A new treatment method introduced at the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has made a significant impact on individuals with alopecia areata, a common autoimmune condition that often results in unpredictable hair loss.

Some 30 individuals have been treated for alopecia areata at HMC’s Department of Dermatology and Venereology, with the new medication ‘Tofacitinib’ and 90 percent of them have seen significant improvements, said Professor Dr. Mutairi Sahrboom, head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at HMC.

“This is a new treatment for people suffering from alopecia areata, who otherwise have no treatment. This condition is called ‘non-scarring alopecia’ and affects the hair follicles. This new treatment will help patients grow new hair, which is not possible with other treatments. It is very effective and safe,” Professor Dr. Mutairi Sahrboom said.

The Department of Dermatology and Venereology at HMC has treated more than 30 patients suffering from alopecia areata with the new medication ‘Tofacitinib.’

Professor Dr. Mutairi Sahrboom said: “We are committed to improving the quality of life for patients suffering from alopecia areata. This new treatment offers hope for patients who have been waiting for a cure for many years.”

The new treatment method, called ‘Tofacitinib,’ is a small molecule that inhibits the production of inflammatory cytokines, which are proteins that cause inflammation and tissue damage.

“Tofacitinib is an early treatment which has been recognized and approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and has shown to be effective in treating alopecia areata,” said Professor Dr. Mutairi Sahrboom.

Professor Dr. Mutairi Sahrboom said that the new medication is a milestone in the treatment of alopecia areata and that it offers hope for patients who have been waiting for a cure for many years.

The Department of Dermatology and Venereology at HMC has treated more than 30 patients suffering from alopecia areata with the new medication ‘Tofacitinib.’

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Qatar, Lithuania sign MoU on holding political consultations

The first round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Lithuania was held yesterday in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. The secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H E Dr Ahmad bin Hassan Al Hammadi led the Qatari side, while the Lithuanian side was headed by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Neris Germanas.

During the round of the political consultations, the two sides discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of supporting and developing them, in addition to a host of issues of common concern. The State of Qatar and the Republic of Lithuania signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on holding political consultations on issues of common concern between the foreign ministers in the two countries.

The MoU was signed for the government of the State of Qatar by Dr Ahmad bin Hassan Al Hammadi and for the Republic of Lithuania by Neris Germanas.

Qatar’s tourism industry poised for long-term growth

Latest statistics have showed that Qatar welcomed 1.19 million visitors during the first seven months of 2019, showing a 10.7 percent increase, compared to the same period in 2018.

Travel industry officials are optimistic about long-term growth of Qatar’s tourism sector. The efforts taken by government will play a crucial role in boosting tourism sector.

“The tourism sector of Qatar is poised for growth, helped by steps taken by the government and concerned authorities. The country has already seen significant increase in tourist arrivals,” Zaheer Yusuf, Manager, Retail Sales and Industry Affairs, Darwish Travel, told The Peninsula speaking on sidelines of an industry event organised by Darwish Travel, held recently at Holiday Villa Hotel & Residence Doha.

“This year has been good in terms of visitor arrivals and we have seen significant increase queries from tourists who want to visit Qatar,” he said.

He praised the role of Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTO) in boosting tourism. New events are being organised in the country to attract tourists. These events not only attract foreign tourists but they also engage locals which is good for tourism industry.

“Special offers and discounts given by hotels, malls and other stakeholders have played a pivotal role in significantly increasing the overall occupancy rate of all hotels,” Yusuf said that due to the wise policy of concerned authorities, the tourism sector in the country has overcome the impact of blockade. Despite the blockade, tourism industry has grown consistently.

“This year is very special for me because it was the first time that all the stakeholders of travel and tourism industry came together at one platform,” he added.

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Ashghal announces changes at Al Mirqab Al Jadeed Street intersection

The Public Works Authority ‘Ashghal’ announced yesterday the conversion of the intersection of Al Mirqab Al Jadeed Street with Mohammed bin Qasim Street into a temporary two-lane roundabout, while keeping the same number of lanes available on Al Mirqab Al Jadeed Street, starting from November 18, for a period of two months, in coordination with the General Directorate of Traffic.

This change will be implemented to enable upgrading works on the intersection and installation of new traffic lights, as part of improvement of Main Roads in Al Nasr Area Project.

The Public Works Authority will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure. Ashghal requests all road users to abide by the speed limit, and follow the road signs to ensure their safety.

Cookies Festival begins at LuLu outlets

Cookies Festival 2019’ organised by Lulu Hypermarket Qatar was officially inaugurated by Regional Manager, Shinanand P M, at Lulu Hypermarket, Al Gharafa yesterday in the presence of other Lulu officials and customers. The festival will run until November 16, at all Lulu outlets. Over 30 varieties of cookies in three broad categories namely Diet, Healthy and Regular are made available on display for shoppers at highly discounted prices.

Jordan FM meets Qatar envoy

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Affairs, Mr Asim bin Qasim Al Thani met the Foreign Minister of Jordan, Dr Ayman Al Safadi, who is on an official visit to Qatar. The two leaders exchanged views on regionally and internationally important issues.

They reviewed bilateral cooperation relations, as well as issues of common interest.
OFFQ signs cooperation deal with Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) and the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies signed yesterday a cooperation agreement to improve skin diagnosis, diagnostics and treatments for skin diseases. Because HMC as a centre-of-excellence in dermatology and Venereology at the University of Doha, and faculty continue to push the envelope of knowledge, the agreement will help improve the quality of care for people with alopecia areata.

Doha Institute will set and implement a professional development program entitled for the period from November 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020. The Deputy Director General of the Department of Health Services in QFFD Mannour Abdullah Al Dhaimi said that this agreement aims at enhancing knowledge and capacity building in the field of international development and QFFD looks forward to seeing its results, which will undoubtedly contribute to raising living standards in the Fund.

Doha Institute will set and implement a professional development program entitled for the period from November 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020.

The seven-month program will end with an assessment of participants and an exchange of advice on issues of concern to QFFD and its staff. 

