Qatar calls for expanding security in Middle East

- The Middle East needs a collective, regional mechanism (biding) based on agreed principles in the field of security and a set of rules of governance and respect for sovereignty and equality among its members.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Al Thani called for expanding regional security in the Middle East and the conclusion of a security agreement based on the fundamental principles of security: the rules of good governance and the achievement of a minimum level of security to achieve peace and prosperity, stressing that despite the geopolitical tensions in the region, Qatar still believes in the feasibility of this arrangement.

In a speech at the World Policy Conference (WPC) in Marrakesh, Morocco, yesterday, HE the Foreign Minister recalled the invitation of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to conclude a regional security treaty in the Middle East that looked into the fact that the region desperately needs a sustainable framework to ensure long-term peace and stability, adding that the sequence of events in the region demonstrated the practical need for a sustainable approach to regional collective security.

He recalled the remarks of HH the Amir at the UN General Assembly when His Highness said that a regional security system is critical to maintaining the security and stability of the Middle East in general and the Gulf region in particular. H E the Foreign Minister noted that during the 2018 Munich Security Conference, HH the Amir called for a collective action to resolve differences. He added that in previous participation in the WPC, he called for an enforcement mechanism to end conflicts.

H E the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed that what the Middle East needs is a collective regional mechanism (biding) based on agreed principles in the field of security and a set of rules of governance and respect for sovereignty and equality among its members. He pointed out that this means that all countries need to agree on non-interference in the internal and external affairs of each other.

HIA to reveal expansion plans at Cityscape

Hamad International Airport (HIA) will unveil its plans for the second phase of the airport expansion to an international audience of real estate developers and investors at Cityscape Qatar, which takes place from October 23 to 24 at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center. At HIA’s exhibition booth at Cityscape Qatar, attendees will experience the awe-inspiring look and feel of the expanded airport building which will set a new standard in the traveller experience globally. The incredible new plans will propel HIA to become a destination in its own right once complete.

3D mockups of the much-anticipated expansion will be on display and the unique features of the plans will be available to visitors over the course of the exhibition. Once complete, the airport’s capacity will increase to accommodate more than 53 million passengers annually by 2022, an increase of almost 20 percent from its current passenger flow.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said: “The expansion of Hamad International Airport is a vital part of the continued success of the Qatar Airways Group, especially in the run-up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup as we prepare to welcome millions of football fans to Qatar. Expansion is also a sign that Qatar’s economy is going from strength to strength, as well as a factor that will support future growth. I am confident that Hamad International Airport will continue to attract investment into the country as we launch its second development phase.”

Qatar Olympic Committee President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani and the Minister of Culture and Sports H E Saleh bin Ghanem Al Ali during the opening ceremony of first edition of the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 at the Katara Amphitheatre, yesterday.

Sheikh Joaan opens ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019

Qatar Olympic Committee President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani and the Minister of Culture and Sports H E Saleh bin Ghanem Al Ali during the opening ceremony of first edition of the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 at the Katara Amphitheatre, yesterday.

Lusail and The Pearl – Qatar lead in providing new residential units

Lusail and The Pearl – Qatar are leading in providing new residential units in Qatar, showcasing that they are ready to meet demand from prospective homebuyers.

An estimated 9,000 units are projected to be completed by end of 2019, with 15 percent expected in Lusail, 31 percent in The Pearl – Qatar and the remaining units across other areas, according to a report by ValoStar, a real estate consultancy firm.

Other areas that will see new residential units include Al Rayyan, West Bay, Al Dafna, Al Safir, Ain Khaled, Al Khor, Abu Hamour.

A mix of 1,700 apartments and villas were added during the second quarter of this year, which brought the total stock to 284,700 units as of end of second quarter. Apartment supply consisted of 1,500 units from delivered projects in Lusail, The Pearl – Qatar, Freezone, Bin Mahmoud, Old Hamad, Doha Waterfront and Villas. Other districts expected to receive more residential units during the 2020 and 2021 periods.

The size of deals has also seen a significant increase during the quarter. The report noted that median transaction ticket sizes for houses increased by 12 percent quarterly and 3 percent annually.

“Quarter-on-Quarter increase in median transacted prices can be attributed to larger ticket sizes of housing transactions experienced in areas such as Al Khor and Al Rayyan as well as in the recent delivery of some new projects in Lusail, The Pearl – Qatar, Freezone, Bin Mahmoud, Old Hamad, Doha Waterfront and Villas.”

The Pearl – Qatar General Manager Jalal Al-Khateeb said: “The Pearl – Qatar continues to prosper, marked by its consistent growth and strong performance across all sectors.”

Qatar National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) role not limited to receiving complaints: NHRC

National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) said that the role of national institutions is not limited to receiving complaints, but they also have many tasks and duties.

The NHRC explained that national human rights institutions have the duty of taking proactive efforts in reviewing patterns of human rights violations in countries where human rights are being violated or are to be violated, monitoring and following up the legal and political responsibilities of the government and the courts, and identifying the impact of investment agreements, corporate laws and security regulations on human rights policies in addition to any other related issues such as labour laws and environmental protection.

This came in a speech delivered by NHRC’s Assistant Secretary-General Sultan bin Hasan Al-Jalami at the two-day Global Consultation on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Facilitating Access to Remedies for Business-Related Human Rights Violations, organised by the Working Group on Human Rights, Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises at the United Nations Palace in Geneva.

Al-Jalami said: “National human rights institutions are part of non-judicial remedies within the framework of the Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights (Protect, Respect and Remedy).” He underlined the important role of national institutions in securing redress in a non-discriminatory manner, paying particular attention to the rights and needs of individuals belonging to vulnerable groups, such as workers, women and children.

He noted that many human rights obligations and whether they were effectively implemented, and in providing human rights guidance to businesses.”

He underlined the important role of national institutions in securing redress in a non-discriminatory manner, paying particular attention to the rights and needs of individuals belonging to vulnerable groups, such as workers, women and children.
MME removes over 11,000 abandoned vehicles this year

FURTHER STRENGTHEN REAL ESTATE

The Pearl-Qatar lead in providing residential units

THE PENDULUM

The median ticket size for residential houses was QR2.5m. The deals in real estate first quarter of this year, was for residential houses, during the median transacted price from 1,400 sq m to 5,500 sq m,” Banach added. “The five largest ticket sizes were residential units ranging from 1,400 sq m to 5,500 sq m, seen in The Pearl, New Salata, Lusail and Abu Hamour for residential houses was removed this year. He said that operation is continue to remove the sitting vehicles from various municipalities to put an end the phenomena.

