall be four years and may be renewed for one or more similar tenures. It shall enter into force on date of issuance and shall be published in official Gazette.

H H the Emir issued a decree No. 4 of 2018 amending some of the provisions of Decree No. 271 of 2000 approving accession of the State of Qatar to the UN Convention Against Corruption and Other Conventions in the Field of Economic and Financial 

New approach to surgical care at ACC

FAZENA SALEEM
THE PENTAGRAM

DOHA: The Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) is offering patients an advanced new approach to surgical care in Qatar.

Patients are provided with the opportunity to receive the latest treatment in different specialties using advanced clinical and surgical practices within a single dedicated location, says a senior official. It provides day-care surgery - a model of care that means within 23 hours of undergoing a surgical procedure patients will be able to leave the hospital and return to recover in the comfort of their own homes.

Also several outpatient clinics are available at the ACC, said Dr Khalid Mohammed Al Jallal, Director of ACC, while talking to The Peninsula.

The country’s expenditure on major projects is expected to reach about $25bn this year, targeting projects in education, health and construction sectors in preparation for hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

State during the recent period. In addition, the exhibition was held to open up new markets and commercial outlets, to promote mutual trade growth with the countries of the world, enable manufacturers and businessmen in Qatar to identify these markets and provide them opportunities to share experiences, information and techniques that can benefit the business sector in the country.

Emir ratifies Cabinet Decision

EMIR H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday the Cabinet Decision No. 4 of 2018 concerning the general population, housing and establishment conditions for 2020.

The decision stipulates that the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics shall conduct a general census of population, housing and establishments for the year 2020 for the State for 2020.

The decision is effective the day following its date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette.
PM & Education Minister visit school principal in hospital

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani visited the principal of Al Hafa Secondary School for Boys, Mr. Ali bin Nasser Al Buloobi, who was attacked by a student and his family members on Sunday.

The Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr. Ahmad Shamsodini, Senior Consultant Dr. Juma Al Sada, and the Academic Vice Chancellor of Qatar University College of Science and Engineering Dr. Ali Al Zadjali, were also present.

In a meeting with the principal, the Minister expressed his surprise at the seriousness of the problem, which he called a “serious problem in Qatar.”

He said that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has instructed the inspectors to take all necessary actions to find the culprit and ensure that such incidents do not recur.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar University College of Health Sciences (QU-CHS) recently hosted a seminar on “The Impact of the Blockade on Food and Medicine Sector in Qatar.” The seminar was held in the framework of QU-CHS hosts seminar on impact of blockade on food and medicine

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**Qatar Airways introduces Qsuite on Washington flights**

**THE PENINSULA**

**DOHA:** Qatar Airways’ revolutionary, award-winning Qsuite product has landed at Washington, DC’s Dulles International Airport on January 8, 2018 marking the capital city the second US destination to offer the innovative new Business Class product.

The ground-breaking Qsuite was first introduced on flights to London Heathrow Airport and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and most recently made its highly-anticipated US debut last month at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Qsuite, a patented Qatar Airways product, is already fast collecting awards for bringing a First Class experience to the Business Class cabin. Qsuite features the industry’s first-ever double bed in Business Class, as well as privacy panels that stow away, allowing passengers in adjoining seats to create their own private room, a first of its kind in the industry. Qatar Airways proudly launched Qsuite at ITB Berlin in March 2017 to outstanding global acclaim, and has set a new standard for luxury travel with this innovative product.

“Following the US debut and warm welcome of Qsuite in New York City, we are thrilled to kick off the new year by extending the outstanding offerings of Qsuite to our dedicated business and leisure travelers in the Washington, DC area,” said Akbar Al Baker, Group Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways. “Since our launch a decade ago, Washington Dulles has seen some of the highest demand for our business class service across any of our other US gateways, so bringing Qsuite to Washington was a natural choice. We look forward to continuing to revolutionise the way people travel to and from the US capital,” he added.

Qatar Airways was recognised for its launch of Qsuite by receiving the ‘Best Airline Innovation of the Year’ award at the 2017 ULTRAS (Ultimate Luxury Travel Related Awards) held in London last year.

Qatar Airways celebrated 10 years of flying to the United States capital in 2017, with its first flight to Washington Dulles International Airport from Doha on July 15, 2007.

**Speaker attends Kuwait National Assembly**

**QNA**

**KUWAIT:** Speaker of the Advisory Council H E Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud and his accompanying delegation of Advisory Council members attended the 51st Meeting of Chairpersons and Speakers of Shura, Representatives Councils and National Assemblies who attended the session. He pointed out to the social, geographic and family ties that unite the GCC nations.

Al-Ghanim expressed his optimism towards the Gulf’s cohesion and said the promises of the reunion began before the end of the year when the Gulf Summit and the Gulf Cup were held, and now the 51st Meeting of Chairpersons and Speakers of Shura, Representatives Councils and National Assemblies of the GCC, which are an optimistic steps.

At the offset of the meeting, their Highnesses, their Excellencies the heads of the GCC, the Advisory Councils and National Assemblies of the GCC, attended the meeting.

