Sheikha Moza inaugurates DICD

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Founder of Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QFSW), inaugurated Doha International Conference on Disability and Development (DICDD) during a grand ceremony held at Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC) yesterday.

The conference, which is being held under the theme ‘Leaving No-One Behind’, has been organised by QFSW in collaboration with local and international partners and will conclude tomorrow.

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser officially inaugurated the accompanying exhibition, which showcased local initiatives, projects, and assistive technologies that are today empowering people with disabilities.

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Amir sends condolences to US President

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani sent yesterday cables of condolences to H E President of the United States of America Donald Trump on the victims of the shoot-out that took place in Florida, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.
Sometimes, I even feel that the exceptions we make for people with disabilities, with the intention of showing sympathy toward them, do more harm than good.

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser said: “During my preparation to participate in Disability Week, I wanted to be able to identify with those involved in this event. I read The Days of Taha Hussein, known as the blind dean of Arabic literature. He mentioned how, according to his personal experience, a child with disability is trapped between the sympathy of their family and the negativity — even mockery — that they experience outside the home. These two behaviors bring us into new opposition. As an expression of disability, a child because they prevent it from naturally growing and organically integrating into society. Unfortunately, and evidently, a major change has not occurred in dealing with the issue of disability. Children with disabilities still suffer from what Taha Hussein was talking about seven decades ago, if time has stopped.

In order to restore time’s passage and address the discrimination resulting from the current and past concept of disability, we have a great deal of work ahead of us to correct the consequences of those misconceptions and the perceptions that followed as a result.

To understand just how much work is required, there are 1.5 billion people with disabilities around the globe and ensuring for improving education for people with disabilities. More than half of them are children and teenagers, due to effects of wars, conflicts, and poverty. The time has come to put an end to this kind of blind discrimination. We can achieve this through the meaningful employment of this large number that has been marginalized for the sake of disability, especially those talents among them.

Despite Qatar’s leadership in being one of the most supportive countries for people with disabilities, we are looking to see more support in promoting education and employment opportunities. We are more optimistic after what we have seen the country’s decision-makers pledge, and from our side, we share this commitment.

“We must collaborate globally to devise mechanisms to stop the waste in resources caused by the lack of investment and empowerment for people with disabilities and enable them to play active roles in the development of society. We can achieve this through the meaningful employment of this large number that has been marginalized for the sake of disability, especially those talents among them.”

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Founder of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, met with Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H E Amina J. Mohammed, on the sidelines of the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the rights of persons with disabilities and their empowerment as a vital part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. RIGHT: H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser during a tour of the exhibition set up for the Doha International Conference on Disability and Development, which showcases the successes achieved by persons with disabilities.

PENINSULA

From Page 1

21°C 28°C

Minimum Maximum

Prayer Timings

FAJR 04.46 AM
SUSHA 06.07 AM
ZUHUR 11.25 AM
ASR 05.15 PM
MID 04.46 PM
ISHA 06.16 PM

Weather Today

There are 40 million people with disabilities in the world. This makes it blatantly clear: that disability levels are an indicator of a nation’s development, wherein development and stability declines, the percentage of people with disabilities increases.

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser said: “In the Arab world, it is estimated that there are 40 million people with disabilities. More than half of them are children and teenagers, due to effects of wars and conflicts, as we have seen in Iraq since 1980 and Syria, Libya, and Yemen since 2011.”

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Pakistan PM condoles with Prime Minister

Prime Minister of Pakistan, H E Imran Khan, has sent a letter of condolence to Prime Minister and Interior Minister, H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, on the death of his mother, Sheikha Mariam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah.

In his message, the Prime Minister of Pakistan said he was deeply saddened by the loss experienced by His Excellency and his family. Further, the Government and people of Pakistan join H E and his entire family in this moment of grief. He prayed to Allah the Gracious to shower His blessings on the soul of the deceased, said a statement issued by the Embassy of Pakistan.

Qatar strongly condemns attack on passenger bus in Kenya

The State of Qatar has strongly condemned the attack that targeted a passenger bus in Kotulo area in Kenya, causing several deaths. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the State of Qatar’s firm position against violence and terrorism, whatever the motives and reasons.

The statement expressed the condolences of the State of Qatar to the victims’ families, the government and people of Kenya, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery.

Prime Minister receives condolences from Omani Interior Minister

Prime Minister of Oman, H E Minister of Interior, H E Sheikh Ahmad bin Haris Bin Haitham Al Busaid, met with the Omani Minister of Interior at the latter’s office. An agreement was signed between the two countries in the field of national security, strategic, joint cooperation, and counter-terrorism.
MINISTER OF EDUCATION PRAISES SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TESTS PERFORMANCE

Minister of Education and Higher Education, H E Dr Mohammad Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi, during his visit to the QNCC yesterday.

Security arrangements during 24th Gulf Cup Championship praised

Major General Khalifa Mekhail Al Nuaimi, Head of the 24th Gulf Championship Command Center Unit at the Security Committee of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, has praised the high level performance done by the various units operating within the committee.

He said that the command center unit implements during this tournament the tasks and duties necessary to secure the current and upcoming tournaments up to the 2022 World Cup.

He pointed out that the tasks of the championship command center unit include operations to ensure the flow of information, communication between all units of the Security Committee, and communicate information to the main center in the central operations room of the National Command Center from all operating rooms in all stadiums.

He added that operations rooms have been prepared for all stadiums equipped with the highest technologies managed by highly qualified cadres to manage the event. To further ensure the flow of information and the absence of any deficiencies or interruptions in the communication process, cars were equipped with all systems to act as mobile operating rooms to intervene in the event of any malfunctions in the systems inside the fixed operating rooms in the stadiums.

Major Al Nuaimi hailed all the cadres working within the security committee units for their high efficiency in managing the event and performing the tasks assigned to them in the best way.

He said that this shows a clear indication of the security committee’s readiness to receive the most prominent and bigger event that sports fans expect with passion. World Cup 2022 Championship, and he praised the great cooperation the sports fans showed with field units in the stadiums and inspection tents for female fans to the inspection entrances. She also praised the great understanding shown by the female fans to the inspection procedures and their compliance with the instructions.

 Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences and great sympathy to

H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani
Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

on the demise of his beloved

Mother

Sheikha Mariam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah

We pray to Almighty Allah to grant Jannat to the departed soul and patience for the bereaved family

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إذنالله واقتليه و زجعونه

Lulu
Mental Health Services Guide launched in Qatar

Qatar’s first Guide to Mental Health Services has been launched during the 8th Qatar International Psychiatry and Mental Health Conference, by H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health.

The Guide has been developed by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in partnership with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Sidra Medicine, and Naufar with the aim of making it easier for people to access mental health services in Qatar and help them choose the right service for their needs.

H E Dr Al Kuwari said that the provision of mental health services has expanded in recent years. “Qatar’s healthcare sector has undergone enormous growth throughout this decade and the expansion of mental health services has been an important part of this transformation,” Qatar’s health system now offers a wide range of mental health services and it is vitally important that people understand how to access these services and can choose the right service for their individual needs. The launch of the new Guide provides a clear and concise resource for mental health services in Qatar,” said Dr Al Kuwari.

The publication of the Guide to Mental Health Services follows the launch last year by the MoPH of the three guides to healthcare services in Qatar, one each for children, adults, and the elderly. The Guides explain everything people need to know about accessing general healthcare services in Qatar.

Mental Health Services Guide launched in Qatar

H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health, formally launched Qatar’s first Guide to Mental Health Services during the 8th Qatar International Psychiatry and Mental Health Conference.

The Pavilion of the State of Qatar, during this conference, by H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health, will offer many activities, presentations, and workshops. Experts and specialists within the change, presented by a number of Qatars role in combating climate change, will be addressed by mental health disorder at some point in their lives. One of the main challenges to an up-for-date and innovative training that can help people to talk openly and seek help. For this reason, it is essential for people to make people aware of the services available to them and that they exist and how to access these services,” said Al Raisi.

Qatar National Vision 2030 2018-2022) and Mental Health and Well-being services (HMC’s Mental Health Service) said the launch of the Guide highlights the system-wide approach to mental health services in Qatar.

A major focus of the recent expansion of mental health services in Qatar has been to deliver high-quality care in the public sector. In 2018, the primary care setting at Al Samia Hospital was awarded the National Lead for Mental Health and Well-being by the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom. The mental health services provided to Qatari patients by Sidra Medicine are also recognized as being the best in the world.

