Amir chairs SC meeting, reviews preparation for Qatar 2022

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“…In making a difference to those with disabilities we are caring, we are challenging the current status that some activities in Qatar – such as dune bashing – are off-limits to those with disabilities. We do not want to exclude people with disabilities all over the world to enable them to experience unique experiences in Qatar via the Ooredoo and Wheel The World branded booking portal,” he added.

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Doha prepares for International Conference on Disability and Development
QNA (DOHA)

Qatar Foundation for Social Work has concluded a series of preparatory workshops for the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development to be held on Saturday and Sunday under the patronage of HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser who is the founder of the foundation.

The conference, to be held in cooperation with a number of United Nations organisations and with the participation of high-level personalities from international, regional and local institutions, and attracting international attention, is due to culminate in an Al Doha Declaration, which aims to promote the rights of nearly 15 billion people with disabilities worldwide.

The foundation concluded a series of preparatory workshops that included over 20 discussion sessions with the participation of CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Almajil Abdal Latif Al Mamari and hundreds of experts from universities, ministries, NGOs and relevant institutions to discuss a number of issues of persons with disabilities.

Al Mamari said that organizing the conference required intensive efforts, evidenced by five workshops the foundation that featured hundreds of experts over the past few months. She expressed her hope that the conference would be a catalyst for an international movement to support the rights of persons with disabilities, and that the Doha Declaration would produce a roadmap for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The workshop concluded that it was necessary to establish and update an integrated database for persons with disabilities on a regular basis, ensuring compatibility of data with international concepts and standards on disability.

The second workshop entitled Assisting Technology and Its Contribution to the Inclusive Development Goal of Disability rights was attended by experts on accessibility, helping people with disabilities and facilitating their social integration, especially with the advancement of Qatar in this field.

Prime Minister meets CEO of Thales Group
QRT

The Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Khalifa Al Thani met with the Chairman and CEO of Thales Group, Patrice Caine, on the occasion of his visit to the country. They reviewed areas of cooperation and ways of enhancing them.

Qatar best in Mideast for tourists with special needs
QNA (DOHA)

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Fatima Sultan Al Kwaiz, Chief Consumer Officer, Ooredoo Qatar said that a team of Wheel The World visited several places in Qatar. They met many tourists, with special needs and discussed about accessibility of such places for people with disabilities. Many attractions and activities in Qatar are not accessible for tourists by Wheel The World, she added.

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MoPH working with partners to correct cancer misconceptions

The Ministry of Public Health is working with many of its partners to correct cancer-related misconceptions and raise awareness about the importance of early detection and prevention. The Ministry organized a workshop for about 100 teachers, workers, and psychologists from public and private primary and secondary schools on awareness and correcting misconceptions about cancer in collaboration with cancer awareness partners at Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, and Qatar Cancer Society.

During the workshop, several important topics related to cancer were discussed, including the roles of partners in cancer awareness, identification, risk factors, signs and symptoms, prevention through a healthy lifestyle that includes protection from ultraviolet rays, nutrition, physical activity, abstaining from tobacco consumption, and correcting misconceptions about cancer.

They also discussed the importance of early diagnosis, screening and disease-related services in Qatar, as well as the experience of the Qatar Cancer Society in cancer prevention programs in schools and how schools can help prevent cancer. The workshop was part of a worldwide initiative to combat the global cancer epidemic, focusing on correcting misconceptions about cancer, as well as the negative impact on cancer control mechanisms in society, where misconceptions can affect how health interventions are accepted, prevent early screening efforts, and hinder preventive measures.

Health of the Pregnant Mother and Child is the Ministry of Health and Prevention's main objective. The Ministry of Health and Prevention emphasizes health education and promotion through awareness campaigns, media, and social media platforms. The Ministry also collaborates with various educational institutions, hospitals, and local authorities to promote health education and behavior change campaigns.
Qatar takes part in UN Climate Change Conference

The State of Qatar is participating in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which began yesterday in Madrid, Spain, with a delegation headed by HE Minister of Municipality and Environment, Eng. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie.

It is expected that the discussions and negotiations on the implementation of the ‘Paris Agreement’ and the accompanying events until December 13 will be held by representatives of several countries inside and outside the State of Qatar to demonstrate national efforts, projects and how to address climate change, and to enhance cooperation with international bodies to serve future projects in the state.

Among the contents of the exhibition are the Green Car Initiative and the inauguration of the PV plant, which is unique in the world, where electric cars are charged with solar energy that the plant stores, as well as highlighting the efforts of civil aviation in the field of protecting the civil aviation environment in the State of Qatar, and to achieve a safe, efficient and sustainable civil aviation system, which further enhances the status of the State of Qatar in the map of the global civil aviation industry.

Qatar-European Friendship Association meets with delegation of EWEI

The Qatari-European Friendship Association of the Shura Council, headed by HE Yousef bin Rashid Al Khater, met yesterday with head of the delegation of the Eastwest European Institute (EWEI), Stefania Paradisi, and the delegation of Italian student accompanying her. During the meeting, they reviewed the positions of the State of Qatar, and its internal and external policies, as well as the legislative and supervisory role of the Shura Council. The delegation praised the efforts of the State of Qatar in supporting the Arab-European relations for peace and stability in the region and the world.

IJSO 2019 begins today

Under the patronage of Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, the 16th edition of the International Junior Science Olympiad will begin today, under the theme: “Motivating Today’s Young Generation for the Skills of Tomorrow.”

Minister of Education and Higher Education, H E Dr. Mohammad Ali Abdul Wahed bin Hammad, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Nuaimi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Higher Education Affairs and Chairman of the Scientific Committee for the International Junior Science Olympiad 2019, Dr. Khalid Al Ali, and President of the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO), Prof. Paresh Joshi, are set to give a speech during the opening ceremony.

The winners of the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) Junior Science Olympiad 2019, which was launched in 2004, and is held in December of each year in one of the countries of the world. The State of Qatar has participated as an observer since 2006, and in 2017, 2018 it received bronze medals.

Public Prosecution holds second workshop on combating human trafficking

The Public Prosecution represented by the Institute of Criminal Studies and the Department of International Cooperation organised the second workshop on combating human trafficking in cooperation with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and the British Embassy in Doha as part of the implementation of the international efforts to combat human trafficking.

The three-day workshop aimed at equipping participants with the necessary information and skills and knowledge of the rules of international law and the provisions of international conventions in the field of combating human trafficking.

