Prime Minister witnesses launch of Najah Qatari 2019

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani witnessed the launch of the third edition of Najah Qatari Festival at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. H E the Prime Minister honoured the participants during the decision-makers’ forum, which reviewed the success stories of several decision-makers in Qatar and the most prominent stations and challenges they faced. A number of Their Excellencies Sheikhs, Ministers, and senior officials from different sectors of the country attended the forum. H E the Prime Minister and Interior Minister toured the exhibition pavilions on the sidelines of the festival where he was briefed on the achievements of the State of Qatar during the past period in various fields, in addition to the major projects and youth innovations presented by the participants.

QP signs pacts to enter Namibia exploration blocks

QP signed exploration agreements on behalf of Qatar Petroleum with the State of Namibia’s Ministry of Energy, Mines and Water Resources to explore for hydrocarbons in the two onshore blocks 2913B and 2912. The two blocks are located in the southwest of Namibia, which further strengthens Qatar Petroleum’s presence in Africa. The exploration agreements will be implemented over a period of 10 years.

Education Minister approves school calendar for 4 years

Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahed Al Hamadhi announced that the decision of the committee approved the academic calendar for the four academic years 2019/2020 to 2022/2023.

The mid-term tests for the first semester of grades 1-11, day - adult education begins on December 4, 2019, and continues until December 12.

The end of the first semester exams for grades 9, 10, 11 day - adult education begins on December 3, 2019, and continues until December 11.

Mid-year academic leave starts on December 22, 2019, and runs until January 2, 2020, while the second semester starts on January 5, 2020.

The end of the first semester exams for grades 9, 10, 11 day - adult education starts on January 21, 2020, and continues until March 24, 2020.

The mid-term tests for the second semester of grades 1-11 day - adult education begins on February 1, 2020, and continues until March 18, 2020.

The end of the first semester exams for grades 9, 10, 11 day - adult education begins on March 9, 2020, and continues until March 30, 2020.
Amir issues number of decrees

The Department of Schools Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced the opening of applications for adult education students (home schooling) for the academic year 2020/2021. During the meeting yesterday, which was attended by 325 adults and another injured. In a state- ment, the President of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the State of Qatar’s firm stance denouncing any violence and terrorism regardless of their motives and reasons. The Ministry expressed the condolences of the State of Qatar to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Iraq, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Ooredoo Qatar and Ericsson bring 5G services to football fans

Amir sends congratulations to President of Moldova

The new service to Langkawi starting October 15 is part of the airline’s strong expansion plans in Southeast Asia and marks Qatar Airways’ third destination in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur and Penang. Qatar Airways will introduce daily non-stop weekly Langkawi services via Penang, starting on October 15, and increasing to five-times weekly services from October 27 to suit the height of the peak tourist season. Maldives, home to some of the most highly sought-after destinations in the world and marked in the Maldives’ competition to be the world’s best tourism island, allows them to experience the island’s distinctive culture and scenic views at one of the finest tropical paradise in the world.

Qatar Airways seamlessly integrates 5G network solutions and showcases the concept of healthcare and entertainment at the Virtual Stadium and the Connected Stadium. Together, they showcased fully immersive 5G services using the 5G network, including 5G-supported holograms for summer and winter sports, and crowd simulations for the future of remote television production.

Amir sends congratulations to President of Moldova

As part of its preparations for the Qatar National Day QND celebrations, the National Organising Committee 2019 yesterday announced the launch of a series of preparatory activities for educational sector activities in conjunction with the Schools Affairs Department and the Qatar University.

The meetings, at Qatar University’s Women’s Sports Centre head- quarters, was attended by directors of a number of schools. The aim of organizing these activities and开会 to apprise the present gener- ation about the meaning of loyalty and unity and educate them about the heritage and history of Qatar. It also strengthens the loyalty between people and leaders and increases the pride in Qatar’s unity.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker (second left), announcing the launch of flights to Langkawi, Malaysia, during a press conference, yesterday, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The meeting at Qatar Airways’ headquarters was attended by directors of a number of schools.

