Qatar’s policies affirm international legitimacy, law

SACHIN KUMAR
THE PENINSULA

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday opened the high-profile Doha Forum 2019 at Doha Sheraton Hotel that witnessed attendance of world’s top decision makers and policy leaders. Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World is theme of the 19th edition of the two-day forum, which is the region’s largest open platform for global discussion.

Delivering the opening speech, H H the Amir said that the Doha Forum is a platform which we had launched 19 years ago for dialogue and exchange of ideas. At that stage discourse about a better future for humanity started when the two camps system and the cold war had come to an end, and then talk about the Millennium Goals, followed by the sustainable development goals has become possible, and hence the world and our forward-looking to its future seemed more optimistic.

H H the Amir added that the sources of defects that prompted many people to lose faith in the efficacy of the existing global systems and mechanisms, including double standards, must be addressed.

It is not yet clear whether what has happened since that stage is a transition from unipolarism to multipolarism, or is it a state of fragmentation and an attempt by major powers to disavow their duties and responsibilities.

The sources of defects that prompted many people to lose faith in the efficacy of the existing global systems and mechanisms, including double standards, must be addressed. Sincere efforts should also be intensified in propounding new visualisations for the next stage, especially after the consequences of abandoning the international legitimacy and law emerged in more than one place, including our region. This matter was the focus of this year’s Doha Forum report, under the theme ‘Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World’.

The opening ceremony was attended by President of the Republic of Rwanda, H E Paul Kagame; President of the Republic of Armenia, H E Armen Sarkissian; President of the Republic of El Salvador, H E Nayib Bukele; Prime Minister of Malaysia, H E Dr. Mahathir Mohamad; President of the Republic of Ecuador, H E Otto Sonnenholzner; Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, H E Fayez Musata Al Sarraj; Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia H E Hassan Ali Khara; Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, H E Gaston Browne, and President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, H E Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani delivering the opening speech during the ‘Doha Forum 2019’ at Doha Sheraton Hotel yesterday. 

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FROM PAGE 1

The opening was also attended by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, a number of Their Excellences Sheikhs and Ministers of state and friendly countries and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the State, an elite of decision makers, intellectuals in the fields of politics, economics, energy, media, culture and representatives of international institutions and civil society organizations.

Addressing the audience, H H the Amir said that it is not yet clear whether what has happened since that stage is a transition from unipolarism to multipolarism, or is it a state of fragmentation and an attempt by major powers to disavow their duties and responsibilities.

H H the Amir said if the situation was just a multipolarism, there would not have been a problem, as multipolarization does not prevent integration of rules and may enrich international relations with different perspectives, but if it is translated into a mere rivalry for influence between actors without agreed universal responsibilities and visions for the interest of the world, then this would tantamount to a reversion even from the bipolar stage when two perceptions for a better world had competed in the shadow of mutual deterrence.

H H the Amir added that the common international vision that appeared to be clear at the beginning of the new millennium has blurred, whether from the perspective of the international legitimacy, issues of poverty and development and climate or from not holding war criminals accountable. However, the problems and challenges have remained in place as they are and the environment and climate problems are exacerbating, and as they are and the environment and climate problems are exacerbating, and the issue of occupation and annexation of others’ land by force.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani along with other dignitaries attending the opening session of Doha Forum 2019.

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Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani along with other dignitaries attending the opening session of Doha Forum 2019.
On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani, founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,
We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of
His Highness The Amir

The Chairman, the Board of Directors and all the employees of the QNB Group
Amir meets delegates participating in Doha Forum

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met a number of Their Excellencies heads of sisterly and friendly States and governments taking part in the Doha Forum 2019 at Doha Sheraton Hotel yesterday morning. H H the Amir met with the Prime Minister of Rwanda, H E Paul Kagame; President of the Republic of Armenia, H E Armen Sargsyan; President of the Republic of El Salvador, H E Nayib Bukele; Prime Minister of Malaysia, H E Mahathir Mohamad; Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador, H E Otto Sonnenholzner; Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, H E Fayez Mustafa Al Sarraj; Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H E Hassan Ali Khaire; Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, H E Gaston Browne; and President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, H E Tijjani Muhammad-Bande. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani and a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers.