The Office of Graduate Studies at Qatar University (QU) Organized a Graduate Studies Open Day, which aimed to provide potential postgraduate students with essential information for their studies. The event attracted over 150 prospective students from Qatar University and other institutes. The event was held in partnership with the Qatar National Convention Centre and the Qatar University Open Day Programme. The event included presentations, seminars, and workshops, which aimed to provide information on the graduate study programs offered at the university.

Qu students Graduate Studies Open Day

Productive pianist who wrote wide

musical tour de force concert tonight at QNCC

Raynal R. Rivera

Classical music enthusiasts can look forward to a musical tour de force for Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra’s concert tonight at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) with a performance of Frédéric Chopin and Antonín Dvořák. Gianluigi Gelmetti will be the leading the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra’s concert tonight at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Tonight’s show opens with Brahms’ Third Symphony, the shortest of his four symphonies. This piece was composed when he was 30 years old, and it evokes a sense of mystery and poignancy.

Part of the Third Symphony is a theme that is reimagined throughout the movement, creating a sense of musical continuity. The main theme is presented in various sections, and the orchestra builds up to a crescendo, creating a powerful and dramatic effect.

The performance continues with Dvořák’s Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104. This concerto is a testament to the composer’s ability to write music that is both accessible and profound. The work is characterized by a rich and expressive cello line that is beautifully supported by the orchestra.

The final piece on the program is Frédéric Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11. This concerto is a musical tour de force that requires both the pianist and the orchestra to work together seamlessly. The piece is characterized by its dramatic contrasts, with moments of virtuosic display and passages of delicate intimacy.

The concert concludes with a selection of encore pieces, including a virtuoso display of technical virtuosity and emotional depth.

Raynal R. Rivera is a concert pianist and composer. He has performed in concert halls around the world and has written music for film and television. He is a prolific composer who has written a wide range of pieces for different instrumentations, and his music is characterized by its emotional depth and technical sophistication.
The allocation made by Iranian representative Kazem Gharib Abadi as Iran injected uranium into the centrifuges at its underground Fordo nuclear complex early yesterday, taking its most-significant step away from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

South Sudan leaders agree to delay formation of unity govt

President Aoun, Hariri meet to discuss way out of crisis

Men of riot police are seen during the ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad.

Four protesters shot dead in Baghdad, port blocked

2003 U.S. tel citizen sent back to Iraq after nuclear tests

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The alleged allocation made by Iranian representative Kazem Gharib Abadi as Iran injected uranium into the centrifuges at its underground Fordo nuclear complex early yesterday, taking its most-significant step away from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Iraqi security forces shot dead at least four anti-government protesters in central Baghdad yesterday, police and medical sources said, as weeks of deadly unrest showed no signs of tapering.

Another 25 people were wounded in the clashes at Shabila Bridge. They said, as mass demonstrations continued for a fifth straight day with thousands thronging central areas of the capital.

In southern Iraq, dozens of protesters burned tires and threw stones at the port of Umm Qasr, preventing lorries from unloading rice and other food imports as long hours after the operations had resumed.

The Iraqi government has failed to find a way out of the biggest and most complicated challenge it faces in its rule.

The unrest has sharpened the political climate that followed the defeat of the Sunni Muslim extremist Islamic State in 2017: a situation in which most anti-government forces believe their independence from Sanctions imposed on the crude oil abroad despite the US

Additional pressure on Europe is expected from the country's oil, which is widely believed to have its own undeclared nuclear weapons programme.

These latest steps by Iran put a new strain on relations between the two sides and could make the Persian Gulf region even riskier for a nuclear, physics and technology centre.

It's now clear that the so-called "atomic archive" that was supposedly created and possessed by Iran is not a single person, but rather a collective entity or a group of people.

The United Nations has not made any public statement on this matter and is likely to keep a close eye on the developments.

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun (left) meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab in Beirut yesterday. The country is beginning to feel the consequences of the ongoing anti-government protests.

Meanwhile, a 30-year term for warlord known as "The Terminator" was also imposed by the court on Wednesday in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, for the war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he was responsible for as military commander in atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2002-2003.

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This is why the Prophet is so great

EL SAADI AL AMIN

A part from seeing Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), being upon him, the Messenger of God gifted with divine revelation, one can remarkably see him as an ideal example of a perfect human character.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a person who strove hard for the wellbeing of his community and Humanity at large. His far sightedness and ability to correctly read events of his time and to foresee results helped him, along with divine wisdom from God, to address people’s emotions and to win their hearts before their minds.

His human touch was inconspicuous, and his personal appeal and gentle approach did not the hearts of enemies before those of friends.

In short, he always found his way to his target audience. His composure and comportment of Al-Mu'min Allah he placed with him is reported to have asserted this distinctive aspect of the Prophet’s (PBUH) character.

“The Prophet (PBUH) used to win his hearts with his companions with the kind approach. He was never harsh or hard-hearted. In his meetings, he used to treat all equally, listening to them all and giving equal all chance to participate in the ongoing discussions. It was a very patient negotiator and he never withdrew himself from the discussion in case the negotiators leave first.

“Whenever someone asked him something, he was keen to fulfill his desires. Among people, he was known by good manners and to them all he was an affectionate father.”

Missed by Friends WhenAbsent

A man like Muhammad was the rarest of rare souls. They would miss him very much if he was to mind people’s affairs even for a short while. This is the feeling you might have when your soul mate isAbsent; you always think about him. Correspondence for him or her to come back. That was the case with the Prophet and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Al-Mu'zmud Al Husain Al Baghwan, in his account called Land-Mark of Religious observations mentioned that Thawban, one of the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) with sadness portrayed his face.

Upon seeing him, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) enquired about the nature of his sadness and very pale face. This reflects how close the Prophet (PBUH) was to his friends and companions. He would even ask about these things in his own town and his distant and unnecessary. Thawban replied: "O Cultured Prophet! I do not suffer from any disease. When our daily routine is something, thank God! My Companion is to come back. So, let us meet the next day.

So he met the Prophet the next day. Whereby you will be granted a very special meeting come to an end, I miss you too. If not, then I will please his heart something, he was keen to fulfill his needs.

And he never withdrew himself from treating all equally; listening to them all in general did wonders. It ended up with his permission. If you abide by your right then to treat your women well and be kind to them. For the people of God, you are the most beloved to me after my self.”