Amir, in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, has ratified number of decrees. The decrees are to be implemented and enforced on the date of issuance, and to be published in the official gazette.

Amir also issued decree No. 39 of 2019 ratifying an air services agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador, signed in Doha on 20/3/2018, the text of which is annexed to this decree, and shall have the force of law in accordance with Article 68 of the Constitution.

Amir also issued decree No. 38 of 2019 ratifying an air services agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, signed in Asuncion on 3/10/2018.

Qatar Airways is set to launch flights to Langkawi, Malaysia on October 15, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, announced at a press conference yesterday at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The press conference was attended by Qatar Ambassadors to Malaysia, Fahad Mohammed Al Suleimani, Chief of the Department of Schools, Fahad Mohammed Al Suleimani, and officials from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports in order to provide a customs service aimed at simplifying and facilitating customs procedures for goods subject to their control.

Qatar Airways’ service to Langkawi will soon bring the world to the doorstep of the island, allowing them to experience the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark in all its magnificence.

Qatar Airways seamlessly connects passengers from Malaysia to more than 160 destinations across six continents via its award-winning Hamad International Airport in Doha.
Al Sulaiti meets Mozambique Minister

Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, held talks yesterday with the Mozambique Minister of Transport and Communications. The talks focused on enhancing cooperation in the field of transport and communications and discussed current projects in the two countries.

The statement referred to the importance of cooperation in the field of transport and communications. It was stated that both countries are committed to strengthening their partnership and expanding their cooperation in various areas.

The meeting also addressed issues related to infrastructure development, including road and rail networks, and the expansion of telecommunications services.

School calendar for next four years approved


The calendar includes a variety of dates for school leave, such as the end of the academic year, the beginning of the new academic year, and school leave for teachers. It also includes dates for public holidays and national days.

Sidra Medicine opens paediatric sleep lab

Sidra Medicine has opened Qatar’s first dedicated paediatric sleep laboratory. The laboratory is equipped with the latest technologies to provide accurate and efficient assessments of sleep-related disorders in children.

Professor Ibrahim Janahi, Division Chief of Pulmonology, stated: “We have assembled a strong team of sleep pulmonologists, physicians and technologists who will work together to ensure the best care for children with sleep problems.”

The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including video and infrared monitoring, to allow for direct patient observation and accurate study of sleep patterns. It is designed to meet the specific needs of children, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment.

Prime Minister witnesses launch of Najah Qatari 2019

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani touring the venue of Najah Qatari Festival at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

The festival, which aims to encourage young people to play a more active role in community efforts to promote values of transparency and integrity, concluded yesterday with a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister.

ACTA’s competition concludes

The ‘Education 4 Justice’ competition, organised by the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA), concluded yesterday at the ACTA headquarters.

The competition targets an age group between 10 to 21 and was launched in November to 18 December 2022. It aimed to encourage young people to participate in positive community efforts to promote transparency and integrity.

The competition received wide participation of Qatari students.
Training workshop for caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients under way

FAZENA SAELEH

In another attempt to improve the quality of dementia care in the country, a two-week high level skill building workshop for care givers is being conducted in Doha, in line with the Qatar National Dementia Plan.

“The train the trainer workshop is being held as a joint collaboration between Alzhheimer Disease International (ADI) and Qatar National Dementia Plan team. The training will eventually lead to build a team of National Dementia Trainers,” said Dr. Mani Chandran, Senior Consultant in Geriatric Psychiatry, Department of Geriatric Medicine at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

The Qatar National Dementia Plan (2018-2022) has been implemented in Qatar to improve the quality of dementia care in the country. Dr. Hamad Al Hamad, Chairperson of Geriatrics and Long Term Care at HMC, and the National Health Strategy lead for Healthy Aging.

The plan sets out seven action areas addressing sections of dementia care which will have an impact on improving the quality of care, in line with the Qatar National Health Strategy (2018-2022). The action areas focus on making dementia a public health priority by encouraging dementia awareness and support, improving dementia diagnosis, treatment, care and support, promoting risk reduction, developing information systems for dementia, developing support for caregivers and supporting research and innovation into the disease.