The Speaker of the Advisory Council had attended on Monday the 51st Meeting of Chairpersons and Speakers of Shura, Representatives Councils and National Assemblies of the GCC.
Nasser Bin Khaleed Automobiles has launched the 2018 Doha Marathon as Bronze Sponsors. Ooredoo announced yesterday the official sponsorship of the 2018 Ooredoo Doha Marathon. Al Murali confirmed that in addition to the official sponsorship, Ooredoo will support and encourage more people in Qatar to get active, as well as enhancing prospects for cooperation. The meeting was attended by a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

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Registration open for career guidance course

CATC is the first customised training program for career advisers in Qatar and the Arab Gulf region. It will take place from March 4 to 8, from 8.30am to 3.30pm, at the Education City.</p><p>Interested in developing key career guidance skills. During the five-day program, participants will learn how to use technology-based applications that benefit career development and how to make better-informed choices about post-secondary majors in order to help students or adults with their career choices and planning. The course plays a crucial role in ensuring that the people of the future are equipped with the necessary skills to guide young people in Qatar. Classroom instruction will be complemented by visits to relevant industries. A dedicated online interface for the course, which will serve as a knowledge bank, will be set up for the CATC. The content will be updated throughout the duration of the course and six months thereafter, in line with developments in the field.

Registration fees for the CATC are QR 5,000, and can be paid at Ooredoo’s offices located at the Ooredoo Housing Maintenance Building, adjacent to the Education City Chancellery. Those who register before February 5 will be offered a discounted fee.

The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said that it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance.
The experts from the National Office of Traffic Safety in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment will help develop applications and GIS database on state level in a bid to analyse results, inputs and outcomes. The move will also help increase the efficiency of the operation of road networks.

It will also help in city plans, uses of lands and traffic flow among many others.

The GIS will also be used in the implementation of the National Strategy for Traffic Safety plans for the next five years (2018-2022) management of traffic accidents, upgrading investigation system for road accidents and black spots.

This will also be useful for conducting feasibility studies for new projects, assessment of existing roads, assessment of urban planning and classification of roads management and analysis of traffic congestion levels, comprehensive transport plan, master development plan, traffic management, pedestrian services, vehicle parking, safety rating and risk management system and many other projects that will be contributed by other state agencies.

A comprehensive national manual will be drafted in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment enabling all necessary technical requirements, database and GIS services to ensure full support to the projects of NSC.

The projects aim at achieving strategic goals of road safety, deconstructing traffic jams, developing road networks and transport services and building sustainable cities in the country to serve the people, said a release.

The agreement came under framework of the efforts made by the various state agencies to redress the issues of road accidents urgently, deconstructing traffic in a bid to keep pace with the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations in which Qatar is also participating. The efforts also aim at meeting the requirements of ongoing developments in all sectors of the country.

The experts from the National Office of Traffic Safety in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment will help develop applications and GIS database on state level in a bid to analyse results, inputs and outcomes. They will also help solve the problems of facilitating taking appropriate decisions in redressing the issues like reducing road accidents, making safe road designs, addressing the requests for transporting people and goods, enhancing cooperation among the transport sectors including land, air and sea.

The move will also help increase the efficiency of the operation of road networks, transport services and keep urban and road safety level for all road users including pedestrians, equipment, vehicles and cargo.

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Qatar team excels in Huawei ICT Skill Competition ME

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: After participating in the final stage of Huawei ICT Skill Competition Middle East, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Science and Engineering (CSE) graduate student, Dabeeruddin Saleh Al-Yafei, returned from the People’s Republic of China this week, with the Qatar team obtaining the tournament’s Excellence Prize.

Following the conclusion of the competition, all contenders embarked on a special three-day visitor itinerary around the city. During this time, the students took guided tours to the Southern University of Science and Technology, theme park Window of the World, and China Folk Culture Village.

Qatar team members pose for a photograph at the Huawei ICT Skill Competition Middle East.

Qatar’s team’s success is attributed to the fact that the team’s members had the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in tackling some of the industry’s most complex challenges.

The team was supervised by a Huawei technician stationed inside Huawei Technologies’ headquarters in Shenzhen. The team worked on a simulated scenario involving both theoretical and practical components. The complex eight-hour test consisted of competitors demonstrating working knowledge of firewalls, cloud computing, switching, routing, and network security.

They were awarded the Excellence Prize for their efforts in the final ceremony, which was attended by high-ranking government officials and senior representatives from participating countries’ embassies and consulates.

Mr. Al Yafei highlighted his takeaway from the three-month journey in the international program, Dabeeruddin said, “My most memorable moment was the successful completion of the exam – it showed me that my professors and the quality of education at HBKU had effectively equipped me with the necessary skills and technical knowledge to succeed on an international level and international competition.”

Mr. Al Yafei was particularly honored that, while in China, he could represent the Qatar and give back to his country.

The final stage of the Huawei ICT Skill Competition that took top contender Dabeeruddin Saleh Al-Yafei, who has graduated from HBKU, as one of the top three students qualified as local finals in the national-level stage of the tournament. Mr. Al Yafei attended the ceremony, which was attended by high-ranking government officials and senior representatives from participating countries’ embassies and consulates.

Mr. Al Yafei said, “My most memorable moment was the successful completion of the exam – it showed me that my professors and the quality of education at HBKU had effectively equipped me with the necessary skills and technical knowledge to succeed on an international level and international competition.”

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THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Municipality and Environment is holding a workshop to discuss involving private sector in waste collection, recycling and re-utilisation.

The workshop on “Judicial Power in the Field of Public Hygiene” is being organised by the Center for Environmental and Municipal Studies at the Ministry, at the headquarters of the Ministry in the Field of Public Hygiene” is being organised by the Center for Environmental and Municipal Studies at the Ministry, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

A number of topics will be discussed during the workshop, including draft of ministerial decisions to be issued and the need to rope in the private sector.