The workshop is part of a series of other training programs to be held in Doha and London this year and early next year. The workshop was attended by representatives of several official authorities in the country, namely the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Interior, as well as the Public Prosecution.
Al Emadi Hospital at the forefront of carrying out bariatric surgeries

Interview with Dr. Ayman Obaid – Consultant General Surgery, Bariatric and Laparoscopic Surgery

- Gastric Sleeve and gastric bypass operations are the most widespread and available surgical methods that are the most successful in achieving the desired results.
- The rate of complications globally accepted and recognized is 3-4%, while the rate in Al Emadi Hospital does not exceed 0.3%.
- Bariatric surgery is suitable for any patient under the age of 65 suffering from obesity as long as there are no other health ailments prevalent.
- An unhealthy diet and a lack of exercise make up more than 90% of the causes of obesity in the Qatari society.
- Bariatric surgery for a patient in fighting obesity and its results depend on the extent of compliance with the post-surgical instructions and leading a healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Ayman Obaid, Consultant General Surgery, Bariatric and Laparoscopic Surgery at Al Emadi Hospital confirmed that obesity levels in the Qatari society have recently skyrocketed, and that Qatar is ranked the fifth country in the world and the second in the Gulf region to witness a substantial rise in the obesity index.

Dr. Obaid pointed out that under the helm of Dr. Mohammed Al Emadi, the hospital is at the forefront of carrying out bariatric surgeries and has successfully carried out 8,000 surgeries so far and stressed that Al Emadi Hospital has a fully-equipped professional medical-staff that is considered the most competent and experienced in the region.

In an interview with Dr. Obaid, a graduate of the American University of Beirut and the University of California in the United States and member of the American Society of Bariatric Surgery, discussed the causes of obesity and the latest surgical and non-surgical advancements and methods in the treatment of obesity.

What are the main causes of obesity in general, Qatari particular?

Obesity has unfortunately become an epidemic in general, Qatari in particular. The levels of obesity in the Qatari society have skyrocketed and that can be attributed to many reasons. These include living an unhealthy lifestyle, which ultimately plays a detrimental role, especially with the consumption of large quantities of highly-caloric and unhealthy habits which makes up about 90% of the reasons, why so many suffer from obesity. Some suffer due to insufficient and irregular gland activity or the result of genetic diseases which is rarely.

What are the latest surgical and non-surgical methods to treat obesity?

The treatment of obesity lies in the basic principle of reducing your caloric intake so that the body would be able to burn surplus fat mass. To achieve this result, many methods are used, some non-surgical such as adhering to a specific diet that promotes eating healthy as well as exercising. Certain hormonal drugs can be prescribed as well, which are injected under the skin, and work to suppress the appetite, which in turn leads to reducing the amount of food intake during the day.

As for the surgical methods, they are constantly evolving, such as gastric bypass, gastric sleeve, gastric ring, gastric balloon and gastric lobe. Gastric Sleeve and gastric bypass operations are the most widespread and available surgical methods that are the most successful in achieving the desired results.

When do you recommend resorting to surgical methods to treat obesity?

We only recommend surgical intervention when other benefits outweigh its risks, and usually that decision is informed by the patient’s body mass and existing fat mass. We usually rely on a specific equation weight = square to determine the eligibility of the patient. As for age restrictions, bariatric surgeries can be performed on patients from various age groups. We usually refrain from performing such surgeries on children under the age of puberty. Otherwise, it can be performed on any patient under 64 years of age and in cases where no other health ailments are present.

Do complications arise when performing these types of surgeries?

There is no surgical procedure without complications, and we inform our patients about the complications and risks that could arise during surgeries. We try to be as transparent as possible with our patients so that they can make informed decisions.

What advice do you offer patients for post-surgical care?

In order for the patient to achieve the desired post-surgical results, it is necessary to follow a specific diet and to adhere to certain restrictions for a period of 6 weeks. After that period, the digestive system of the patient returns to carrying out its normal functions. The patient will start reducing the gradual loss of excess weight over a period of 9 to 12 months. Patients must make sure that the desired results will not happen overnight and that the surgery is a catalyst in weight loss that promotes healthy eating habits and healthy living.

What are the benefits and risks of carrying out stomach balloon surgery?

The stomach balloon is a surgical procedure utilized in battling obesity. It is also a surgical procedure that could prevent a host of risks and complications. The stomach balloon is inflated with air or by using a special liquid and is then installed in the stomach to decrease the patients’ capacity to eat more. It is generally installed for a couple of months, and it removes the calories that contribute significantly. About 60% of the patients utilize this surgical procedure and need to remove it about 15 days or less after installation, as they have a hard time adapting to the presence of the balloon in their stomach.

The balloon generally helps patients to lose weight by 10-15 kg if it is kept in the stomach for 2 to 3 months. However, after removing, the stomach returns to its original size and capacity which enables the patient to consume large amounts of food again leading to unaltered weight again.

Do you recommend diets such as the low for weight loss?

These diets might be suitable for a certain category of obese patients who do not suffer from renal impairment or the presence of blood diseases, since the success of this diet is dependent on the high intake of protein. Those who wish to follow this type of diet should consult with a doctor or a dietitian first, so that some risks could be carried out to determine if the patient is a right fit for it.

Where is the overall obesity rate in Qatar?

According to 2019 statistics, 70% of the Qatari citizens are overweight, 37% of which are men and 63% are women, i.e., the obesity index in this category is greater than 35 kg/m², and 40% of Qatari nationals are moderately obese. Another study conducted in 2013 showed that 22% of females under the age of 20 and 33% of males of the same age are moderately obese. Qatari ranks 7th in the worst among nations that suffer from a high rate of obesity since the Gulf region after Kuwait, and 16% of Qatar’s citizens suffer from diabetes, which is closely linked to obesity.

What are some of the diseases that are caused by obesity?

Obesity is a catalyst in a large number of diseases including diabetes (type 2), heart problems, asthma, hypertension, kidney failure, cancer, stroke, heart diseases, irregular menstruation cycle, difficulty in breathing, sleep apnea, headache, migraine, high cholesterol, high liver fat, joint disabilities and arthritis. In obesity-related diseases, excess weight loss reduces mortality by 80-90% over a five-year period.

What are some of the diseases that cause obesity?

There are a limited number of diseases that cause obesity, including hypothyroidism and some rare hormonal conditions such as Prader-Willi syndrome and some such as Cushing syndrome. However, the percentage of those who are obese as a result of these diseases do not exceed 1% of the percentage of those who are obese. We find that most patients are more obese than others as a result of poor diet and exercise.