The training programme being held at the Al Bidda Medical City has brought in highly specialised master trainers across the globe. “The post diagnostic part is very important. Once dementia is diagnosed we need to have people who can support them as family healthcare givers and health care givers. This can be done by those people who have excellent background of training,” said Dr. Mani Chandran.

Developmental support for caregivers is very important. Once dementia is diagnosed we need to have people who can support them as family healthcare givers and health care givers. This can be done by those people who have excellent background of training. These are the drivers who will prevent people from getting diagnosed with dementia.

Dementia describes a set of symptoms that may include disturbance in memory, thinking, orientation, ability to comprehend information, also affecting a person’s language and behavior. In addition, there can be changes in behavior. These symptoms become severe enough to reduce a person’s ability to perform everyday activities.

According to the ADI around 50 million people have dementia in the world. In Qatar, more than 4,000 people over 65 years of age may have dementia. This figure is expected to rise ten-fold to more than 40,000 people by 2050 if no care or improved prevention takes in place indicate how soon.

The training team of trainers across the globe. These two weeks, dementia care givers will be trained for best trainers. From these, best trainers can be deployed to help and support community based activities. These are the drivers who would possibly lead the education journey to be able to empower people once they get diagnosed with dementia.

Dr. Mani Chandran (sitting, extreme left), Senior Consultant in Geriatric Psychiatry, Department of Geriatric Medicine at HMC, and Kusamadewi Suharya (sitting, third right), Regional Director, Asia Pacific at ADI, with participants during the training at Bayt Aaloha, Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City, in Doha, yesterday. PIC: SAMIR MAHRAVI / THE PENINSULA

Behavioural changes in children are normal, not disorder: Expert

FAZENA SAELEH

The General behaviour changes in children are not always recognised and considered as a disorder, says an expert.

A child may have behavioural changes due to the change from home to school environment after long summer holidays due to bullying and it should be treated as normal not as pathology. “Beating siblings, bullying or showing less interest in going to school is not an illness. We should not do it. If it happens to a child, they should get help or go to a specialist,” Dr. Alana added.

Shedding light on the importance of keeping children out of bullying, Dr. Alana said, “Any changes in the child, they should get help or go to a specialist. Dr. Alana added.”

The team from Qatar Red Crescent Society during a discussion on measures at the disaster information management center in Sudan.

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A leading medical company in Qatar is currently in need of:

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The QRCS provides aid for flood-affected people in Sudan

**THE PENINSULAR**

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has initiated Phase 1 of its large-scale humanitarian response to the flash floods in Sudan.

The QRCS project is estimated to benefit up to 5,000 victims. It involves a series of shelter, relief, and food aid interventions, to meet the urgent needs that were identified by the field assessment done by QRCS’s relief workers in the White Nile state, one of the country’s worst-affected states.

According to Dr. Abdelhamid, Al Hammadi, Secretary-General of QRCS, the hard-affected children considered to be one of the priorities is education. “We have also worked on the adaptation of the curriculum and the provision of school supplies,” he said. QRCS is also working on providing psychological support to the affected children.

The QRCS has been providing assistance to people affected by the floods in Sudan since August 2020. In addition to providing emergency relief aid, QRCS has also been supporting the government’s efforts to restore normalcy in the affected areas.

The QRCS is a humanitarian organisation that operates in more than 40 countries around the world, providing assistance to people affected by natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises.

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For contact: 03473811 - 54361833

The QRCS is a registered charity in the United Kingdom and is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

For delivery

**BPS holds teachers training programme**

**THE PENINSULAR**

The Birla Public School (BPS) organised a teachers’ training programme during a period from August 10 to 24 as part of a regular professional development programme.

The first two days of the programme were exclusively devoted for empowering the leadership team through a ‘Train The Trainer’ model.

An expert on ‘design thinking’, Professor Paul Thirumurthy of the University of Bon- terdam, Netherlands, was invited to guide and educate the team.

