**Around 320,000 visit DIBF; over 210,000 books sold**

**SIDI MOHAMED**

After witnessing huge response from book lovers, the 30th edition of the Doha International Book Fair concluded yesterday with the participation of around 330,000 visitors who bought over 210,000 books in the last 10 days.

“A total of 283,937 people visited this year’s 10-day long book fair, while the daily turnout of book lovers was 33,934. About 215,840 books were sold during the book fair,” said Hamad Mohammed Al Zakiba, Director of the Culture and Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. Al Zakiba also said yesterday during an open forum with H E the Minister of Culture and Sports, H E the Minister of Culture and Sports, that the book fair is for cultural affairs and the publications and the Ministry’s support.

The Fair was held under the slogan “Do you then not ponder?”, with the participation of 335 publishing houses from 31 countries. Also, the number of the pavilions of Arabic books is 559, represented by 228 publishing houses, and the number of foreign pavilions is 91, represented by 35 foreign publishers.

The Minister said: “In Qatar, there are 300 nationalities, and there are 200 nationalities, and this was taken into consideration for cultural diversity, as a number of radio stations were attended by 2,700 people, while 985 schools visited the fair.”

The forum discussed the successes of the 30th edition of the Doha International Book Fair compared to previous editions and the Ministry’s support for cultural affairs and the publishing houses.

Regarding the workshops for children, he said it was some 335 publishing houses from 31 countries participated in the fair in which the number of the pavilions of Arabic books was 559, represented by 228 publishing houses, and the number of foreign pavilions was 91 represented by 35 foreign publishers.

The mission reiterated “the importance of maintaining the integrity and neutrality of the National Oil Corporation.” The Libyan National Oil Corporation has announced yesterday, “the force majeure” after stopping oil exports from the ports located in the east of the country.

The mission warned against stopping oil production in Libya. The mission reiterated the importance of maintaining the integrity and neutrality of the National Oil Corporation. The Libyan National Oil Corporation had announced yesterday, the force majeure after stopping oil exports from the ports located in the east of the country.

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Over 12,000 people visit Qatar Foundation booths at Book Fair

The Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, attending the first day of the Doha International Book Fair.

Young techpreneurs to pitch ideas at AIA closing ceremony

Top ten teams of the third Arab Innovation Academy (AIA) will present their business ideas during the closing ceremony to impress investors at Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) tomorrow.

Some 190 students were accepted to participate in AIA 2020. The participants were grouped into 30 teams, and they went through an accelerated mode of experimental learning to help them turn an idea into a startup in only 10 days.

The 30 teams participated in a Startup Expo on Thursday among them 10 teams and a wildcard will qualify for the finals.

During ‘Startup Expo’, the participants had the opportunity to showcase their projects. The Peninsula spoke to a cross section of teams about their work and experience with AIA.

Mohammad Haweshel, a student at Jordanian Institute of Science and Technology, and his team mates have developed a prototype for a device to help people with hearing disability to cross the road. “Around half million people in the world have hearing disability. They try to cross the road and have no idea what is happening around as they can only see not hear vehicles honking from behind. Our solution to this problem is to build a device with artificial intelligence that can be kept in the pocket. It will listen to certain signals and send notifications and get the attention of the person while crossing the road.” said Haweshel.

He described the experience with AIA as ‘amazing days of learning’. AIA provided a window of innovation among young people to challenge the world’s biggest problems – problems that affect one billion lives every day.

Eric Ahas is from Ghana and studying at University College of Qatar. His team with an aim to protect the environment has developed a concept to make paper from tree vines. “We are hopeful that our card will be welcomed by companies.” he said.

According to Albas the learning experience with AIA was ‘fantastic’ as it has helped him to think out of the box.

AIA 2020 gathered more than 40 mentors and coaches with some coming from the US, the UK, European Union, and Singapore. In addition to the regional and local mentors.

Gregoire Quemener, a marketing student, has come to AIA from France and his team ‘Sal-Earth’ has developed a prototype of a plug in for glasses that displays real-time subtitles of what people talk.

“I choose to apply for AIA because the program has impressed me with its strong emphasis on combating climate change and it is a great opportunity to be part of an international project with other young entrepreneurs.” said Ahas.

Quemener said: “AIA is the largest entrepreneurship boot camp in the region. It is a collaboration between JETI and the European Innovation Academy (E4I) and the banks on entrepreneurship. Our programme will introduce participants to the reality of starting a business from different mentors. AIA is an international programme with capacities in public office ethics and related topics for government agencies.

The Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, attending the first day of the Doha International Book Fair.
Katara to host General Assembly of Global Public Diplomacy Network

The General Assembly will be chaired by Darwish Ahmed Al Shaibani, during a press conference outlining the details of the sixth General Assembly of GPDN to be hosted by Katara.

The Secretary-General of the Global Public Diplomatic Network, Eng. Darwish Ahmed Al Shaibani, during a press conference outlining the details of the sixth General Assembly of GPDN to be hosted by Katara.

Katara is the leading cultural and creative hub in Qatar, and it is the only place in the world where the arts, culture, and creativity intersect. The organization’s mission is to promote Qatar’s culture and creativity, and it does so through a variety of initiatives, including hosting international events, exhibitions, and performances.

The General Assembly of the Global Public Diplomatic Network (GPDN) is the apex body of the network, which brings together public diplomats from around the world to discuss and share best practices in the field of public diplomacy.