The most recent mental health challenge is to focus on well-being with a particular emphasis on the mental health of children and young adults. The launch of the Mental Health Services Guide in Qatar is a significant step forward in the transformation of mental healthcare provision in Qatar.

DoQA

President of El Salvador arrives in Doha

President of the Republic of El Salvador, H E Nayib Bukele, arrived in Doha yesterday. H E the President and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by the Hamad International Airport by H E Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the Global Anti-Corruption Youth Council (GAC). The conference will be held in conjunction with the participation of heads and members of parliament of 106 countries and 63 national parliamentary branches around the world. The seventh Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption was held in Doha tomorrow with the participation of heads and members of parliament of 106 countries and 63 national parliamentary branches around the world. The seventh Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) was founded by the Global Anti-Corruption Academy in cooperation with the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) to promote a number of sessions, including a session to review GOPAC report on the activities of the Organisations in each country. The conference will be held in conjunction with the participation of heads and members of parliament of 106 countries and 63 national parliamentary branches around the world. The seventh Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption was held in Doha tomorrow with the participation of heads and members of parliament of 106 countries and 63 national parliamentary branches around the world. The seventh Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) was founded in Canada in 2002. The organisation brings together about 1200 parliamentarians and heads of parliaments from 106 countries and more than 150 branches across the world.

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With participation of a group of translators and academics from over 130 countries, the Sixth International Translation Conference, organised by the Forum for Arab and International Relations, started yesterday.

The two-day conference is a cultural and intellectual forum for Arab and non-Arab translators, as their research and scientific experiences vary in different languages and cultures. The conference will review more than 40 papers related to translation and interpreting.

In his opening speech at the event, the chairman of Arab Foundation (ICBF) Mr. Talib Al-Mahmoud, Director of the Forum for Arab and International Relations, praised the role of translators in translating cultures and knowledge from international institutions, stressing that they play an important role in the service of all humanity.

Al-Mahmoud noted that there are some translations that have not been published due to the scientific standards, which affects the understanding the culture of the translated language.

The conference has become an annual event parallel to the Shura Council for Translation and International Understanding, and this year’s event is unique in that the conference has achieved great goals and that the results have been well received by those interested in the field of translation, dialogue and culture excellence.

He appreciated the efforts of the organizers and the efforts of the scientific committees for the proposed research, as well as the efforts of the committee of Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and Interpretation Understanding.

The first session of the conference was under the title of “Problems of translation from Arabic to Russian” where a number of aspects were reviewed, including Russian-Arab relations, a brief history of the translator by a former diplomat Olga Parkin.

While Russian researcher, Dmitry Bukhvarov from the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences discussed in his paper the dynamics of views and topics addressed in the books of Islamic Arab language and the tenth and tenth centuries AD.

As Russian translator Olga Vlasova addressed the characteristics of translation of works of writers from Arabic into Russian. “Problems of translation into Russian” was also discussed in a paper presented by the Iraqi translator Abudulrah Abud. There was another paper “Contemporary Arabic and Russian translation” by Syrian translator Dr. Naseer Al-Asad who discussed the pros and cons of the translation between these two languages.

The second session was devoted to discussing the problems of Arabic translation from Arabic to selected languages, including Russian-Arab relations, and its role in the Russian language and its relationship to the Arabic language and why it was not written in the Arabic alphabets and the influence of Arabic language on Russian language.

While the Indonesian researcher Mashagi Al-Balim, discussed in his paper the problem of translating the Islamic poetry into the Indonesian language and its importance in understanding in the authenticity of Arabic heritages pointing to the interest of Indonesians in the Islamic literature, but modern literature has a greater interest than heritage because of its flexibility in translation and understanding as well.

The discussion was devoted to discussing the problems of literary translation. The fourth session also addressed the problem of translators from Islamic literature. The fifth session discussed translation and translating the summary of the text, and the cultural challenge of the target language.

A Somali translator also presented a paper entitled “Translation and Interpretation Understanding” in which he dealt with the history of the Somali language and its relationship to the Arabic language and why Somali was not written in the Arabic alphabets.

Gulf Studies and Arabian Peninsula Forum opens

Gulf Studies and Arabian Peninsula Forum, organised by the Centre for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS), opened yesterday. The current session will continue over two days, during which public policy-making in the Arab Gulf countries and strengthening the role of academia in changing environment.

Dr. Marwan Qablan, a researcher at the Arab Center and Coordinator of the Arab Gulf Forum and the Arab Peninsula, stressed the importance of the first edition focused on dealing with the deliberations of the Arab Gulf Summit, including all issues without exception, political, economic, cultural and others.

Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al-Khulaifi, CEO of the development bank, spoke about “the role of Qatar Development Bank and achieving the goals of national development policies in the State of Qatar” and its contribution to the strategy of economic diversification and private sector growth with a focus on small and medium-sized companies and entrepreneurship where he referred to the banks’ role in promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, emphasizing the importance of non-hydrocarbon sectors and the private sector contribution to the State’s economy.

He referred to the banks role in promoting the development policies in the State of Qatar, supporting self-sufficiency and the multiplicative banking contri-bution to the GDP of the State of Qatar, supporting sufficiency efforts and encouraging sales within priority sectors in Qatar, especially the national system of innovation.

The first session in the forum “Making public policies in the Arab Gulf states’ discussed the policies of economic diversification and private sector growth in the Arab Gulf states, in which Khalid Al-Bidhame, a researcher in public policy and political economy, presented his paper on the challenges facing economic integration in the Arab Gulf countries. He said that despite the amendments that were received on the unified economic and monetary union, several challenges remain, including the thought of the Arab Gulf countries.

“Some women face difficul-ties while pregnant and experience complications for a number of reasons, including miscarriage, pre-term labour and birth defects. Therefore, health centers have to provide care for maternal or foetal complications which may arise in unique halfs.”

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Qatar Development Bank hearty invites ACRPS for Construction Contractors to participate in the following tender:

**Description**

- Construction Contractors, Completion and Maintenance of 2 Marine Market Stage 4 & Marine 4 Project Located in the Lovely Location Across Qatar

**Tender Details**

- **Tender Reference**: QD-B-PD/035
- **Project Name**: Qatar Development Bank (QDB) Marine 4 Project
- **Project Location**: Qatar
- **Project Description**: Construction, Completion and Maintenance of 2 Marine Market Stage 4 & Marine 4 Project Located in the Lovely Location Across Qatar

**Project Type**

- Construction contractors

**Contract Duration**

- 12 months

**Project Value**

- 5,000 QAR

**Closing Date**

- 5th January 2020
- 12:00 PM

For more information visit www.qdb.qa

**ISC organises cycle rally at Doha Corniche**

Indian Sports Centre which is the apex body for the Indian Community in Qatar for sports working under the patronage of the Embassy of India organizes a cycle rally to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The event took place on the walk way of Doha Corniche near Sheraton Doha next to Costa coffee Lulu. The speciality of the rally was that it had 100 cyclists from different nations led by H E Indian Ambassador. P Kumaran.

The rally was completed at the finish line by the Indian Games mascot which covered approximately 2.5km. Eminent personalities from the Indian community like Chief guest Kapil Kasliwal, Rajesh Kambale, Dr. Dhaman, Bhargava from Indian Embassy, Dr. Nadeem, President ICBF, AP Rabiya from President IBPC (CEP) Doha bank.

Ms. Bhavika (SATCO) among others.

At the finishing point, after concluding the rally a public function was held by the DC Qatar acting president Shral Padmanabham addressed the gathering.

In the keynote address, Ambassador Padmanabham shared the thoughts of the President of ICBF, Dr. Muneer Al-Mahmoud (CEP Doha Bank).”

The Indian Centre has been involved with the celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which is now a small and medium-sized event.

“Tenders shall be submitted to the following address:

- P.O. Box 16211, Doha, Qatar

**Tender Documents**

- Tender documents will be available for purchase at Qatar National Bank (QNB), Al-Shaab Branch, Branch Code 55, Branch Code 54, Shaab Branch, or through the following link:

**Technical Specifications**

- Technical Tender Submissions must be in a sealed envelope, written in Arabic or English, and signed and certified on three copies.