How many obesity-related operations and surgeries does Al Emadi Hospital perform on a daily basis?

Some 2-30 operations on a daily basis, and the number of patients who undergo those operations on both male and female patients is more than 200 kg, i.e., their obesity index is higher than 40.

What is the percentage of possible complications that arise when performing obesity operations? The rate of complications globally accepted and recognized is 3-4%, while the rate in Al Emadi Hospital does not exceed 0.7%, i.e., an average of one patient over 1,000 patients. The most common potential complications that could arise are the presence of leakage in the operated area of the stomach or a development of the balloon in the lungs, which can lead to respiratory cessation. We utilize the least invasive and safe methods during surgery to reduce the possibility of the occurrence of these complications during surgery.

Patients are always advised to perform operations in their place of residence so that adequate follow-ups with the surgeon who performed the operation can be carried out. Studies have shown that the result of the process in terms of weight loss is directly related to periodic follow-ups with the surgeon.

Finally, what distinguishes Al Emadi Hospital from other obesity treatment hospitals?

The main experience of the medical staff specialized in conducting these types of operations led by Dr. Mohammed Al Emadi, who has a long history in the battle against obesity, and the presence of a distinguished nursing staff and administrative team that have the expertise and experience. This is in addition to following the standards globally, especially in the United States of America for the treatment of obesity, and the use of the most advanced medical equipment and safety tools in this area.
Qatar’s continuous support for Somalia praised

President of Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) and Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Eng. Essa bin Hilal Al Kuwari participated in the opening day of the International Conference on Sustainable Energy Water and Environment Nexus in Desert Climates in Doha on December 1. In the inaugural conference of Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), part of HBKU, the conference is held at the Qatar National Convention Centre under the chairmanship of HE Dr. Mariam Al Maadeed, Assistant Director of Operations of the General Directorate of Quarantines and Border Security of the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Captain Al Sulaiti. The conference saw the participation of researchers, scientists and students who are working in the EWE Nexus.

Commenting on the conference, Eng. Al Kuwari said, “The energy-water-environment nexus is associated with human, economic, and environmental sustainability. The underpinning of the EWE Nexus is the recognition that solutions to environmental challenges must be sought through holistic, integrated approaches that consider the interdependence of energy, water and the environment. The importance of this nexus is further underscored by the fact that the world is facing significant challenges related to climate change, energy demand, and water scarcity.”

The conference also saw the attendance of researchers, scientists and students who are working in the EWE Nexus. The conference also heard from keynote speakers, including Dr. Richard O’Kennedy, Vice President for Research, Development and Innovation at HBKU; Dr. Mariam Al Maadeed, Assistant Director of Operations of the General Directorate of Quarantines and Border Security of the Ministry of Interior; Dr. Ahmad M. Hasnah, President, HBKU; Luca Sutera, Alistair Routledge, President and General Manager of ExxonMobil Qatar; Eng. Essa bin Hilal Al Kuwari; and other officials. The conference was held in the heart of the Mediterranean with its meaningful maritime culture.

Venetian art works made of handmade “veneto di Murano”, the authentic world-renowned Murano glass made by skilled glassblowers, are also on show. Artisanal handcrafted and painted plates from the Amalfi coast, the typical wind instrument — to entertain visitors with folk music. Mediterranean diet and Italian food products and perform live cooking shows to prepare traditional recipes.

The Italian Embassy returns for the second year at Katara Traditional Dhow Festival. In the festival’s showcase of the best Italian maritime traditions featuring the city of Venice and its island of Sardegna. Casa Italia – literally “Italian Home” — has been conceived as a place where hosting the exhibition of Italian artisanal and food productions, the performance of Italian musicians and chefs to show insights into the great variety of maritime traditions Italy shares with Qatar.

The first day of the conference also saw the attention of researchers, scientists and students who are working in the EWE Nexus.

Spotlight on rich Italian maritime heritage at Katara Dhow Festival

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FIFA Club World Cup comes to Qatar

The Peninsula

DOHA

Young people who participate in active sports and competition tournaments at Qatar Foundation have had the chance to get a close-up look at one of football’s most glittering pieces of silverware – the FIFA Club World Cup.

2019 edition of the international football tournament was held from December 11-21, with Qatar’s Stars League champions Al-Sadd being joined by the winners of Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, North America and Oceania to officially Decide soccer’s world club scene.

And ahead of the tournament, the Qatar Foundation City at the weekend, with school students who participated in the Qatar Foundation (QF) Junior Football League and university students who took part in a range of sports tournaments organized by QF Community Development throughout the year being able to have their pictures taken with the cup.

The trophy was also on display at the Toro Harris Market and the QF United event – organized by students from QF University’s College of Art and Qatar National Day at Education City’s Ceremonial Court.

“QF has a major football trophy and that represents our passion for the game, the students who play in our junior football league, and for those who participate in the sports competitions organized by our award-winning community," said Head of Sport Programming, QF.

We have had a great year of sporting tournaments in Education City in collaboration with organizations such as Qatar Baseball Federation and the Qatar Football Association, as we continue to see the standard of competitions rise every year. Continuing the year with the visit of the FIFA Club World Cup is a great way to round off the year," said Shadi Rahimi, Executive Producer for AJ+ with the trophy during the award ceremony.

The QF Junior Football League offers competitive sporting opportunities to 550 boys and girls every week. It is run in collaboration with Aspire Academy for Sports, Qatar Sports Cup and Qatar Foundation Community Development.

The American football match included water, ready to eat snacks, and hundreds of casu-

Al+ wins regional Emmy and three Excellence in Journalism awards

The Peninsula

DOHA

The Lone Star Emmy, which recognizes excellence in media broadcasting in the State of Texas, was held in November, with the Long Working Day of Human Interest, for Untold America’s ‘How Did You Pick That Name?’ a part of their Deal People Stories, tackled the misconception that Dead people can’t enjoy music, by telling the story of Shademon, a Dead dancer who is also an instructor at the American Sign Language Music Camp.

Emily Gibson, producer for Untold America, said, "I really want to thank my cow-

QCDC, Qu MoU to promote career guidance

The Peninsula

DOHA

Qatar Career Development Center has signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar University’s College of Education to promote academic and career guidance and advance professional development.

Ahmed Al Mansoori, Director, Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC) and Dr Ahmed Al Emadi, Dean of College of Education (QCD) signed the agreement during a ceremony held at Qatar University’s Education City Student Center.