Amir honours Prime Minister of Malaysia

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani honoured the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H E Dr. Mahathir Mohamad for his entire accomplishments, during the opening of the Doha Forum 2019. In his speech at the opening of the Doha Forum 2019 this morning, H H the Amir said: “This persons’ personality is a role model of good governance. He has managed to achieve a quantum leap in economy, education and production in his country. He also fought against class discrimination to make education and health a right for all of his countrymen while promoting religious coexistence and communal peace, as well as fighting corruption, aligning with the just causes around the world, in addition to his determination that neither receptive time nor age.”

Amir meets US Senator

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met with Senator H E Lindsey Graham, member of the Senate of the US Congress, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2019 at Doha Sheraton Hotel yesterday morning. The meeting reviewed the relations of friendship and strategic cooperation between the State of Qatar and the United States and ways of enhancing them.

Malaysian PM: Amir’s opening of Doha Forum promotes enthusiasm for more in-depth discussions

Prime Minister of Malaysia H E Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said that Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani’s opening of the Doha Forum 2019 promotes enthusiasm for more in-depth discussions in the presence of a number of world leaders, officials, experts, researchers and academics, to reach visions on the current global challenges and improve the standard of living for the world’s population, expressing his gratitude to the State of Qatar for the warm welcome during his current visit.

Addressing the opening session of the Doha Forum 2019, H E the Prime Minister said that the topics addressed by the Doha Forum affirm that the State of Qatar is on the right track in identifying the current developments in the world, adding that the Forum presents a great opportunity for experts from around the world to exchange experiences and information about the best solutions to the current challenges.

He noted that the world today is largely interrelated and no country can live in isolation from the others, noting that the Forum’s slogan this year “Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World” indicates the need for world countries to work jointly away from unilateralism and isolationism. He stressed that this multiplcity stimulates innovation and cooperation in various fields.

He said that countries that believe in control create nothing but sensitivity and tension, and today’s multipolar world needs partnership and cooperation, noting that the world is facing increasing concern about the sustainability of economic growth in light of the current economic, social and political challenges, which require a global partnership to address them. He referred to the experience of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in cooperation and partnership to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the region for 52 years despite the social, economic and political multiplicity, saying that his country, a member of this association, continues to consolidate regional integration as a priority in its foreign policy.

H E the PM of Malaysia expressed rejection for imposing sanctions in order to compel states and force them to accept some ideologies and changes, saying that the countries targeted by the sanctions do not suffer alone but also their commercial and economic partners, and that no international law allows for the imposition of unilateral sanctions which are unilateral and a form of dictatorship.

He underlined that his country does not support the re-imposition of unilateral sanctions against Iran, saying that these measures violate the Charter of the United Nations and international laws. He called on the UN General Assembly to work towards defining a law to control such sanctions. He E the PM warned against trade wars saying that these are stressful, strong and do not respect human values and rights, and their impact is greater for the poor and destitute around the world. He called for resolving trade conflicts through negotiations and dialogue, or through resorting to the courts agreed upon by the countries concerned, and for trade negotiations to restore balance to the world.

H E the PM of Malaysia also touched on the challenges of climate change and his experience as the prime minister and the changes he has led in Malaysia and the plans of his government to achieve more economic, recovery and most related challenges.

International Police Coordination Center in Doha to secure FIFA 2022

The Ministry of Interior said that the establishment of the International Police Coordination Center (IPCC) in Doha aims to ensure the highest levels of security and tranquility for all spectators during the 2022 World Cup.

The IPCC is an operating room managed and supervised by the Security Committee of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. It has been provided with the latest advanced technological means and the necessary infrastructure to perform its role and achieve its goals.