The workshop, which is being attended by 16 participants started yesterday and will end today.

In this stage, participants from 10 countries had the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in tackling some of the industry’s most complex challenges.

A number of recommendations will be presented to the participants out of the discussions and proposals about the mechanism of the implementation, draft ministerial decisions to be issued and the need to rope in the private sector in the cleanliness sector.

“Call to involve private sector in waste recycling

THE PENINSULA

Call to involve private sector in waste recycling.
New visa steps to increase visitors at six-day exhibition

DOHA: Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE), one of the largest luxury exhibitions in the region, has been held this February 21 to 26 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), with the support of Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) to support the health of the patients in Qatar. The Russian ambassador has launched a field hospital to offer emergency health care for patients and visitors of the Russian embassy across the country. In the first edition of various exhibitions in Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility provided medical and surgical services for the displaced from Al Rabor, the health facility 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**Israeli air strikes, rockets hit Syria**

**AFP**

BEIRUT: Israeli jets and ground-to-ground missiles struck Syria early yesterday. The army said it had retaliated after rockets fired from across the border had caused material damage.

"We have conveyed our strong disapproval to Damascus," the local media quoted the Syrian armed forces as saying.

"It is the first time that such an attack has been launched against our country," a local official told the reformist newspaper Al-Masdale.

While Israel has not commented on the attack, the US and other countries have been critical of Damascus' support for Hezbollah and other militant groups in the region.

**Iran probes death of young man in custody**

**AFP**

TEHRAN: An investigation has been opened into the death in custody of a young Iranian who was detained in the Iranian capital, Tehran, following protests last month.

"An investigation was immediately opened and the prison guards and other people have been interrogated," a judicial source told IRNA news agency.

"This individual was not arrested during the recent protests and had nothing to do with the recent demonstrations," an unnamed official told the reformist newspaper Payam-e-Noor.

A reformist lawmaker, Mehrdad Safadgh, had earlier issued a statement saying that "God had hanged himself in the toilets."
**UN urges Israel to find solutions for African migrants**

**AFRICA | 09**

After a hazardous journey across the Mediterranean, thousands of African migrants have arrived in Italy. Many are seeking asylum and trying to find work. UN officials have called for an end to the crisis and urge Israel to open its borders to asylum seekers.

**ADDIS ABABA:**

The United Nations has urged Israel to find solutions for African migrants who are fleeing conflict and violence in their home countries. "We are deeply concerned by the situation of African migrants who are fleeing conflict and violence in their home countries," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. "We call on Israel to open its borders to asylum seekers and provide them with protection." The UN has also called for a moratorium on deportations and for the establishment of a permanent mechanism to register and process refugee claims.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government has announced that it will continue to deport African migrants, despite international criticism. "We are committed to enforcing our immigration laws," said Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri. "We will not allow illegal immigrants to disrupt our society and economy." The Israeli government has also announced plans to build a wall along the border with Egypt to prevent migrants from entering the country.

### Tunisia%

**Tunisian PM seeks to calm protests**

**AFRICA | 09**

The Tunisian government has announced plans to increase police patrols and deploy additional security forces in response to recent protests. "We are committed to protecting our citizens and ensuring their safety," said Prime Minister Youssef Chahed. "We will not tolerate any violence or破坏 of public order." The government has also announced plans to increase the budget for police and intelligence agencies to improve their capacity to respond to protests.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders have called for a general strike to protest the government's response to the protests. "We will not accept a state of emergency," said Chokri Belaid, a leading opposition figure. "We demand the resignation of the government and the release of political prisoners." The government has denied allegations of corruption and has criticized the opposition for being disloyal to the country.

### Nigeria%

**Violence toll reaches 80**

**AFRICA | 09**

The violence between the Nigerian military and Boko Haram militants has claimed the lives of at least 80 people in recent days. "We have received reports of intense fighting in several locations," said a Nigerian security official. "We are working to verify the toll and provide assistance to the affected communities." The Nigerian government has announced plans to increase the military's presence in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has called for an immediate end to the violence and for the immediate release of all prisoners. "We condemn the use of violence and call for the immediate release of all prisoners," said a UN official. "We will not tolerate any violence and will work with all parties to resolve the situation peacefully." The UN has also announced plans to increase its humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.

**Cold wave in Morocco**

Moroccans walk along the coast during a storm in Rabat yesterday. Morocco has been facing an unusual cold wave for the past few days, with heavy snowfall in the mountainous regions and the installation of an anti-cold device in the most affected areas.

**Boko Haram suspects remanded**

**AFRICA | 09**

Three hundred Boko Haram suspects were remanded in custody for 90 days yesterday in Lusaka, Zambia. "We are reacting against the openlassen of migrants back to Africa - and we will do all we can to bring them home," said the United Nations' high commissioner for refugees. "We are working with governments and international organizations to help bring them back to their countries of origin." The United Nations has also announced plans to increase its humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has called for an end to the violence and for the immediate release of all prisoners. "We will not tolerate any violence and will work with all parties to resolve the situation peacefully," said the government. "We call on all parties to refrain from violence and to work towards a peaceful resolution." The government has also announced plans to increase its humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.