The Prophet (PBUH) replied: “No, by Him in Whose Hand is my soul, I do not see a real believer until you love more than yourself.”

To this, Umar replied: “Now you are more beloved to me than myself.” Then, the Prophet (PBUH) said: “Now, Umar, your faith is complete, cabinet and trust.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is reported to have asserted this to his friends and companions. “As-Sajid Al Amir” (Arabic for the truthful and the trustworthy).

People of Other Faiths

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) good manners were not continued to his close friends and Companions. His manners excelled them to encompass different nationalities and creeds. He taught his Companions how to respect others regardless of their faith, race, colour or creed.

One day, he was sitting among his Companions. A Funeral of a Jew from the people of God was coming near and upon seeing it, the Prophet (PBUH) stood up. His astonished Companions asked what was the matter.

O Prophet of God! He is a Jew.”

The Prophet (PBUH) taught them how to be respectful Muslims considerate to others’ feelings by saying: “Isn’t he the dead Jew a soul created by God?”

How far we go in our hasty judgments on others?

People of Other Faiths

Many are the false horrible stories one can hear and read about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) being bloodthirsty and war-loving. Had those who study his character attempted to objectively research his faith, race, colour or creed.

He was a caring and lovable character. Violence and hardship are never found in his dictionary.

Dealing with His Enemies

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**Over 80 farmers arrested for starting polluting farm fires**

A senior Punjab police officer said more than 17,000 farm fires had been reported in the state in the past three days, with 4,741 on Wednesday alone.

The Punjab Police has arrested over 84 people have been arrested for violating the law, said a senior Punjab police officer said more than 17,000 farm fires had been reported in the state in the past three days, with 4,741 on Wednesday alone.

A total of 84 people have been arrested for violating the law. Cases have been filed against 174 farmers, the officer said.

Punjab and Himachal make up a key agricultural region that produces nearly 17 million tonnes of rice each year. This, in turn, produces nearly 18 million tonnes of crop stubble — most of which is burnt.

**States told to remain alert ahead of Ayodhya verdict**

The Supreme Court ordered a complete stop to the fires on Monday and on Wednesday slammed local governments for not acting, instructing them to pay back-up farmers to stop burning the stubble.

"You just want to sit in your ivory towers and rule. You are not bothered and are letting the people die," said Justice Arun Mishra.

Fire levels in the Indian capital remained high yesterday. Figures after one of its worst pollution attacks in several years during which schools were closed and a public health emergency declared.

Dirty air causes hundreds of thousands of premature deaths in Indian cities each year, according to medical studies.

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Pakistan army rules out role in defusing political crisis

Pakistan army has indicated that it has no role in defusing political crisis in the country in the future. Army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor, while taking part in a talk show on a private channel, said that army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has been told by Prime Minister Imran Khan to keep away from politics.

The army's growing role has been a key issue in the country's current political crisis. The country has been rocked by protests and sit-ins by various political parties and organizations, with the army being asked by the government to intervene and defuse the crisis.

The army's stance is a significant development, as it has been a source of controversy in the past. The army has been accused of interfering in politics, and its role in the current crisis has been a matter of debate.

The army's spokesperson said that the army has been asked by the government to stay away from politics and focus on its role in maintaining security and stability in the country.

Bangladesh bans fringe Islamist group

Bangladesh has banned a radical Islamist group over a threat to the country's anti-graft body, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The group was involved in a clash in Birganj, a border town.

The government has taken the decision after a group of federal secretaries recently complained that their concerns vis-a-vis NAB were not being addressed.

The NAB law, it is said, will be amended to include provisions for arresting and detaining officials from NAB in case of corruption.

The government has also taken steps to improve the functioning of the NAB, which has been criticized for its slow performance and lack of transparency.

Three judges die in Taliban attack in Afghanistan

Three judges and a court staff were killed in Afghanistan yesterday after Taliban militants launched an attack on the court premises in the city of Jalalabad.

The attack comes after a string of battles in the country, with the Taliban making significant gains in recent months. The group has been targeting government officials and security forces, and the attack on the judges is a clear indication of the ongoing conflict.

The Taliban has not commented on the attack, and it is unclear whether they were involved or not. However, the attack is likely to further destabilize the country and fuel tensions in the region.
EDITORIAL

Applause for labour reforms

The labour law reforms in Qatar yet again have drawn praise from countries across the world. Representa- tion from several countries participating in the ILO session of the Governing body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva recently, applauded Qatar for making great strides in enshrining the welfare of the thou- sands of expatriate workers in the country, which include making them aware of their rights and even giving them training in information technology-related fields and digital communication.

Qatar’s delegation to the session was led by Minister of Administrative Development Labour and Social Affairs HE Yousef Mohamed Al Othman Fakhroo. Representatives of the governments of the participating countries, including from the European Union, the USA, Switzerland, Canada and representatives of the true trade unions praised the achieve- ments made by Qatar, stressing that Qatar is a model for the region in light of the significant development legislations.

This is not the first time that Qatar is being hailed for its labour law reforms. From October 2019, there was a statement in which the organisation welcomed the latest and groundbreaking reforms, which it said recognise the commitment of the State of Qatar to transform its labour market. The decision to abolish the Kafala system and the move to its minimum wage for workers will greatly support the rights of migrant workers, while contribut- ing to a more efficient and pro- ductive economy, it said. ILO Director General Guy Ryder said: “I am pleased that the ongoing ILO technical cooperation pro- gramme in Qatar is faithfully con- tributing to the government’s effort to advance social justice and promote decent work in the country.”

This was also being said at this speaking about the unanimous decision that the State Cabinet of Qatar took on October 16, 2019. The decree allows workers to change employers freely. This legislation abolished the need for workers to get no objection certificate (NOC) from their employer in order to change sponsors. A Ministerial Decree by the Minister of Interior was also signed, removing the exit permit requirements for all workers, except military personnel.

This decision was the last nail on the coffin of Qatar criticising its treatment of expatriate workers. They very often turned a blind to the way the country was taking care of its workforce by ensuring better health, living conditions and security.