The Center focuses on managing the situation and dealing with fans coming from these countries, participating countries of the tournament, liaison officers from the external police bodies of the organization. It includes a group of qualified young cadres representing the concerned departments that operate under the umbrella of the security committee. During the Club World Cup Championship, the center was activated to enhance capabilities and identifying mechanisms for joint action as the liaison officers from the external police agencies were brought in from the participating countries of the tournament, such as Brazil, France, Mexico and Britain, to provide expertise and assistance in dealing with fans coming from these countries to attend the Club World Cup.

The Center focuses on managing the situation, noting that the participation of officers from the sporting spirit, and adopts appropriate or anti-racist slogans, whether political, social or religious that would incite fanaticism. This means and the necessary infrastructure were provided for all spectators during the 2022 World Cup.

QNA
Prime Minister meets participants of Doha Forum 2019

President of Asian Parliamentary Assembly meets Speaker of Shura Council

MoTC at advanced stages on ‘Park and Ride’ project

Somali Foreign Minister lauds Qatar’s support for his country
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah met yesterday with a number of Their Excellencies the delegates participating in the Doha Forum 2019 which is being held in Doha.

President H E Armen Sarkissian of the Republic of Armenia met with H E Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs. H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah met separately with US Secretary of Treasury H E Steven Mnuchin and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arabian Gulf Affairs H E Timothy Lenderking. H E also met with Minister of Defence of Japan H E Taro Kono. H E Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs met with Malaysia’s Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu.

06 SUNDAY

The Iraqi journalist Salam Musafer, H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah emphasised the interest of the State of Qatar in exploring for oil and making sure to extract it for dependence in the country's economy, especially after the collapse of the pearl industry due to what Japan has done to introduce artificial pearls into the market is to drop the whole industry, so the Qatari government has turned its attention to oil and gas.

H E pointed out that oil played an important role in the promotion and development process in the Arab Gulf region in general since the beginning of the nineties, adding that in front of the growing international and local challenges in this sector, the State of Qatar has been keen in years. The latter is to invest in vital sectors that guarantee the development of society and achieve real comprehensive and invested development, including the possibilities offered by oil, as one of the fruits of the efforts led by the State and society in this regard is that the State of Qatar has become an ambitious model of development.

H E noted that about half of the State of Qatar's production of crude oil comes from the Al Dukhan and Al Shamah fields, pointing out that the Al Shamah Gas field is one of the largest non-associated natural gas fields in the world, which was discovered in 1955 in submerged waters in the northeast of the country and reaches a water depth ranging from between 225 to 700 metres, and the field extends over an area of 6,000 square kilometres and contains about 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which represents 20 percent of the world’s reserves of natural gas, which places Qatar in third place globally after the Russian Federation and Iran.

He stressed that the country’s wise leadership seeks to increase the production capacity of LNG, as the State of Qatar will remain prominent in the global energy market for several years to come as the largest supplier of LNG in the world including up to a quarter of global LNG supplies.

At the end of the discussion session, H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah praised the efforts of the State of Qatar in the field of energy exploration and extraction in various countries of the world, stressing its respect for international agreements and agreements in the field of exporting petroleum products and natural gas shipped to various countries of the world, noting the diversity of the country's income sources through its sovereign fund for investment, which guarantees a decent life for future generations, as well as ensuring development assistance to developing countries through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFDF) and through international charitable societies and institutions supported by the State of Qatar.
Prime Minister Day is innovation is inspiration to instil values of sacrifice and loyalty to homeland and wise leadership

**H E the Prime Minister added:**

The celebrations of the National Day are a great and have vast meanings in the minds and hearts of all citizens and expatriate residents. ‘It is a glorious occasion to commemorate the founder Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and all citizens and expatriates living on this good land, on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the State, asking all citizens to unite this day and the nation with full of pride, delight and determination, and that everyone enjoys with all of hard work and to maintain tranquility.