**Schools closed in Zambia as cholera toll hits 61**

**AFRICA | 09**

The cholera epidemic that has swept across southern Africa has claimed the lives of at least 61 people in Zambia. "We are working tirelessly to contain the outbreak and provide healthcare to the affected communities," said a Zambian health official. "We are working with international organizations and the United Nations to help bring the outbreak under control." The government has announced plans to increase the healthcare capacity in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has called for an immediate end to the violence and for the immediate release of all prisoners. "We demand the release of all prisoners," said a UN official. "We will not tolerate any violence and will work with all parties to resolve the situation peacefully." The UN has also announced plans to increase its humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.
**EDITORIAL**

OHCHR confirms violations

The UN technical mission from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been gathering information on violations of human rights and livelihoods of people of Qatar and other GCC countries, which has been proceeding smoothly.

In the last seven months, the OHCHR has been a huge step forward in the fight against human rights violations in the region. The OHCHR report is a valuable tool in this fight, as it provides a comprehensive picture of the situation in the region.

The report submitted by the UN technical mission from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is a fact-based document prepared after rigorous ground work in form of extensive interactions with the victims of the siege during the mission’s visit to Doha between November 27 and 29 last year.

President of the OHCHR, Dr Al Sayyid bin Al-Marri, has welcomed the report of the OHCHR technical mission saying: “We welcome the content of the report despite some observations regarding the statistics of people affected as well as insufficient attention to some violations.”

Condemning the decisions and measures taken by the blocking countries, Dr Al Marri said that the report has affirmed in a non-interpretative manner that the measures adopted by the blocking countries were arbitrary and unilaterally and explicitly violated international law, the principles of international relations and human rights conventions.

Qatar’s National Human Rights Committee has done a tremendous job in the last seven months to highlight siege-related human rights violations at all regional and global forums.

The National Human Rights Committee which has done a tremendous job in the last seven months to highlight the siege-related human rights violations at all regional and global forums has also announced that it will circulate the OHCHR report to all international and regional human rights institutions and all international parliament.

The report clearly indicates that the population of the Gulf countries at large has been affected by the suspension of freedom of movement between their countries and restrictions on travel by the affected countries, which has been affecting on various social, economic, political and cultural rights of people. The report also highlighted considerable economic impact of the crisis with significant financial losses for the State, companies and individuals.

In order to tackle decisions of wise leadership of Qatar, the country has put in place a number of siege and all designs of the blocking countries to harm Qatar through prolonged blockades have virtually failed. Qatar economy 2018: Advanced strategies, promising projects

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

The re-establishment and strengthening of inter-Korean military hotline is critical to the avoidance of the risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding and to reduce tensions in the region.

Antonio Gutierrez
UN Secretary-General

The Qatari economy started 2018 with an optimistic plan to develop agricultural production to meet the needs of the local market and achieve self-sufficiency in agricultural and animal products through the Qatar national food security program and the establishment of agricultural centers and the launch of a number of food security strategies.

The State has also given special attention to water security by establishing new desalination plants and large reservoirs for the storage of potable water, the largest in kind in the world and will be launched in the first half of this year.

The Qatari economy includes the oil and gas sector, with its projects and investments in the fields of oil and gas, as well as the petrochemical and power generation sectors, which are expected to play a major role in the growth of the Qatari economy in 2018.

The State has also given special attention to the agricultural sector, with its projects and investments in the establishment of agricultural centers and the launch of a number of food security strategies. The State has also given special attention to the agricultural sector, with its projects and investments in the establishment of agricultural centers and the launch of a number of food security strategies.
Tech addiction is a problem Apple won't solve

much smoke, there is some form of fire. The average American teenager who uses a smartphone receives more than 80 notifications per day, and parents are aware of this. Smartphone addiction is serious about finding a solution, however, they don't start looking for ways to progress on the issue. Like tobacco companies before them, tech companies are incapable of studying their products dispassionately and then organizing themselves for the common good.

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Indian airline fires pilots over mid-air row

MUMBAI: An Indian airline said it had fired two pilots after reports they fought and both briefly left the cockpit unmanned during a New Year's Day flight from London to Mumbai. Jet Airways, which took the step after investigating allegations that pilots started a verbal altercation and then left the cockpit unmanned during a New Year's Eve flight, said in a statement. The company said it had taken the step after investigating allegations that the pilots started a verbal altercation and then left the cockpit unmanned during a New Year's Eve flight, said in a statement.

Two militants and civilian dead in Jammu & Kashmir encounter

SRINAGAR: Two militants and a civilian were killed in an encounter in Pirgunkar in Srinagar on Monday. The grenade incident led to the death of two militants and a civilian. The encounter took place on Monday afternoon in the constituency of Pirgunkar in Srinagar. The encounter resulted in the death of two militants and a civilian. The Indian army launched a search operation in the area to trace the remaining militants.

India set to launch its 100th satellite on Friday

NEW DELHI: India has set its sights on launching its 100th satellite on Friday along with 10 other satellites, including 36 from six other countries. From its spaceport at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, which is India’s spaceport, the country will launch the PSLV-C40 rocket carrying 100 satellites. The rocket is scheduled to be launched on Friday morning.

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NEW DELHI: The top court by its order of November 2016 had made the playing of the national anthem compulsory in cinema halls before movies are screened. However, the court also made it clear that where the anthem is played, people must stand up in respect. Physically challenged and senior citizens who cannot stand up may be exempted from this, it said.

NEW DELHI: The central government on Monday told the court that it had set up an inter-ministerial committee to frame guidelines to decide the circumstances and occasions when the national anthem should be played or sung with decorum and respect. The committee has been set up to examine all aspects of the playing and singing of national anthem and would submit its report within six months.