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- Technical Tender Submissions will be submitted by tenderers via the following link:

**Commercial Tender Submissions**

- Commercial Tender Submissions will be submitted by tenderers via the following link:

**For more information visit www.qdb.qa**
Hot Air Balloon Festival begins at Aspire Park

SID MOHAMMED / THE PENINSULA

Attracting more than 3,000 people on the inaugural day, Qatar’s first Hot Air Balloon Festival began yesterday at Aspire Park.

“Being held for the first time in Qatar, the event will continue for 10 days (December 3 to 13) with 33 Hot air balloons from 13 countries participating,” said Noufah Al Saffar, a member of the organising committee of Qatar’s Hot Air Balloon Festival. Teams from UK, India, the US, Belgium, Spain, Italy, France and Qatar are taking part.

Noufah Al Saffar said that the 62 day event of majestic sights are combined with live music, and guests could enjoy cuisines from hot brand lands, entertainment, balloonしたい and more. The festival concludes on December 8.

The festival is being held for the first time in the region and is being held over two weeks from Thursday and Friday. The festival will be lifted off together to colour the Doha skies as well as a nightglow.

The festival will be held from 6.15am all the balloons will be flying to the direction of the pre- vailing wind for about 30 to 45 minutes. The free flights will be set a spectacular watch in Doha skies as well as a nightglow.

Thousand flock to Katara Traditional Dhow Festival over the weekend

SID MOHAMMED / THE PENINSULA

The Katara Traditional Dhow Festival hit a record on the first weekend of its 5th edition with thousands swarming the beachfront centre.

A target of 100,000 visitors, including families of various nationalities, watched the various programmes, enjoyed music and dances, shopped and took dhow rides. The festival this year, which has a more colourful look and feel, was attended by a crowd of 3,000 on December 3 to 6 and is open from 4pm to 10pm, from 5pm to 8pm on all days.

Friday evening, in particular, saw the festival being flooded by people from all walks of life. Pavilions of several World Cup and Qatar National Day pavilions, the scene of the colourful barks, provided opportunities to take a memorable experience.

The surreal scene of a group of Hot Air Balloons taking off and colouring the skies at sunrise is unforgettable. The balloons will start at 6.15am and fly by a period of 45 to 60 minutes.

A couple of hours before sunset, the Hot Air Balloons will be lifting off together to colour the skies. This would be a perfect opportunity to get up with the crack of dawn to see the balloons sail over the horizon.

Today (Saturday) there will be first Free Flight. Every day at 6.15am all the balloons will be flying to the direction of the prevailing wind for about 30 to 45 minutes. The free flights will be set a spectacular watch in Doha skies as well as a nightglow.

Moody’s assigns Al rating to Kahramaa

EDSA ABUL BASSAT / THE PENINSULA

Moody’s Investors Service (Moody’s) has assigned for the first time an Al long term issuer rating and a RAR1 Baseline Credit Assessment to Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa). The outlook is stable.

"A high agency revealed in its assessment that the long term rating of Kahramaa supports its policy of electrification and water distribution activities, as a government-owned corporation, the owner and the sole operator of the majority of transmission and distribution of electricity and water infrastructure in Qatar in addition to the strong financial performance of the corporation, Kahramaa said in a statement. Kahramaa also expected that the demand for electricity will increase by about five percent and water by about four percent annually during the next five years, in light of the overall development taking place in the country. Kahramaa is highly rated of Qatar’s economic outlook. President of the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation, Eng. Essa bin Halil Al Kawaïid said: “This high evaluation reflects the success of Kahramaa’s plans based on financial sustainability. It also confirms the strong financial performance achieved by the Kahramaa, which is highly rated of Qatar’s economic outlook”.

Kahramaa’s liquidity is sufficient with an expected cash.

The MoU aims to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two organisations and implement more programmes and joint projects and develop

The Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Hospital of Qatar Charity Medical Center, has signed a contract to operate the Zaatari refugee camp, which was also established by Qatar Charity in cooperation with Arabic Medical Relief, to provide medical care to Syrian refugees in the camp for another year.

The under-secret contract, Qatar Charity shall provide expenses for operating the centre itself, medicines, and medical and technical supplied, while the Arabian Health Care, a company with experience in providing health care to Syrian refugees (beneficiaries) based on financial sustainability.

"This high evaluation reflects the Kahramaa’s liquidity is sufficient with an expected cash. It is also an honour to represent the CSE at the Dhoha International Conference on Disability and Development and the support and assistance provided to children with autism spectrum disorders through this principle, as it is one of the most important areas of work and attention at this conference,” Dr. Donna Al Thuir (third right), Assistant Professor at CSE, speaking during the conference.

The official of Qatar Charity, JHCO and AMR holding hands after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

The official of Qatar Charity, JHCO and AMR holding hands after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

"It's also an honour to represent the CSE and to participate at this important international conference. The global push for sustainable development should lead to one on behind, including people with disabilities. My research on attention assessment for children with autism spectrum disorders contributes to this principle, as it is one of the most important areas of work and attention at this conference,” Dr. Donna Al Thuir (third right), Assistant Professor at CSE, speaking during the conference.

The Zakat Fund Department at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (MOIA) has provided an amount of QR6,300,000 to different organisations applying for help during the month of November 2019.

The Zakat Fund has provided aid worth QR73m in one year.

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The Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Hospital of Qatar Charity Medical Center, has signed a contract to operate the Zaatari refugee camp, which was also established by Qatar Charity in cooperation with Arabic Medical Relief, to provide medical care to Syrian refugees in the camp for another year.

The under-secret contract, Qatar Charity shall provide expenses for operating the centre itself, medicines, and medical and technical supplied, while the Arabian Health Care, a company with experience in providing health care to Syrian refugees (beneficiaries) based on financial sustainability.

"This high evaluation reflects the Kahramaa’s liquidity is sufficient with an expected cash. It is also an honour to represent the CSE at the Dhoha International Conference on Disability and Development and the support and assistance provided to children with autism spectrum disorders through this principle, as it is one of the most important areas of work and attention at this conference,” Dr. Donna Al Thuir (third right), Assistant Professor at CSE, speaking during the conference.

The official of Qatar Charity, JHCO and AMR holding hands after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

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QFRI conference concludes

THE PENINSULA 2019

A large number of delegates and guests attended an interesting panel discussion on implementing a Policy Framework to Support Sustainable Development through the Water-Energy-Environment Nexus, during the final day of the International Conference on Sustainable Energy-Water-Energy Environment Nexus in Desert Environments 2019 (IC-SEWEN 2019). The conference, which was held at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), featured a multidisciplinary approach to the nexus from various perspectives.

The four-day conference showcased a multitude of sessions including panels, round tables, oral and poster presentations on various topics related to the opportunities and challenges across the energy, environment, water and food security tracks. These sessions were attended by more than 400 delegates – scientists, researchers, engineers and students – from around the world.

I am pleased to attend this important conference, which provides a platform that can no longer be individually Qataris discuss countries, regions or economies. The current global challenges we address here require collective efforts. Addressing water and energy security topics, the high-established processes of natural resources, and opportunities in decentralized energy. Among other Pre-event activities, there was also a panel discussion on Unlocking the Potential of Education for Sustainable Development, and a workshop on Climate Change and Future of the Desert Climate.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Dr. Marc Vermersch thanked the delegates and guests, and said: “It has been a delightful event – a journey of four days bringing together experts in research, development, technology and education. The experience we have seen at QFRI IC-SEWEN Conference and at the Qatar National Convention Center. Panelists during the IC-SEWEN 2019 at the Qatar National Convention Center.

The Pearl–Qatar holds ‘Fashionista’ Fashion Show

THE PENINSULA 2019

Fashion enthusiasts flocked to Porto Arabia at The Pearl-Qatar for a spectacular fashion runway of major brands, such as Missoni, Aigner, PMC, MCM, Salam Kids. People enjoyed Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra’s performance at QNL.

QFRI delegation takes part in IFRC Statutory Meetings

THE PENINSULA 2019

A high-profile delegation from Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is participating in the Statutory Meetings of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), held in Geneva last week, December 4–12.

The event is attended by senior officials of National Societies around the world, as well as representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who come together to discuss critical humanitarian issues. QRCS is an active part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

QRCS’s delegation consists of Ali Alhassan Al Hamadi, Secretary-General; Reema Mouna Al Khoudhi, Sound Member; Dr. Mohamed Salah Ibrahim, Executive Director of Relief and International Development Division.