The signs of the celebration of the National Day are great and have high meanings in the minds and hearts of all citizens and expatriate residents, H E the Prime Minister said. Qatar National Day celebrations are a prelude to the National Day. H E the Prime Minister added: ‘Today there is much crowd and noise in the old Qatari customs such as Darb Al Saai. Visitors get a chance to know more about the duties carried out by these entities.\(^2\)

**H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Al Thani stressed that the progress in the State of Qatar is great in all aspects. The State of Qatar has made great progress in various fields since its independence. In the economic field, the State has achieved one of the fastest economic booms in modern history.\(^3\)**

The GDP of Qatar boosted from about $10bn in 1971 to over $367bn by the end of 2022, putting the country among the largest producer of liquid gas in the world.\(^4\) The Qatar government is pursuing its Vision 2030 and the National Strategic Plan 2022, which aims to diversify the economy and achieve self-sufficiency.\(^5\)

Additionally, it has a large collection of modern hospitals, research centers, humanities and universities, in addition to the best sports centers in the world.\(^6\) The Qatar government is the largest producer of liquid in the world.\(^7\) It has the largest producer of liquid gas in the world.\(^8\) The State of Qatar has made great progress in various fields since its independence.

The most important objectives to be learned from this occasion is the celebration allows our youth to learn about the hardships faced by our ancestors and the sacrifices they made in order to pave the way for us and our future generations.

**The celebrations also instil in them the ideals and great hopes that built our beloved country and is an opportunity for them to follow the same approach, and emphasize the importance of choosing a wise and honest leader who maintains the interest of our people.**\(^9\)

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The celebrations’ purpose is to encourage the citizens and expatriates to participate in various events and crises with all wisdom and sanity; the values of sacrifice and loyalty to homeland and wise leadership, citizens and residents of the State of Qatar have been able to achieve the sectoral objectives of the Qatar National Strategy (2018-2022), which aims to diversify the economy and achieve self-sufficiency.\(^5\)

**The celebration of the National Day is a glorious occasion to commemorate the founder Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and all citizens and expatriates living on this good land, on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the State, asking all citizens to unite this day and the nation with full of pride, delight and determination, and that everyone enjoys with all of hard work and to maintain tranquility.**

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EDITORIAL

Providing space for dialogue

As a global platform for dialogue, Doha Forum since its inception in 2000 has been influential in shaping policy makers, and representatives of sectors of civil society, think tanks, academics and media from over the world to discuss critical issues facing the world. This platform is suitable environment to promote the exchange of ideas, come out with action-oriented recommendations for mutual understanding on critical global challenges. The world today under globalization and advancement of technology has become more connected than ever before and interdependence resulting from conflicts, poverty, and displacement of peoples for future of many countries to realize their aspirations for development and prosperity.

The Qatar role was also lauded by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Shah who emphasized the significance of Doha Forum organized under the patronage of H H the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani thanked the Amir Sheikh Tamim for hosting the conference and underlined the importance of the forum in promoting international cooperation and for dialogue, H H the Amir was quoted as saying.

Qatar is committed to contributing in solving these problems and challenges adhering to policies based on respecting the international law and international legitimacy and contributing to solve these problems peacefully through mediation and providing a space for dialogue, H H the Amir was quoted as saying.

Qatar’s tourism sector records remarkable growth in 2019

The co-operation between the QNTC and the World Tourism Organization has been developed to include support for several global initiatives, while the Council has worked to develop and regulate the way the tourism sector operate with a focus on developing the tourism sector and development of the infrastructure, tourism sector is crucial for the country due to the role it can play in achieving economic diversification, one of the main goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The total number of visitors to Qatar in the first seven months of 2019 grew by 11 percent from year over year to 119 million.

QNTC has worked to strengthen Qatar’s position as a global business destination and to collaborate with Qatar Tourism Authority’s partners to attract more conferences and exhibitions. It has also been supporting companies to organize local exhibitions and events and give them the opportunity to lead the sector.