Qatar’s critics very often turned a blind to the way the country was taking care of its workforce by ensuring better health, living conditions and security. Qatar treats its expatriates as the country’s guests and leaves no stone unturned when it comes to the well-being of them. A single visit to any labour camp in Qatar will be a real eye-opener for anyone, where one can get familiar with facilities provided for the workers, such as the accommodation with all modern amenities, access to medical facilities, entertainment opportunities and even computers. Qatar is already a model for others when it comes to the welfare of its workforce.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

From Norway to the north, to Turkey in the south, and the US, Canada and the UK in the west. All are key to keeping Europe safe.

Jens Stoltenberg
Nato’s Secretary-General

Even as US ditches Paris Agreement, galvanise fight against global warming

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The Paris Agreement aims to keep the increase in the global average temperature to less than 2°C above the temperature before the Industrial Rev- olution in the 18th century. Each participating nation deter- mines its own emission reduction target for greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The pact came into force in 2016, and about 195 nations have ratified it. Next year, work to confirm the results of each nation’s efforts under the agreement will start. This process should move steadily forward, irres- pective of the US withdrawal and its adverse effects.

Extreme weather events that appear to be the effects of global warming are already occurring frequently. In September, the massive Hurricane Dorian slammed directly into the Bahamas in Central America, and powerful winds exceeded 200 kph destroyed many homes. In October, Typhoon No. 14 hit Taiwan and caused extreme damages in the Koshini, Kaori and Itohuku regions. A special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change pointed out that an increase in Earth’s average temperature would lead to more powerful typhoons and increased rainfall. Each nation must face this serious reality and take up countermeasures.

China, which is the world’s largest emitter, sets a goal of halving its emissions peak by around 2030, before starting to decrease its emissions. But the world must ask how much China will cut its emissions. India and other developing countries also have not specified their emission reduction targets. This is because they do not want to inhibit economic growth.

The Paris Agreement stipulates that developing countries vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change should be given support in areas such as agriculture and infrastructure. Developing nations must work together and set an example of how renewables can go hand-in-hand with economic development. Japan is conducting projects that help cut carbon dioxide emissions, for example by establishing proven generation systems that use solar power and heat from waste incin- eration in countries including Palau and Vanuatu.

It is crucial for Japan to contribute to reducing the world’s overall emiss- ions through the use of its existing technology and the development of technological innovations.

Individuals may be assigned to residence, subject to restrictions on their movement, subject to house searches or dismissed from employment, based largely on secret intelligence information without due process. Speech that is judged to be an “apology for terrorism” can also result in prosecution.

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Democrats are warning that the US withdrawal might result in a backlash. Under the US Constitution, the President is required to inform Congress of the decision. But the US President has announced two years ago his plan to pull the United States from the pact. He announced that an increase in Earth’s average temperature would lead to more powerful typhoons and increased rainfall. Each nation must face this serious

Islamophobia is on the rise in France

JENS STOLLENGEN

From Norway to the north, to Turkey in the south, and the US, Canada and the UK in the west. All are key to keeping Europe safe.

Jens Stoltenberg
Nato’s Secretary-General

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Against this background, individ- uals are reporting being called into police stations after anonymous tip-offs expressing concern about their behav- iour. A New York public official published an account of such an inter- view received on her Facebook account on October 17, which included questions such as “how Muslim do you feel,” and “are you alone?”

The author is a senior legal officer with the State Security Justice Initiative in Paris.

JAPAN NEWS-YOMURI

It is vital to maintain the momentum generated by advanced nations supporting development cooperation in both sides work together to combat global warming.

The United States has notified the United Nations that it will withdraw from the Paris Agreement under international framework for measures against global warming.

US President Donald Trump announced two years ago his plan to pull the United States from the pact. Trump insisted the agreement was unfair and would hurt the US economy.

This indicated that the US was not satisfied that advanced nations should shoulder a larger burden than develop- ing countries would.

With reduction in recent years’ pre- diciton for carbon dioxide emissions and also is aiming to raise to zero in nations where the coal and other fossil fuels are strong.

The decision by the world’s second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases to withdraw from the pact is not only a blow to the entire framework to collapse.

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It is crucial for Japan to contribute to reducing the world’s overall emiss- ions through the use of its existing technology and the development of technological innovations.
**John Bercow is gone, but his noise will echo for years**

Bercow’s House of Commons
elected a new Speaker on
Monday. The fact that this
even news outside a small
Westminster bubble reflects the
enormous attention courted by the
previous holder of the post: John
Bercow. He was undeniably a his-
toric figure, and a controversial one.
The attention on Speaker Bercow's
Lindsay Hoyle, however, also reflects
the importance of the position as the
Brexit drama continues to unfold. Two
of the last three United Kingdom par-
liaments have not had a single party
in control. Their efficient, more decisive
Brexit votes after December’s general
election.
The Speaker, who is meant to remain
impartial, not only
controls debate and decides who can
speak: he plays the crucial role of
deciding which amendments to bills
or motions can be debated and voted on.

**Tips for managing an international team**

The demand for flexible workspace
in Qatar continues to increase; thanks to
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issued by the Qatari govern-
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China yesterday jailed nine people for selling fentanyl to Americans, the result of a landmark joint probe, and pledged further co-operation following President Donald Trump’s ‘very strong’ criticism against Chinese suppliers fuelling the deadly US-opioid crisis.

Despite Trump’s criticism earlier this week that Beijing had reneged on its promise to crack down on the production of the drug, China said it was “taking action to combat the crime of anti-drug cooperation” with the US. Lack of anti-fentanyl trafficking investigations “also came as the global powers are seeking to isolate Beijing following more than a year of bashing negotiations, with the flood of Chinese fentanyl one of the sticking points.”

US authorities say the synthetic opioid—which can be up to 100 times more potent than heroin—causes more than 100 deaths in the US each week.

The court in northern Hebei province delivered the case as the first successful joint US-China prosecution of a drug smuggling, and US officials also hailed the verdicts. “As the success of the joint investigation demonstr- ates, Chinese and American investigators have the capacity to collaborate across interna- tional borders,” Austin Moore, an attaché for the US Homeland Security Department in China, said at a press conference with Chinese officials following the sentencing.

People charged with smuggling fentanyl to the US are seen during a court sentencing in Xingtai, Hebei province, China, yesterday.