Defence Minister on board MIG-29

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on board MIG-29 during the operational manoeuvres of the Western Fleet ships, conducted by the Indian Navy.

Cities look to bike-sharing to put brakes on congestion

Bike sharing is viable option for Indian cities, D personnel from the Communication, and the military said that the sacred technology hub of Bengaluru was the first to introduce a bike-sharing programme, with the state’s chief minister ruling a yellow Trim Tram bike at the launch. Registered users can hire any of 450 bikes from 46 docking stations for a nominal fee. In Bengaluru, users can register on their smartphones and unlock one of 500 bikes from 60 docking stations. The city has 14,000 dedicated bike lanes, according to the Mysuru City Corporation. The system was launched in September 2016 on a road in Mysuru. Some 2.5 million people live in the city that has been made the playing of the national anthem compulsory in cinema halls before movies are screened. However, the court also made it clear that where the anthem is played, people must stand up in respect. Physically challenged and senior citizens who cannot stand up may be exempted from this, it said.

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6 dead in Quetta blast

ANATOLIA

KARACHI: At least six people, including two policemen, have been killed and 15 others injured in an attack in Balochistan province of Pakistan yesterday evening. Police and local media reported. The blast targeted a police truck patrol and occurred in a residential area 300 meters from state assembly building in Quetta. Police said that a car packed with explosive materials was targeted after it was noticed by security personnel.

Manila to protest over China activity on disputed reef

AFP

MANILA: The Philippines will lodge a diplomatic protest with China after Manila alleged that Beijing had reneged on a pledge not to militarize a crucial South China Sea reef. Beijing, claims nearly all of the South China Sea and its islands, which are considered vital for navigation and fishing. China has been building structures on Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly Islands, and expanding its activities in the Paracel Islands.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government has imposed a heavy dependency fee on foreigners working in the gas-rich province of Balochistan, says a senior official. The move comes amid opposition efforts to remove the incumbent through a vote of no confidence. Prime Minister Zehri, a member of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz PM-L), had asked political analysts to consider the situation before voting on the proposal. Zehri's supporters have accused the opposition of working to oust him from office.

ISLAMABAD: Manila has taken a tough stance against China's activities in the South China Sea and has lodged a protest with the Chinese ambassador in Manila. The Philippines has been building structures on Fiery Cross Reef, a key point in the Spratly Islands chain. The Philippines argues that the islands are its territorial waters and have been occupied by China.

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ISLAMABAD: We are unable to proceed with the new tax regime, a back-breaking proposal for expatriates. The Pakistan government has imposed a heavy dependency fee on foreigners working in the gas-rich province of Balochistan, says a senior official. The move comes amid opposition efforts to remove the incumbent through a vote of no confidence. Prime Minister Zehri, a member of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz PM-L), had asked political analysts to consider the situation before voting on the proposal. Zehri's supporters have accused the opposition of working to oust him from office.
Koreas agree to resolve issues through talks

AP

SEOUL: North and South Korea yesterday agreed on negotiations to resolve the problems and military talks aimed at averting accidental conflict, after their first official dialogue in more than two years. Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons programme has raised tensions. In a joint statement after the 11-hour talks, the North pledged to send a large delegation to next month’s Pyongyang Winter Olympics in the South, but made a “strong complaint” after Seoul suspended the inter-Korean Red Cross talks.

President Moon Jae-in invited the North’s Kim Jong-un to visit the Olympics. The North’s Kim Jong-un said the talks aimed at defusing a cold war on the peninsula and of reunification national meets for the first time in nearly three years. The meeting was jointly held in the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, yesterday.

China & France to cooperate on climate, security

AP

BEIJING: The Presidents of China and France promised closer cooperation Tuesday on climate, counter-terrorism and other issues as their governments try to gain influence in a shifting global political landscape.

President Emmanuel Macron’s visit was billed as an effort to expand European ties and cooperation with China as Britain prepares to leave the European Union and US President Donald Trump promotes more inward-looking policies. Macron said earlier he hoped to forge a wider ranging partnership on climate and other issues, though he said that would take time. The visit produced no formal agreements between the two leaders, though they agreed to continue a digital agreement on global governance.

France and China have promoted themselves as leaders in fighting global warming following the Paris climate talks, which were held in October but take effect next week, covering nearly all forms of drone use from commercial and recreational to scientific. Anyone using an unregistered drone after Tuesday risks a $10,000 (£7,500) fine or a maximum of five years imprisonment, according to the National Broadcast and Telecommunication Office. All types of drones, except toy drones must be registered, an NBTC official said. exemption would need a permit.

Former Thai PM in London, says Minister

AP

BANGKOK: Thailand’s former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who fled the country to avoid beingjailed over a rice subsidy scheme that lost billions of dollars, is in Britain. Thailand’s Foreign Minister said yesterday his comments come after two photographs purporting to be Yingluck were widely shared on social media. One shows Yingluck posing with a woman wearing a red coat accompanied by a caption saying that the picture was taken outside London’s Harrods department store. The other is allegedly of Yingluck shopping at the Harrods department store.

Their faces have been blurred. Thai social media users have verified the photograph of Yingluck, who fled the country after her trial and confirmed Yingluck’s identity. They have yet to confirm the identity of the woman in the photograph allegedly taken at Westfield.