In turn, Manager of Katara’s Information Technology Department Thameer Al Qadhi highlighted that the General Assembly meeting coincides with Katara’s workshop for young people on social media with participation of specialists, companies heads and international experts in the information technology and modern media sector, explaining that the workshop aims to record this group’s views on public diplomacy through the modern media in the countries to which they belong.

In addition, new websites for The Diplomatic Network will also be launched, as part of a pioneering initiative that aims to enable permanent communication between member states of the network, in this way, providing a flexible and dynamic mechanism that provides the process of exchanging information and contributes to the capacity building and provides all forms of support to the diplomatic and cultural activities of member states.

It is expected that the activities of the day 1 of the 6th General Assembly will begin through a high-level general conference attended by heads of delegations of participating countries, in addition to a group of experts, in the form of an independent international committee that will provide recommendations on the activities of the meeting.

During a press conference outlining the details of the sixth General Assembly of GPDN to be hosted by Katara.

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The first of Shop Qatar’s three raffle draws was held on Friday at The Pearl Qatar in the presence of representa- tives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and broadcast live by GTC.

The prizes included two cars and QR330,000 in cash Qatar’s own StarChoir performed at the event.

The holders of voucher numbers 0040, 1446, 1402, 5049, and 1701 won QR300,000 each. The holders of voucher numbers 12189, 8537, 15109, and 2109 won QR200,000 each. Two holders of voucher number 14010 and 14529 won QR100,000 each. The holders of voucher numbers 13244 and 15103 won QR100,000 each. The winners of the voucher number 3183 won Mimi Cooper Hatchick and the holder of the number 623 won BMW X5 Li.

The exclusive media partner of Shop Qatar 2020, Qatar TV has tailored pro- gramming for the festival for the benefit of the domestic market as well as special programs for adults, as well as free viewing of events.

Visit participating voucher holders in the Mall to be eligible to enter the raffle for a chance to win cars and cash prizes with a combined worth of more than QR1 million.

Next week’s Shop Qatar Raffle Draw will be held on Thursday, January 24, at 8pm on January 24 at Doha City to enter the raffle draw, there are 4 easy steps, keep your receipts after you shop at the stores in the participating malls, go to the Shop Qatar Info kiosk in the mall and show your receipts, for every QR500 spent at any participating retailer or restaurant, the raffle draw entries will be valid. Want to enter the weekly raffle draw for a chance to win cars and cash prizes with a combined worth of more than QR1 million.

Qatar Red Crescent celebrates Volunteer Day

Qatar Red Crescent marked the International Volunteer Day at Al Khor under the theme ‘Thank you for your care’. In a speech at the ceremo- nym, Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary-General of the State of Qatar Red Crescent, said that it is an occasion to remember the achievements and assem- blishments of a full year in which volunteers and nurses, whatever the motives and reasons, whatever the motives and reasons of Qatar Red Crescent’s work, have recovered the sacrifices and risks taken.

Qatar Red Crescent issued a statement congratulating the volunteers and nurses, whatever the motives and reasons, whatever the motives and reasons of Qatar Red Crescent’s work, have recovered the sacrifices and risks taken.

Qatar strongly condemns bombing in Somalia

The State of Qatar has strongly condemned the bombing that targeted a health centre in a village in the region of Banaadir, in the capital of Mogadishu, pointing to this as a violation of the principles of international humanitarian law.

In a statement issued by the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the statement expressed Qatar’s full support for the government and people of Somalia and its firm position on the continuous diplomatic efforts to bring peace and stability to the country.

Qatar Red Cross, on the other hand, the 6th General Assembly of Global Public Diplomatic Network hosted by Katara witnesses the accession of new member countries to join the network, by submitting their credentials to the General Assembly, where it is expected that other countries will join the public international relations network.

It is noteworthy that the State of Qatar has joined the membership of the General Assembly of Global Public Diplomatic Network in 2017 and called upon all member countries to continue supporting Qatar’s success in the field of public diplomacy.

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French Pavilion and FNAC provide star attraction at 30th DIBF

The penultimate day of the French Pavilion at the 30th Doha International Book Fair was a great opportunity for many Qatari female novelists to interact with readers directly. Among them are Noora Al Naemi and Mariam Ibrahem, two of the many young Qatari novelists who have entered the literary scene in the country recently with their engaging works. They command a loyal fan following among Arab readers in the region.

Noora Al Naemi, a former student at Qatar University, said, "Since there are stories around, I will keep working on them. It gave me an opportunity to get in touch with my fans," she said. For Noora Al Naemi, who published her first novel, ‘Bashayer: A Dream’, in 2016 with great critical acclaim. With support of her mother, she published her first novel, ‘Naasunshil Alaiyar’ a year ago, our destiny will make us happy! which is about the life of a homeless man in the US. In this novel, she tries to describe the life of homeless people in America and how they suffer on the streets. A lot of Qataris who live in the US said that I have described the reality as it is." Mariam told The Peninsula. This novel was well-received by her readers, who asked her for more. With support of her family and the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Al Naemi plans to keep working on other social phenomena to give voice to voiceless people.

Mariam Ibrahim published her first book a collection of thoughts called ‘Hamil’ in 2016 with great critical acclaim. With support of her husband, she published her first novel, ‘Saniyatnej Alaiyar Yarman’ this year, our destiny will make us happy! which is about the life of a homeless man in the US. In this novel, she tries to describe the life of homeless people in America and how they suffer on the streets. A lot of Qataris who live in the US said that I have described the reality as it is." Mariam told The Peninsula. This novel was well-received by her readers, who asked her for more. With support of her family and the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Al Naemi plans to keep working on other social phenomena to give voice to voiceless people.