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The visa-free entry policy allows citizens of 80 countries around the world to enter Qatar without a visa, and its national carriers have established a pioneering network of 170 destinations worldwide, which boosts Qatar’s value as a tourist destination. The council also sought to organize a number of promotional events, the biggest of which was the summer in Qatar during the 11-week event saw QNTC cooperate with 68 partners, in addition to facilitating the process for Qatar’s position as 51st globally and second in Southeast Asia. This coincides with the recent developments in the tourism sector in Qatar.

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The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Eng. Youssef Al Emadi, Director of the UNDP Accelerator Labs in Qatar, attended the Doha Forum 2019 at Souq Al Wakra Hotel. Dr. Emadi discussed the importance of multilateralism and the role of the UNDP in supporting Qatar’s development and sustainable development goals.

Dr. Emadi highlighted the significance of multilateralism in addressing global challenges and achieving sustainable development. He emphasized the role of the UNDP Accelerator Labs in fostering innovation and collaboration between governments, private sector, and civil society to drive social and economic progress.

The forum also featured a panel discussion on the future of the international order, moderated by Wessam Al-Wawi, Executive Director of the Center for Mediterranean Studies. The panelists, including Mexican diplomat María Elena Delgado, discussed the challenges of globalization and the need for new global balances.

Mexican government and UNDP signs MoU on sustainable development

The UNDP Accelerator Labs in Qatar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to support Qatar’s efforts in sustainable development. The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration between the two entities to drive innovation and sustainable solutions.

Under the terms of the MoU, the UNDP Accelerator Labs will provide support in areas such as policy development, capacity building, and knowledge sharing to助力 Qatar’s efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Ahmed K Elmagarmid, chief executive director of the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), said: “This partnership is a significant step in advancing our shared commitment to supporting sustainable development in Qatar and beyond.”

The MoU signing ceremony took place at the Doha Forum 2019, where Dr. Elmagarmid and MFA officials exchanged views on the importance of global partnerships in achieving sustainability goals.

Diabetes medicine free of NDMA, clarifies HMC

The Healthcare Provider is assuring all patients that medicines which have been imported from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) have both announced that no NDMA is detected in their medications provided by HMC.

Officials from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) have advised patients who are currently taking metformin medicines approved under the commercial name (Glumetza) prescribed by HMC pharmacists to continue taking these medicines and not to cause use of the medication. The healthcare provider is assuring all patients that medicines which have been imported from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) have both announced that no NDMA is detected in their medications provided by HMC.

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Sudan's former president Bashir gets 2-year detention for graft

AFP

KHARTOUM

Sudan's former president Omar Al Bashir was sentenced yesterday to two years' detention in a correctional centre for corruption in the first of several cases against the ousted autocrat.

The charges stemmed from millions of dollars received by the toppled strongman from another country.

Bashir, who was deposed by the army in April after nearly three decades in rule, appeared in court in a metal cage wearing a traditional white jallaba and turban for the verdict.

He was convicted of "corruption" and "possession of foreign currency", judge Al Sadiq Abdelrahman said, charges which can carry a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

Instead, the court, taking into account his age, ordered the 75-year-old to serve two years in a correctional centre for the elderly.

Under the law, those who reached the age of 70 shall not serve in prison, the judge said.

Bashir will serve his sentence after the verdict has been reached in another case in which he is accused of ordering the stepping up of the war in Syria.

The Sudanese Professionals Association — the group that initially led protests against Bashir welcomed the verdict on Twitter.

"This is not over for Bashir — there are other cases," the group said. Added the ex-president will appeal the verdict, said one of his lawyers, Ahmed Ibrahim.

Outside the court, several dozen Bashir supporters gathered chanting: "There is no God but God!" Handing more holding banners reading: "Down the government," "Down the puppet leaders," and "Justice for Bashir, freedom for the leaders."

The measure block financial transactions with and travel...
Protests rage as US and Britain warn on travel to northeast India

Afp

Protests against a divisive new citizenship law raged as Washington and London issued travel warnings for northeast India following days of clashes that have killed two people so far. Now in the fray, flung rice is throwing both sides, will grant citizenship to large numbers of immigrants from countries like Bangladesh, who they accuse of stealing jobs and undermining the region’s cultural identity. Several thousand protesters rallied in New Delhi last evening urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government to revoke the law, some holding signs reading: “Long live Assam”. Many hundreds of people who do not have documents, we want that equal treatment as is enshrined in our constitution,” said protestor Amit Baruah, 55, a journalist.