Ahmed Al Mansoori said that the agreement with CE will further empower QCDC to achieve its goal of helping young people to make informed career decisions.

“By providing support for youth to grow professionally and achieve their life goals, we con-

Gulf Studies Forum to explore public policymaking and security in Gulf states

The Peninsula

DOHA

The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies will convene the Gulf Studies Forum on December 7, and 8, 2019 at its Doha premises.

This year, the Forum addresses Public Policymaking in the Gulf States (domestic issues track) and Threats to the Gulf States in the Regional and International Environment (international relations track).

The first track focuses on topics such as economic diversification and labour pol-

QCDC and Qu officials after the MoU signing at Education City Student Center.

QCDC and Qu officials after the MoU signing at Education City Student Center.

QC continues to provide relief to Albania’s earthquake victims

The Peninsula

DOHA

With funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFD), Qatar Charity through its office in Tirana, capital of Albania continues to provide emergency relief aid to the victims of the earthquake that struck several areas of the country a few days ago.

The assistance, which included winter clothes, masks and food baskets, benefited more than 500 people in several affected areas of the country, in addition to distribut-

QABox students explore cities of Ankara and Karabük

The Peninsula

DOHA

QABox students have recently returned from two international trips, to Ankara and Karabük, as part of cultural insti-

Al+ staff with the trophy during the award ceremony.

Al+ staff with the trophy during the award ceremony.


Ahmed Al Emadi, Dean of Education City Student Center.

Modern slavery policy does not set people free

F

in freedom and democracy in the United States, France and the United Kingdom: countries that viewed in the triumph of their values in the 1980s and 1990s as a time of trial, confronted with challenges from China and Russia. It is necessary to prevent the development of a new Cold War and redefine our relationship with the world.

The Communist bloc collapsed due to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and democratization in Eastern Europe and the West. This caused the belief that the values and prosperity of the Western bloc would spread, but the evaluation of days is nowhere to be seen now.

The United States is a nation that possesses overwhelming military and economic power, leading the stability and growth of the world as the sole superpower — the disruption of this structure can be described as a factor behind the present circumstances. Religious and ethnic conflicts were prevented from breaking out under the Cold War. But such strife erupted after its end, with multiple international conflicts and tensions between major powers.

The Trump administration regards China as one of the forces attempting to “change the status quo.” This seems to illustrate his view of the country as a threat to the United States. A strategy that is clear on the rights and interests of his country.

The United States and China are at odds in a wide range of areas from trade and security to human rights issues, as viewed from the Cold War era, in danger of collapsing.

Nato continues to be the backbone of peace and stability. We should not be surprised if we disagree, but stay united in the face of the Nato lies in the fact that we have always overcome these, and stayed united around our core task to protect each other.

NATO’s Secretary General

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EDITORIAL

Protecting social media

Modern slavery policy does not set people free

Recent years have seen a huge increase in public, political and media attention focused on “modern slavery.” Widespread action and concern have been spurred by the fact that all societies, “modern slavery” is understood to be a situation in which a person is exploited, forced to work, and unable to exercise their human rights and freedoms. It is typically understood as analogous to terms like “human trafficking” or “forced labour” and essentially as being “unfree.”

Over the past three decades, the number of international regimes focused on the issue of modern slavery has increased dramatically, from a handful in the 1990s to many hundreds today. In addition, governments around the world have adopted a wide variety of anti-modern slavery measures.

NGOs and international agencies on anti-modern slavery policies, while media outlets have provided continued, often sensationalist, coverage of the issue; it has major policy implications.

And, of course, the fact that this is the case only further emphasises the need for a coherent policy response to the problems of modern slavery.

The Chinese government has announced that it has already implemented a series of measures to combat modern slavery, including strengthening laws, increasing inspections, and establishing mechanisms to monitor and prevent the practice.

This re-territorialisation has radical implications. It must be viewed as a structural and not merely individual phenomenon, because that being vulnerable to it involves individuals the way that structural limits one’s effective power to set free.

In this sense, any coherent policy response to the problems of modern slavery would have to focus on the expansion of this effective power for all people.

A file picture of children and teenagers sitting together to be registered by officials during a raid on a shrimp shed suspected of using slave labour in Samut Sakhon, Thailand.
Sterling Group begins exciting ‘Dine & Win’ promotion

The promotion will start today and run until the second week of March 2020. The promotion will offer diners to win two Land Cruisers and/or food coupons worth QR50,000. Two separate raffle draws will be conducted at the participating restaurants, Ramada Signal, and will be held on January 30, 2020 and on March 11, 2020.

Sterling Restaurants, a pioneer in providing exceptional promotions, has offered to its diners through this popular restaurant chain in Qatar, is once again back with an exciting ‘Dine & Win’ promotion this month. Sterling has always been evolving, changing, modifying and adapting to new business environments and needs. It has a huge network of qualified and experienced employees in all areas of the business who contribute to the company’s success. It is also supported by other divisions of the company in Qatar, as well as the region, to ensure maximum efficiency and output.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications MOTC’s National Cybersecurity Drill ‘Star 7’ begins

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) held a national cybersecurity drill every year to achieve the objectives of the Qatar National Cybersecurity Strategy in terms of enhancing national cybersecurity capacities and boosting cyber attacks response preparedness like detecting, investigating, managing and responding to cyber threats.

MOTC Undersecretary of Cybersecurity, Eng. Khalid Al Haqiq, said that such national drills help measure the level of maturity across all institutions and entities in Qatar regarding defending their electronic assets and addressing weaknesses. These drills will be held, he added, hoping that the information security sector must suggest appropriate solutions and enhance the relevant policies and standards.

The 7th National Cybersecurity Drill (Star 7) was held on the 3rd and 4th of December 2019 at the Qatar National Cybersecurity Center’s headquarters in Al Rayyan. The drill, which focused on securing major events from a cybersecurity standpoint with deep details and more thorough exercises than previous exercises, started with the Preparatory for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Eng. Nora Yousef Al Abdulla, Director, Qatar Cybersecurity Protection at the Qatar Security Sector, MOTC.

The star scenarios were designed based on the outcomes of all previous exercises, in addition to the latest cybersecurity threats that target Qatar and the region in general, she noted.

Year after year, she said, the scenarios of each national drill are becoming closer to reality where problem solvers are divided into two teams: the operation team and the technology team with each of them having to face and address the challenges their own way upon being given scenarios based on teamwork, which means communicating in any technique or language, understanding of the guest’s needs and the ability to excel in service standards.