Noora Al Naemi are two of the many young Qatari novelists who have entered in touch with them directly. The 30th Doha International Book Fair was a great opportunity for many Qatari female novelists to interact with readers directly. Among them are Noora Al Naemi and Mariam Ibrahem, two of the many young Qatari novelists who have entered the literary scene in the country recently with their engaging works. They command a loyal fan following among Arab readers in the region.

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Mariam mentioned that more Qatari are reading novels than before and this puts more pressure on writers as the readers are looking for more books with better quality. Writing is my career. I am a full-time novelty. Doha Book Fair was a nice experience as it gave me an opportunity to get in touch with my fans,” she said. For Noora Al Naemi, who published her first novel, ‘Bashayer: A Dream’, in 2016 with great critical acclaim, is a collection of thoughts called ‘Hamil’. It was a Dream in 2016 with great critical acclaim. With support of her husband, she published her first novel, ‘Saniyatnej Alaiyar Yarman’ this year, our destiny will make us happy! which is about the life of a homeless man in the US. In this novel, she tries to describe the life of homeless people in America and how they suffer on the streets. A lot of Qataris who live in the US said that I have described the reality as it is." Mariam told The Peninsula. This novel was well-received by her readers, who asked her for more. With support of her family and the Ministry of Culture and Sports, Al Naemi plans to keep working on other social phenomena to give voice to voiceless people.

Since March 2019, Ooredoo and Plug and Play have evaluated more than 200 start-ups, and built seven Minimum Viable Projects. Currently, Ooredoo has two projects in production: the Ooredoo Virtual Store, and Digital Opportunities for People with Physical Disabilities for in partnership with the accessible travel start-up Wheel the World, said the company in a press release. Sheikha Nasser bin Hamad bin Ali Al Thani, Chief Business Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, said: “Our partnership with Plug and Play is delivering great insights and co-creating solutions to support the digital transformation journey into a reality. With the world’s newest technology and most innovative companies, we are quickly implementing new customer-centric products and services.

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Dr. Erik Drazan - Consultant, Department of Plastic Surgery, Al-Emadi Hospital has stated in an interview that the hospital’s plastic surgery department is equipped with a spectacular medical staff that are at the highest level of experience and efficiency. In addition, Al-Emadi’s plastic surgery department utilizes the most advanced and effective surgical and medical technologies to ensure the patients achieve their desired results.

He also pointed out that about 50% of patients who have undergone a form of bariatric surgery have opted to resort to plastic surgery to remedy the inconvenient side effects caused by substantial weight loss, such as sagging skin. He also announced that the plastic surgery department at Al-Emadi hospital welcomes patients who wish to undergo hair restoration surgery, while elaborating on the latest techniques utilized by the department that guarantee a less invasive approach and optimum results.

What are the most sought after plastic surgery operations in Qatar?
At Al-Emadi Hospital, various plastic surgeries are carried out and that includes, but is not limited to, abdominoplasty, commonly known as “tummy tuck”, and 360 body lifts. These surgeries are generally the most sought after by our patients, following obesity surgery procedures. Primarily, commonly known as “love handles” surgeries are also carried out successfully at Al-Emadi hospital.

After bariatric surgeries are carried out, the patients start losing weight in a period between 6 months to a year. Unfortunately, one of the main side effects to substantial weight loss, is sagging skin and improper fat accumulation which can only be remedied by plastic surgery.

With some patients, we resort to performing what is known as 360° body lifts, during which excess fat is extracting far from the body, especially from the lower abdomen and the back, and only do that when a regular abdominoplasty won’t suffice. Some patients also approach us to help lift and tighten their buttocks area, for a more aesthetically pleasing result. Generally speaking, that kind of surgery require 4 to 5 hours, in the patient’s position during the surgery often changes.

I would also like to dispel a very common misconception, that mostly women seek us for cosmetic and aesthetic enhancement surgeries and procedures. In fact, we get a lot of requests from our male patients as well who are keen on preserving their bodies and its state. Cosmetic surgeries can be performed on patients of all ages, and reconstructive surgeries can be performed to children from the ages of 6 and up.

When should patients generally resort to liposuction and liposcuplure?
Patients generally who seek to enhance their aesthetics of which have been altered by fat retention resort to liposuction or liposculpture surgeries. Al-Emadi hospital has an excellent team of surgeons that specialize in performing Brandon’s Elliptical liposuction with excellent results. Patients who most qualify for this surgery are patients that retain adequate unwrinkled fat in their bodies, which can be removed then transferred to the desired area that requires enhancement.

Are Gynecomastia (male breast reduction) surgeries among the most sought after aesthetic enhancement operations in Al Emadi Hospital?
Gynecomastia surgeries, commonly known as “male breast reduction surgeries” are in fact among the most sought after surgeries in the hospitals. About 20% of our patients opt to have this surgery to treat their Gynecomastia. There are two ways that we can go about treating this issue, if we are approached by patients that suffer from mild Gynecomastia, we often resort to liposuction as a form of treatment. Having said that, in some instances we are approached by patients that have suffer from axile Gynecomastia resulting from obesity, that could lead to visible sagging of the skin and excessive fat retention, for which we cannot resort to liposuction alone as a form of treatment, but we also have to surgically remove the problematic excess skin.