**Accor is new jersey sponsor of PSG France**

Accor is the parent company of Mercure Grand Hotel and is the new partner and jersey sponsor of PSG France (Paris Saint Germain) football team through their new lifestyle loyalty programme Accor Live Limitless (ALL). Gabriel Fernandes, Director of Sales & Marketing of Mercure Grand Hotel, won the new jersey among the network. “With this, we can expand the offer to reach out to as many beneficiaries as possible,” he concluded.

The Accor and PSG France partners are a new sponsor of the PSG team and will be included in all PSG contest. The hotel now has put up a poster in their lobby to give guests an opportunity for a photo. 

For more information, please visit www.accorhotels.com

For contact: 03473811 - 54361833

**The QRCS**

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Ten years ago, Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) was inaugurated by the late President of the State of Qatar. Since then, QSTP has become a vital node in Qatar’s national innovation ecosystem, attracting talent, research, and investment to support the country’s long-term development goals. QSTP has been instrumental in driving the local economy, fostering innovation, and promoting a culture of research and development.

QSTP is home to a vibrant community of over 1000 companies and over 3000 researchers, including leading universities, research institutions, and technology companies. These entities engage in a wide range of activities, from product development and technology transfer to entrepreneurship and commercialization.

QSTP is not only a physical space but also a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange. It serves as a hub for local and international partnerships, enabling the sharing of expertise and resources to accelerate innovation.

In addition to its role in research and development, QSTP is also committed to education and training. It collaborates with local universities and schools to provide opportunities for students and educators to engage with the latest research and technologies. These initiatives help build a skilled workforce that is equipped to meet the demands of the 21st-century economy.

QSTP’s achievements in the past decade are a testament to its commitment to innovation and excellence. As it enters its second decade, QSTP continues to drive progress and make a significant impact on the local and global landscape. The future is bright for QSTP, and it looks forward to continued growth and success in the years to come.
“Without the US withdrawal from sanctions, we will not witness any positive development,” Rouhani said in a televised speech, adding that Washington “holds the key” to what happens next.

Rouhani also shielded his foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, against criticism from hard-liners over his private visit on Sunday to France’s Biarritz, where leaders of the Group of seven rich nations were meeting. Iran’s English-language Press TV issued a vague, anonymous statement later on Monday, rejecting Macron’s initiative. Macron said he hoped Trump and Rouhani could meet while in Biarritz.

Since the US pullout from the nuclear deal, Tehran has lost billions of dollars in business deals allowed by the accord as the US re-imposed and escalated sanctions largely blocking Tehran from selling crude abroad, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

Rouhani’s US tour can be seen as a road of pressure on his like-minded counterparts in the Iranian establishment who oppose taking softer tone toward the West.

Hezbollah, which has been the paradigm of grand photo op, as in Macron’s instance, such as Trump’s meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, or even as in Macron’s, remains, in places, does not necessarily appeal to Rouhani, whom signature accomplishment was the nuclear deal, which started unraveling with Trump’s retrenchment.

The hard-line Iran, which is close to Iran’s, was won over at the last minute by Rouhani in large format on Thursday. But Macron said he was still open to a possible meeting with his Iranian counterpart, if both sides were ready to discuss the region.

Rouhani is expected to call on Iran’s neighbors to help end continued interference in the country’s affairs as he says his government has reduced tensions with regional powers.

**Uganda renews international air flight with Kenya.**

Uganda yesterday re-launched its national airline of two decades with an inaugural flight to Nairobi, becoming the latest East African nation seeking to revive its aviation industry.

“The airline will fly to seven destinations. Starting with Kampala and Kisumu to Mombasa. And then to Mombasa, Kilimanjaro and Juba” said President Yoweri Museveni. Uganda’s Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda (second right) and other officials during the launch of Uganda Airlines’ maiden flight to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, yesterday.