An official Chinese statement issued after the sentencing hailed the case as an “excellent model for the joint tackling of fentanyl-related crimes by Chinese and US drug enforcement depart- ments.” China’s narcotics bureau discovered in 2017 a fentanyl ring based in Shanghai and eastern Jiangsu province and seized 11.9 kilograms of fentanyl, acting on a tip-off from US authorities, according to the court.

Of the nine people jailed in Hebei, one was given a death sentence with a two-year reprieve, which generally means a life term. Two others received life terms for trafficking fentanyl and alprazolam—the hugely popular prescription anxiety drug branded as Xanax.

“Drug bayers of the time,” said an American lawyer, said evidence was weak as the youth was merely carrying the laser pointer to his bag and didn’t use it. “I do not think this is a fair conviction and it may lead to police abuse in prosecution of possession of laser pointers without good evidence of the intention of harming people,” he said. “This case can also create a precedent of more people being prosecuted for carrying ordinary objects like laser pointers and umbrellas.”

The defense carries a jail term of up to three years, but the state prosecutor had said the court could impose a lighter sentence, such as a year in prison or community service.

The court ruled the youth had intended to use the laser pointer to cause harm to others, which was a “crime against public safety,” the State’s Attorney said. He is to remain in custody until sentencing on November 25.

There has been controversy in the past over the use of laser pointers. policeman.

HK court convicts teen for carrying laser pointer

A Hong Kong court ruling yesterday that a laser pointer carried by a teenager was an offensive weapon marked a tougher stance by the judiciary in response to anti-government protests in the semi-autono- mous Chinese territory, with a laser beam warranting it could lead to more prosecutions of demonstr- ationists.

Local broadcaster RTHK said a court found a 16-year-old male student guilty of possessing the laser pointer and emblazoned umbrella—deemed to be an offensive weapon. The items were found in his bag along with a helmet and other pro- active gear used by protesters, who were determined in September 23 behind the site of a planned rally for democracy “Black Tuesday.”

It said the court ruled the youth had intended to use the laser pointer to cause harm to others, which was a “crime against public safety.”

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Macron says NATO experiencing ‘brain death’

French President Emmanuel Macron said he believed NATO was undergoing “brain death,” lamenting a lack of coordination between Europe and the United States and unilateral action in Syria by US-led coalition. He also warned of a “take back control” of immigration.

BRAZIL VOTES AGAINST UN CALL FOR END TO US EMBARGO ON CUBA

Reuters

Brazil voted against the United Nations' call for an end to the US embargo on Cuba. The vote by the 193 member General Assembly still overwhelmingly supported the resolution for the 28th year in a row. UN ally Israel also voted no and Moldova did not vote. The UN vote can carry political weight, but only the US Congress can lift the more than 50-year-old embargo.

Death toll from Bolivia protests rises to three

AFP

A student was killed in Bolivian protests on Wednesday amid increasing pressure on President Evo Morales to resign over opposition claims that he rigged his recent re-election.

The United Nations said the 20-year-old student died of injuries sustained in clashes between pro- and anti-government demonstrators in the central city of Cochabamba, a doctor at the local hospital said. Some 20 other people were wounded in the fighting, some seriously. Ombudsman Nidia Cruz said the fatality brings to three the death toll in clashes following the violent in recent days but has left at least 20 dead over two weeks of protests.

Protests nationwide in Bolivia continued for several days.

The clash took place after members of farmers' unions, mainly students, began an effort last week to force Morales from office.

Traditionalist Brazil has objected to how the US applied its domestic politics to foreign policy, punishing companies from countries that trade or invest in Cuba.

Colombia's abstention follows a shift in its relations with Cuba. Cuba once hosted peace talks between Colombia and its National Liberation Army (ELN) rebel group, but Havana's refusal to extradite three guerrilla commanders after negotiations broke down has led to repeated criticism from the government of President Ivan Duque.

Colombia abstained from the vote because of Cuba's "hostile attitude" toward its extradition requests for the "confessed terrorists" and its support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The United States consistently voted against the UN resolution for 24 years but abstained for the first time in 2016 under former President Barack Obama. The United States is not responsible for the Cuban regime's endless abuses of its people, "US Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft told the General Assembly ahead of the vote. "It is our first responsibility as leaders to defend those without a voice today most especially the people of Cuba. Shame be upon us if we refuse to raise our voices in defense of theirs," Craft said.

Last year the United States proposed eight amendments to the resolution to push Cuba to improve its human rights record, but all of the proposals failed. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez rejected US criticism of Cuba's human rights record, accusing Washington of manipulating "human rights for political purposes and we reject double standards." The US government does not have the slightest moral authority to criticize Cuba or any other country when it comes to human rights," he told the UN General Assembly. "Apologize for the transient crisis, gun violence, poverty and unemployment in the US.

AP

The UN vote can carry political weight, but only the US Congress can lift the more than 50-year-old embargo.

The policy shift by Brazil represents the latest attempt by President Jair Bolsonaro to draw closer to US President Donald Trump since taking office in January but runs against the interest of some more Brazilian firms.

Brazil's Souza Cruz Inda, owned by British American Tobacco PLC has a joint venture in Havana that makes most of the ciguette in Cuba.

Quietly, Brazil's foreign minister also met with US officials to discuss how the US applied its embargo policy, punishing companies from countries that trade or invest in Cuba.

The death toll in clashes following the protests. The penalties would toughen penalties against vandals as ongoing riots, acts of violence or destruction committed during protests. The penalties would increase if the acts are carried out by hooded vandals trying to hide their identities.

He also unveiled plans to beef up intelligence activities amid the continuing protests, and to more than double police aerial surveillance.

"One of the principal responsibilities of the state is to ensure public order and security," Pinera said in a televised speech. He added that police and security forces in Chile had "total support" from his administration.

Chile's worst unrest since the end of Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 dictatorship has led to more than 3,000 arrests, and injuries to 1,630 protesters and 800 police officers.

Prosecutors are also investigating more than 800 allegations of abuse by security forces during demonstrations that have often degenerated into riots. The unrest has grown less violent in recent days but has shown little signs of subsiding. On Wednesday evening, hooded vandals attacked several shops, cafes in one of Santiago's more upscale neighborhoods.