What are the latest technological and medical advancements provided by the hospital in the field of hair restoration surgery?
We Al-Emadi Hospital have started providing hair restoration surgeries in September, and are proud to announce that we utilize the latest technological advancements to achieve the greatest results, and that includes follicular unit extraction (FUE), which differs from the old technique utilized, known as follicular unit transplantation (FUT), which was a more invasive plan of action that resulted in leaving the patients with a visible scar as a result of removing skin from the back of the patient’s scalp (Donor area), that is then used to extract the hair follicles.

As for follicular unit extraction (FUE), which is the latest advancement in the field of hair transplant surgery, each follicular unit is singularly extracted to ensure a better aesthetic outcome, without leaving any scars, and it also leaves the patient with less pain and down time post surgery unlike the FUT method. It should be also notable to mention that the patients who wish to enhance their eyebrows and eyelashes, we use in safe hands with Al-Emadi. Generally speaking, hair transplant surgeries usually take from 4 to 8 hours, and the duration depends on the number of hair follicles, extracted and transplanted. For example, the extraction and implantation of 500 to 6000 follicles takes about 4 hours, and 10000 follicles can take about 7 to 8 hours. Hair restoration is recommended for anyone over 25 years of age and below the age of 65.

What is the success rate of hair transplant surgery?
Follicular unit extraction surgeries, commonly known as hair transplant surgery has a success rate of about 95%. However, the results do not generally manifest immediately post surgery. The results manifest gradually, and your should expect to see a noticeable change at the 9 month mark post surgery.
QRC medical convoy concludes with 116 cardiac catheterizations for Bangladeshis children

Over 8 days, 116 cardiac catheterizations were performed for congenital heart defects. From Qatar and Bangladesh, as well as leaders of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Dhaka, to assess the work done and thank the medical personnel who contributed to the procedures.

H E Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Dehaimi, Ambassador of Qatar to Bangladesh, hosted the medical team from Qatar and Bangladesh at his house. He thanked the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Qatar organisations operating in the country.

Al Dehaimi said: “This is the fourth medical convoy by QRCS in Bangladesh under the Little Hearts program. To show how effective these initiatives are for the local community, you have to know that NICVD performs an average of 200 cardiac catheterisations per year.”

Al Dehaimi commended the cooperation from NICVD and Sidra Medicine, which allowed their physicians to take part in the convoy. “Some physicians are long-serving members of the Little Hearts convoy. They have treated the all hearts of young kids who are now able to play and live normally like their other peers. Each activity is intended to promote them with sail life experiences which will be invaluable to their future.”

QRCS will continue to approach Bangladeshis with its strategy to improve the acceptance of these care services provided for the vulnerable groups in poor communities. Despite all the efforts done, the needs are far beyond that. There are hundreds of ill children on the waiting list. More and more medical convoy trips are yet to be secured, with funding from the generous donors of Qatar. As a result, the poor families whose children were afflicted with heart disorders since their birth, he concluded.

QRC Service Center welcomes Shatharat Educational Training Center students

The visit aimed to introduce the students to the different sections of the center, allowing them to get familiar with its daily procedures starting from the receiving the customers and the car, through to completing maintenance and delivering the car back to the customers.

H E Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Dehaimi, Ambassador of Qatar to Bangladesh, with the medical team from Qatar and Bangladesh in Dhaka.

The visit of Shatharat Educational Training Center at its Mitsubishi Service Center in the industrial area.

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ACS International School Doha celebrates its first Young Sustainability Awards

ACS Doha International School has celebrated its first Young Sustainability Awards, an initiative to encourage students to think critically about their environment.

The award ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Municipality, sustainability advocates and local media. The visiting students enjoyed participating in the events and learning from the representatives.

The Young Sustainability Awards are open to students of all ages, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, who submitted drawings, ideas and models of various fields of profession with funding from the generous donors of Qatar.

The awards ceremony was attended by students from Qatar and Bangladesh, as well as leaders of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Dhaka, to assess the work done and thank the medical personnel who contributed to the procedures.

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QRCS will continue to approach Bangladeshis with its strategy to improve the acceptance of these care services provided for the vulnerable groups in poor communities. Despite all the efforts done, the needs are far beyond that. There are hundreds of ill children on the waiting list. More and more medical convoy trips are yet to be secured, with funding from the generous donors of Qatar. As a result, the poor families whose children were afflicted with heart disorders since their birth, he concluded.

QRC Service Center welcomes Shatharat Educational Training Center students

The visit aimed to introduce the students to the different sections of the center, allowing them to get familiar with its daily procedures starting from the receiving the customers and the car, through to completing maintenance and delivering the car back to the customers.

H E Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Dehaimi, Ambassador of Qatar to Bangladesh, with the medical team from Qatar and Bangladesh in Dhaka.

The visit of Shatharat Educational Training Center at its Mitsubishi Service Center in the industrial area.

The visit aimed to introduce the students to different sections of the center, allowing them to get familiar with its daily procedures starting from the receiving the customers and the car, through to completing maintenance and delivering the car back to the customers.

The young students of all ages, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, submitted drawings, ideas and models of various fields of profession with funding from the generous donors of Qatar.

The awards ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Municipality, sustainability advocates and local media. The visiting students enjoyed participating in the events and learning from the representatives.

The Young Sustainability Awards are open to students of all ages, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, who submitted drawings, ideas and models of various fields of profession with funding from the generous donors of Qatar.