**Uganda’s revival of first flight under talk of ‘new dawn’**

Uganda’s first flight in 16 years has been launched amid talk of a ‘new dawn’ for the aviation industry. It was announced in 2001 after a failed bid to privatise the state airline, said Transport Minister Mohoo Muhuta. However, the airline, which largely dominates the skies in east Africa, has been dogged by corruption and mismanagement. Uganda is the latest East African nation to revive its aviation industry.

**Turkey wants to be in solidarity with Russia on defence**

The leaders of Russia and Turkey said they shared deep concerns over fighting in northeastern Syria, with Ankara warning it would take any necessary steps to protect its troops there.

Rouhani said they shared deep concerns over fighting in northeastern Syria, with Ankara warning it would take any necessary steps to protect its troops there.

The leaders of Russia and Turkey said they shared deep concerns over fighting in northeastern Syria, with Ankara warning it would take any necessary steps to protect its troops there.

Ankara wants to maintain solidi...
Supreme Court bars Chidambaram's arrest by ED till today

The Supreme Court yesterday extended the protection from arrest for former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media case till August 30. A bench comprising Justices R Banumathy and AR Ronjana said the arguments of the Enforcement Directorate’s counsel and Chidambaram’s two petitioners including the challenge to an order issued by the trial court.

The apex court took on record that it will not be influenced by any news expressed by the Delhi High Court in denying anticipatory bail to Chidambaram and miscon the case will be heard on merits.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Chidambaram, told the court that the petitions seek the transfer of transcripts of the questions and answers obtained from Singhvi before the bench.

Chidambaram’s “principles” against the ED are similar. Son has already got regular bail,” submitted Singhvi before the court.

The court directed the register to receive the application and set the matter for hearing on Monday.

Advocate Abhisekh Manu Singhvi, also appearing for Chidambaram, reiterated the triple test of anticipatory bail for his client, which includes the risk of tampering with evidence in the case of a terrorist. Second, he has been cooperated with the investigating agencies and the documents have been frozen.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police says J&K Police also had interpolated the statements today.

J&K Police has also been following a consistent stance on Saif's case.

The J&K Police had been very active in garnering the support of the state’s leaders of other political parties in favor of the petitioner.

The court also heard the petitioner’s argument that the ED cannot document that the lawyer had asked Singhvi whether he knew that the court had already got regular bail. Thus, the court directed the registry to receive the application and set the matter for hearing on Monday.

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EDITORIAL

A dialogue of culture

T he culture of a country is the main marker of the identity of its people, which plays the most important role in a collective thought, which in turn results in the way it cooperates with other nations, and in a nut shell, cultural values of a country makes it stand out from others in the comity of nations. Hence every country is keen to keep its cultural purity and to nurture and promote it by inculcating cultural values in their young and growing generation.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports of the State of Qatar, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), is set to organize a regional conference on cultural diversity to highlight its importance and crucial role in bringing people closer. The conference, to be held in Doha on September 2 and 3 under the theme ‘Culture: Bridges of Dialogue and Understanding’, will include a number of discussion sessions, working papers and speeches by officials on the importance of dialogue between peoples.

The first day of the conference will have a discussion on diversity and its impact on Asian societies and will share the experiences of Asian countries in the field of cultural diversity. A variety of cultural experiences from Qatar, Japan and Oman will be presented before the delegates. Discussions on the second day will focus on issues related to communication and rapprochement between the cultures of Asian countries.

The State of Qatar, as the chair of ACD for this year, is the right place for holding such a conference, which is aimed at promoting culture and dialogue between the two catalysts which can solve many problems of the modern day world faces.

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Pakistan may close airspace to India

Prime Minister Imran Khan is considering closing Pakistan’s airspace to India to block its eastern neighbour’s land trade route to Afghanistan, the science and technology minister said in a tweet yesterday.

Pakistan reopened its airspace to India in mid-July, but closed it in February after tensions between the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan was debating on the two countries’ trade and transport links to Afghanistan.

The talk of airspace closure comes after India’s petition against Maryam Nawaz, the appointment of Maryam Nawaz as Pakistan’s Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was debating on the two countries’ trade links to Afghanistan.