Chile's Pinera to crack down on looters: 20 dead in protests

REUTERS

Chile's President Sebastian Pinera announced a history of measures yesterday to tighten security and increase penalties for vandals as ongoing riots, leaving and violence have left at least 20 dead over two weeks of protests.

Pinera said he would send bills to Chile's congress to tighten penalties against looting, acts of violence or destruction committed during protests. The penalties would increase if the acts are carried out by hooded vandals trying to hide their identities.

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President Donald Trump wanted Attorney General William Barr to hold a press conference to declare he broke no laws during his July phone call with Ukraine’s president in which Trump pressed his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate Democratic rivals, according to a person familiar with the matter. The president insisted Monday that he was not trying to interfere with the probe and said he would not show up to testify, despite a congressional subpoena. A congressional aide, speaking on the condition of anonymity to reveal internal discussions, said Trump has expressed irritation at the failure of House Democrats to schedule a deposition. The aide said Trump has been assured that he will not be called to testify in the impeachment inquiry.

In a conversation with the aide, the president told Trump last week that he wanted to see how a court would rule last year on whether primaries in New Hampshire are required to remain neutral, and that there were two campaign finance violations. President Trump is angrily calling for extended deliberations to mail-in ballots instead. Republicans are pushing for the party to remain neutral, and in the Republican primary in New Hampshire, President Trump is expected to face at least three challenges in New Hampshire: former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld, former South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh. And state GOP bylaws require the party to remain neutral, despite some Trump supporters considering trying to change the rules last year.

Pence declined to comment yesterday on whether primaries should be canceled.

Trump denies he wanted Barr to publicly clear him

WASHINGTON

Pence aide testifies in Trump impeachment inquiry

US Vice-President Mike Pence yesterday testified in the Trump impeachment inquiry. Pence’s aides had said he planned to testify that he was not involved in the July 25 phone call between the US president and Ukraine’s president.

In many ways, the movement that has transformed our country, redefined our military, restored and strengthened the Constitutional foundation of our courts, has America standing tall in the world again, began here in the Republican primary in New Hampshire,” Pence said. “I couldn’t be more honored, on behalf of the president of the United States, to have my name on the ballot.”

The White House has not commented on whether inception of the subpoenas shakes the foundation of the subpoenas. A congressional committee to court if it subpoena him. A congressional committee to court if an investigation begins, some Trump supporters considering trying to change the rules last year. Pence declined to comment yesterday on whether primaries should be canceled.

Pence files Trump’s paperwork for NH primary

WASHINGTON

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Oil rises above $62 on hopes for China and US trade deal

**Reuters**

Oil rose above $62 a barrel yesterday after China’s president expressed hope towards a trade deal with the United States, raising hopes for an end to a long dispute that has weighed on economic growth and demand for fuel. Brent has rallied 15 percent in 2019, supported by a reduction in global oil output and concerns that a supply glut could emerge.

“Today we start with a different set of headlines that they came to some extent on the framework,” said Olivier Jakob, oil analyst at Petronet. “That definitely is something that is supporting prices.”

**Brent crude, the global benchmark, rose 76 cents to $62.50 a barrel by 1444 GMT after settling down $1.22 on Wednesday. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed 92 cents to $57.27.**

Beijing’s comments boosted market sentiment, which had also been rallied by Wednesday’s US government support for the global economy, reducing the risk of a trade dispute appearing to dominate the day to cut output more deeply.

Still doubts about a trade deal could resurface, analysts said. Reuter reported on Wednesday a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to sign the deal could be delayed to December. Contributing to oil’s decline:

“Doubts are not yet turning into full-blown concerns,” said Craig Erlam, analyst at brokerage OANDA. “If a date isn’t set in stone soon though, that may come.”

Oil meets 2019 goals but warns of ‘risks’ in 2020

**Siemens**

German industrial behemoth Siemens yesterday reported a drop in annual profits but said it had met its targets, and warned that geopolitical risks and a cooling economy would weigh on its performance in 2020.

The group, which makes products from wind farms and trains and medical scanners, booked a net profit of €1.3bn ($1.6bn) in its 2018/2019 fiscal year, down nearly eight percent from the previous year.

The group mainly blamed accounting effects, noting that it had benefited last year from selling its shares in IT services firm Asea and high-lift maker Osim.

Operating profit climbed slightly to €9.8bn, thanks to a jump in large orders.

Revenue added 0.5 percent to reach €48.6bn.

The weakening of the global economy accelerated clearly in the fourth quarter of 2019, CEO Joe Kaeser said in a statement.

Moreover, “we fully achieved our fiscal-year targets in all aspects,” he added. The company said it had seen an uptick in orders across most of its divisions, including an order for a large gas power plant in France and strong demand for its medical imaging machines.

Siemens’ factory automation division, however, suffered a drop in demand in the final months of the year, as it felt the pinch from the global slowdown in the car and machinery industries.

Looking ahead to its 2020/2021 fiscal year, Siemens said it expected “a again achieve moderate growth” in revenues despite a “moderate economic and market backdrop. Given the risks particularly related to geopolitical and economic uncertainties”.

It added that it was bracing for “a moderate decline” in order intake in the first quarter of 2020 in the automation and factory equipment industry.

Global debt surges to record high $188tn: IMF

The global debt load has surged to a new all-time high as governments and private borrowers try to avoid a more double the world’s economic output, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva (pictured) warned yesterday.

While private sector borrowing accounts for the vast majority of the total, the public and private sector accounts for 14.6 percent and Real Estate sector accounted for 9.1 percent. Industries sector accounted for 9 percent. Consumer Goods and Services sector accounted for 8.8 percent.

When compared on daily basis, the debt far exceeds 10.82 percent or 0.11 percent, compared to Wednesday’s closing.

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Toyota to buy back $1.8bn in shares as profit tops estimates

BLOOMBERG

Toyota Motor’s quarterly profit topped analysts’ estimates thanks to healthy sales of RAV4 in the US and Corolla at home, keeping the Japanese automaker on track amid sputtering global demand for cars.