Protests turned violent in West Bengal state, a hotspot of political unrest, with at least 20 buses and parts of two railway stations set on fire as demonstrators blockaded roads and set buildings on fire. Many protesters sang, “We are fighting for our identity. Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, we beseech you to help us.”

Several thousand protesters demonstrated against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, that seeks to give citizenship to the six non-Muslim communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Jain and Buddhists — from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who they accuse of not being covered by the legislation. They also asked the government to不对 these communities, who are not covered by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, that was passed by Parliament last December, to be made a part of the law.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill which was recently passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday is aimed at granting citizenship to the six non-Muslim communities — Hindus, Sikhs from Pakistan, Afghan and Bangladesh and people who do not have documents are not covered by the legislation.

Britain warned their nationals to stay away. Britain had issued travel warnings for India in the past. Protesters also burned the Indian flag and threw stones at passing government vehicles.

Protesters burned a large portrait of the Prime Minister, saying, “We will not allow Modi to rule until he apologises.”

The Citizenship Amendment Act allows for the fast-track processing of applications from religious minorities including Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The bill was introduced by the government in Parliament last week in the name of protecting people from religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Protestors demonstrated against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, that seeks to give citizenship to religious minority refugees from the three countries. They also opposed the Bill, which they said was against the spirit of the Constitution. It will take the country back 20 years, they said.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi yesterday refused to apologise over his “Rape in India” remark and mocked Sajid S时间节点 Venkataramanan. Rahul Gandhi had accused the Prime Minister of burning the Constitution and West Bengal in the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act that was passed by Parliament last December, on Thursday afternoon.

“Rape in India” had become a political issue after Rahul Gandhi made the remark, which many felt was offensive.

The Lok Satta on Friday burst into fierce attack on Rahul Gandhi for his remarks yesterday.

Lamenting at the govt over the economic crisis, Rahul said: “The strength of this country was its economy, many countries looked at us and they wondered how we reached at 5 per cent GDP and now even today is being sold at Rs 200 a kg.

The economy of India has been destroyed single handedly by the Prime Minister,” he said.

The Congress from Kerala’s Ayawara’s and the West Bengal’s in the country demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

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"You remember he came on TV at 9 pm on Monday and made Rs3,000 and Rs100,000 notes illegal tender. He hit the Indian economy so hard that it has been unable to recover since then.”

The opposition and rights organisations say the law is a part of Modi’s Hindu nationalist agenda to marginalise India’s 200 million Muslims.

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A custom официальное указание goede бомбирования things were seized while being smuggled into the country, on the outskirts of Karachi, on December 13, 2019.

Pakistan has been elected to preside over the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2020. Earlier in May 2019, Pakistan was elected as a Member of the Commission for a four-year term starting from 1 January 2020. Pakistan has served on the Commission for four decades since its establishment.

Pakistan’s Permanent Rep- resentative to the United Nations Office in Vienna, Ambassador Mamoor Ahmad Khan will preside over the 63rd session of the Commission. Pakistan’s unanimous election reflects another vote of confidence by the international community in Pakistan’s leadership and its important role in the global policy discourse on the world drug problem. The Commission on Nar- cotic Drugs is the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the main policy making entity within the UN system on world drug problem for implementing the world drug conventions.

Following its election at the Chair, Pakistan would steer the Commission through dialogue and cooperation with all the stakeholders to address challenges related with narcotic drugs with a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach.

Pakistan is the world’s biggest producer and exporter of opium and the world’s second largest consumer of heroin. The country, besides being a major transit country for the area, also produces methamphetamine. Pakistan has been under the UN spotlight for the use of incoherent data and selection standards needed for its elite force, adding however that issues such as recruitment and selection standards needed to be settled.