Pakistan thanked Erdogan for support of Kashmir

More than a thousand students rallied yesterday in the capital of Sialkot Jamshoro to condemn India’s downgrading of the special status of Kashmir, a portion of the disputed region it controls.

The demonstrators chanted “We want freedom” and denounced several resolutions in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The rally in Muzaffarabad came a day after Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan vowed to globally highlight the issue of Kashmir. He will addres the UN General Assembly on September 27.

Sri Lanka clerics seek clarity on face veil ban

Islamic clerics in Sri Lanka asked women to continue to avoid wearing face veils in public, saying that the government’s clarification on the matter is still ongoing.

They have managed in the past and we are asking them to do the same thing,” Farook said adding that there has been an ongoing ban on face coverings.

Bangladesh to remove ‘virgin’ from marriage certificates

The word “virgin” must be removed from Bangladesh’s marriage certificates in Bangladesh, the country’s top court has said, a landmark decision after campaigns challenged the requirement.

The word “virgin” in the certificate typically means she is a virgin, a widow or divorced.

The certificate— whether she is a virgin, a widow or divorced— must be filled out prior to her marriage ceremony.

The certificate expected to be the deadliest month with 128 deaths in Sindh.

Meanwhile, a boy who had been held hostage by a person in a private hospital in Karachi after being infected with the microorganism Naegleria was flown to Ankara to work on “human rights violations and end the ongoing torture.”

A Pakistani health worker administers polio drops to a child at a railway station during a polio vaccination campaign in Lahore.

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court yesterday ordered the authorities to be given additional assistance in the case and said they need more understanding of the case.

On May 9, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had filed a petition and contended that Maryam could not hold any party post as she was convicted by a court of law on July 6, 2018, in a corruption case.

The health official said Hussain had exchanged with the CCHF, but he died during treatment.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Committee also called on Nepal to provide Pharaka with “adequate compensation, judicial redress and an effective remedy”, including an “effective remedy”, including a return to his home village in 2012, where he says he was forced to work.

A man from the Peshin area of Balochistan, who was under treatment for the virus in the critical care (ICU) after he tested positive for the virus.

In a move to ease restrictions on Kashmir’s civilian population, the Jamia and Kashmir government said yesterday that it was reopening high schools from today in some areas.

Meanwhile, a boy who had been held hostage by a person in a private hospital in Karachi after being infected with the microorganism Naegleria was flown to Ankara to work on “human rights violations and end the ongoing torture.”

A Pakistani health worker administers polio drops to a child at a railway station during a polio vaccination campaign in Lahore.

The demonstrations chanted “We want freedom” and denounced several resolutions in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The rally in Muzaffarabad came a day after Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan vowed to globally highlight the issue of Kashmir. He will addres the UN General Assembly on September 27.

Sri Lanka clerics seek clarity on face veil ban

Islamic clerics in Sri Lanka asked women to continue to avoid wearing face veils in public, saying that the government’s clarification on the matter is still ongoing.

They have managed in the past and we are asking them to do the same thing,” Farook said adding that there has been an ongoing ban on face coverings.

Bangladesh to remove ‘virgin’ from marriage certificates

The word “virgin” must be removed from Bangladesh’s marriage certificates in Bangladesh, the country’s top court has said, a landmark decision after campaigns challenged the requirement.

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Talks revived as clock ticks on new Italy govt deal

Italy’s Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte called for new talks, interpreted by some as a hopeful sign that a deal may be in the works.

Conte held the talks amid a standstill until the centre-left coalition of Matteo Renzi’s Democratic Party, the Five Star Movement and the centrist Italia Viva bloc was disintegrating. Conte was initially frustrated by the lack of progress in the talks.

In a speech to his party's members in Rome, Conte said the talks were needed to secure a “broad, united, workable government”.

Conte has been leading a caretaker government since August 8 when the League party and the Five Star Movement (M5S) withdrew support for his government, forcing Conte to resign. The move came after a vote in parliament that saw Matteo Salvini’s League party pull the plug on the talks, insisting its choice of prime minister was a red line.