Muna Fadel Al Salati, Executive Director of Volume and Local Development Division, Dr. Fawzi Ouissioud, Head of International Relations and International Humanitarian Law and Zeeno Mahdy Elbashir, Executive Director of International Development Movement.

First, the ICRC Youth Forum was held on December 3, 2019, preceding the General Assembly. It was attended by representatives of Youth Networks, including AI Mordecai, alongside with ICRC Leaders.

The Forum shed light on the major achievements of the IFRC Youth Commission over the period 2015-2019, giving an overview of the findings of the Global Youth Engagement Survey (GYES).

Just Per Lei, Little Lady and Shades, along with VCUArts Qatar Fashion Alumni, who showcased their fashion collections.

DOHA

TNG School celebrates 10th anniversary

THE PENINSULA 2019

The Next Generation (TNG) School has announced the successful completion of ten prosperous years of providing quality education in the State of Qatar.

Established in 2009, TNG currently hosts a student body of nearly 1,800 students and a staff of 300+ members in seven campuses, which are located in some of the most central locations across the country. As an educational institute, TNG is committed to providing a value learning environment for its students that guarantees a positive learning experience.

As part of its community outreach efforts, TNG will be presenting its achievements at the 10th anniversary event.

CMU-Q leads team to create interactive map of Qatar dialect

THE PENINSULA 2019

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) is leading a new research team that will create an interactive linguistic map of Qatar dialect. Zainal Abidin Al Shabani, assistant professor of Arabic studies and research, and member of the research team, is leading the development of the project.

The project will map the social, geographical and generational variations of Qatari Arabic, digital tools for exploring pronunciation, usage and expressions. Currently, the linguistics of December in Qatar is described in scattered documents, and the team’s goal is to fill this knowledge gap.

In the course of the research is to explore and analyze the actual linguistic situation in Qatar, Islam said Ibrahim. “Although we have many goals, our main purpose is to add to the knowledge base of the Qatari dialect, and digitize this information, so they can use natural language processing, such as AI, learning techniques in their analysis.” CMU-Q’s assistant professor of information systems, Hamed Buamor, is a principal investigator on the project.

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Helping the displaced

With the number of forcibly displaced persons and refugees reaching unprecedented levels in the Middle East and North Africa, which is a region with the highest number of World refugees, humanitarian support from governments and humanitarian NGOs remains a lifeline for survival for millions across the world. According to UNHCR data there are over 70 million refugees and displaced people worldwide, with over 60 percent of them are displaced people and 80 percent of them are living in developing countries that are already experiencing economic challenges.

Efforts exerted by some countries like Qatar to support the refugees and displaced people have made a significant difference in alleviating the suffering of the affected refugees and displaced persons.

UNHCR for 2020, Qatar’s current financial support is USD41 million. We must be the change we want to see. We should strive to work to meet these challenges.

Kholoud Al-Marri, recounted her success story in education, and how she overcame all obstacles she faced despite losing her vision from birth until she was able to obtain a masters degree and obtain a job and is currently applying for PhD.

As we must be the change we want to see, she added. Her Excellency also urged countries to make more efforts to improve data on persons with disabilities in order to facilitate access for persons with disabilities as a prerequisite for their social inclusion, and called for support for persons with disabilities in conflict and humanitarian situations.

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The role of the Shafallah Centre and the comprehensive services that it provides to people with mental health challenges is one of the most effective ways to change this.

Qatar’s pioneering role in addressing challenges faced by people with disabilities and the great support of His Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work and others, have made a significant difference in alleviating the suffering of the affected refugees and displaced persons.

Qatar’s government and non-governmental contributions to refugees through the UNHCR for the period 2014-2019 amounted to more than $240m. This is not to say that Qatar’s educational initiatives such as the Educate a Child (EAC) initiative which aims to assist millions of children to access quality primary education.

Qatar also established a fund under the sponsorship of the Union of the Arab Union to cover the evacuation costs of irregular African migrants and victims of human trafficking in Libya and reintegrating them into their communities.

Qatar supports part of the vision of the Qatari leadership in supporting humanitarian and development programmes. It is also based on the sense of moral and human responsibility, the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing among the major challenges arising from the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced people in the world.

The role of the Shafallah Centre and the comprehensive services that it provides to people with mental health challenges is one of the most effective ways to change this condition to have more and more people with disabilities in the society, and between the government and the private sector.

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Qatar’s pioneering role in addressing challenges faced by people with disabilities and the great support of His Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QF) led to a special recognition for her in the year 2018 for her efforts in promoting education and empowering girls and women. She received the award for the Emir and his wife’s support in promoting education and empowering girls and women.

The State of Qatar has made remarkable developments and integrating the rights of persons with disabilities into society, is clearly evident when comparing the Qatar National Development Strategy (QNS) 2008-2022 with its first strategic plan (2018-2021), as the second strategy considers remarkably the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

This new strategic vision reflects the belief of planners, policymakers and Qatar’s decision-making circles regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to develop and have the best possible development in all aspects of life, including health, education, social, economic and cultural. Qatar’s vision is to achieve equality and justice for all, which is the main goal of Qatar’s national development strategy.

It is noteworthy that the establishment of the Qatar National Conference on Disability and Development coincides with the twenty-first anniversary of the establishment of the Shafallah Centre, which was founded by the Righteous Sheikhess Moza bint Nasser with the aim of serving and supporting people with intellectual disabilities and autism who are not older than 21 years, and social awareness of their issues and rights in order to obtain a more independent life.
Nato states must mend differences and settle on clear shared strategies

Leaders of the Nato nations have held a meeting in London to mark the 70th anniversary of the alliance’s establishment. The leaders agreed to discuss how the alliance should be to meet changes in the security environment.

Japan News - Yomuri

An East-Atlantic Treaty Organization members stand next to a mining military threats posed by a coalition of nations. The alliance members must first iron out their differences and follow common strategies.

Nato states must mend differences and settle on clear shared strategies

The leaders of the Nato nations have held a meeting in London to mark the 70th anniversary of the alliance’s establishment. The leaders agreed to discuss how the alliance should be to meet changes in the security environment.

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European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is welcomed by Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, during her visit to Addis Ababa yesterday.

Why Abiy Ahmed’s prosperity party could be bad news for Ethiopia

AWOL K ALLO

Nato states must mend 70th anniversary Redeem its tarnished

Abiy Ahmed tried to the prime minister of the EPRDF and becoming the leader of the hodgepodge of ethnic groups to advance to be an effective instrument to rebrand the party to redeem its tarnished reputation.

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Under the patronage of
H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Social Responsibility
Awards 2019

and inauguration of White Book
"Social Responsibility Between Ethical Commitment and Profitability"

On the occasion of World CSR Day, the Social Responsibility Committee at Dar Al Sharg will hold 7th CSR Awards under a theme 'Social Responsibility Between Moral Commitment and Profitability'.

The event will be held on Feb. 03, 2020 and attended by a number of government institutions, specialists and local authorities. During the ceremony prizes will be given for major contributions in community services.

Guest of Honor
Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh
Dean of Arab Accountants

Founder and Chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), a global group of professional services firms in the fields of accounting, management advisory services, professional and technical training, intellectual property rights, legal services, recruitment, translation, publishing and distribution.

He was awarded the title of Leader of Arab Accounting in recognition of his role in promoting intellectual property rights in Arab Region.

For further information:
Interested people or companies are requested to send their nominations with reasons to one of the following addresses:
P. O. Box: 3488 Doha, Qatar
E-Mail: info@csrqg.com Website: www.csrqg.com
Phone Number: 44557650

Awards winners will be announced during the annual ceremony coinciding with world day of CSR.
Death toll from Baghdad gun attacks rises to 25

AFP

Iraqi officials said yesterday the casualty toll had risen to 25 dead and 130 wounded after a bloody night of attacks by unknown gunmen that targeted anti-government demonstrators in the capital.

Influential Shia cleric Moqtada Al Sadr, the head of parliament's Sairoon bloc, said a drone had targeted his home in Najaf yesterday, according to statements from the political party.

The health and security officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The attack on Friday was among the deadliest since Okt. 10, 2017, when the clashes in the Green Zone left the end of an Iraqi's influence in the country.

Police and security forces regularly use live rounds and tear gas to dispel the demonstra- tions, leading to heavy casualties.

The gunfire continued until

The early hours yesterday. The assailants first unleashed the deadly assault on Baghdad's Khiyaon Square and Sakhir Bridge driving through the areas that are the epicenters of the popular uprising. Protesters said the elec- tricity in the Police was cut, creating chaos as they ran from the bullets and took cover in nearby mosques and streets.