Thai PM’s stunt bemuses public

AP

BANGKOK: Thai PM Prayut Chan-o-Cha has caused consternation among media alike. The prime minister, a military general who has run the country since seizing power in a 2014 coup, has invited your questions on Facebook.

The government said on its website that it would accept questions on any topic. It is the first time that the office of the prime minister has tried to engage with the public directly through social media. On separate occasions, he has tossed a banana peel at a cameraman, threatened to smash someone with his podium and pulled a reporter by the ear. Many Thais now believe he is remoulding himself as a fun-loving, likeable character — instead of a grim-faced ex-general — in time for election slated for later this year.

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A journalist takes a selfie with cardboard cut-outs of Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha at a government House in Bangkok, yesterday.

BANGKOK: Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha has posed with cardboard cut-outs of himself as a stunt to increase media coverage of the government.

He has two cardboard cut-outs, one of which depicts him as the character for an authoritarian former general who has stamped out dissent since seizing power four years ago.

“If you don’t have the ability to answer people’s questions, how can you solve people’s problems?” Prayuth Chan-ocha posted on Facebook.

On separate occasions, he has tossed a banana peel at a cameraman, threatened to smash someone with his podium and pulled a reporter by the ear. Many Thais now believe he is remoulding himself as a fun-loving, likeable character — instead of a grim-faced ex-general — in time for election slated for later this year.

Last week Prayuth told reporters he was no longer an army man but a “politician” — although he has been coy on whether he will seek to become the country’s first civilian leader since Yingluck.
May completes reshuffle after chaotic start

AP

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May completed government shake-up without further hitches after a day marred by feuds and the refusal of some ministers to move.

More women and ethnic minority MPs were appointed to junior ministerial positions in a move May said was aimed at making the government look "more like the country it serves." The reshuffle allows a new generation of gifted ministers to step up to make a better government for people across the whole UK. May said in a statement.

Some MPs in her Conserva- tive Party had been under pressure to resign or face being replaced after criticism of select ministers. May reshuffled a total of 15 ministers, raising the number of women in ministerial jobs to 14.

Polish PM sacks key ministers in a move to mend EU ties

AFP

WARSAW: Poland’s new right- wing Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki sacked his defence and foreign ministers in a major cabinet reshuffle, as he seeks to mend strained ties with the country’s EU partners.

The Prime Minister is due to fly to Brussels for talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker later today, following the EU’s unproven disciplinary procedure against Warsaw over its controversial judicial reforms, which Brussels says threatens the rule of law.

Ahead of his departure, it was announced that defence minister Antoni Macierewicz and foreign minister Witold Waszczykowski lost their jobs along with environment minister Jan Szyszko, among others, at an official ceremony held at the presidential palace in Warsaw.

Interior Minister Mariusz Błaszczak took over the defence portfolio, while Jacką Czaputowicz, a deputy foreign minister with centrist views, will serve as foreign minister.

"We don’t want to be a dogmatic, doctrinaire or extremist government," was the new prime minister’s first comment at the ceremony.

The reshuffle was intended to "refresh" May’s team after a torrid 2017, when she called a snap election to lose her parliamentary majority, and in which three of her senior ministers were forced to resign in scandals.

The reshuffle allows a new generation of gifted ministers to step up to make a better government for people across the whole UK.

Rutte: Britain must clarify post-Brexit relationship

AMSTERDAM: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the Netherlands is one of the top EU trading partners with Britain and a disorderly departure from the EU would "horribly damage" the country’s economy.

Rutte also trimmed several percentage points from his forecast for Dutch GDP. Rutte also announced the resignation of his cabinet reshuffle, as he seeks to mend strained ties with the country’s EU partners.

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Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May leads her first Cabinet meeting of the new year following a reshuffle at 10 Downing Street, London, yesterday.

May's spokesman rejected the accusation, saying: “This is about someone in the middle of the UK being replaced by someone with global views and interested in hip-hop, cos Harry did it just a little bit of hip-hop, cos Harry did it. It’s not just the man himself, but the ideas and the music as well.”

Harry & Meghan get wedding music tips

REUTERS

LONDON: Britain’s Prince Harry and his US fiancee Meghan Markle were given some street- level tips on their wedding music as they visited a radio station in south London yesterday.

Harry, fifth-in-line to the throne, and actress Markle, best known for the TV legal drama “Suits,” announced their engage- ment in November. With the wed- ding set for May at Queen Eliza- beth’s Windsor Castle home to the west of London, they are the first royal wedding to take place in decades.

"At the same time, there is a very real risk of serious injury, including amputation, if a person is electrocuted or comes into contact with a live wire as the device is removed or repaired," the report said.

UK women see less leisure as men get extra five hours

LONDON: It’s not just the gender pay gap – British women are being left behind their male counterparts when it comes to downtime as well.

Men took around 43 hours of leisure time each week in 2015, almost five times as much as women, according to data from the Office for National Statistics. The disparity is also getting worse.

While the amount of time men spend on activities such as socializing, resting, sports and hobbies has grown since 2000, it has fallen for women. Although women are more frequently in part-time work, they also do a greater number of hours com- pleting unpaid work, such as looking after household chores and child- care, than men.

Never before used against an EU member state, the proceedings can eventually lead to the “nuclear option” of the suspension of a country’s voting rights within the bloc.

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Merkel faces criticism over climate backtrack

AP

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and their prospective center-left partners in government faced criticism over their reported willingness to push back Germany's target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 reported recently.