Pakistan has accused Myanmar of violating Pakistan-Peoples Party (PPP) lawmakers Rahmatang Lang, Rubina Khalid, Imranuddin Shaukat, Kamran Ghanch and Keshoo Bai, Sherry Rehman, and Islamuddin Shaikh, Gianchand; lawmakers Bahramand Tangi and Bahram and evidence-based approach. Pakistan’s unanimous election reflects another vote of confidence by the international community in Pakistan’s leadership and its important role in the global policy discourse on the world drug problem. The Commission on Nar- cotic Drugs is the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the main policy making entity within the UN system on world drug problem for implementing the world drug conventions.

Pakistan has a bill to create a new Metropolitan Commonwealth of Pakistan (MCP), which aims to improve the country’s governance and accountability. The bill, introduced by MQM-P legislator Kishwer Zehra, seeks to establish a new federal administrative unit with its headquarters in Karachi.

The bill proposes to establish a new province in the country, which would be called the Metropolitan Commonwealth of Pakistan (MCP). The province would have its own elected government and would have the power to make laws in areas such as education, health, and law and order.

The bill is expected to be debated in the National Assembly seeking the approval of the bill. The government of Pakistan has not yet commented on the bill.

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North Korea conducts another ‘crucial test’ at satellite launch site

South Korea has conducted another ‘crucial test’ at its Sohae satellite launch site, state media reported yesterday, as nuclear proliferation experts in Seoul and Washington remained stalemated with a deadline for new talks approaching.

The announcement comes just before US Special Envoy for North Korea Stephen Biegun and his team arrive in South Korea for a three-day visit, and after the South launched a medium-range ballistic missile over the Pacific Ocean on Thursday.

‘Another crucial test was successfully conducted at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground from 22:17 to 22:48 on December 13,’ a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence Science said in a statement released by the official KCNA news agency.

“Our satellite launches will be applied to further bolstering up the robust strategic nuclear deterrent’ of North Korea, the spokesman added.

Earlier this month, the North announced it conducted what it called a ‘very important test’ at the same site in Sohae.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had agreed to shutter the Sohae site during a summit with US President Donald Trump in June 2019.

The South Pacific nation of Samoa yesterday extended a state of emergency due to a measles outbreak which has killed 12 people and infected nearly 3000 of the nation's children in less than a month.

Samoan Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, said the decision was made after receiving a tip from intelligence that some members of the JAD militant group in Java, Indonesia, had been seen in the country.

The organisation said that muscular infections infected nearly 10 million people in 2018 and killed 140,000, mostly children.

Scientists monitoring the island said the likelihood of another eruption over the weekend was decreasing but the risk remained.

Their new calculation was based on evidence that the volcano had erupted with between zero and two ‘crucial tests’ as they searched waters off the island.

The government ordered the evacuation of about 100,000 people living on the island as of Thursday, the same day the volcano erupted.

A senior Indonesian police official said yesterday that seven IS militants, including three Australians, have been arrested since last year with two military helicopters under threat of another blast.

The remaining six people were retrieved on Friday in a daring operation by elite soldiers with two military helicopters under threat of another blast.

The recovery had been held for threeagon housing continued following from the volcanic eruption.
**Belgian carnival removed from UNESCO list over racism row**

A famous Belgian carnival was removed from the United Nations' cultural heritage list following complaints that it was insensitive to expressions included in the list. The Aalst Carnival, which is held annually in the city of the same name in the Flemish region of Belgium, was listed by Unesco's secretariat as a point of “anti-Semitic” symbolism and unacceptable practices.

In a statement yesterday, the committee said that the carnival’s inclusion on the heritage list highlighted the need to preserve the traditions and can make some of them eligible for Unesco funding, particularly those that are in danger of disappearing.

The committee also approved the inclusion of 40 cultural practices on its list, including some in the Middle East and Africa.

The carnival was removed from the list “with regret,” said Unesco’s assistant director for culture, who noted that the conditions in prisons and police stations could not be met.