Operating income for the fiscal second quarter that ended in September was 67.9 billion yen, helped by cost controls that pared the way to 16,000 yen per 1,000 yen share buyback. Analysts had projected on average profit of 60.4 billion yen. The shares rose 1.1 percent after the results, leaving them up 21 percent this year.

The maker of Prius hybrids and Tacoma trucks joins Tesla, Ford Motor, and Volkswagen in reporting better-than-anticipated results, even as vehicle sales weaken across the globe. Toyota’s results contrast with other Japan auto makers which are being hurt by a stronger yen that’s eroding income brought home. Cost controls have helped Toyota maintain profits ahead of analysts’ projections, even while it invests heavily in an industry undergoing a tectonic shift to electrification and self-driving automobiles.

“Toyota’s results leave a very good impression,” said Kei Iida (picnervous), an analyst at SBI Securities. “US sales were intact, they were up in Japan although southeast Asia is a bit worrying. Overall, sales are solid.”

For now, the automaker trimmed back its global sales target a tiny bit, by about 30,000 units to 10.7 million units. Toyota sold 10.6 million vehicles in the prior fiscal year.

The stock repurchase represents as much as 3.4 percent of the company’s outstanding shares, and is in line with Toyota’s past buybacks. In recent years, the automaker has typically announced a reprisal-cum-repurchasal of 200 billion yen to 300 billion yen, twice a year in May and November. Toyota’s cash and equivalents remained the same from the prior quarter, at 6.2 trillion yen.

“The overall results are good,” said Janet Lewis, an analyst at Masquarie Capital, who noted Toyota’s “improving margin.” “Having an operating margin of 2.9 percent in the car industry is amazing.”

As new drivetrain technology, autonomous capabilities and on-demand business models disrupt the industry, Toyota has been forging alliances, adding Suzuki, Masks and lunchboxes through partnerships and equity stakes. Alliances are becoming ever more critical in the global auto industry, as manufacturers seek to pool resources and save costs. Ford has teamed up with Volkswagen, while Honda and General Motors are working together.

“The auto industry is facing a once-in-a-hundred change and it’s difficult to compete on its own,” said Toyota Operating Officer Kanta Koe. “Our stance in making friends hasn’t changed, we will continue to cooperate within our group, with other original equipment manufacturers and cooperate with companies outside our industry, to make better cars and to change to a mobility company.”

Lufthansa to cut more costs as cabin crew strike over pay

REUTERS

German airline Lufthansa announced plans yesterday to cut costs at its Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines and Lufthansa Cargo businesses to revive profits but left a half-year staff, in its efforts with a cabin crew strike this week.

Lufthansa has reached to compromise with unions and analysts by cutting costs and announcing a share buyback, but the plan may seem thin Eurowings, which said yesterday was paying off as it reported better-than-expected quarterly figures. Its shares, which have fallen 16 percent in the last year, were up 4.7 percent at 114 GMT, making them the biggest gainer on the German blue-chip index as signs emerged of new efforts to resolve the dispute with trade unions.

Cabin crew launched a strike over pay and pensions that will leave a success in the cancellation of 1,300 flights yesterday and on Friday and affect 880,000 passengers. Trade union UFO has called for the walkout on what amounts to one in five of the carrier’s planned 8,000 flights.

One day of strike action would cost the company an estimated 20 million to 220 million. Finance chief Ulrik Fredriksen said. From rumours of a walkout that would docket customers, he added.

Chief Executive Carsten Spohr (picnervous) said he was prepared to enter into arbitration talks with all three unions that represent cabin staff, including UFO. Lufthansa and UFO have been at odds for months over the union’s legal status.

UFO said it would talk to the airline this weekend and would not prolong the strike beyond Friday or extend it to other airlines in the group.
Djokovic has top ranked Nadal in his sights at London finale

**It's an extremely difficult task considering who my opponents are going to be. As a consequence, if I manage to get the year-end number one, that would be fantastic. It is a motivation and a goal every day.**

By Jonathan Liew

REUTERS

LONDON

If Novak Djokovic is to claim the year-end number one ranking for a record-equaling sixth time he will have to do the hard way at the London ATP Tour Finals next week in London.

The Serb was knocked of the top spot by Rafael Nadal on Monday despite winning the Paris Masters last week and will need a strong finish alongside the River Thames to snatch it back.

Only Pete Sampras has finished a year on top six times and Djokovic will need a strong finish alongside Nadal to keep the long-standing dream alive.

It was his fourth title in 2019, during which he lost an epic Wimbledon final to Djokovic, having held match points.

The penultimate ATP Finals in London, before it moves to Turin, has a fresh look this year.

Novak will start as the top seed to win the title and his only real barrier to the year-end crown is Nadal.

And it is a battle that the Serb has been preparing for as he looks to put a point on his record in the historic London venue.

**Barty eyes Fed Cup win to close out stellar season**

**If you are playing for your country and you are playing in a Fed Cup, it is pretty easy to get up and about and be as ready as you can, ‘said Barty.**

World number one Ash Barty (pictured) will look to crown her annus mirabilis by helping Australia to their first Fed Cup title in 45 years when she leads the host nation in the final against France in Perth this weekend.

Barty’s 2018 has been a season of indescribable heights, from the French Open title and Wimbledon semi-final to the Australian Open with her third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

It is a format that I love, I cherish it. It’s a format that I love, I cherish it. It’s an unbelievable opportunity to be able to go toe-to-toe with the best in the world. As a consequence, if I manage to get the year-end number one that would be fantastic. It is a motivation and a goal every day.

Barty was the difference when Australia beat the USA in the final, winning the first two rubber by a score of 6-4, 6-2, and 6-0. She then beat the Serb Jelena Ostapenko in the final to claim the title.

It is an extremely difficult task considering who my opponents are going to be. As a consequence, if I manage to get the year-end number one, that would be fantastic. It is a motivation and a goal every day.

The Australians have barely registered on any radar in any other big tournament, excluding the French Open where they were at their best.

The Australian Tennis Federation (ATF) has announced the schedule for the 2019 Fed Cup, with the match between Australia and France to be held on Saturday, October 12.

The match will be played in front of a sold-out crowd at the Memorial Drive in Adelaide, with the match to start at 10am.