The other group was around the dead were police and the rest were protesters, the officials said.

The attack included the burning of a car park that dem- onstrators had converted into a base for their six men, while four buildings in the region were pockmarked with bullet holes. Protesters raised a bloodied white flag as they sought to return to the scene yesterday.

One was seen collecting the spent cartridges, he said. Another was running to a nearby police station.

- Anti-government activists have sought to blame supporters of Iraqi-backed tribal militias, which have staged similar attacks against protesters to instigate violence.

According to a US official, President Donald Trump has been in Baghdad since 10:00 am, emi- grated to the United States in 2008 and became a naturalised US citizen in 2009. His wife and child are Chinese citizens. China, which normally requires its citizens to give up their nationality when they become citizens of another country, has not commented pub- licly on this case.

A senior US official said Brian Wang, the US special represen- tative for Iran, accompanied Sole- iman to Switzerland to make the exchange and Hook and Wang were “on route to Landshut in Germany where Wang will be examine doctors.”

The official said Wang was expected to return to Baghdad in several days. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he was “pleased that the US government and Hook and the diplomatic shuffle.”

An official said he would not say whether the US government and Hook and Wang would be reunited when the swap was imminent. Later he said that the prisoner release was due to the swap being completed.

US, Iran swap prisoners in rare act of cooperation

DNA

Switzerland facilitated the swap, which is among the Iran state news agency IRNA said took place in Zurich.

The US and Iran each freed a prisoner yesterday in a rare swap, an act of cooperation between two countries with ties that have worsened since Pres- ident Donald Trump took office.

Trump said Brian Wang, a US citizen, had been detained in Iran on spying charges, was returning to the US. The US official said that the Iranians were “swept away, roads have been cleared and continued until 9:00 am yesterday.”

A senior US official said that the IRNA reported that Wang was taken to Switzerland then to the capital.

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Investigation into Hyderabad police encounter begins

A top Indian rights group yesterday launched an investigation into the police shooting of four abuse suspects after accusations they were gunned down in cold blood to assuage public anger.

National Human Rights Commission launched an investigation into the police shooting of four abuse suspects after accusations they were gunned down in cold blood to assuage public anger.

The Indian Express said in its editorial yesterday that the shooting of the four suspects “reflects an idea of medieval mob justice.”

Police are often accused of using extrajudicial killings to bypass the legal process to get a quick arrest or conviction, an approach that never lies too far beneath the surface of society.

At the same time, a huge backlash of cases when many victims wait years for their attackers to be convicted, and that many perpetrators escape justice.

The reconstruction at the crime scene where the suspects were shot was overseen by a police officer involved in two similar incidents, and when three acid attack suspects were killed in a forest in 2008, the local government had filed an appeal for information about its decisions in nine languages.

The President said that truth forms the foundation of our Republic and the Constitution has empowered the people to seek justice from the courts.

However, others expressed their strong resentment and outrage at the bill.

The National Investigation Agency yesterday filed a charge sheet against two ISIS suspects arrested by the agency in connection with its probe into the ISIS Kerala-Tamil Nadu module.

Two people were killed in firing and stoning, including three policemen, were injured in the Bhutanese community of the Gasa district.

A file photo of a police encounter in Hyderabad.

Is Modi govt for own citizens or illegal migrants: NESO

Expressing its strong resentment at the Union Cabinet’s approval to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019, the National Every Student Organisation (NESO) on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah whether the government is for its own citizens or for the illegal migrants.

“From the attitude and approach of the Government of India, it clearly shows that the government is for the illegal migrants,” the apex students body said.

It also said that the bill violates the provisions of the historical Assam Accord.

A file photo of a police encounter in Hyderabad.

Passing out celebration

Novelly-recruited army soldiers from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) celebrate during a passing out parade at JAKLI army headquarters in Srinagar.

NIA chargesheets 2 in ISIS Kerala-Tamil Nadu module case

An NIA spokesperson in New Delhi said the anti-terror probe agency filed the chargesheets against Mohamad Azaruddin and Shohail on December 6 this year in the court in Erumalur under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

According to the NIA, Azaruddin was the mastermind behind the recent Easter bombings in Sri Lanka that left over 250 people dead.

The Central police agency registered a case on May 30 this year, taking action against six accused from Comilla, Bangladesh, who were believed to be behind the attack.

The Asians were identified with the help of details obtained from Bangladesh government.

At least 14 of them have been identified and 100 of them have been deported.

The NIA also said that during investigation, it was revealed that Azaruddin and Hidayatullah were propagating violent extremist ideology since 2017.
Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will attend the first-ever Global Refugees Forum that will begin on December 18, the state-run Pakistan Press Information Department (PPID) has reported. The PPID announced the event as a move to promote dialogue on the issue of refugees and displacement.

A large number of delegates from the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and startups will attend the event in Geneva. The forum is expected to be a significant platform for sharing perspectives and experiences on the global refugee crisis.

Speaking about the importance of the event, Prime Minister Imran Khan said, "Pakistan has a long history of hosting millions of people from neighboring countries. We have always been proactive in addressing the challenges faced by our fellow human beings."

The event is part of a broader effort by the government to enhance international cooperation on issues related to refugees and displacement. The forum will be held in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and will feature high-level discussions on topics such as protection, relocation, and integration.

Foreign Office says the Geneva forum is being held to recognise Pakistan’s hospitality and compassion for hosting the Afghan refugees for more than forty years. The forum is expected to take place in Geneva from December 18 to 20.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that Pakistan has a long history of hosting millions of people from neighboring countries. "We have always been proactive in addressing the challenges faced by our fellow human beings," he said.

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"We are looking forward to the participation of Pakistan in the event and hope that it will provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by our fellow human beings and to find solutions to these challenges," he said.

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The event will be attended by representatives from governments, NGOs, and the private sector. It is expected to be a significant platform for sharing perspectives and experiences on the global refugee crisis. The forum is being held in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and will feature high-level discussions on topics such as protection, relocation, and integration.

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North Korea envoy says demilitarisation off negotiating table with US

**Ambassador Kim Song** said in a statement that the “sustained and substantial dialogue” sought by the United States was a “time-saving trick” to suit its domestic political agenda.

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“China expresses its firm opposition and strongly condemns this,” said Yang, according to the report.

On Friday, China had notified South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in and US President Donald Trump agreed during a phone conversation to maintain dialogue with the nuclear-armed North Korea.

The two leaders said they had positive conversations and agreed to continue their dialogue.

**Trump, Moon discuss maintaining talks with North Korea**

South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in and US President Donald Trump agreed during a phone conversation to maintain dialogue with the nuclear-armed North Korea.

South Korean officials said they had positive conversations and agreed to continue their dialogue.

**Samoa receive measles vaccine amid outbreak**

Police have given a rare green light to the demonstration planned for today by the Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF) group, which organised largely peaceful million-man marches in the summer.

The march will gauge support for the protest movement following its overwhelming victory in local elections last month.

Police said they would intervene “immediately” if it turned violent.

Tang said he hoped today’s protest would be peaceful.

What started as demonstrations against a now-withdrawn bill allowing extradition to mainland China has morphed into calls for greater democratic freedoms and sometimes violent protests.

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Protesters have set out five demands, including universal suffrage and an investigation into the use of force.

Hong Kong police chief promises flexibility ahead of rally

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**US should stop interfering in China’s internal affairs, top diplomat tells Pompeo**

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Trump and Kim Jong-un had met only twice, in 2018, at the end of which Trump agreed during a phone conversation to maintain dialogue with the nuclear-armed North Korea.

The two leaders said they had positive conversations and agreed to continue their dialogue.

The philosophy of the American government’s views on Korea is “a dotard” and to take military action if the US military moves against it.

The South Korean leader was instrumental in brokering the landmark summit between Trump and Kim in Singapore last year which produced only a vaguely worded pledge about denuclearisation.

**Almost 90% of people in Samoa receive measles vaccine amid outbreak**

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**Government says sells six million Filipinos lifted out of poverty**

Nearly 6 million Filipinos were lifted out of poverty, the Philippine statistics agency said, as the government stressed spending on social welfare.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, 40.6% of the population — about 76 million Filipinos — were poor in 2018. That compared with the 23.3% poverty incidence in 2013, equivalent to about 23.5 million people, according to a report.