The awards ceremony was attended by students from Qatar and Bangladesh, as well as leaders of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Dhaka, to assess the work done and thank the medical personnel who contributed to the procedures.

H E Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Dehaimi, Ambassador of Qatar to Bangladesh, hosted the medical team from Qatar and Bangladesh at his house. He thanked the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Qatar organisations operating in the country.

Al Dehaimi said: “This is the fourth medical convoy by QRCS in Bangladesh under the Little Hearts program. To show how effective these initiatives are for the local community, you have to know that NICVD performs an average of 200 cardiac catheterisations per year.”

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This year’s graduating classes included 31 Executive MBA, 80 Specialized Master and 16 Financial Regulation program participants.

HEC Paris - Qatar honored its graduating classes of 2019 during a ceremony held in Doha recently. The event was graced by the presence of H.E. French Cultural Ambassador of France to Qatar and Dr. Pablo Martinez de Holan, Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar, and it was emceed by Wassim Makroud, Head of Finance and Administration, HEC Paris alumni.

Dr. Holan was joined by Professor Wolfgang Amann, Academic Director of HEC Paris in Qatar, in the presence of special guests and HEC Paris alumni.

This year’s graduating classes included 31 Executive MBA (EMBA), 80 Specialized Master in Strategic Business Unit Management (SBUM) and 16 Financial Regulation program participants.

The classes of 2019 witnessed a much higher ratio of female participants in the SBUM program. The graduates of both programs this year belonged to different corners of the globe - Europe, Central Asia, MENA, North America, South Asia, and Africa.

Welcoming the classes of 2019, Dr. Holan, Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar, said: “Many years ago you decided to join this institution in order to become a better professional and a better person. All of you worked hard and overcame many obstacles and have ultimately succeeded in your mission, which is why you deserve our undivided attention and our most sincere accolades. You did the best you could and you have been rewarded.”

A fascinating insight into the little-known history of Indian communities in the Gulf was provided in a lecture at Qatar National Library, on January 15, as part of the Qatar-India Year of Culture. Delivered by the Librarian’s Director of Historical Research and Partnerships, Dr. Jassen Jaller, the lecture highlighted the earliest evidence of their presence in the region approximately 4,000 years ago and explored their continuous existence in the region.

After the talk, participants enjoyed a guided tour of the Qatar, i.e., the Gulf, exhibition at the Library which opened last October and remains in a statement.

The technical section of the department has successfully accomplished a number of service works.

A number of old trees were planted in various municipal parks.

Al Shamal Municipality in Qatar is keen on adopting and disseminating the concepts of sustainability through many programmes, projects and initiatives implemented in cooperation and partnership with civil society organisations.

Al Shamal Municipality joined the membership of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

The municipalities of Al Khor, Al Sashira and Al Shueiba also submitted files to join the Network and the results are expected soon.

HEC Paris-Qatar graduates with officials and dignitaries during a ceremony held in Doha.

As a graduate of HEC Paris in Qatar you are now part of a select group of talented individuals who decided to learn and have learned to dare, an invaluable skill in our turbulent and changing world.

In addition to the graduation ceremony, the event included an awards ceremony honoring participants for their work.

The award for the Best Capstone Project for the EMBA Class of 2020 went to Jawaher Al Naimi; the award for the Best Thesis for the Specialized Master 2010 Cohort 3 was awarded to Nabil Al Thani; and the Best Thesis awarded for the Specialized Master 2010 Financial Regulation went to Reem Shukr.

The event was also marked by the farewell speeches from the Class Representative, Sheza Heidari - SBUM 2019 C2, class representative; Dr. de Holan; and the farewell speeches from the Class Representative, Naimi Al Jadda - EMBA 2019, Fareed Al Majed; Fahad Kanaan, Shamsa Eida; SBUM 2019 C3; Hamid Al Namu Mursa; SBUM 2019 C2 and Reem Shukr - 2019 FR.

Since joining Qatar Foundation in 2010, HEC Paris has graduated 720 participants in Qatar – 330 in the EMBA program and 450 in the SBUM program.

MES Indian School students visit 30th DIBF

A total of 25 students studying French in Years 6 to 8 at MES Indian School paid a visit to 30th Doha International Book Fair held at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center on January 23 in which they were able to witness the rich culture and the significance of books.

The students were able to witness the royal kitchen, the original menu and the cooking utensils which were used to cook for the royal family. They had the opportunity to have a glimpse of the imposing royal ancestral buildings which housed the Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, before she was executed.

The students also participated in an illustrated drawing workshop French culture was highlighted through a reconstruction of the typical atmosphere of a French plaza, with emblematic cafes and bookshops. Thanks to a digital device called ‘Histopad’, the students were able to travel through time and have a 360-degree view of La Conciergerie, a former prison in Paris.

The French pavilion of the fair includes a digital exhibition ‘Esthégénies’ presented by the National Library of France. Ancient books in French language from the Qatar National Library were also displayed. The pavilion showcases a selection of beautiful coffee table books on French historical sites, and French-speaking countries.

The Department of French and Charka Safodine accompanied the students.

This year’s graduating classes included 31 Executive MBA, 80 Specialized Master and 16 Financial Regulation program participants.

MES Indian School students during their visit to the 30th Doha International Book Fair at DECC.

Al Shamal Municipality plants seedlings of desert trees in public parks

Al Shamal Municipality planted seedlings of desert trees in public parks which fall under the Municipality last month.