**Stage set for Round 2 of Longines Hathab Equestrian Tour**

The Longines Hathab Equestrian Tour is set to kick off in the Abu Dhabi on Sunday, with the first leg taking place at the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club on November 16.

The tournament, which is the second event of the longines Hathab Equestrian Tour, will see some of the best riders in the world compete for the top prize of 1 million euros.

The event will feature three main disciplines: Show Jumping, Dressage, and Eventing.

The Show Jumping competition will take place on Sunday, with the top 10 riders advancing to the second round.

The Dressage competition will take place on Monday, with the top 8 riders advancing to the final.

The Eventing competition will take place on Tuesday, with the top 6 riders advancing to the final.

The prize money for the top three riders in each discipline will be 100,000 euros, 60,000 euros, and 40,000 euros, respectively.

The tournament is organized by the Longines Hathab Equestrian Tour and is supported by the Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club.

The event is expected to attract some of the top riders in the world, with the likes of Germany’s Frank Kemperman, Italy’s Piergiorgio Biondi, and Belgium’s Gregory Wathelet

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LONDON

REUTERS

Guardiola is best in the world: Klopp

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is best in the world, according to Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

Klopp, who has taken a dig at City’s ‘tactical fouling’, drew a line under the verbal sparring on Thursday in an interview ahead of Sunday’s top-of-the-table clash at Anfield.

Leaders Liverpool have a six-point advantage over the champions and the match is a crucial one for both sides.

The build-up has been coloured by Guardiola saying Liver-pool’s Sadio Mane sometimes dived and then mimicking Mane, who has taken a dig at City’s ‘tactical fouling’, drew a line under the verbal sparring on Thursday in an interview ahead of Sunday’s top-of-the-table clash at Anfield.

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Leaders Liverpool have a six-point advantage over the champions and the match is a crucial one for both sides.
Asian Championship: Indian junior shooters excel

The podium winners in the 10m air pistol girls junior team event at the 14th Asian Shooting Championship pose for a picture with Ali Mohamed Al Kuwari, President of Qatar Shooting and Archery Association. India finished first followed by China and Chinese Taipei.

The Peninsular

Asian Congress a resounding success

The 4th Association of Sports Institutes in Asia (ASIA) Congress concluded today with members and participants agreeing to several collaborative ventures that will see sporting events, training camps, collaborative ventures that will see sporting events, training camps, and joint events, training camps, and research amongst members.

Aspire Academy high performance staff provided an overview of high performance training facilities and capabilities for the three days. It was a great event.

Dr Duncan Simpson, Head of the Research and Development at Aspire Academy, underscored the importance of high performance staff ensuring awareness of one's wellbeing and having a voice towards the health and safety of the members.

The institutes we work for are responsible for creating the opportunity to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of their employees.

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Swimmers in action on the opening day of the FINA Swimming World Cup Doha 2019 at the Hamad Aquatic Centre yesterday. (FOTO: TWITTER / @SWCDOHA)

### RESULTS OF YESTERDAY’S FINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Time/Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s 200m Breaststroke</td>
<td>Zahra Al Azzani (KSA)</td>
<td>2:32.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s 400m Freestyle</td>
<td>Jakub Majerski (POL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s 200m Individual</td>
<td>Katja Fain (SLO)</td>
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<td>Men’s 100m Butterfly</td>
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<td>Women’s 400m Individual</td>
<td>Mykhailo Romanchuk (UKR)</td>
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<td>Men’s 200m Backstroke</td>
<td>Anton Chupkov (RUS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s 200m Backstroke</td>
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<td>2:12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s 50m Breaststroke</td>
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<td>Women’s 200m Butterfly</td>
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<td>Women’s 50m Freestyle</td>
<td>Kira Toussaint (NED)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s 200m Butterfly</td>
<td>Chad Le Clos (RSA)</td>
<td>25.80</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Sheikh Joaan meets ISSF President

The President of Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani met here today with the President of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), Vladimir Lisin, who is now in Doha to attend the 14th Asian Shooting Championships which is a qualifying event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

H E Sheikh Joaan welcomed the President of the International Shooting Sport Federation, praising the fruitful cooperation between the Qatari and international federations of the game.

Lisin praised the outstanding status of the State of Qatar in terms of sports, and the organisational and technical level of the 14th Asian Championship held at the Aspire Shooting Range. The meeting also reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of boosting and developing them.

### Campbell, Morozov stay on top as Hosszu, Le Clos sparkle in Doha

![Image of Vladimir Morozov and Chad Le Clos](image)

**Qatari swimmers clock impressive times in heats**

**FARAH HOSSAIN THE PENINSULA**

Many young Qatari swimmers took part in yesterday morning’s heats, producing quick times as they swim alongside the elite swimmers.

GCC champion Abdulsalam Al Obaidly was the fastest home swimmer in the men’s 100m breaststroke heats, won by Dutchman Arno Kamminga (3:49.40).

The 17-year-old clocked 1:06.23 while his team-mates Abdulsalam Mohamed (1:24.31), Omar Ahmad (1:26.37) and Abdulla Alkhaled (1:21.18) also recorded creditable times but did not advance.

Yassine Mekhissi (1:58.50) and Abdulrahman Mohammed (1:59.08) failed to progress.

** womens’ 400m Freestyle**

**Matilda Kallin (SWE) 4:58.36**

**Men’s 400m Freestyle**

**Michael Andrew (USA) 52.38**

**Women’s 200m Breaststroke**

**Ester Bokor (HUN) 2:38.24**

**Women’s 100m Butterfly**

**Chad Le Clos (RSA) 49.37**

**Women’s 200m Backstroke**

**Ester Bokor (HUN) 2:31.32**

**Women’s 50m Freestyle**

**Vitalina Simonova (RUS) 29.86**

**Men’s 100m Freestyle**

**Chad Le Clos (RSA) 49.37**

**Women’s 200m Backstroke**

**Ester Bokor (HUN) 2:38.24**

**Women’s 200m Breaststroke**

**Chad Le Clos (RSA) 2:38.24**

**Women’s 50m Freestyle**

**Michelle Coleman (ENG) 24.50**

**Men’s 100m Freestyle**

**Vladimir Morozov (RUS) 21.83**

**Women’s 50m Freestyle**

**Maim Lewandowska (POL) 23.04**