Shura Council Speaker takes part in meetings of Gulf, Arab Groups at IPU

STATE OF QATAR

Public Works Authority

Notification to Submit Qualification for The Public Private Partnership for the West Bay and Doha Central Car Parking (Project ID: BP 2019 S (036 G)

The State of Qatar through the Public Works Authority (“Ashghal”) is planning a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Maintain and Transfer (“DBFOM”) tender for the development of multiple on and off street car parking facilities within the Doha Central and West Bay areas (the “Project”) as a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Project is part of Doha’s urbanisation strategy with the purpose of reducing the cases of illegal on and off-street parking, through the implementation of new, controlled and regulated parking facilities. Ashghal is looking for a suitably qualified private sector developer / operator (the “Project Company”) with international and regional experience in developing and managing similar car parks facilities to partner with this Project.

Brief Description of the Works

Following an initial demand analysis of the Project area the following scope is envisaged to be included, but may be altered further by the developer to reach an optimal solution to satisfy demand and revenue requirements.

West Bay requires the construction of 3 new fully serviced multi-storey parking buildings to provide an additional 1,400 spaces. Existing off-street at grade facilities and on street parking are included in the scope. Doha Central requires the construction of 3 new fully serviced multi-storey parking buildings to provide an additional 8,800 spaces. Existing off-street at grade facilities and on street parking are included in the scope.

The developer will be fully responsible for the Design, Build, Finance, Operation and Maintenance of the facilities over a period of 25 years.

The facilities should include the latest smart parking technology to support the National Vision and integrate with other systems and initiatives. The developer will be permitted to propose complimentary facilities on the parking lots to support additional revenue generation

Whilst the complete_sharing structure is not comprehensive at this stage, Mowafiq Al Hamad, vice chairman of the Qatar Board of public transportation services will be expected to be an ownership stake in the Project Company.

The purpose of the Request for Qualification (“RFQ”) is to invite competent Qatari and international companies to express interest in and receive the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) stage, only the prequalified bidders will be invited to participate in the RFP stage.

The Speaker of the Shura Council, H E Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, at the coordination meeting, yesterday, of the Gulf Group associated to the 141st General Assembly meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade.

Amir sends congratulations to King of Spain

DOHA: Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Deputy Amir HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to King Felipe VI of Spain, on the occasion of his National Day. The Prime Minister and Interior Minister, H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sanchez.

Qatar condemns UK stabbing incident

DOHA: Qatar has strongly condemned the stabbing incident that took place in a shopping centre in British city of Manchester. In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar’s firm stance rejecting violence and terrorism, whatever motives and causes. The Ministry’s statement wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Qatar takes part in Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo

CAIRO: The emergency meeting of the Arab League’s Council of Foreign Ministers headed by Iraq, kicked off yesterday at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of Arab States to discuss the situation in southwest Sinai. The delegation of Qatar is headed by Permanent Representative of Qatar to the Arab League, Ambassador Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Sadawi.
Minister of Public Health attends HMC’s World Sight Day activities

The Minister of Public Health, H E Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, attended Hamad Medical Corporation’s (HMC) World Sight Day activities at the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) on October 8. Throughout the day staff from the Ophthalmology Department at the ACC were on hand in the hospital lobby to offer advice to patients and visitors about how to look after their eyes as well as performing basic eye checks.

During her visit, Dr. Al Kuwari spoke with members of the ophthalmology team and discussed the importance of their activities.

“I’m delighted to have the opportunity to visit the ACC today and witness the valuable work being done by the Ophthalmology Department to educate the public about this important health issue. Today’s activity is a prime example of the many events HMC organises each year to raise awareness and educate patients and the wider community about important health topics.”

“This month alone, HMC is running community events on a wide range of topics, including mental health, stroke, care for the elderly and seasonal influenza. Educating the community about the importance of taking care of their health is a vital part of a successful healthcare system,” explained Dr. Al Kuwari.

World Sight Day 2019 aims to stress the importance of having regular eye checks, as Dr. Deena Al Safwan Zeedan, Ophthalmology Specialist explained: “We recommend all adults have an eye test performed by a qualified ophthalmologist every year. Eye tests not only help to identify deficiencies and weaknesses in people’s vision but, importantly, they can identify existing eye diseases that may otherwise go undetected.”

“Cataracts, refractive errors, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy are all common eye conditions that can be detected through eye exams. While everyone should have a regular eye check, it is particularly important for those with a heightened risk of eye diseases. This includes being over 40 years of age, having a family history of eye disease, and having existing chronic health conditions,” added Dr. Zeedan.

In August this year, the ACC welcomed its first ophthalmology patients to enjoy the full benefits of a ‘one-stop-shop’ model at the new hospital.

The transfer of ophthalmology procedures in a single location. Not only clinical but also surgical. The Ophthalmology Department at the ACC provides patients with the best possible patient services opened in 2017,” said Dr. Jalham.

Bumrah Hospitals. Dr. Khalid Al Jalham, Director of the ACC, explained that the move has enabled ophthalmology patients to enjoy the full benefits of a ‘one-stop-shop’ model at the new hospital.

The Ophthalmology Department at the ACC provides highly advanced services to patients through the delivery of not only clinical but also surgical procedures in a single location. The transfer of ophthalmology services to the ACC was the final phase in the relocation of clinical services to this state-of-the-art new facility, a process that has been ongoing since the first outpatient services opened in 2017,” said Dr. Jalham.

HIA to reveal expansion plans at Cityscape

FROM PAGE 1

With the third quarter of this year being the busiest on record for the airport, HIA continues to grow and remains a preferred hub for travellers. Cityscape Qatar is the perfect platform for us to reveal our exciting plans, and we look forward to sharing these with the industry professionals.

The airport will also see the construction of an Airport City, which will provide significant future investment opportunities, including a free trade zone, an office and business complex, landscape area and hotels among others. HIA will also see the construction of a new cargo terminal which will increase the capacity handled to 3 million tonnes per year and will help accommodate the expected surge in freight traffic. Expansion construction is set to commence in the first quarter of 2020; all contracts are to be awarded by the end of the year.

Cityscape Qatar showcases the most all-inclusive developments in Qatar to an international audience of investors and other industry professionals.

FFC: Doha peace agreement to be used in Sudan’s comprehensive peace process

QNA Doha

The Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) has said that the positive aspects of the Doha peace agreement will be utilised in the comprehensive and sustainable peace process in Sudan, which will include everyone without exceptions or exclusions.

The FFC said that the constitutional document confirmed this and endorsed it as it gave the peace process a high priority at the beginning of the interim period.

The Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Lolwah Al Khater, said that the State of Qatar calls for dialogue to ease up ongoing tensions in Ecuador.

The Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Lolwah Al Khater, said that the State of Qatar follows with much concern the recent developments taking place in the friendly nation of Ecuador. In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), H E the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called for dialogue as a means to ease up the current tensions, pointing that the State of Qatar will remain a supporter for peace, stability and economic prosperity for the people of Ecuador.
Qatar calls for expanding security in Middle East

FROM PAGE 1

Most importantly, in order not to use ethnic diversity and minorities as a pretext for intervention, countries of the region must be careful about the rules of coexistence in the international arena, adding that hoping that these initial steps will provide the necessary incentive and pave the way for peace and prosperity in the region is wishful thinking.

Furthermore, H E the Minister underscored the importance of expanding the scope of the agreement, not only security issues but also cooperation in economic and political dimensions to build trust among others.

H E the Minister said that the balanced policies in the region and the aggressive mis-calculations are not practical tools to implement the policies. He pointed out that the region has witnessed in the past months and years unprecedented tensions caused by miscalculation. He considered the idea of plotting scenarios, to exploit the balance of power, to be dangerous, that will affect Qatar and the region instead of merely exerting maximum pressure or isolating it.

He underscored that the region is looking for gains in cooperation and working together to contain threats within a regional collective security project. He added that the Foreign Minister’s earlier affirmed that achieving stability in the Middle East will undoubtedly become more likely if there is a basis for stability in those countries that need the support of friendly countries, adding that with a stable foundation, the countries of the region can work together with countries to promote regional development, good governance and productive use of energy resources.

At the beginning of his speech in the conference, H E the Minister asked about ways to promote the crisis management in the MENA region to the search for comprehensive solutions through a regional security system.

H E the Foreign Minister noted that H E the Emir spoke a few weeks ago to the UN General Assembly about the many challenges faced by the MENA region, including crises, conflicts, threats, diplomatic tensions and violent interventions. He said he raised the issue of the region witness the failure of regional and international mechanisms to resolve disputes, as well as the failure of regional fora toTcpargaris accountable.

He said that he was optimistic about the Middle East in turmoil, believing that the region of Gulf significance.

The event will be held in partnership with Qatar University’s College of Engineering, and the Lean Construction Institute – Qatar in the presence of experts and speakers from Qatar, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Finland. Registration for the conference is open on the conference website (www. Lean2019.com).

Ashghal to host global meet to shed light on Lean concepts

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced that it will host the international conference and workshop “Recognising Lean Transformations - LIPS Qatar 2019”, which will be held from October 23 to 24 at the Ashghal headquarter, on October 23 and 24.

The conference programme includes 13 fully owned Malaysian firms and 72 fully owned Qatari-Malaysian companies are currently operating in Qatar.

H E the Minister said that all indicators provide confidence that the future of Qatar’s Malay- sian cooperation is promising in terms of the economic potential of both countries, while the potential of bilateral trade flows in the first half of 2019 reached $291m.

H E the Minister noted that Qatari-Malaysian companies for cooperation already been experiencing strong growth, adding that over 85 Malaysian companies including 13 fully owned Malaysian firms and 72 fully owned Qatari-Malaysian companies are currently operating in Qatar.

H E the Minister noted that Qatar and Malaysia signed an agreement in boost international trade cooperation between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Qatar Investment Promotion Agency (QIPA) and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) to cooperate in the field of investment promotion.

Both MoU’s were signed between His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Kuwari, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Qatar, and the Malaysian Development, good governance and productive use of energy resources.

The conference programme is expected to cover many challenges faced by the MENA region, including crises, conflicts, threats, diplomatic tensions and violent interventions. The conference programme seeks to strengthen and build trust among the region.

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University of Calgary in Qatar sees 52% rise in new student enrolment

Enrollment at the University of Calgary in Qatar has seen a 52% increase in the number of new students this year, a significant rise compared to previous years. The university has set up an application system for mobile devices to streamline the registration process, making it more accessible and convenient for students. The system allows for online applications and payments, including credit cards and mobile Internet, which will reduce the time and ease the payment process for students. The university is also implementing electronic registration services for all beneficiaries in the country, which will improve the quality and speed of service. The University of Calgary in Qatar offers two pathways to a Bachelor of Nursing degree, a four-year program for qualified high school graduates and a two-year program for nurses holding diplomas from nursing vocational institutions. The university also offers a Master of Nursing program, particularly focused on leadership. The university encourages its nursing community to further develop leaders in the profession.

Zakat Fund provides more than QR19m assistance in September

The Zakat Fund is the government entity to which the law entrusts the jurisdiction to determine who is entitled to in further develop leaders in the profession. The Ministry of Municipalities and Environment has announced that the registration is book the quarters for the winter camping season will begin tomorrow from 4 pm to 6 pm. The Ministry said that it will continue to grow over the next years, explaining Dr. Deborah White, Dean, University of Calgary in Qatar, that nurses contribute an important historic relations with the Arab world and the Arab heritage and legacy of Al-Andalus remains through the language and customs. There is a Spanish International Food Festival, with 10 percent of the total share, a figure that is likely to further increase, said Ambassador Belen Alfaro.

The increase by Qatar Airways of flight frequencies and the opening of new routes to Spain contributed to the intensification of the bilateral ties. The number of flights from Qatar to Spain has increased by 150 percent in the past four years, said the Ambassador.

“Second, I would like to pay special attention to sports. Qatar is in full swing in its preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup staged in the Arab world. The Qatar team is in an organized and unique tournament. In this sense, H E the Amir has recently announced that Qatar is committed to organizing the first carbon neutral tournament. We believe it will be a great success not only for the country but also for the region.”

“From the economic and the commercial perspectives, the relations are increasing rapidly with the increase of activities of 100 companies present in Qatar, from the infrastructure to the services sector,” said the Ambassador. According to the minister, a fishing ceremony took place in the port of Doha, which was followed by a Spanish fashion show. Lulu Hypermarkets showcased a number of food products imported from Qatar in the language and customs.
GAC honours seven employees for education excellence

The Chairman of General Authority of Customs (GAC), Almeed bin Abdullah Al Jamal honoured seven employees of the Authority who were studying bachelor degree courses in border management at the Community College in Qatar for their academic excellence as the college included them in its ‘Dear List’. The ceremony was attended by Ahmed Mohammad Al Mohammad, Deputy-Chairman of the Authority for Support Services Affairs, and a number of officials at the Community College.

The Bachelor in Border Management programme, accredited by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, comes as a desire of the Commission to enhance the academic level of its employees, after passing the previous academic program ‘Associate Diploma in Applied Customs.’ The Authority attaches great importance to the Bachelor of Border Management program, and is keen to overcome all obstacles and difficulties faced by learners, so as to get out of it with the best possible benefit and scientific achievement.