A German news agency DPA reported that the agreement involves officially giving up the country's target of a 40 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 compared with 1990, regarded by many as unachievable, but taking measures to close the gap as far as possible.

The German government is not expected to reach the target “at the beginning of the 2020s.”

The deal was presented as a way to push back Germany's target over their reported willingness that it would “not be possible.”

The move would require the approval of a Social Democratic congress. The party's leadership will have to overcome strong reservations among members after initially announcing that it would go into opposition following a disastrous election result in September.

Greek moves for family disputes

AP

ATHENS: The Greek parliament passed the first draft of a law to allow Muslim litigants to opt for a Greek court to resolve family disputes rather than appealing to Islamic jurists known as muftis.

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Macedonia

AP

ATHENS: Macedonia's Deputy Prime Minister visited neighboring Greece in an effort to resolve a longstanding dispute over the tiny Balkan republic's name that has blocked its membership of Nato and closer integration with the European Union.

Bujar Osmani met with government officials in Athens as the two governments pledged to try to resolve the dispute before the summer.

Greece makes Sharia law optional for disputes

AP

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Italy, Germany nab alleged mob clan members

AP

ROME: Police in Italy and Germany seized CDS/601 in mafia assets and arrested more than 100 people, accusing them of running a huge mob-controlled commercial and political empire employing everything from bread and wine sales to funeral services, migrant housing and garbage recycling.

Prosecutors in southern Italy said the “ndrangheta’s Farin-Mattincola clan had its hand in about one third of commercial enterprises in the Calabrian town of Cava and nearby areas, and that its grip extended throughout Italy and into Germany to launder its profits.

Specifically, prosecutors accused the bosses of driving out all the coal capping in Cava and the nearby village of Castelforte, where residents and restaurants were forced to buy bread from the one mob-controlled bakery in town.

In Germany, two women were arrested for fraud and the telephone of a man was seized. The Italian news agency ANSA reported that the German government is not expected to reach the target “at the beginning of the 2020s.”

Prosecutor Nicola Gattuti told ANSA the case “concerned all commercial activity, and obviously political power as well.

Carabinieri police said “dozens” of public administration officials were among the 169 people arrested.

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"The 'ndrangheta has increasingly eclipsed the Mafia Nostra in power and wealth, infiltrating all sectors of Italian political life and spreading out from its base in Calabria to Rome, Milan and beyond," he said.

The 'ndrangheta’s presence in Germany is now considered very dangerous.

Garbage bins in Rome

A woman walks next to garbage bins in Rome, yesterday.

Heavy snowfall in French Alps

People clearing streets after heavy snowfall in Tignes ski station, in the French Alps, yesterday.
**Lawmakers still at stalemate on migration**

**BLOOMBERG**

WASHINGTON: Democrats and Republicans are standing firm on their widely divergent positions over immigration and spending as lawmakers from both parties met with President Donald Trump in an attempt to break the stalemate and prevent a government shutdown.

Democrats are demanding legislation that would lift the threat of deportation for 800,000 young undocumented immigrants be part of any deal to avoid a bitter battle to pass a stopgap funding measure to keep the federal government open past January 19.

Trump told the White House meeting that the government must know who did.

The union argued that the conduct disregards the taxpayers' trust in the police department.

Trade unions have been made more difficult by Trump's shifting and sometimes contradictory statements about his immigration legis-

House Speaker Paul Ryan said that Republicans also want a solution for the young immi-

Seven senators have been meeting for weeks without suc-

Democrats are under pres-

According to a state law that makes officer disclosure of officer dis-

Ed Royce not running for re-election

The White House meeting includes conserva-

tive Republicans such as Senator John 

**AP**

WASHINGTON: The US government announced the end of a special protection status for about 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants in move that threatens with deportation tens of thousands of families with children born in the United States.

Homeland Security Secre-

They were given 18 months

to leave or be deported, which
tensions, along with migrants from other countries, are crossing land
nings yesterday.

The United States would be "putting people intentionally in harm's way" if it sent diplomats back to Caba, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, even as a new FBI report casts doubt on the theory that Americans there have been hurt byts.

The price set by Trump and his supporters when he sug-

If there is a government closure,

"President Trump is fighting for an empty symbol" with a
carry to set deep roots inside
frozen plains of Manitoba.

The union argued that the conduct disregards the taxpayers' trust in the police department.

"The mayor and the police command hierarchy have the need for increasing trans-

Tensions over the issue are apparent in Congress, with the critic of the Caba government at odds with supporters of close US ties.

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"This conduct further not only the clear prohibi-

"What a "wall" would look like has been the subject of debate among Republicans, Senate John Thune of South Dakota, the No 3 Republican, told reporters Monday that "a wall can be defined in a lot of different ways".

"If there is a government closure, I think we’re prepared to make the needed decisions to keep the government going," Trump said.

The United States would be "putting people intentionally in harm's way" if it sent diplomats back to Caba, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, even as a new FBI report casts doubt on the theory that Americans there have been hurt byts.

**AP**

WASHINGTON: The US government announced the end of a special protection status for about 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants in move that threatens with deportation tens of thousands of families with children born in the United States.

Homeland Security Secre-

They were given 18 months

to leave or be deported, which
Efforts on to restore power supply in Puerto Rico

AP

SAN JUAN: Federal officials said yesterday that efforts to fully restore power across Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria should soon be bolstered with more work crews and more supplies as the island enters a third week. The US Army Corps of Engi- neers said yesterday that it was getting its heavy-haul to ship items and that materials it requested several months ago were still unmanu- factured and are finally on their way to St. Louis have seized a plane, said.