The decision came after several complaints by Unesco’s secretariat to the Aalst Carnival’s organizing committee about anti-Semitic symbolism in the carnival’s practices.

Unesco’s director-general for culture said he had received a “very dangerous signal” from the organizing committee and had decided to remove the carnival from the list.

“We are on a very dangerous path,” he said. “We cannot allow this to happen again.”

**Dutch police arrest climate activists at Schiphol airport**

Dutch police said yesterday that they had arrested 50 activists from the climate change group Extinction Rebellion who had occupied Schiphol airport in Amsterdam.

The activists had been planning to disrupt flights from Schiphol, one of Europe’s busiest airports, by blocking access to the airport’s runways.

Dutch police said that they had arrested the activists because they were blocking the airport’s runways and disrupting air traffic.

The police also said that they had seized the activists’ equipment and that they would be questioned.

**Main Polish opposition party picks presidential candidate**

Main Polish opposition party picks presidential candidate

Poland's main opposition party, the Civic Platform, has chosen Sanna Marin, the 34-year-old leader of the country's centrist party, to run in the presidential election in October.

Marin was one of the candidates who had been tipped to win the election, and her appointment as presidential candidate was seen as a sign of the party's growing popularity.

**Greece still in violation of some norms for detention: UN**

A group of UN experts on arbitrary detention said that despite some improvements, Greece was still in violation of certain international obligations on how people are imprisoned.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention presented a preliminary report following a visit to Greece last month. It noted several areas of concern involving the treatment of immigration detention, asylum seekers, and refugees.

The group’s concerns included prison overcrowding, the non-segregation of unaccompanied minors, and the lack of access to health care and legal aid.

The report also noted that the Greek government had taken some steps to improve conditions in prisons, but that more needed to be done.

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Boris Johnson said that he understood how difficult it was for traditional Labour voters to switch sides and back his right-wing government in Britain’s biggest election in generations.

The working class north of England, where the SNP won 48 of Scotland’s 59 seats in the UK parliament in Thursday’s national elections, might be steered to his government by the prospect of getting it to up to 10 per cent of its GDP to be spent on health and education in the next few years, the SNP’s finance minister Derek Mackay said.

That is surely twice the 4,807 sq km reported for the first 11 months of 2018. The data was collected by the satellite-based DEOS system, which monitors deforestation in real time.

Another satellite-based system used by the INPE known as PRODES, concluded that deforestation was likely to increase the next season, but noted that it was a preliminary estimate. On Friday, 17 December, Sturgeon vowed not to extend -- would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butter stage of Brexit was completed would be on bread-and-butto
Shooting highlights difficulty of keeping guns out

**Supreme Court takes up Trump bid to shield financial records**

The US Supreme Court agreed to hear President Donald Trump's appeals in three separate cases to prevent his financial records, including tax returns, from being handed over to a New York prosecutor. The cases are a test for how the judiciary will respond to demands for gun control at the federal level, including stricter firearm controls in places with less-stringent laws. The court will hold oral arguments on the cases.

**Superman's cape up for auction in Hollywood**

An original Superman cape worn by actor Christopher Reeve in the 1978 “Superman” film is displayed at Julien's Auctions house, with some 400 cinephile items at Julien's Auctions in Los Angeles, California. The props from Christopher Reeve’s “Superman” and the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy will headline tomorrow’s sale of some 400 items from filing of rare Hollywood memorabilia next week.

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**Superman, The Man of Steel**

Superman’s very first cape and a pipe from the 1978 “Superman” film are each forecast to raise $200,000 at a blockbuster auction of rare Hollywood memorabilia next week. Superman’s very first cape and Bilbo Baggins’ pipe are each forecast to raise $200,000 at a blockbuster auction of rare Hollywood memorabilia next week. Superman’s very first cape and Bilbo Baggins’ pipe are each forecast to raise $200,000 at a blockbuster auction of rare Hollywood memorabilia next week.