This programme is an important step in strengthening the importance of the best in the field. It was drawn to the top in边框; the theme and contributed to the development of the academic level, enabling its staff and contributes to the development of their personal performance and upgrading their scientific expertise in addition to the practical experience gained during their work for several years in customs, which had a positive impact on the level of performance of the Authority during the past years.

It is worth mentioning that the course structure of Border Management consists of eight specialization subjects, and it is ongoing for two consecutive years from September 2020 to September 2022. Qatar Customs is the first customs administration in the Middle East to implement this specialized program, which was launched through cooperation between the Authority and the Community College of Qatar and the Centre for Continuing Education at the Charles Sturt University in Australia. The Authority started its cooperation with the Community College of Qatar since 2012, through enrolling its employees wishing to complete the study in two successive programmes, the first a 2-year Associate Diploma in Applied Customs’ and the second a Bachelor in Border Management at the Community College of Qatar.

NAMEA holds expert meeting to prepare ‘Peer Education Manual’ in Qatar

The Social Development Center (Nama), one of the centres operating under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, held in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) an expert meeting to prepare a Peer Education Manual in Qatar in the presence of representatives of the Social Development Center and UNFPA.

Nama has signed a cooperation protocol with UNFPA focusing on developing a course entitled ‘Peer Education Manual in Qatar’. It is an international network, the third output of the Cooperation Program with UNFPA. The Peer Education Network is the third output of the Cooperation Programme which aims at developing an innovative youth-to-youth initiative supervised by UNFPA.

The aim of the expert meeting on the preparation of a Peer Education Manual in Qatar is to introduce and present the Peer Education Initiative in Qatar, to present and discuss the first draft of the Peer Education Manual in Qatar and to develop the work program and format of the workshop for peer educators in Qatar.

On this occasion Maryam Al Mannai, Director of Community Services at the Social Development Center (Nama), said that with the framework of cooperation between Nama and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the first draft of the Peer Education Manual in Qatar was prepared based on international and regional experiences and in line with the values and needs of the Qatari community.

Al Mannai noted that the Peer Education Network project is one of the main pillars that contribute to the empowerment of young people through the development of their knowledge and the promotion of positive behaviors.

Stars of Science innovators put to first elimination

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The beginning of a new era: All-new Mazda 3 launched

THE PENINSULA

Within the framework of the exhibition organized by Almaraya for exhibitions in the country and in order to promote tourism in Qatar, the company will organize a market under the title of ‘Al Tijari’ on October 28 (Friday) and November 7, 2019 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). The market, which will open from 10am to 10pm will provide supplies needed by Qatar families and up to 200 suppliers from 18 countries in two very distinct ways. A completely new design approach was taken when styling the sedan and hatchback, such as emphasizing strikingly different personalities. Mazda’s further-evolved KODO design is skillfully applied to the sedan’s hood, cabin and trunk evoking an air of elegance and sense of sleekness. The body features a horizontal flow that accentuates the sedan and hatchback’s hood, cabin and trunk evoking an air of elegance and sense of sleekness. The body features a horizontal flow that accentuates the sedan and hatchback’s hood, cabin and trunk evoking an air of elegance and sense of sleekness.

Mazda’s new model village for the displaced in northern Syria, close to the Turkish border. The village, which comprises 400 50-square-metre residential units, cost QR84.5m. It includes a mosque, a medical centre, a two-storey shop, an art gallery and a multi-purpose lounge.

This project came within the framework of a series of model villages that Qatar Charity continues to build in Syria to provide shelter and necessary services for displaced Syrians, said Faisal Rashid Al Fehaida, Assistant Director of National Car Company and Qatar Charity.

He also noted that the project, which is in the finishing stage, aimed at providing the dignity and privacy of families, restoring a natural social life and for families displaced from their lands, and easing their hardship.

In association with its work to improve the living conditions of the affected Syrian people, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the countries of asylum. The aid includes tents, model residential units (caravans) for some camps, house rents, blankets, winter clothes, furniture and other basic necessities.

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, Qatar Charity has provided shelter assistance for the affected Syrian people, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the countries of asylum. The aid includes tents, model residential units (caravans) for some camps, house rents, blankets, winter clothes, furniture and other basic necessities.

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The problem with SADC’s ‘brotherly’ stance on Zimbabwe sanctions

Zimbabwe’s President Emmerson Mnangagwa reviews a bay of honour at the state house during his official visit to attend Uganda’s 57th independence day in Entebbe, Uganda.

SADC has not only failed to censure Harare for violently stifling dissent and ignoring Zimbabweans’ core constitutional rights, but also claimed that ‘internal group’, as a particular NGOs, supported by external hands are the ones that are destabilising the country.

EDITORIAL
Collective move to eradicate diseases

In the 21st century when most parts of the world are enjoying an unprecedented level of life expectancy, advanced medicine, and improved, innovative technologies the millions of people in some other parts of the globe, are suffering from a dozen of dangerous diseases which can be defeated only through joint global action.

The world is facing multiple health challenges due to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and diphtheria. The World Health Organization (WHO) is running campaigns with its partners in eradicate infectious diseases globally. Some of the victories were accomplished in eradicating some diseases like smallpox while others still obstinately exist on face of the earth mostly communities AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The WHO identified ten threats to global health in 2019, some of which include climate change, pollution, non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease, which are collectively responsible for over 70% of all deaths.

Despite the limited success of these campaigns, the global collective move towards putting sufficient resources, efforts, and cooperation have managed to control deadly diseases such as Ebola in Africa and respiratory and infectious diseases in different parts of the world.

People in poor counties of Africa and Asia are suffering from vaccine-preventable diseases and many of the tropical diseases have not been neglected and viciously affecting extremely poor populations living in remote areas beyond the reach of health service.

Eradication of such diseases needs global joint action and mobilization of resources like the initiative recently taken by the Global Fund to mobilize resources to eradicate diseases. For this global joint action, the State of Qatar, under the directives of the Amir H H the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, announced a two-year donation of QR100 million.

The donation reaffirms Qatar’s continuous cooperation with all US organizations in support of humanitarian initiatives, including health, education, humanitarian and charitable initiatives around the world.

The donation has been announced by Qatar Fund for Development (QFDF) during the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Global Fund to mobilize resources to eradicate diseases in Lyon, France recently. The multi-year donation of $50 million to the Global Fund aims to eliminate diseases such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis by 2030, where the Global Fund can help prevent 32.3 million cases and save 11.6 million lives through prevention, health care, immunization and treatment.

Qatar’s contribution in the global efforts aiming at providing health for all, the elimination of incurable diseases, and Qatar’s efforts to reach each child in the world to provide them access to education will continue.