“We are doing everything we can to ensure that the power company’s ability to do this as fast as possible is never in question,” said Republican Represent- atives, but he is still waiting for the shipment of hundreds of thousands of transformers, fuses, towers, insulators, bolts and other pieces. Officials also said the mate- rial is bought from two smaller companies for capital restoration efforts for the Corps or in St. Louis. He said that officials over the weekend discovered some

Kentucky’s House Speaker resigns over misconduct accusations

AP

FRANKFORT: Kentucky’s Republican House Speaker resigned his leadership post, declaring he did not want the secret sexual harassment settlement signed to be a distraction in the cham- ber’s legislative work.

“Our goal was to do this on our terms,” said the state House Speaker, who was spreading lies about him and vowed to expose those he says orchestrated his demise, and vowed to expose those he says orchestrated his demise, regardless of who they are and whatever position they hold.”

Javier Corral Jurado, Governor of the state of Chihuahua, during the weekend also discovered some

Ecuador referendum

Employers of the Military Geographic Institute: Print input and prepare electoral material related to the referendum to put an end to the amendment permitting indefinite re-election in Ecuador, in Quito, on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

California to shut homeless riverbed camp

AP

ST LOUIS: Federal prosecutors in St. Louis are charging two multimillion-dollar yachts and hundreds of dollars in other luxury goods from four men convicted of conspiracy to commit racketeering.

Hjalmar Gillebo and Fredrik Olofsson of the Brussels-based feels the sting of the news that the daze of scandals and rumers and drama pulls logs from our primary tasks: The US government has asked for additional “extraordinary” funds at the end of the month in connection with this issue, and the PRIgraft in the run-up to a presi-

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Funds withheld in graft probe dispute: Governor

REUTERS

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Icelandic football player completes rehab programme at Aspetar

DOHA. Icelandic national football team striker Kolbeinn Sigthorsson, has successfully completed his rehabilitation programme at Qatar’s orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital, Aspetar.

The footballer, who scored the winning goal for his country against England in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Euro 2008, sustained a left knee injury while on international duty in September 2006.

The injury left the striker, who is currently signed with France Ligue 1 club Océan, out of action for a year and a half. Following successful treatment at Aspetar, Sigthorsson is hopeful that he will return to the game early next year and may even be ready to take part in the 2008 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

Commenting on his treatment at Aspetar, Sigthorsson said he was impressed with Aspetar’s facilities, adding: “The services are really top class. The physiotherapy facilities are great and this is the perfect place for me to be in for rehabilitation.”

Sigthorsson spoke about his ambition 2008 FIFA World Cup Russia™ ambition, saying: “The ambitions of the national team are always high, and the results over the past few years have shown that we can beat some of the best teams in the world. We are proud of all the efforts of our staff and partners who together worked tirelessly to overcome these unexpected challenges. With renewed resolve, we look forward to accompanying even more in 2008, wishing to turn the vision of the Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani into a reality.”

Some of the ultra-modern features of the trains include digital media and signage, integrated journey planning, self-service ticketing machines, ticket validation and automated access control at the entrances of the stations. The stations include digital information systems, signage, integrated journey planning, platform screen doors, an essential component for the successful operation of the Lusail Tram. The focus has shifted onto mechanical, electrical and plant MEP works and architectural fit-out in stations. Progress of MEP works reached 56% and final MEP testing and commissioning has begun on the Red Line up to Al Qasas station. The track was laid in 2017. Rail in the Long Line and platform screen doors are fitted out in good progress.

The year also saw the completion of track-laying activities in the Depot, the first section of the mainline and depot. Platform screen doors, an essential safety feature of the system, also underwent testing with more than 1 million cycles performed. The first four trains were delivered on August 20, 2017, ahead of schedule. This momentous occasion is a symbol of Qatar’s resolve and a sign to all of Qatar and the world that this project is progressing quickly despite all challenges.

A total of 12 trains have been delivered. Testing of trains began on schedule, and residents can see the trains running on the completed via-tracks. Total labour in 2017 exceeded 73,000, with an increase of 23,000 workers compared to the year before, and the total number of man-hours worked exceeded 412 million.

Aspetar boasts one of the most advanced rehabilitation departments in the region, which is integral to Aspetar’s multidisciplinary approach to athlete management.

The hospital’s method focuses on assessment and treatment of injured athletes by implementing personalised injury treatment programmes, including the hamstring protocol. Utilising an evidence-based model, Aspetar’s experienced practitioners aim to return patients to their pre-injury lifestyle as quickly and safely as possible with a proven track record of treating international athletes from the PGA, WTA, ATP, World leaders in track and field, and weightlifting and professional footballers from all over the world. Aspetar has become an ideal treatment and rehabilitation destination for elite athletes from Europe, including South African 400m world record holder Wayde van Niekerk, who is currently in Aspetar for treatment, former Iceland national footballers Eidur Gudjohnsen and Alfin Fihnsson, and former Chicago Fire defender Marshall. The hospital also treats footballers from South Africa, and South Korea. Club Brugge’s footballer, Thibault Jorda, is currently in Aspetar for treatment. Aspetar is also one of the topmost football clubs in France, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). Aspetar’s experts have also provided surgical treatment for injured players Thomas Meunier and Ivan Kurzawa.