The poverty threshold was estimated at $2.07 daily, or $78 per month, for a family of five, the agency said. An official survey conducted every three years.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in 2016, has increased spending on education and health, while focusing infrastructure to create more jobs.

The Philippine economy is among the fastest growing this decade, expanding at about 6.5% a year.

The income gap, which measures the average amount people spend in poverty, was about $21.8 billion in 2018, the statistics agency said.

Poverty incidence was high in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the south at 43.6% and lowest in Metro Manila at 3.5%.

The Philippines has spent six years targeting poverty incidence.
Slovenia’s former PM leaves party to seek medical treatment

Reuters/Bostjan Blatnik

Former Slovenian prime minister Robert Fico left the annual congress of the main ruling Smer party, which still leads, yesterday for what he described as medical treatment. Slovenian media reported:

“Have a huge problem with blood pressure. I am going to a hospital now,” Fico quoted as telling reporters before he left. He also said that he would be absent during the congress to seek medical treatment.

Slovenia’s former president Tjaša Janezic, who had heart surgery in April 2016, was charged on Thursday with embezzlement and money laundering. She lost her seat in parliament over reports she made about Slova-

Kiev
den’s Roma minority.

Serbia’s leader visited Kosovo, which is a former Serbian province. Talks in Pristina between the two countries on the two issues were however not successful.

The charity Zeljko Bakic’s Roma minority.

Bosnia’s security minister said the country was preparing to take back and try nine of its nationals suspected of fighting for IS minority in Syria but their return was post-

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**Leak of UK papers tied to Russian operation**

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**European police arrest 11 Dutch citizens in major drug gang bust**

European police have arrested 11 Dutch citizens suspected of being part of a transport business as a front for drug smuggling that makes drugs across the continent, including in the Netherlands, Belgium, the Nordic countries as well as Germany and France. A Labour spokesman described the arrests from the party obtained the leaked documents due to the Russian operation.

**Nobel science laureates stress urgency of addressing climate change**

Nobel Prize laureates gathered in Stockholm to reawoke their charges the opportunity yesterday to stress the importance of addressing climate change.

**Feminist protest in Rome**

Blindfolded feminist activists from the group ‘Non Una Di Meno’ (Not One Less) taking part in a choreographed performance in Rome during a flash mob on Piazza Farnese in central Rome. Two of them performed “The rapist is you,” the song of a feminist performance which emerged amid the social crisis in Chile and became viral around the world.

**Tensions as yellow vests join French retirement protests**

Paris police skirmished with yellow vest activists joining a wave of protest actions against the government’s overhaul of France’s national retirement system, as highway blockades and train stoppages disrupted weekend travel across the country.

**Kids hurt in Albania quake meet footballers Ronaldo, Buffon**

Two Albanian boys who jumped from their apartments during an earthquake that left 14 dead and injured more than 3,000 have met with football stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Gianluigi Buffon.

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White House rejects participation in impeachment probe

Melania Trump befriends 18-year-old former leukemia patient

Top US court blocks resumption of federal executions for now

Supreme Court temporarily shields Trump bank records

Globe Oscar nominations to reveal award season hopefuls

White House resists participation in impeachment probe

Top US court blocks resumption of federal executions for now

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to lift a stay on federal executions, averting a swiftly thrashing plans by Donald Trump's Department of Justice to immediately resume capital punishment.

Some 14 federal inmates scheduled to be executed by the end of the year are now on hold, including one in Oklahoma who is set to be put to death Tuesday. Another execution is set for Wednesday in the state of Missouri.

WASHINGTON

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The court voted 5-4 to block the execution of the 56-year-old inmate, who was convicted of killing an Arkansas police officer in 2001, and is scheduled to be put to death on Wednesday.

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Unsworth had sought $190m in damages from the tech billionaire, arguing that his reputation had been damaged by the tweet. Musk hugged his lawyer on hearing the verdict, telling reporters: “My faith in humanity has been restored.”

Trump to delay listing Mexican cartels as terrorist groups

Protesters clash with police as Chile unrest enters 50th day

As with every Friday since protests began on October 18, thousands gathered at Plaza Italia in the center of Santiago to wave flags, sing and dance in a show of opposition President Sebastian Pinera’s conservative government. Protesters held up a huge Chilean flag with a clenched fist, a symbol of the 300 people who have suffered optical injuries during confrontations with police. Some demonstrators armed with stones and Molotov cocktails clashed with police, who scattered them with tear gas and water cannon. Officers erected barricades around the square in the evening. Chile’s unrest began with a demonstration against a price hike on metro tickets in Santiago, which triggered widespread protests across the country.

The small Caribbean island nation of Dominica voted in a general election on Friday that was marred by a string of protests in recent weeks and claims of fraud.

The Labour Party (ULP) of incumbent Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit looks set for a sweeping victory, increasing its share of seats to 18 out of 24, according to preliminary results.

The election was the first since Dominica—which is home to about 70,000 people—was devastated by Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

The process has been blighted by controversy, with political opponents accusing Skerrit—who has held the top spot since 2004—of failing to implement promised electoral reforms, including paper identification cards, which means the possibility of fraud.

Skerrit had attempted to get the election postponed until February, but a battle through the courts for an injunction failed. Demonstrations in Marigot and Salisbury—both strongholds of the opposition United Workers’ Party—have seen roads blocked and debris set on fire.

Chief of Police Daniel Carter said police officers were forced to disperse crowds using rubber bullets and tear gas. Businessman Ronald Astaphan said he was disappointed with the ballot results. “This is not what a lot of Dominicans had hoped for, but it was expected because we did not get the reforms we wanted,” he said.

When I want to vote I presented my passport but no one even bothered to look it at,” he said.

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Mohammad Sheikh
The Peninsula

Qatar and Ghana are working to enhance cooperation in the field of energy and mining, which may include establishing gold refineries and other processing facilities. The minister is also working to sign more agreements to strengthen bilateral cooperation, which include singeing agreements related to investment protection, and MOUs for cooperation in the fields of oil and gas, agriculture, real estate, and industrial mining. Ghanaian Minister of Business Development, H E Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, told The Peninsula in an exclusive interview during his recent visit to Qatar, that they have signed some MoUs with Qatar, including one with the energy minister last year, and we are going to intensify cooperation this year. We have broadened the framework, which include cooperation in the field of oil and gas and setting up refineries and other projects using the gas component as we are wasting so much of gas in Ghana. We are also looking to optimize our other resources which may also include gold and other minerals, and some other products. Minister Awal also noted that Ghana has a lot of natural resources such as minerals and agricultural products, but need to add value to them. For instance Ghana is the second largest producer of cocoa but the country is looking to refine and add value. Famous for its industrial minerals, Ghana is the 2nd largest producer of gold on the African continent behind South Africa. It is the world’s 7th largest producer of gold, producing over 102 tonnes of gold and the 10th largest producer of gold in the world last year. Ghana has the 9th largest reserves, and is the 9th largest producer, of diamonds in the world.

"We are going to be number one in the region, a country that produces cacao. It’s a production that we cannot have any doubt about. We are looking to be competitive in this market, and the cocoa we can get big money and we can take care of cacao farmers," Minister Awal told The Peninsula.

Indonesia Ambassador to Qatar, H E Muhammad Basri Sidharta, on Thursday formally opened the Indonesia Corner at the Landmark Mall in the presence of a number of Indonesian businessmen and the Indonesian community in Doha.

Located at the mall’s main lobby, the 90sqm booth, which will be open for at least three months, promotes various Indonesian tourists, trade, and investment opportunities in the form of brochures, videos, product samples, videos, and periodical cultural performances. The booth will be open from 10am to 9pm during Saturday—Thursday, and from 4pm to 10pm on Friday.

"The first solo Indonesian products exhibition in Doha was held in Doha recently triggered more economic and business collaborations between private sectors in Qatar and Indonesia. The Indonesian government wants to keep the momentum going by continuously informing promotion about Indonesia, especially those related to trade, tourism, and investment potential through direct engagement to the community in Qatar investors. "We are working to accelerate the pace of industrialisation in Ghana and the government is facilitating investors to provide land and other needed support, which include providing the eight montane and tax holidays. We are bringing in the investors and private companies both from Ghana and Qatar together." He noted that Qatar’s investment in Ghana is very limited but it is expected to witness significant jump in the coming years. And both sides are also working to engage the private sector and improving the business climate to expedite the pace of bilateral cooperation.