It is essential to stop the violence. I call on the leaders to talk directly with me. The country must restore calm. Let the country know that we have the will to hold a dialogue.

Henry Kissinger

FRED PERRY

THE WASHINGTON POST

We are living in challenging times for those who depend on the work of a free press.

Every day, journalists across the globe encounter harassment and violence. In every part of the world, authorities are censoring their grip on the media, trying to prevent reporters from holding rulers accountable. The Washington Post is sadly familiar with these attacks. Our reporter Jason Rezaian, who was imprisoned and held in Tehran’s notorious Evin Prison for 584 days, even though he was committed no crime.

For the past seven years, Austin Tice, a freelance journalist whose work was published in the Washington Post, has been held captive in Syria. We still do not rest until he is released and returned safely to the United States. On Oct. 2, there was a serious medical service in Baltimore for Jamal Khashoggi, the Post contributing columnist who was brutally murdered one year ago.

Authoritarians in the Middle East are not the only threat to independent journalism. As we are now witnessing, tech- nology presents another. Digital innovations have opened up incredible opportunities for journalists. But they are also being used to undermine public trust in legitimate news by sowing confusion and doubt about what is real and what is not.

The speed at which information and ideas races across the internet enables ‘fake news’ to be ‘weaponized’—strategically targeted to achieve a desired end. It is now even more dangerous. We need strong leadership, regulation, and better standards to move forward.

Some have suggested that we have now moved into a world devoid of facts. Yet we must be mistaken: Facts matter.

The truth matters. The truth matters even where there are “alternative facts.” The truth matters even when there are lies. The truth matters even where there are deliberate falsehoods. The truth matters even if the opposition is using it to undermine public trust in legitimate news. The truth is the only weapon against disinformation. The truth is the only argument against propaganda.

The press is a servant, not the enemy

Eduardo Caduff

What is the peak of his career? A newspaper journalist, who is dedicated to the profession in every way. He is a professional who has dedicated his life to journalism, who has dedicated his life to reporting, who has dedicated his life to telling the truth. He is a journalist who is dedicated to the profession in every way. He is a journalist who has dedicated his life to journalism, who has dedicated his life to reporting, who has dedicated his life to telling the truth.
A controversial Nobel rewarded a writer’s noble failure

Disruptive diplomacy: New era of informal bilateralism

The 2019 Nobel prize for literature was awarded to Austrian author Peter Handke for ‘his epicaddenou of war and the complexity of human experience in a wide range of narrative forms’. However, Handke’s Nobel triumph made him ‘one of the most controversial figures in contemporary literature’. The Nobel committee said Handke’s ‘work is the inadequacy of language, to defuse the “bullet words” that used by journalists and public intellectuals to describe experiences that people need, and often lack, the courage to embark on.’

Handke tried where many others would have abstained for fear of what it would do to their ability to collect literary prizes without controversy. The failure detracts from his power as a writer; the courage adds to it.

Disputes do not degenerate into diatribe. Differences are the signs of war and the complexity of human experience in a wide range of narrative forms. They are the signs of standing and mature relationship. The meaningful and informal dialogues are the means to engage in past-finding. That is the mantra which seems to have inspired the practice of informal summits rather than people normally use. As he once asked himself whether such a writer isn’t doing enough to defuse the “bullet words” that used by journalists and public intellectuals to describe experiences that people need, and often lack, the courage to embark on.

The journey Hande undertook was one of trying to deconflict language, to get the hatred out of it to mean more, transcendent, more equal to the underlying experiences. He counted other writers, even those with whom he disagreed, as his allies in this. In his 2012 article, ‘Politics is the art of the possible’, he counted many others who had been ‘abhorred for fear of what it would do to their ability to collect literary prizes without controversy. The failure detracts from their power as writers; the courage adds to it.’

And there are many others who have been abhorred for fear of what it would do to their ability to collect literary prizes without controversy. The failure detracts from their power as writers; the courage adds to it.

Leone Bershinsky

Diplomacy has always been a contentious topic. It involves the exchange of ideas, opinions, and information between governments and individuals. Diplomats are responsible for maintaining good relations between countries and ensuring that conflicts are resolved peacefully. This can be a challenging task, as diplomats must navigate complex political landscapes and deal with a wide range of issues. Despite the challenges, diplomacy remains an essential tool for maintaining peace and fostering international cooperation. Diplomats are often portrayed as the heroes of the international stage, but they also face many challenges. They must be able to communicate effectively, think strategically, and work collaboratively to achieve their goals. Diplomats must also be able to deal with the pressure of public scrutiny and maintain their composure in difficult situations. Despite these challenges, diplomats play a crucial role in maintaining peace and promoting cooperation between countries. Diplomats are the stewards of international relations, and their work is essential for the success of peaceful and productive interactions between nations.
Turkish forces capture key Syrian border town

Turkey's military said it captured a key Syrian border town after heavy bombardment overnight in its most significant gain, as Ankara's focus against Kurdish fighters pressed into its fourth day with little sign of stopping.

Turkish troops entered central Ras al-Ayn on Saturday morning, a U.S. defence official and a monitor said.

The monitor also referred to Ras al-Ayn's residential areas being burned and looted.

Ras al-Ayn is a key border town, especially for trade, and its capture on Saturday would mean Turkey's forces are closer to the Iraqi border and cut off a key supply route for Kurdish fighters, the monitor said.

There was no immediate response from the Syrian government or the Kurdish-led Syrian National Army (SNA), which dominates the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

An SDF leader was quoted by the SDF's official news agency as saying they would fight on.

The SDF said it had captured the town in the north of Syria's Hasakeh province on Saturday, but offered no details.

The monitor also said Turkey's forces had captured the town of Ayn al-Arab, also known as Ras al-Ayn, which is another key border town.

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Turkey's military said it has taken control of the strategic town of Ras al-Ayn in northeastern Syria, stepping up its military offensive against Kurdish fighters.

The capture of Ras al-Ayn, a key border town, comes as Turkey continues its offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria, which Ankara regards as terrorists.

The town's fall follows Turkey's military action in northeastern Syria, regularly urged Turkey to avoid military action in northeastern Syria.

The SDF said it had resigned from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Friday, a move that could mark a significant shift in the Kurdish-led alliance's fight against the Islamic State group.

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FINGERBLAST

16 dead in attack on mosque in Burkina Faso

AFRICA | 11

Four protesters charged over stoning cop to death in Malawi

AFRICA | 11

Four Malawian protesters have been charged over the killing of a policeman who was stoned to death during clashes between pro- and anti-government demonstrators in the capital Lilongwe, police said yesterday.