The Department of Services Affairs represented by the Parks Section carried out a number of services in the field of gardens and parks, green spaces in public facilities throughout Al Shamal Municipality.

The move aims at providing best services to the visitors of public parks, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, is keen on adopting and disseminating the concepts of sustainability through many programmes, projects and initiatives implemented in cooperation and partnership with civil society organisations.

Al Shamal Municipality joined the membership of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

The State of Qatar applied to win the UNESCO Learning Cities Award.

The joining the Network endorses Qatar’s municipalities to share ideas with other cities, learn best practices, learn how to address climate change challenges, ensure sustainability and public safety, reduce poverty, promote economic growth and employment and managing demographic.

The move aims at providing best services to the visitors of public parks, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment in a statement. The technical section of the department has successfully accomplished a number of service works.

Al Shamal Municipality is the second in Qatar to join the UNESCO Learning Cities after Al Wakra Municipality joined the Network in 2018.

The municipalities of Al Khor, Al Sashira and Al Shueiba also submitted files to join the Network and the results are expected soon.
EDITORIAL
Reforms receive praise

OVER the past years, Qatar has started a series of reforms process on labour law to protect the rights of migrant workers in line with the country’s rapid development in all fields. Qatar, as one of the countries that has signed and providing job opportunities to around ten million people, has taken welfare and protection of the rights of the migrant workers, as a top priority. The country has taken many steps to implement the rights of all expatriate workers, one of the key priorities through the reform of labour laws and introducing the latest labor laws in this regard.

The Law No. 15 abolished the “kabala” system and saw a new era of change. It was considered revolutionary and was heal by UNH and rights organizations. However, it was not and is not the last in this process but it is a continuous process in each stage of development and advancement of the country. It has its own requirements, and changes always come in line with the development of the world. As the ultimate purpose is to establish a modern system that strengthens labour laws in the country and ensures the protection of the rights of all expatriate workers.

As of the reform of the reform, the Prime Minister and Interior Minister HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, last week signed an important Decision No. (95) of 2019 which granted free movement to leave temporarily and permanently the country in the exchange between or validity of their employment contract.

The move abolishing exit visa requirements for virtually all migrant workers was heal by the UNH labor organization considering it as a “milestone” in reform efforts of the 2020 FIFA World Cup.

In the same context the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs has launched the third patch of electronic services for ‘Amerni’ application on smart phones in Arabic and English. The application, aims at saving time and efforts of users — individuals and companies, includes five new services. As of now, all offers a total of 33 services including 21 services for individuals and 12 services for companies, said the Ministry in a post ‘Peninsula’ application on smart phones in Arabic and English.

The new application will allow people to file complaints as the application is easy to use and offices. As well domestic workers will be able to file complaints for companies, said the Ministry in a post.

Another step that was taken is the downing of a person near a company, by 22 people accused over Tehran and the list goes on. This has been the law for so long, it is the law that is unfair, between reality and fatalism in the region.

The oppression, the violence, the sectarianism, the inequality, the insecurity and war are as per- sistent, so persistent, that any optimism is sure to give way to pessimism.

Indeed, since the start of the Arab Spring nine years ago, the seasons have changed so dramatically they have left little if any of that previous optimism that defined and drove the popular uprising in the early days.

Many Arabs have come to believe that good news is always pregnant with bad news and success carries with it the seeds of failure. In fact, even those revolutions that succeeded in dismantling dictatorships were left with the burdens of the past haunting their future.

That may explain the scepticism about the new wave of popular uprisals which spread over the past year from Sudan and Algeria to Iraq and Lebanon and increasingly Iran.

But such scepticism should not obscure the single-minded persistence and magnificence of the new uprisals.

The waves of protests in these countries are pushing for the path of the protest movements in Tunisia and Egypt, embracing the new, participatory, peacefulness and authority, and assisting violence and civil conflict as means to con- trol oppressive and corrupt regimes.

They seem to have learned the hard lessons from Syria, Iran, Yemen and Iraq, as they reject proxy wars and foreign military intervention that seem to bring security or democracy but produce chaos and devastation.

The uprisals on most democratically reform free of sectarianism, fundamentalism and authoritarianism, rejecting the politics of one extreme form of authoritarianism to another. These may not guarantee a peaceful existence, but they are indivisible to achieving any political progress. They are already putting real leaders on the defensive, forcing leaders to resign and protecting regimes. Such slow and frustrating processes are crucial for reforms to truly be democratic. Unlike revolutionaries, autocrats are not motivated by ideology, but rather by power. The step was and is not the last in this process, but it is a continuous process in each stage of development and advancement of the country.

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The new application on smart phones in Arabic and English.

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Erdogan will join leaders from Russia, the West and Arab countries, as well as the heads of the opposing Libyan factions, in the German capital today to halt nine months of fighting around the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

A move by Libya's east-based forces to choke off oil exports from the country's west could spark a new confrontation, with the risk of a major war. The oil conflict has been the key sticking point in talks to end the conflict, with both sides dependent on oil revenue to fund their wars.

The collapse of talks in Moscow last month to help relaunch a political process in Libya was condemned by the European Union.

In a press conference, the LAAF described efforts to cripple oil production as a “major step” for the Libyan people. “The Libyan people are the ones who shut down oil fields and ports and are preventing oil exports,” said spokesman Ahmed Al-Mosmar, adding that it is a “message of rejection” to militia groups defending Tripoli against a months-long siege by Hifter's forces. The UN mission in Libya expressed “deep concern” over the efforts to disrupt production, warning of “devastating consequences.”