Qatar Charity honours brilliant students of ‘Future’s Leaders’

Qatar Charity (QC) has honoured school students with outstanding academic performance, many of their teachers, some of ideal families during a ceremony attended by numerous pairs of parents, media and social influencers.

The honorees of the students, teachers, as part of its commendable social care, welfare, well-being and Qatar Charity to the “Future’s Leaders” to encourage them to continue their magnificent performance. At the ceremony, 63 brilliant students, both male and female, who performed very well academically during the school year 2018-2019, received the honor. Besides, nine male and female teachers were honored, in recognition of their efforts in support of the students in addition to honoring three families for their efforts in support of their students as well as three children, who are students of Qatar Primary School for Boys and Qatar Primary School for Girls. and an opera house entitled “Vision of Education in Qatar: Students of Qatar Primary School for Boys – a poem entitled “A Goal for a” by a student Fahad Al Abidh, and an opera house entitled “Qatar Charity Center for Community Development in Al Rayyan.”

Qatar Charity also hosted the support of the ceremony (Justice Medical Center, the best of the ceremony) Mandani Oriental Hotel, Doha, the guests of honor. The ceremony was attended by Ayesh Al Qahtani, Qatar Charity Center for Community Development in Al Rayyan, and Qatar Primary School for Boys. Speaking at the ceremony, Jasim Al Emaid, director of the Quality Enhancement & Development Department at Qatar Charity, expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this remarkable achievement.

The enthusiasm of the ‘Future’s Leaders’

One of the most downstream advantages of this unique experience was its unique feature where the participants had the opportunity to witness the heart of the Falcon’s Nest, which included the most prestigious awards ceremony of the event, the Qatar National Cybersecurity Drill. The enthusiasm of the ‘Future’s Leaders’ was evident in the activities and a host of activities that engaged and entertained the students.

The enthusiastic students of the ‘Future’s Leaders’ were happy to be part of the event. They were thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of this amazing experience. They were overjoyed to be able to participate in such an event that would be a memorable experience for them. Overall, it was an outstanding event that would be remembered for a long time to come. The enthusiasm of the students was evident in their actions and their willingness to participate in future events of this type. The enthusiasm of the students was evident in their actions and their willingness to participate in future events of this type.
**IRAQI POLITICIANS DEBATE NEW PM AS VIOLENCE HITS CITIES**

Iraqi politicians and their regional allies gathered in Baghdad yesterday for a day and a half of talks, effectively delaying an election that had been set for tomorrow.

The talks were aimed at settling differences between the supporters of the country’s two main political blocs, who have been at odds for months over who should become the next prime minister.

But they failed to deliver a clear breakthrough, leaving the possibility of a new government hanging in the balance.

A statement from the talks’ organizers said they had made “some progress,” but that more work was needed.

The talks were mediated by the United Nations, which has been trying to help Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion and the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Iraq has been grappling with political paralysis and violence in recent months, with a series of bomb attacks and assassinations targeting politicians and government officials.

The situation in Iraq has been further complicated by the ongoing conflict with ISIS, which has been fighting a guerrilla war against the Iraqi security forces.

The talks were supposed to focus on the formation of a new government, but they also touched on other issues, including the country’s economic crisis and the need for international investment.

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An official from the United Nations said the talks had been “useful” but that more work was needed.

The talks were expected to continue today, with the aim of reaching a deal on the formation of a new government.

**Tehran opens to resuming ties with Saudi Arabia**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (right), with Foreign Minister of Oman, Yusuf bin Alawi. at the Presidential Palace in Tehran, Iran, yesterday. Rouhani said Tehran has no objection to resuming ties with Saudi Arabia in a bid to maintain security and stability in the region.

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Nasa locates debris from crashed India moon lander

The US space agency Nasa said yesterday that it has found the debris from an Indian moon lander, which crashed on the lunar surface in September.

The US space agency released a photo showing the site of the lander’s impact and the debris, crediting an Indian engineer for helping locate the site.

The engineer, Shamugam Suresh, was, Nasa said, the first to discover the location of the debris since September.

The agency said in a statement that Suresh, who has been working with Nasa’s mission to Mars, had located the debris about 750 meters (half a mile) northwest of the main crash site.

Suresh’s next few days of work led to the discovery of the crash site, Suresh said. “I searched around the north of the landing spot and found a small little dot. When I compared it to the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter image of the site from the last nine months, I located the debris and reached out to Nasa,” Suresh told PTI.

The 35-year-old engineer announced his discovery on Twitter on October 1 after which Nasa performed additional searches in the area and made an official announcement.

The space agency said that after receiving Subramanian’s findings, its team of engineers identified the site by comparing before and after images. Nasa also said: “Despite the loss, getting that close to the surface was an amazing achievement.”

Nasa’s space agency lost touch with the Vikram lunar lander after it crashed during its final approach to the moon’s south pole to deliver a rover to search for signs of water.

A successful landing would have made India the fourth country to land on a vessel to the lunar surface, and only the third to operate a robotic rover there.


dengue outbreak in Bengal leaves 27 dead and 44,000 affected

At least 27 people have died, and around 44,000 people affiliated with dengue in West Bengal this year. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held the State Assembly yesterday.

Bengal’s health minister said that the number of dengue-related deaths have gone down this year. “Last year, 86 people had died due to the disease. This year the number of deaths have come down to 27,” he added.

The government has further asked to block the outbreak. Around 44,000 people were hit by the dengue virus, she said. Banerjee said 1,000 doctors and 6,000 nurses were working to contain the disease, with the force of dengue being up to 474 crore to control the outbreak.

Andhra temple priest held for molesting minor girl

Andhra Pradesh Police have arrested a temple priest, who was on the run after raping a minor tribal girl in Kadapa district. D. Ravi alias Srinivasa, was apprehended by the police after they were alerted by his counterparts in Kadapa.

According to the police, the priest, who had changed his getup and was calling up his family by using the mobile phone of others, was arrested in Amaravati.

The priest had allegedly raped 14-year-old tribal girl in the pretext of teaching her the Bhagavad Gita. The incident had occurred in Boddavattapalli in Kadapa district on November 27.

Punjab signs pact to study hyperloop transport feasibility

The Punjab government yesterday signed a pact with US-based Hyperloop One to explore the feasibility of a hyperloop transport infrastructure project in Amritsar-Ludhiana-Chandigarh national capital region (NCR) to improve the micro-city transport in the region.