The violence came a day after two Chadian troops were killed in clashes between the militias and government forces in a regional force in northeastern Nigeria.

SWAP – a faction of Boko Haram that broke away in 2016 – has intensified its anti-government ambush against troops in the past two weeks.

The decade-long conflict has killed around 300,000 people and displaced around two million from their homes in northeast Nigeria.

Three soldiers among 7 dead in Nigeria militant attacks

AFRICA | 11

Four civilians and three soldiers have been killed in attacks on militant attacks in the state of Katsina, officials said yesterday. Gunmen suspected of belonging to the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group raided a military post in the town of Gajum in Borno State late Friday, triggering a gunfight. In burst of violence. The police also arrested 40 others for their links to the insurgents.

Men from Tunisia's Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) and members of the military deliver ballot boxes and election papers to a polling station in Tunis' Ariana district, yesterday.

Tunisia gears up for presidential runoff

AFP

Tunisia prepared to hold the presidential runoff today after the fires of political outsiders, went head-to-head in a close second-round battle in a bid to woo the country's seven million voters.

Friday's showdown between leftist candidate Karoui and business tycoon Nabil Saied was widely viewed, turning into a hectic campaign before it wrapped up with the accent on an important round in the country's coupling with its emerging democratic future, in remaining high unemployment, failing public services and political legitimacy.

The debate was held just days after Karoui was released from jail on Wednesday to a hero's welcome. He had been held in police custody with a probe into money laundering and tax evasion.

Last week Saied was put on his campaign on hold to avoid an unfair advantage over Karoui. Broadcast on the majority of local channels, as well as some international ones, the debate filled cafes in the capital Tunis, where a raft, largely young audience tuned in.

While the country has succeeded in curbing deadly militant attacks that locked the key tourist sector in 2015, its security remains dependent on the assistance from 13,000 international troops deployed in an anti-terrorist mission MONUSCO.

Unemployment, which the past three rounds of the country's presidential polls in 2014 and 2019, mainly affects the young, hovers at around 15 percent and the cost of living has risen by close to a third, at 3 percent.

The UN will need to work with the international community to provide a lifeline to the most vulnerable, said the UN special envoy for Libya.

The debate was held just days before the president was expected to announce the finalists in this week's runoff.

The UN is expected to discuss the conflict in Libya, which has been raging since 2011.

Tunisia's president Beji Caid Essebsi, who had been the first to be accompanied by televised debates.

The Tunisian president will run in Sunday's runoff against Saied. The runoff is scheduled for Sunday.

Karoubi was widely viewed, a rare television debate in a last minute attempt to win over undecided voters.

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**India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called yesterday for a "new era in China ties" after releasing a video of himself going "plogging" — an activity where joggers collect trash on their run or walk with picking up the trash on the beach outside his luxury resort early yesterday.

The Indian government said yesterday it would unlock most mobile telephone lines in Kashmir in a major easing of a two-month-old security clampdown since cancelling the Kashmir region's autonomy.

**Modi goes plogging on Tamil Nadu beach**

**AFP**

The Indian government said yesterday it would unlock most mobile telephone lines in Kashmir in a major easing of a two-month-old security clampdown since cancelling the Kashmir region's autonomy. But a grenade attack on the main city killed four people.

**Keralan serial murders: More shocking revelations by Jolly**

**IANS**

The police are looking into the second death in the case and the investigation is on. The police have already recovered 1,800 pieces of evidence in the case.

**KCR urges Telangana workers in Gulf to return**

**IANS**

The government, however, on Thursday lifted restrictions on tourism travelling to the region and released three pilots among hundreds of people detained after August 5. Kamal said all those detained would be released gradually after their cases are reviewed.

**Kerala farmer attacks Jolly**

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**Rahul to begin poll campaign from Haryana**

**IANS**

That's different from Modi and his government, which has been dominated by India's bulky and often confrontational foreign office.

**Modi calls for new era in China ties; leaders avoid Kashmir issue**

**AFP**

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**Mobile phones to ring again in Kashmir from tomorrow**

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**Political tension in Kansal's family of evidence collection.**

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**India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping exchange gifts in Mahabalipuram on the sidelines of the summit.**

**IANS**

China is in turn sensitive to international community support against terrorism, financing, and supporting terrorist groups throughout the world, said the Indian statement.

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Xi becomes first Chinese President in two decades to visit Nepal

Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a spokesman for the ruling Nepal Communist Party, said trans-Himalayan connectivity and an extradition treaty will be high on the agenda during official talks today.

The Chinese leader will meet Oli today and the two leaders are expected to witness their officials sign a slew of deals, including the planned extension of the rail link from remote, mountainous Tibet to Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu.

The meeting noted that both the PPP and PML-N remained united in their manifesto and the Kashmir issue. The meeting observed that the JUI-F’s political and theological groups were in support of the PML-N and PPP, and that they are struggling for their own livelihood.

Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a spokesman for the ruling Nepal Communist Party, said trans-Himalayan connectivity and an extradition treaty will be high on the agenda during official talks today. He said the country was expected to sign a project report on constructing a rail link between Kathmandu and Kerung in Tibet. Police sources have received 22 people, including some Tibetan refugees, since Friday to prevent any protests during Xi’s visit.

A deal to sign a detailed project report for the railway link is expected to be signed after the prime ministers’ meeting with President Xi on Sunday. Bhutan said the report will contain cost estimates, with financing and construction models to be decided, officials said.

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Xi Jinping has become the first Chinese leader in two decades to visit Nepal, where he is expected to sign agreements on major infrastructure projects.

Xi arrived yesterday from New Delhi, where he met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was received by Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli at the Kathmandu airport.

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Two dead as 'unprecedented' typhoon hits Japan

Two people were killed by falling trees at a Buddhist temple in Bolgoda in the southern province of Gampaha on Tuesday.

The 70-year-old man and the 72-year-old woman were killed when winds of up to 120 km per hour hit the temple in the town of Bolgoda, police said.

The storm, which has brought heavy rain and strong winds to the island, is expected to continue for several more days, with the weather agency predicting further heavy rain and strong winds in the coming days.

The death toll from the typhoon, which has already caused widespread damage, is expected to rise.

Petrol bombs thrown in Hong Kong metro during protests, no injuries

Petrol bombs were thrown at a Hong Kong metro station on Tuesday, but there were no injuries, police said.

The bombs were thrown at the Kowloon Tong station, which is located in the Kowloon Peninsula, causing widespread damage.

Police said they were investigating the incident, and that they had deployed additional personnel to the area.

Bali blasts anniversary observed

Dozens of mourners yesterday commemorated the 17th anniversary of the Bali bombings, an attack that killed more than 200 people on the Indonesian island.