Its statement urged Libyans to “exercise maximum restraint” as international negotiations seek a resolution to the conflict.

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Dar Al Sharq concludes its 14th shopping festival with a grand raffle draw

Dar Al Sharq organized a grand raffle draw at Tawar Mall on Friday the 10th to conclude its 14th (National) Annual Shopping Festival. The festival was organized under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Yasem Salama – Dar Al Sharq Shopping Festival Director, Anas Bu Risan – Sales & Marketing Manager (Nissan), Reem Al-Rawi – Sales Furniture Supervisor, and Mohamed Al-Rawi – Sales Furniture Representative, along with a bevy of Tawar mall patrons and onlookers who revealed in the festivities of the occasion and all that it offered. During the event, the raffle drew winners were announced, and were called upon to receive their prizes, which included the latest LG technology, and a number of Nissan Vehicles, one of which was the grand prize of the night, a Nissan Patrol.

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<th>Prize</th>
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<td>Abdulla Al-Khateeb</td>
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<td>2. Nissan Sentra 1.5L 2020</td>
<td>Mohammed Al-Mahboobi</td>
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Sponsors of the 14th Dar Al Sharq Shopping Festival receiving a token of appreciation from Mr. Yasem Salama, Dar Al Sharq’s shopping festival Director.
Minister Mahathir Mohamad objected to Malaysian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments about Muslims, the two countries, a Malaysian Economic Forum's annual sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

The row between the countries stems from New Delhi's actions, Mahathir's media adviser called Leiking. A separate Indian government source said it was trying to hit out at Malaysia instead wants to rely on Friday.

India's trade minister Piyush Goyal denied on Friday. In particular.

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar said he foresaw a "long road ahead of elections planned later this year.

The two countries have historically had a fraught relationship, but have moved closer since 2011, when New Delhi was keen to stress its multilateral strategies and that further progress can be locked in over the coming months," he said.

"A warming ceremony on Friday, said Richard珲is, a linguistic analyst with the International Crisis Group. "The overall impression is that Myanmar is being cautious about Chinese investment, especially in particular."

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Afghan Taliban hopeful of signing withdrawal deal with US

The Taliban and the US had been negotiating the deal for a year and were expected to announce it in September 2019 when President Donald Trump abruptly declared the process ‘dead’, citing Taliban violence.

The Afghan government had hoped to see a big increase in humanitarian aid as a result of the deal and Lisbon-based UN aid workers expressed relief at the prospect of a deal being reached. However, the Taliban have rejected this as a precondition for any international aid being provided under the deal.

Pakistan Supreme Court objects to Musharraf’s appeal against conviction

Pakistan’s Supreme Court has ordered the government to reconsider the special court’s decision to exempt Pervez Musharraf from assets declared in the high treason case filed against him.

The court has already given the government two weeks to respond to its order. The Supreme Court has also directed the government to hold an emergency meeting next week to discuss the issue.

Musharraf’s appeal against conviction was filed in the Supreme Court in May 2019.

China reports new virus cases, raising concerns globally before key holiday

China reported four new cases of pneumonia believed to be caused by a new coronavirus strain, causing concern globally that a disease health officials do not fully understand could spread during a key holiday period.

The new virus, which was discovered in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, has caused increasing concern globally that a disease health officials do not fully understand could spread during a key holiday period.

The number of people infected with the virus has risen from two on January 21 to three on January 22, with the latest patient having travelled to Japan on January 20.

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**Tear gas, arrests at new anti-govt protest in Paris**

From the police barge gas under a stream of propellants and arrested dozens of people yesterday as thousands of “yellow vests” anti-government protesters returned to the streets of Paris.

Demonstrators shouted slogans denouncing the police, President Emmanuel Macron and his pension reforms that have triggered the longest French transport strike in decades. The strike began on December 5, which has seen more than 300,000 people in traffic jams and rail strikes across the country.

**Labour Party’s Long-Bailey launches leadership bid with call for ‘new professionalism’**

LONDON

Britain’s Labour Party needs to do more to promote aspiration, and look more like a government-in-waiting, the party businesswoman Rebecca Long-Bailey, said when she formally launched her leadership campaign against Sir Keir Starmer.

Long-Bailey is one of two candidates in the Labour contest — the other is former head of England’s professional sports regulator, Sarah Long-Bailey.

Long-Bailey also said that the party needs a new professionalism, with a focus on women, young people and families.

**Protest over environmental policies**

An environmental activist is being evacuated by the police during a protest organised by the farmer’s collective “Land schafft Leben” (Land creates life) in Berlin.

Farmers and environmentalists have been protesting against the government’s agricultural policies, which they claim are not doing enough to protect the environment.

**Human Rights in 2021**

The case of the French farmer’s collective “Land schafft Leben” has raised questions about the government’s approach to farming.

The group has been protesting against the government’s support of large-scale farming practices, which they say are not sustainable and do not protect the environment.

**Music stars of the Paris Opera’s orchestra react after playing an improvised open-air concert outside the Louvre in Paris**

The Paris Opera orchestra, under the direction of French conductor Pierre Boulez, gave a special performance on Saturday as part of a protest against the government’s proposed pension reforms.

The concert was held in front of the Louvre museum, where the orchestra usually performs, and was broadcast live on television.