“We signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Los Angeles-based Virgin Hyperloop to conduct a feasibility study for hyperloop transport in the region,” said Vini Mahajan, state Additional Chief Secretary (Investment Promotion), who was present during the ceremony.

Campanaing for crucial Karnataka bypolls ends

Campanaing for the crucial by-elections to 15 assembly seats in Karnataka tomorrow ended last evening, with leaders and candidates of political parties and others doing their utmost to woo the electorate as the results could influence the state’s future political course.

The 13-day campaign concluded peacefully in all the 15 assembly constituencies. Barraging incidents, there were no law and order issues, as officials lent a finti vig for any of the violation of the model code of conduct, an election official said.

Polling for the 15 seats will be held from 1 am to 5 pm and votes will be counted on December 9.

Farmers’ sit-in against govt policies

Farmers sit-on track trains during a demonstration to demand complete farm debt waiver and to protest against agricultural policies of central and state government near Rayapalli village some 35 km from Amritsar in the northern Indian state of Punjab, yesterday.

Dengue continues to be one of the biggest health challenges in the country, besides cancer, and people living in urban areas are more susceptible to the disease.

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Pakistani govt forms committee to build consensus on army chief’s extension

While the PTI government maintains that it only needs a simple majority to pass the required legislation, it will still need Opposition’s support in the Senate, where it lacks majority.

Defence Minister Pervez Khattak and Minister for Planning, Load Shedding, and the Reconstruction of War-Affected Areas Asad Umar have formed a three-member committee to commence work on drafting new legislation codifying the modalities on the government’s decision to remove the army chief's tenure of service.

The Supreme Court last week asked the government to file an affidavit regarding the need to extend the tenure of Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for six months on the condition that the govt would use that time to enact legislation to remove Bajwa’s control over the army, concerning the reappointment or extension of the army chief's tenure.

The committee, comprising Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak, and Minister for Planning, Load Shedding, and the Reconstruction of War-Affected Areas Asad Umar, has been tasked with formulating legislation to extend Bajwa’s tenure when the parliament resumes on December 2, before the current parliament’s tenure ends on January 3.

While Parliament will meet again in an extraordinary session sometime in December, the government has always been maintaining that the Opposition lacks the numbers required to prevent the passage of legislation in the Senate, where it lacks a majority.

The process of calling a meeting of all the political parties and leaders of the Senate, where the government lacks the numbers, will begin from January 3.

The parliamentary committee will have to deliberate on the possibility of extending an army chief’s tenure of service and the conditions of service of the COAS through legislation codifying the modalities on the government’s decision to remove the army chief's tenure of service.

The government has also clarified that there will be no major implications on the economic activities and security situation in the country.

The government and the opposition are equally represented in the committee with six members from each side. Under parliamentary rules, the panel has to make a decision with a two-thirds majority, which means that in order to approve any individual for the post, the nominee’s name must be supported by at least eight members.

For the vacant seat from Sindh and Balochistan, which will be filled by the chairman of the relevant provincial assemblies, the parliamentary committee has recommended the names of Shah Jatoi, Rauf Atta, and Ruba Gurnam for Balochistan and the names of Naseer Umar Wazir and Abdur Razaq for Sindh.

Approval of these names will be placed before Prime Minister Imran Khan for his approval and then before the National Assembly to confirm the appointment.

If the government and the opposition approve the nominees, respectively, the names will be presented in the Senate, where the government lacks the numbers to pass any legislation without the support of the Opposition.

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Saatish Shrotri, who was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan (CEC) by President Arif Alvi in July, will be the next chief election commissioner of Pakistan. The parliamentary committee has recommended the name of Saatish Shrotri for the post.

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Typhoon Kammuri barred access to the Philippines with fierce winds and rain yesterday, leaving at least 12 people dead, forcing hundreds of thousands of villagers to high ground and communities and prompting officials to shut Manila’s international airport.

Kammuri toppled trees and electrical posts, toppled roofs and scattered leaves and gravel across the country. High winds blew across the southern provinces of the Philippines and left the city of Legazpi in Albay province looking like it was hit by a hurricane.

At least four people died and several others were reported injured, with authorities warning the low casualty figure to the east of the typhoon was a fluke.

Six months of unrest have tipped Hong Kong’s already weak economy into recession. The pro-democracy protests have turned peaceful demonstrations into violent clashes between protesters and police last week.

Manila International Airport was shut for seven hours yesterday and more than 400 domestic and international flights were cancelled due to typhoon winds, flash floods and landslides.

A village was evacuated while fitting the tarred roof of its house in February as the two Camarines Sur provinces and communities in the north-east Bicol region, regional government said.

Evacuations in areas of high risk communities and providing supplies to huge numbers of residents in the upcoming days are among the actions being taken.

Kammuri pounding rain and wind damaged the airport terminal, generators, a collision of a ceiling, scattered sharing in the entrance area and departure areas and shuttering glass panels. A truck turned on its side after being battered by strong winds in the city.

A heavy rainfall in Hong Kong region which lasted post due to the airport closures, airport manager Ed Moreland said.

At least 12 people moved thousands of Roy residents attending a camp in the mountains in the town of Bontok in the southern province of Zamboanga.

The movement has undergone several competitions in the Southeast Asian Games, which is hosting, because of the stormy weather, including wind surfing, poles and tennis matches in Manila and outbound provinces.

President Donald Trump signed the US grants to the city.

“Again, we’re seeing violent typhoons in the region. The United States and North Korea has been hit with dozens of charges from high-end real estate to 1MDB and SRC. I find it difficult to understand how the US can help 1MDB and SRC,” Najib said.

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The United States and South Korea have reached an agreement to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea, which was agreed to in 2017.

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Finland PM resigns; coalition expected to survive

AP - HELSINKI

Prime Minister of Finland Antti Rinne (right) shakes hands with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto as he hands over his resignation at the President’s official residence Mäntyniemi in Helsinki, yesterday.

Rinne resigned yesterday after failing to secure support from his Centre Party and the Social Democrats for his government to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new government has been appointed, the president said.

"All of the government parties have confidence in me, except the Centre Party. When I was chosen as Prime Minister, I made the Centre Party confident in me. I made the decision for that reason," Rinne said.

The Centre Party was angered after the prime minister was accused of lying by the head of Finland Post — the country's main mail service — over reforms to the pay and conditions of postal workers.

"All of the government parties are confident in me regarding the government programme," Rinne told reporters.

Finland Post withdrew its refusals a day after Rinne was asked to resign by Rinne's Social Democratic coalition partner, Prime Minister Sanna Marin.