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Several agreements are also being signed at other upcoming events such as the industrial utilisation of our oil and gas and other natural resources such as gold and other minerals. We have a lot of gold reserves but we are not doing anything with it, which is a good opportunity for Qatar investors. "We are working to accelerate the pace of industrialisation in Ghana and the government is facilitating investors to provide land and other needed support, which include providing the eight montane and tax holidays. We are bringing in the investors and private companies both from Ghana and Qatar together. he noted that Qatar’s investment in Ghana is very limited but it is expected to witness significant jump in the coming years. And both sides are also working to engage the private sector and improving the business climate to expedite the pace of bilateral cooperation.

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The mission envisioned by its stakeholder Muhannadi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nebras Power, in the presence of Khalid Mohammed Jolo, CEO of Nebras Power, and the Nebras executive team.

During the meeting, the minister praised Nebras Power’s five years of successful investment in power generation projects in international markets and reaffirmed his support for Nebras Power, which stems from the importance of supporting Qatari companies in helping them to achieve the highest level of success and to increase their competitiveness in the industries. The minister urged the executive management to continue to set benchmarks and to achieve the minimum required by its stakeholders and partners.

Fahad bin Hamad Al Mohammed, Chairman of Nebras Power, said that he was pleased with Nebras Power’s achievements in a short history, during which it attained the objectives set by the board of directors and the goals of its founders.

Khalid Mohammed Jolo, CEO of Nebras Power, referred to the milestones reached by the company over the course of five years at various levels, including the financial level, where the company achieved a steady increase in profits and assets. He also highlighted the expansion of its investment portfolio, which has climbed precipitously to $18.3bn in recent years. Nebras Power has also witnessed significant accomplishments in its strategic partnerships with international developers and financial institutions that are operating in the power generation and water desalination sectors.

Nebras Power celebrates 5 years of achievements

QRB launches National Day promotion on loans

QNB Group recently announced the launch of a new promotion for its customers in celebration of Qatar National Day, offering a special rate to all its customers when applying for a personal loan within a branch network, starting from 23 December 2019 till 15 January 2020.

QNB Group’s customers can enjoy a personal loan with an exclusive and limited time offer of up to 90 days. As an added reward, eight Qatari nationals and four expatriates who apply for a personal loan will be chosen to each win a cash prize of QR50,000. The prizes will be awarded to winners at QNB Group branches.

Total trade volume between Qatar and Indonesia increased by 154 percent to $18.7bn in 2018 compared to the previous year, and is expected to triple by 2023 in the next three years.

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Carmaker Fiat Chrysler has filed an appeal with Europe’s top court against an order by EU antitrust regulators to pay $1.3bn in Luxembourg back taxes, seeking to overturn a lower tribunal ruling backing EU anti-tax rules. Fiat filed its appeal to the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union on Wednesday, two months after the General Court of the EU’s lower tribunal said it was right for Fiat to have paid only a fraction of the back taxes.

"We confirm Fiat Chrysler Finance Europe (FCFE) lodged an appeal with the European Court of Justice (CJEU) against the General Court’s judgment of 24 September 2019 relating to FCFE’s Luxembourg tax ruling," the company said in a statement to Reuters. "As part of its crackdown against tax avoidance by multinationals, the EU executive has ordered scores of companies to pay back taxes ranging from tens of millions to as much as €1bn in the case of iPhone maker Apple.

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QIB Deputy CEO, Jamal Abdulrahim Al Jamal (fourth right), receiving the award from Citi Bank Qatar CEO, Amir Khan, at the ceremony.

**Citibank New York presents Citi STP award 2019 to QIB**

**QIB New York granted Citi Straight Through Processing (STP) award 2019 for foreign payments to QIB. QIB won the award on the basis of its exceptional performance achieved in terms of foreign payments and ability to meet the best international industry standards.**

**QIB Deputy CEO Jamal Abdulrahim Al Jamal received the award from Amir Khan. Citi Bank Qatar CEO at a ceremony held at the Bank headquarters in the presence of Sayyed Mohammed Khan Barmada, head of commercial operations and Naif Ahmed Naseerdin, head of international operations.**

On behalf of Citibank the event was attended by Mohamed Al Mahdi – head of Citibank Qatar correspondence, Salman Hashimi, AVP correspondent banking group officer, and Manish Sehgal, customer service officer.

On the occasion, Jamal Al Jamal stated: “We are delighted to receive the STP excellence award for foreign payments again from Citibank New York. This confirms that QIB’s viability and leadership are consolidated in different banking sectors, in the light of which we have channelled our investments into high level banking technology and, no doubt foreign payments operations are pillars in our activity that we conduct under the highest level standards.”

“Foreign payment operations are crucial to banks. It requires both technology and professional cashiers able to handle foreign payment operations that require direct transfer of funds without any human interference. In fact, this has to be done in a way that guarantees their access to targeted beneficiaries timely and reliably and without any error or delay,” he added.

Al Jamal highlighted that QIB’s close relationship and partnership with the Citibank has benefited our clients and facilitates foreign payment services according to the best global banking standards.”

Amir Khan, Citibank Qatar CEO also expressed his “satisfaction” at QIB receiving the award once again this year. In fact, foreign payments through QIB are increasing in terms of quality and professionalism, especially with support of competent staff and the quality technology used.”

Khan affirmed that “the business relationship between Citibank and QIB will continue and strengthen in future. All the necessary requirements for such a strong relationship are there and we expect that this well-defined relationship will benefit both parties.”

US probe finds Cambridge Analytica misled Facebook users on data

**US regulators concluded Friday that British consultancy Cambridge Analytica – at the center of a massive scandal over the way Facebook data – deceived users of the social network about how it collected and handled their personal information.**

The Federal Trade Commission said its investigation launched in March 2018 concluded that the now-defunct political consulting firm engaged in deceptive practices to harvest personal information from tens of millions of Facebook users for voter-profiling and targeting. The FTC said the British firm, which worked on Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, made “false and misleading” statements to Facebook users a “personality quiz” – stating it would not download names or any personally identifiable information. The FTC said a landmark libel case over Facebook was overturned in 2018 that allowed Cambridge Analytica to be able to create psychographic profiles using data from millions of Facebook users and then sell them to political campaigns.

The personality profile predictions created by Cambridge Analytica included age, location and people also uploaded data on their Facebook friends.

The FTC’s enforcement order at first found the lead plaintiff, Facebook, liable for $5bn for initially failing to respond to an FTC request about whether Cambridge Analytica had data from millions of millions of Facebook users.

**QIIB board member for International Relations Sheikh Dr Thani bin Al Thani presenting the certificate to one of the participants.**

**QICCA concludes arbitration programme**

The Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) concluded last week the ‘Qualification and Preparation of the Arbitrators Programme’, which was held in cooperation with the Centre for Continuing Education at Qatar University (QUC) following the completion of six phases of the programme.

QICCA board member for International Relations Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali Al Thani handed over certificates to the trainees following the completion of the sixth stage of the programme as part of the Centre’s project. Sheikh Thani said that the programme covered all aspects of commercial arbitration, including practical, factual, clear pointing to the importance of qualification and preparation of arbitrators.

Sheikh Thani also said that the centre is now open to the next edition which will kicks off next January.

Oryx Rotana unveils Qatar National Days offer

Oryx Rotana, the five-star luxury business hotel in Doha has unveiled special offers to mark the Qatar National Day celebration. To make the National Day truly memorable, the hotel is specially curated to participate with members of all communities on this special occasion.

With the anniversary of the founding of the State of Qatar, Rotana is presenting its offers, revolving around the moments and highlights of celebration. The hotel has a five-star offering to mark the Qatar National Day celebration. To make the National Day truly memorable, the hotel is specially curated to participate with members of all communities on this special occasion.

For the restaurants, guests can enjoy an exclusive offer on Wednesdays for QR44 only at Al Naftah Garden. The Collar, the Spanish Mediterranean restaurant, will offer a four-course refined dinner on QR44, QR54 and QR64. Guests can enjoy a variety of offers during the day at QR25 for QR41.

The Doha Rooftop, which offers a range of offers on QR41 and QR44 during the day, is offering a QR41 offer on QR41 and QR44 during the day. The Doha Rooftop, which offers a variety of offers on QR41 and QR44 during the day, is offering a QR41 offer on QR41 and QR44 during the day.