Grieving families and representatives of the victims laid flowers and lit incense sticks at a memorial in the tourist hub Kuta, where many of the victims died.

The attacks, which were carried out by militants linked to al-Qaeda, are remembered as one of the deadliest incidents in Indonesia's recent history.

Thai opposition accuses army chief of meddling in politics, instigating hatred

A Thai opposition party accused Thailand's army chief of meddling in politics and instigating hatred.

The party, Future Forward Party, said it had received complaints from the army chief that it was trying to meddle in politics and was instigating hatred.

The party said it was investigating the claims and would take action if necessary.

North Korea slammed Japan for fishing boat collision

North Korea accused Japan of violating international law after a fishing boat collided with a Japanese patrol vessel earlier this week.

The Japanese vessel was planted with mines by North Korea, the North Korean government said.

The Japanese government denied the allegations and said it was investigating the incident.

The dispute has escalated tensions between the two countries, with both sides blaming each other for the incident.
Man arrested in Glasgow ‘not murder suspect’

A French man arrested in Scotland is not the murder suspect wanted for killing his wife and her children eight years ago, a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

The source said that French investigative sources had said on Friday that police at Glasgow airport had arrested Xavier Dupont de Ligonnès, who was described as an international wanted for the 2011 killings in France.

But yesterday, sources close to the investigation said that the man being held in Scotland was a different one.

The detained man was stopped in Glasgow after arriving on a flight from Paris following an anonymous tip-off, according to French sources close to the investigation.

Sources had said earlier that a fingerprint match had been made.

A police search was carried out on Friday at the arrested man’s house in Limay in the western suburbs of Paris.

Former head of Swedish Academy dies of cancer

The Swedish Academy has said that its former permanent secretary, Sara Danius, has died of cancer, the organisation announced on Saturday.

Danius led the Swedish Academy — the body that selects Nobel laureates in literature — for six years but resigned last February this year.

She was succeeded by Olof Palme’s daughter, Karin, who was appointed permanent secretary in February this year.

The Academy said that Danius suffered from breast cancer which was diagnosed in 2016.

She had undergone chemotherapy and radiotherapy, but the cancer returned in 2018.

French troops in Mauritania killed 60 while trying to capture the man leading the Islamist group

The French army said late last night that it had killed 60 of the leader of an Islamist group in Mauritania while it was attempting to capture him.

The French defence minister, Florence Parly, said last night that a French special forces unit had been killed and another two injured in the operation.

She said that the man was the leader of the Islamist group called Ansar Dine.

The French military had been conducting an operation in the region for the past two months to try to capture the leader.

Russian court jails woman for drug smuggling

A Russian court convicted a 25-year-old Israeli-American for life in prison for drug smuggling and jailed her for seven-and-a-half years for assisting two other Israeli women.

Nadine Tevzashvili was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in prison after being convicted of smuggling two kilos of cannabis into Russia.

The court said that she had been caught in a series of operations by Russian and Israeli security services.

The trial lasted for three weeks and was held in the Moscow region.

The Israeli foreign ministry said that it would lodge a complaint with Russian authorities over the conviction.

Pakistan’s defence minister says ‘full ceasefire’ with India

Pakistan’s defence minister, Khawaja Asif, said yesterday that his government was committed to ‘full ceasefire’ with India.

He said that the ‘full ceasefire’ was the result of the country’s efforts to bring peace with its neighbour.

He said that India and Pakistan had agreed to ‘full ceasefire’ as part of their bilateral agreement.

He said that the move would help in reducing tensions between the two countries.

The agreement was signed after Pakistan called for a ‘full ceasefire’ with India in August last year.

The move was part of the peace process between the two countries.

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Spanish court sentences 12 assault suspect

Spain's Supreme Court has sentenced 12 defendants for their roles in a Feb. 18, 2017, attack in the city of Palma de Mallorca that left 13 people dead and hundreds injured. The defendants were convicted of terrorism-related charges, including planning and carrying out the attack, and were sentenced to between 4 and 40 years in prison. The sentences were the result of a trial that lasted nearly two years and involved testimony from survivors and family members of the victims. The attack was one of the worst terrorist incidents in Spain's recent history and has reignited debates about security and response in the face of extremist violence.
Acting DHS chief steps down

US President Donald Trump defended his attorney Rudy Giuliani as a “legendary crime buster” and “wonderful human” after a media report that prosecutors were investigating whether the former New York mayor broke lobbying laws in his dealings in Ukraine.

“So now they are after the legendary ‘crime buster’ and greatest Mayor in the history of Philadelphia,” Trump said in a statement on Twitter.

“Trump’s previous boss in Honduras’ foreign ministry said he paid a $250,000 bribe to Devis Leonel Rivera Mariano, known as ‘The Redeemer’ and former vice-president of Honduras, in 2015. According to New York Times, the former trafficker, who was sentenced to 80 years in prison in Honduras, Guatemalan and Mexican prison systems, was allowed to work in the US as a sugar cane exporter. The feds never charged him with any offenses.

The inquiry is focused on a July 25 phone call in which Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate the Bidens.

Elizabeth Warren pays Facebook to run false ad

One man in his 50s died of a heart attack as he struggled to save his home, fire officials said.

The fire broke out on Thursday night and quickly grew out of control for unknown reasons in the city of Loma Linda, northwest of downtown Los Angeles, officials said.

One man in his 50s died of a heart attack as he struggled to save his home, fire officials said.
Venezuela denies entry to Guatemala President-elect

AP DUBLIN

Ecuador’s President Lenin Moreno proposed talks after deadly fuel protests with indigenous leaders after days of protests against fuel price hikes stretched into a 10th day.

“It is essential to stop the violence,” Moreno said in a brief address on television. “Call on the leaders to talk directly with me.

Indigenous groups from disadvantaged communities in the Amazon and the Andes have been raising the issue of economic and social policies that dampen their ability to live.

The president-elect of Guatemala said that he was blocked yesterday from entering Venezuela while he was heading to Quito to take office.

Mr Moreno said yesterday that he was seeking to visit Ecuador’s President Lenin Moreno to discuss ways of resolving the crisis.

Moreno also said that he was seeking to visit the capital with his government to discuss the crisis.

The violence, which began after a strike against the government, has left at least 50 people wounded and about 1,500 people detained, according to the government.

Ending the subsidies meant that fuel prices shot up by as much as 120 percent from October 3.

The United States expressed its support for Moreno’s government on Twitter.

Deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon forest persists through September

Reuters

Deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon jumped for the fifth straight month in September compared with the same month last year, with destruction up 93% in the first nine months of the year, according to a preliminary government data.

 Destruction of the world’s largest tropical rainforest totaled 7,804 sq km for January to September, according to the country’s space research agency INPE. That’s 10 times the area of New York City.