Rinne said his government had failed to implement the government's five-year programme and had faced challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic and a deadly road accident.
Climate change is harming human health as people suffer from heat stress, extreme weather and mosquito-borne diseases including malaria, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

The UN agency, in a report on a recent climate summit in Madrid, urged governments to set ambitious targets to reduce heat-trapping carbon emissions saying it could save a million lives a year through lower air pollution alone.

“Health is paying the price of the climate crisis. Why? Because our lungs, our brains, our cardiovascular system is very much suffered from the consequences of climate change which are over-lapping very much with the causes of air pollution,” Maria Neira, Director of WHO’s Department of Health Systems and Change and Health, told the media.

Yet less than 6% of international financing for climate action goes to the health sector, she said, calling it “absolutely outrageous.”

Global temperatures could rise sharply this century with wide-ranging and destructive consequences after greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels last year, international climate experts warned last week.

“WHO considers that climate change is potentially the greatest threat to public health of the 21st Century,” Neira said.

Three Russian sisters — Krestina, Angelina and Maria Khushtarakyan — stabilized their father Mikhail to death in July, after suffering years of beatings and assault.

The Russian Investigative Committee said in a statement that it had completed a probe into the killing and was recommending charges of murder and complicity to commit murder against the two older sisters. Krestina and Angelina were both young adults.

“The reason for that is that, unless we cut our carbon emissions, then we will continue to undermine our food supplies, our water supplies and our air quality — everything that we need to maintain the good health of our populations,” she said.

The same sources cause air pollution and climate change, Campbell-Lendrum added.

To maintain the good health of our populations, our air quality must improve, our water supplies and our air must improve. And that’s what we need to do to improve the health of our country,” he said.

That is where the big wins is,” she said.

Several hundred migrants who took to the streets to protest against Turkish camp conditions in Vucjak have worsened further.

Vucjak has almost disappeared in the mud and garbage as migrants will have to dodge landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In Vucjak, some tents have also been destroyed, according to local aid workers.

“People are asking just one thing to close it (the camp) and to make it possible for the people in Vucjak to survive the winter.”

Moscow was reacting after successive leaks and distribution of the classified documents online resembled a dis-information campaign discovered this year that originated in Russia.

In a separate action after the government promised a gradual hike in wages, Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic has described Montenegro’s move to open up to Nato as “a historic step forward”.

Students have returned to the classroom today, but hundreds of them still kept at home to protest against a rise in salaries.

If the Macron comments set off a chain reaction, there are still some states that have not paid up in full,” he said.

His comments are suitable only to those who recognise the Kurdish militant YPG as terrorists, Erdogan said last week.

The unions agreed to stop the action after the government promised a rise in salaries.

The opposition Labour Party said on November 27 that the classified documents showed the ruling Conservatives were plotting to pull the state’s national health service down. As a result, the government’s August and November announcements of a rise in salaries were “political mischief”, it said.

Following the meeting, a new round of supplies will be delivered to Nato, and now I’ve raised the bar for all of them,” he said.

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Three Russian sisters face murder charges over abusive father’s death

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Evidence of Trump misconduct ‘overwhelming’

The 300-page report, meant as the basis for articles of impeachment, accused Trump of endangering national security and of an unpardonable effort to stifle the probe into claims he pressed Ukraine for dirt on Democratic political rival Joe Biden.

“The evidence of the President’s misconduct is overwhelming, and so too is the existence of his obstruction of Congress,” the report said.

The panel said that congressional investigations “substantially overwhelm” the privacy interests imputed by disclosure of financial documents. Deutsche Bank has long been a principal lender for Trump’s real estate business. A 2017 disclosure form showed that Trump had at least $1.6 billion in liabilities to the bank.

Congressional investigators have already identified possible failures in Deutsche Bank’s money laundering controls during its dealings with Ukrainian oligarchs, people familiar with the matter have told Reuters.

Trump has sought to keep his financial and tax records private. He Brock with traditionalists by not releasing his tax returns from the years 2016 and as president. In separate legal cases, Trump has blocked House Democrats from obtaining his tax and financial records.

The Supreme Court as soon as Tuesday could decide whether to hear Trump’s appeal of lower court orders that allowed Mazars LLP’s long-term accounting firm to provide local prosecutors with financial and corporate tax returns from 2015 to 2018 as part of an ongoing investigation.

The case is due to file by Thursday’s appeal deadline in Washington directing Mazars to turn over its financial records to the House Oversight Committee.

The report, which will form the basis for the House Judiciary Committee’s draft report on the House investigation into the Trump administration, spells out two key areas of wrongdoing:

In the first instance, it alleged, Trump conditioned bilateral meetings, with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, on opening several politically-motivated investigations into Trump’s political rivals.

To the Trump Organization’s executive vice president Joe Biden, the Democratic front-runner in 2020, the 2020 election race.

Second, the report said Trump actively sought to avoid “quid pro quo” by refusing to provide documents to investigators, pressuring witnesses from appearing, and threatening some of those who did appear.

Trump, speaking at a wide-ranging news conference at a NATO summit in London, lashed out at Democrats in the House of Representatives who are leading the impeachment inquiry into the Ukraine matter and denounced the committee as “unAmerican”.

“Don’t let them cops come out here. If you don’t have good cops you have no government,” Trump said.

Republicans, in an advance rebuttal report released on Monday, said Democrats had not established that Trump had committed an impeachable offense. The panel is debating whether the Republican President misused the power of his office to pressure Ukraine to launch an inquiry into the 2020 presidential election rival.

Evidence of his obstruction of Congress, which the court has already accepted, is clear. If the issue is clear, the political prohibition is less so.”

US court orders banks to release Trump financial documents

A US appeals court yesterday handed President Donald Trump another defeat in his bid to keep his financial records secret, in a bid to tackle unpredictable scheduling practices that use algo-

US court blocks resumption of federal executions

A US appeals court ruled on Monday that the government could not resume its use of capital punishment, in a setback for President Donald Trump’s advocacy of the death penalty.

Trump’s bid to block two House Republican committees from obtaining records related to the Trump Organization’s hotel business has been a principal lender for Trump’s real estate business. A 2017 disclosure form showed that Trump had at least $1.6 billion in liabilities to the bank.

Congressional investigators have already identified possible failures in Deutsche Bank’s money laundering controls during its dealings with Ukrainian oligarchs, people familiar with the matter have told Reuters.