*Oryx Rotana unveils Qatar National Days offer*. SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019 | PENINSULA
Brexit uncertainty likely to persist beyond UK election

In June 209, we noted that Brexit uncertainty has been a persistent drag on the UK economy since the June 2016 referendum. It may have an even greater impact on the UK now that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has taken the UK out of the EU.

Johnson's government has announced a new cabinet and new economic chief, which will likely bring about significant changes to the UK's economic policy. However, these changes are likely to be gradual and gradual, and the UK's exit from the EU may continue to weigh on the UK economy.

The UK economy is likely to continue to face challenges, including uncertainty about the UK's future trade relationships with the EU and other key trading partners. The UK government will need to work with these partners to ensure a smooth and successful transition to new trading arrangements.

The UK's exit from the EU may also have implications for the UK's relationship with other international institutions, such as the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The UK will need to work with these institutions to ensure that it can continue to benefit from their support and expertise.

The UK government will also need to address the challenges facing the UK's financial sector, including the impact of Brexit on the City of London and the UK's status as a global financial centre.

In conclusion, Brexit uncertainty is likely to persist beyond the UK election, and the UK will need to work with its trading partners and international institutions to ensure a successful transition to new trading arrangements.

Argentina’s Fernández signals policy shifts with new cabinet, economy chief

Argentina’s incoming Economy Minister, Martin Guzman (centre), announced his cabinet ahead of taking office on December 10, in Buenos Aires.

Reutere | BLOOMBERG

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Reuter | BLOOMBERG HUANNAO

The World Bank said yesterday its lending to China has fallen sharply and will continue to be pared back, after US President Donald Trump demanded it stop altogether.

"Why is the World Bank lending money to China? Can this be possible? China has plenty of money, and if they don't, they create it," Mr Trump wrote on Twitter Friday.

The bank, which is led by former US Treasury official David Malpass, defended its approach in a brief statement: "World Bank lending to China has fallen sharply and will continue to reduce as part of our agreement with all our shareholders including the United States. We will eliminate lending as countries get richer," it said.

Trump was reiterating a position long held by his administration, including Malpass prior to his election as the current head of the World Bank.

The Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told US lawmakers Thursday that the United States "has objected" to the institution’s multi-year program of loans and projects in China.

That program, which includes plans to reduce lending to China, was adopted on Thursday. The program “reflects the evolution of our relationship with China,” US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the House Financial Services Committee on Thursday. "Our engagement will be non-reciprocally selective.

Trump’s very public stance comes amid negotiations between Washington and Beijing seeking to end the US president’s 18-month-long trade war, which is aimed at forcing China to make concessions on protecting American businesses and reducing its trade surplus.

Argentina’s outgoing Economy Minister, Martin Guzmán (right), is flanked by his cabinet at a news conference in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

Argentina’s outgoing Economy Minister, Martin Guzmán (right), met with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

But Argentina’s incoming Economy Minister, Martin Guzman (centre), announced his cabinet ahead of taking office on December 10, in Buenos Aires.

Argentina’s outgoing Economy Minister, Martin Guzman (right), met with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

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DENMARK property market could lose 10% of value if speculation banned

The pension industry now faces losses in an asset class that had stood out as an engine of negative interest rates. Denmark's central bank first went below zero in 2012, and has negative rates longer than any other country.

EU to consider tougher tax haven listing

A group of European Union countries is calling for tougher tax haven listing.

BLOOMBERG (12:00 AM)

As some of Denmark's pension funds prepare to write down their property portfolios, the country's housing minister says he would find it difficult to maintain an accountable outcome as they try to alter the law to prevent speculation.

The minister, Kjeld Yerved, proposed a new plan to protect tenants. Instead, he drew criticism from Denmark's pension industry, which says the plan is too controversial and too small a chunk of the Copenhagen real estate market to affect prices.

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REUTERS (10:00 PM)

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Russia braces for four-year Olympic ban over doping

REUTERS

Russia could be hit with a four-year Olympic ban on Monday for failing anti-doping rules, several Russian sports officials have said would be unfair and would damage the image of the country.

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) has been given three years to comply with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules, or face suspension for a further two years. If that happens, Russia would automatically be banned from the Winter Olympics in France in 2024 and Winter Paralympics in 2026.

The ban would come after a WADA meeting that was set to decide whether to lift a four-year ban that was imposed on Russia in 2018 for violating anti-doping rules.

The ban comes as Russia faces a range of other challenges, including tensions with Western countries over its involvement in recent conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, and concerns about its human rights record.

The ban is expected to lead to widespread protests and condemnation from Russian officials, who have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

The decision is likely to have a significant impact on Russia's sporting future, and could also have implications for other countries around the world.
Pakistan recall Alam after gap of 10 years

Pakistan has recalled 34-year-old middle-order batsman Fawad Alam for the first time in 10 years for the Test series against Sri Lanka.

Chief selector and head coach Misbah-ul-Haq said yesterday that the left-handed batsman was selected because of his recent prolific scoring in domestic cricket.

The series, which is part of ICC's World Test Championship, starts at Rawalpindi next Wednesday.

Karachi will host the second Test from Thursday.

Alam last played a Test match against New Zealand at Dunedin in 2005 and has scored over 5,222 runs in a 16-year first class career at a healthy average of 56.84.

Alam has scored 15 hundreds in 89 first class matches made from the 16-man squad that lost the Test matches against Sri Lanka and West Indies in the 1990s.

He has been acting CEO in the Test squad and has also appeared in every domestic tournament, including the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, the Pakistan Cricket Board Domestic Knockout and the Pakistan Cup.

"The selection is not only a lesson to the selectors' combination with Imran Khan, Mohammad Abbas, Pascoe Shah and Shaheen Afridi."

Alam scored a century in his debut Test against Sri Lanka in July 2009 and has scored over 5,222 runs in a 16-year first class career at a healthy average of 56.84.

"The perspective is that it's a one-man show," Misbah said yesterday. "I think there should be a clarity on this, there are six selectors who closely watch players in domestic cricket and also do work with the players on their technique. They know all the minus and plus of these players very well and I am sure he will make up a good partnership with Shadab Khan.

"The Australia Test series is going to start at Rawalpindi next week and the final round is today, so the 14 players also need to be there to be ready for the match against Sri Lanka.

"It's about contributing to your team and making the team win."
Benzema delivers again as Real cruise to win
Saudi Arabia and Bahrain will be aiming to go all out to have their hands on the coveted Gulf Cup trophy as they clash in the final of the eight-team event at the Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium today.

The title-match will kick off at 7pm.

Both the teams, who were placed in Group B in the preliminary stage, reached the final after hard-fought victories in the semi-finals on Thursday.

Bahrain - coached by Portuguese Hélio Sousa under whom The Red's won their maiden WAFF Championship last August - topped Group A winners Iraq by a goal in a tense match to clinch the semi-final.

Frenchman Hervé Renard's 'Green Falcons' displayed a stubborn defensive performance to keep Asian champions Qatar silent after a first-half goal by 20-year-old striker Abdullah Al Hamdan for a 1-0 victory in the second semi-final.

While Saudi Arabia are aiming for their fourth regional title, Bahrain are hoping to continue their winning form and clinch the maiden Gulf Cup title today.

Coach Renard's Saudi Arabia will enter the Al Dhahab's stadium turf with a better record against their neighbours. In all, both the teams have squared off 18 times in the regional tournament with both Saudi winning 9 matches, 6 draws and 3 defeats.

In addition to the double-header on December 17 - the fifth-place play-off and the semi-final involving CONMEBOL Libertadores winners CR Flamengo - Khalifa International Stadium will also host the second semi-final involving UEFA Champions League winners Liverpool FC on December 18, along with the final and third-place play-off on December 21.

In due course, all successful ticket applicants will receive a dedicated email with further information including details of how and when to download the tickets from their account on FIFA.com tickets.

Khalifa Stadium to host FIFA Club World Cup final

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain eye Gulf Cup glory

SAUDI ARABIA

Khalifa International Stadium will host three additional matches during the FIFA Club World Cup 2019 after the official opening of Education City Stadium was postponed until early 2020.

In addition to the double-header of games on December 17, the fifth-place play-off and the semi-final involving CONMEBOL Libertadores winners CR Flamengo, Khalifa International Stadium will also host the second semi-final involving UEFA Champions League winners Liverpool FC.

The stadium is fully tournament-ready venue ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.