For September alone, INPE data showed deforestation rose 93% from the previous year, an easing from the more than 200% year-on-year rise since August.

Deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon forest persists through September.

The environmental institute called for measures to be taken to stop the destruction.

The institute said the government had failed to take actions to stop deforestation.

A report from Brazil’s Institute of Environment and Water Resources said the origin of the Amazon’s deforestation is linked to a loss of forest cover in the region.

Deforestation is continuing at a pace that is double that of the previous year, according to a report from the country’s space research agency INPE.

Researchers and environmentalists blame illegal logging and the presence of illegal loggers and other activities.

Deforestation has accelerated in the Amazon rainforest in recent years, with an increase of 58% in the first nine months of the year compared with the same period in 2018.

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HBKU’s CSE concludes workshops

HBKU’s involvement in this initiative was also supported by significant contributions from the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI). The workshops primarily touched upon topics related to ethics, proposal writing, qualitative and mixed method approaches for health informatics, research communication, and data analysis.

Hamad Medical Corporation’s Nursing Informatics Department provided the basis for a series of workshops developed by the College of Science and Engineering (CS&E) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in partnership with the country’s largest healthcare provider. HBKU’s involvement in this initiative was also supported by significant contributions from the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI).

Launched in March 2019, the Nursing Informatics Research Community Program was designed specifically to support the work of HMC’s nursing and midwifery department and its efforts to build capacities in the field of health informatics research.

The program consisted of four research seminars attended by 55 participants. HBKU’s College of Science and Engineering and the Qatar Computing Research Institute recently concluded a nursing informatics workshop in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation.

“The college’s Master of Data Analytics and Master of Information Systems in Health Management were introduced in anticipation of the revolutionary and transformational role data will play in the healthcare sector,” said Dr. Mount, Hamad dean of CSE.

Speaking after the conclusion of the workshops, Dr. Luis Fernandez-Luque, a social computing scientist at QCRI, said: “It was a privilege to bring my research interests to the Nursing Informatics Research Community. Digital health practices and techniques will only evolve in the years ahead, both in terms of use and sophistication. Our partners at HMC are not only determined to apply such technologies to their current health informatics activities but also to be ready for future breakthroughs and developments.”

Dr. Montalvo-Said Housni, associate professor at CSE, added: “This highly collaborative and ultimately successful partnership reflects a simple truth that HBKU acts as a catalyst for positive transformation in Qatar and further abroad. A healthy population is one of the goals outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030 and health informatics will play an important role in fulfilling this ambition. We’re confident that both the CSE and the QCRI will make important contributions to HMC’s capabilities in this particular discipline.”

Speaking after the conclusion of the workshops, Dr. Dalhem said: “Nursing research has a tremendous influence on current and future professional nursing practice and the establishment of the Nursing Informatics Research Community is a major step forward in HMC’s journey towards build research capacity among our nurses and midwives and empowering them to engage in research projects. We are thrilled to collaborate on this important initiative with HBKU, which has exposed participants to new ideas in the field of research and hopefully encouraged them to engage in this existing field of work.”
Empire State Building observatory reopens with 360-degree view

The stunning view from the highest observatory at New York's Empire State Building just got even better.

The viewing platform on the 102nd floor, known as the "Top of the Rock," reopened yesterday with a new 360-degree perspective on the Big Apple following six months of renovation. The work is the third in a four-step project, which started four and half years ago, to improve the experience at arguably the world's most famous building.

The entire project is costing $165 million.

The top-level prize at Busan film festival

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA

Seven stranded whales found dead in Indonesia

Seven pilot whales were found dead on an eastern Indonesian beach, an official said yesterday, after 17 were stranded in the remote area. Residents of nearby Menia village managed to save ten of the whales, all roughly three to four metres long, in a rescue attempt on Friday.

There were some lacerations on their body from the contact with rocks, local marine conservation agency head Igo Sanjag said. He added that the inures on the whales indicated they were not handled properly during the rescue. Six of the animals were burned in a traditional ceremony but one was chopped apart by some of the villagers for its meat, Sanjag said.

Italian-made Vespa has a passionate following in Mali

Seydou Seck's Vespa is 41 years old but he sits upright and proud on the ancient grey machine, most of which he survived the 1970s.

"We all know each other and fetch our lights when we pass each other," says Seck, left, a wedding photographer by trade.

The Vespa - its name means "wasp" in Italian - has a special place in Malian hearts. For many, it's a symbol of the 1960s and 70s, when the country was at peace and cities buzzed with people streaming in from the countryside, says a 35-year-old life. "The Vespa was the bike which young people bought when they started to make money," says Igo Diarra, curator of "Recontres de Bamako" (Bamako Encounters), an upcoming biennial exhibition of African photography.

"Posing in front of machines like the Vespa was a sign of respectability and social success," Vespa owner Piaggio estimates it has sold 19 million scooters since 1946. Its sales network does not extend to Mali, but Vespas readily made their way into the country from neighbouring states, finding a ready market for people craving mobility.

One out of every two Malian households today has a moped, three times more than 20 years ago, according to official figures.

A group of old Vespa parked in a mechanic's garage in Bamako.

"We love Vespa," says and many other Vespa-lovers turn to Adama Guindo, 41, a mechanic who began to specialise in the Italian scooter when he started to work 36 years ago: "In the old days, it was easy," Guindo said.

"But today it's complicated - the suppliers only send spare parts if there is a demand, and demand here is low. A vicious circle is thus squeezing the Vespa. Fewer spare parts for them are available, and the scooter's distinctive wasp-like buzz becomes ever rarer.

In Bamako, four half-stripped Vespa sit waiting for the mechanic to dismantle them and give life to others. "The Jakartas have killed the Vespa, but we've still got them," Adama said with a tone of defiance.

A group of old Vespa parked in a mechanic's garage in Bamako.

An Iraqi co-production looking at life in war-torn Baghdad and a Vietnamese tale of a young housewife struggling to support herself and her loved ones have shared the top award at the 24th Busan International Film Festival.

Iraqi director Mohanad Hyung's "Hafila Street" and 'Rom', from Vietnam's Tran Hung Binh, won the festival's New Currents award, which bought out two prizes of $30,000 for the first and second-time directors, respectively.

"The decision was tough and these two films are not first and second, this is not a horse race," said New Currents jury head Bong Joon-ho, the Oscar-nominated director of "Learning La Vaga."

"We saw a lot of great work from young, exciting filmmakers who understand the art of cinema." "Hafila Street" was a film with tension from beginning to end, the jury said in statement. This is a mature, grown-up movie and the director exhibited a confidence..."