In yesterday’s decision, a 2-1 majority of the 2nd Circuit panel rejected Trump’s argument that Congress did not have a valid purpose for seeking his records, and that the enforcing the subpoenas would compromise his and his family’s privacy.

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In yesterday’s decision, a 2-1 majority of the 2nd Circuit panel rejected Trump’s argument that Congress did not have a valid purpose for seeking his records, and that the enforcing the subpoenas would compromise his and his family’s privacy.

The panel said that congressional investigations “substantially overwhelm” the privacy interests imputed by disclosure of financial documents.

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Elon Musk goes on trial in US for defamation over tweet

REUTERS CALEDONIA

Former US President Jimmy Carter released from a hospital in Georgia the day before Thanksgiving, was admitted to another facility over the holiday weekend for treatment of a urinary tract infection, the Carter Center said in a statement.

"He is feeling better and looking forward to returning home," the statement said of Carter, who at age 95 has lived longer after leaving the White House than any former president in US history.

The former peanut farmer turned US president said, according to the statement released by the governor, that he was a "PR stunt" and that Musk could post "stick his submarine where it hurts." Two days later, Musk lashed out at Unsworth in a series of tweets, including one which called him a "pedo guy" — a term he has denied Musk's accusations. To win the defamation case, Musk needs to show that Unsworth was negligent in making the false statements. With 29.8 million followers, Musk's Twitter account is a major source of publicity for his electric car company. The defamation case is among the last issues hanging over Musk from a turbulent 2018 and early 2019, when he repeatedly clashed with Wall Street and short sellers at Tesla struggled with production problems.

The trial began after Musk offered a mini-submarine from his SpaceX rocket company to help with the rescue. Unsworth said on May 31, 2018, three days after the rescue was completed, he was surprised and "a TRASH!" and that Musk was "pedo guy" on Twitter.

Musk says Unsworth, who was the only person to speak on Duque's behalf at the press conference later that day, was "ready to meet" with protesters. Duque also said he was ready to talk to protesters, but asked them to "calm down and not shout." He said he was ready to meet with protesters and that he was prepared to meet with protesters.

A US Marine caught smuggling guns into Haiti has told investigators he would help the country's military learn marksmanship, according to Tuesday's criminal complaint.

The US Marine charged with sending arms to Haiti was caught smuggling firearms on November 11, Veterans Day, according to the court documents. The Miami Herald first reported on what was in the documents.

The criminal complaint that was filed last week in a North Carolina federal court charges Jacques Yves Duroseau, a retired US Marine, with illegally exporting firearms.

The US Marine, who has a criminal history in Haiti, is accused of exporting firearms and body armor to Haiti.

US Marine charged with illegally flying guns into Haiti

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More than 28,000 visit QRI for therapy this year

A faculty member from the College of Islamic Studies (CIS) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) recently participated at this year’s World Halal Summit, in Istanbul.

The summit is one of the largest halal events that gather leading experts from around the world and discuss current issues in the halal sector. Dr. Dalal Assauli, assistant professor and program coordinator of the MSc in Islamic Finance program, gave a presentation on efforts to embed sustainability into the Islamic financial industry. This began by emphasizing that the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide opportunities for the sector to incorporate sustainability principles into its activities to better support development objectives.

Key enabling factors include financial innovation, partnerships, awareness and impact assessment. Dr. Assauli also outlined how HBKU’s Islamic finance programs can support fulfilment of SDGs on a global level.

On educating current and future practitioners in the Islamic finance world, Dr. Dalal Assauli said: “The Islamic financial industry is well positioned to play a key role in achieving the SDGs. Our Islamic finance programs at HBKU offer a great platform for students and professionals to attain the skills needed to understand global sustainable development challenges, and propose viable ethical financial alternatives to tackle them.”

Ahmadul said the implementation of the stroke physical therapy CPG has been significant in terms of adding clinical decision making and applying evidence-based treatment.

In 2014, under the guidance and vision of the Chief of Physiotherapy, Noora Al Mudahka, the teams with the Physiotherapy Department included the adherence of QRI’s physiotherapists to a specific guideline for post-acute stroke treatment. She said that QRI’s results are comparable with international benchmarks and says since introducing the CPG, the Department has successfully rehabilitated thousands of stroke patients.

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Noora Al Mudahka, Chief of Physiotherapy, says the adherence of QRI’s physiotherapists to the stroke clinical practice Guideline (CPG) has helped to enhance the effectiveness of post-acute stroke physical therapy. She notes that QRI’s results are comparable with international benchmarks and says since introducing the CPG, the Department has successfully rehabilitated thousands of stroke patients.

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THE PENINSULA

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UN: 2010s hottest decade in history

This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said yesterday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity’s ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organization said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average between 1850-1900.

That puts 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest years ever recorded, and possibly the hottest non-El Nino year yet. Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said.

Oceans, which absorb up to 90 percent of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases, are now at their highest recorded temperatures. The world’s seas are now a quarter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

In October, the global mean sea level reached the highest on record, fuelled by the 329 billion tonnes of ice lost from Greenland’s ice sheet in 12 months.

Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last. And far from climate change being a phenomenon for future generations to confront, the effects of humanity’s insatiable growth at any cost consumption means millions are already counting the damage.

The report said more than 10 million people were internally displaced in the first half of 2019 — seven million directly due to extreme weather events such as storms, flooding and drought.

By the end of the year, the new displacement of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases is now at her highest recorded temperatures. The world’s seas are now a quarter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

QSTP’s XLR8 Program invites aspiring entrepreneurs to make their mark

QSTP, Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP)’s flagship accelerator program which, since its inception four years ago, has contributed to the growing innovation ecosystem in Qatar and propelled the growth of aspiring tech entrepreneurs around the world.

Out of the startups that have emerged from XLR8 so far, a number of companies have achieved success both in Qatar and foreign markets. These include WiseCap, a company that develops wearable technologies to improve safety of construction workers and increase productivity on sites, and Stillic, a fully integrated portal that brings together academic planning, data analytics and career navigation.

Both companies have successfully expanded beyond Qatar, making their mark in international markets such as China, the US and Mexico.

The intensive ten-week training and mentorship program, XLR8, provides participants with the opportunity to interact with like-minded people to explore innovative solutions to an array of challenges, and equip them with the tools necessary to succeed.

It features three modules that take participants on a stimulating journey to transform their ideas into products with the potential to make a commercial impact.

First module helps participants identify target markets, design an early prototype, and solicit customer feedback, while the second module encourages participants to assess whether the market is large enough to sustain a startup. The third module trains them on how to attract investment.