The League and M5S have been battling for control of the government. The League, led by Matteo Salvini, has been pressing for a more populist approach, while the M5S, led by Luigi Di Maio, has been calling for a more centrist approach.

The talks are intended to discuss a new government programme and the choice of prime minister. Conte has refused to rule out forming a new government without M5S support.

Conte has said he is willing to break his choice of prime minister for a new government. The League and M5S have been battling for control of the government. The League, led by Matteo Salvini, has been pressing for a more populist approach, while the M5S, led by Luigi Di Maio, has been calling for a more centrist approach.

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Bolsonaro says open to G7 aid if Macron ‘withdraws insults’

AFP

PORTO VELHO, BRAZIL.

Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro said yesterday he was open to discussing G7 aid for fighting fires devastating the Amazon rainforest — only if his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron ‘withdrew insults’ made against him.

Bolsonaro’s remarks come amid an escalating war of words with Macron over the worst fires in years that have sparked a global outcry and threatened to torpedo a huge trade deal between the European Union and South American countries.

A top Brazilian official had earlier rejected the G7’s offer of $20bn to combat the fires devastating the forest in Brazil and Bolivia, saying Macron should take care of his home and its colonies.

‘Macron must withdraw the insults he made against me,’ Bolsonaro told reporters in the capital, Brasilia.

To talk or accept anything from France, with the best possible intentions, he has to withdraw these words, and for now there we can talk.

Macron and Bolsonaro have repeatedly locked horns in the past week, with the former leader accusing Bolsonaro of lying to him, his aides and the G7 about the Amazon and his commitment to climate change.

On Monday, Macron rebuffed “extraordinarily rude” Bolsonaro after the Brazilian leader personally expressed approval online for a Facebook post implying that Brigitte Macron was not as attractive as his own first lady, Michelle Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro has hit back, accusing Macron of treating Brazil like “a colony on no man’s land.” The latest official figures show 1,659 new fires were started in Brazil between Sunday and Monday, making the total for this year to 8,285 — the highest for a year since 2013.

An aerial view shows smoke rising over a deforested plot of the Amazon jungle in Porto Velho, Rondonia State, Brazil, yesterday.

Former US president Barack Obama’s former top aide, now a G7 envoy, was in Brasilia yesterday to discuss with Bolsonaro and other Latin American leaders ways to combat the blazes.

While Macron has repeatedly rebuffed Bolsonaro’s offer of a meeting in Paris in November, Monday’s comments from the Bolsonaro administration appeared aimed at cementing a more productive relationship with Macron.

Bolsonaro is “working very hard on the Amazon fires and in all respects doing a great job for the people of Brazil,” Trump said in a tweet.

Trump’s tweet came two days after he and his country have the full and complete support of the USA!”

Biden, Sanders defeat Trump in new poll

BLOOMBERG

WASHINGTON.

Joe Biden isn’t the only Democrat who could beat Donald Trump in 2020.

An Emerson national poll released yesterday showed Bernie Sanders leading with 38%, Trump behind Trump 34% to 46%, while other candidates had more than 1%.

Biden was also leading in Iowa by 3%.

Meanwhile, Biden criticised Trump’s handling of the latest situation where black people are facing a new trial for plotting to derail a train.

Biden said the president had “failed to stop” the train from being set on fire, and added that he was “disappointed” with Trump’s response.

Without naming the train, Biden said: “We need to know more about what happened on that train.

While the president was critical of Trump’s handling of the situation, he also praised the work of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

Biden has faced criticism at home over his handling of the situation, with many in the Democratic Party feeling that he was not taking the situation seriously enough.

In the Democratic primary contest, Emerson found Biden leading 38%, followed by Sanders with 24%, Warren with 15% and Harris with 10%. No other candidates had more than 5%.

Trump’s handling of the situation has also been criticized by some in the Democratic Party, who have called for him to take a more active role in responding to the crisis.

In the Democratic primary contest, Emerson found Biden leading 38%, followed by Sanders with 24%, Warren with 15% and Harris with 10%. No other candidates had more than 5%.

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