**Russia’s Putin says he opposes unlimited presidential term**

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that he opposes an unlimited term for the country’s leader, but added that he would support constitutional changes that could allow him to run for a fourth term once his current presidential term ends in 2024.

**Hungary’s Premier defends halting pensioner compensation payments**

AP - BRUSSELS

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday defended his government’s decision to suspend compensation payments to pensioners, saying the government was acting in the best interests of the country.

Orban said the suspension was necessary to ensure the country’s financial stability, and that the government would resume payments once the economy recovers from the pandemic.

**Farmer fury and environmental anger in protest-hit Germany**

From grimy dumpers to glowing honey on politicians’ doorsteps to farmers holding up traffic, increasing tensions between farmers and environmentalists have overshadowed the opening of the biggest show on Germany’s agricultural calendar.

Thousands of tractors descended on cities across Germany on Friday for the opening of Berlin’s annual “Grundremont Week”, a farmers’ and environmentalists’ trade fair, which is being held amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The farmers have been protesting against the government’s support of large-scale farming practices, which they say are not sustainable and do not protect the environment.

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Gibraltar eyes joining Schengen to ease Brexit border fears

Fabian Picardo dismissed concerns that Spain that would have the upper hand if it wanted to exert political pressure by stepping up checks and choking the Schengen zone, said in an apparent reference to Gibraltar becoming part of the Schengen zone.

“Such wages cannot occur in the poorest countries in Europe. They are better placed perhaps than we are,” he said in an apparent reference to the Commission or the Schengen Information System.

It marked the first major political test for Zelenskiy, a comedian with no previous political experience, who won in a landslide victory at last year’s presidential election.

The British government is no longer actively pushing a plan to extend the transition period until the end of 2021, the EU counterpart said.

A transition period will last until the end of 2020 as negotiators try to forge a trade arrangement between Britain and the remaining EU nations.

The level of irregular immigration to Europe at its lowest level since 2013, the bloc’s border agency said.

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Michelin strips star from French chef Bocuse

Almost exactly two years after the death of renowned French chef Paul Bocuse, the Michelin Guide has retracted the coveted three-star ranking for his restaurant held for an unprecedented 55 years, prompting anger and dismay from many of his peers.

The Aube du Pont de Collonges, near foie gras-producing Lyon in southeast France, was the oldest of the three-starred restaurants in the world, having held the accolade without interruption since 1965. The French government had recognised it as a “national treasure”.

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Trump gives account of Soleimani's last minutes before death: CNN

**AMERICANs**

President Donald Trump gave an account of the US drone strike that killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in Iraq on Friday. Trump said that Soleimani was preparing to launch an attack on US and coalition forces.

Trump said the strike was a response to a threat posed by Soleimani and his network. The president said that Soleimani was planning an attack on American interests in Iraq and other countries in the region.

Trump also said that the strike was not a response to the Soleimani's approval of the attack on a US military base in December, as some had speculated. Instead, Trump said, the strike was a response to Soleimani's plans to attack US forces in Iraq.

Trump said that the strike was a success, with no American fatalities. He also said that the strike had been planned for weeks.

Trump said that he had notified Congress of the strike before its execution but had decided not to inform Congress of the strike's outcome. He said that he had done so because he did not want to give Iran a heads-up about the strike.

**POLICE find 10 charred bodies in Mexico state**

Mexican police are investigating the discovery of a burned-out vehicle in a wooded area near Mexico City. The remains of at least 10 people were found inside the car, which was abandoned in an area known for drug trafficking.

Police have not yet identified the victims or determined the cause of death. However, authorities speculate that the people inside the car may have been involved in the drug trade.

**Brief scuffles at Guatemala-Mexico border as migrants try to cross**

Scores of people who entered Guatemala from Honduras yesterday have been held back by Guatemalan authorities after a small group of migrants tried to cross the border.

The migrants, who were part of a larger group heading to the United States, were caught by Guatemalan police after they tried to enter Mexico illegally.

According to local media, the migrants were blocking the road to the Mexican border and were refusing to leave. Guatemalan police have said that they were trying to prevent the migrants from entering the country.

**Plane slides off taxiway in icy weather as storm hits US**

A plane slid off the taxiway at Kansas City International Airport yesterday after a winter storm hit the region. The storm caused hazardous conditions and led to the plane sliding off the taxiway.

The aircraft was an Airbus A320, and it was carrying 165 passengers and crew. The passengers were evacuated and later taken to a nearby hotel.

**Constitution under ‘serious attack’ in Virginia: Trump**

In a post on Twitter, US President Donald Trump accused Virginia Governor Ralph Northam of threatening to ban firearms from the state capitol building.

Trump wrote that Northam was “planning a rally in Richmond where they are going to try to ban weapons from public access to the capital of Virginia.” Trump said that the Virginia legislature was considering “extreme gun control laws”.

Trump also accused Northam of trying to “steal the Virginia Capitol” and said that “his only way to win is to be violent.”

Virginia has been the site of several recent gun control debates, with Democrats in the state legislature considering new restrictions on firearms.

**Police find 10 charred bodies in Texas**

Mexican police are investigating the discovery of a burned-out vehicle near the US-Mexico border in Texas. At least 10 bodies were found inside the car, which was abandoned near the border.

The bodies were discovered by police who were searching for a missing person. The cause of the fire that destroyed the bodies is unknown.

Police have not yet identified the victims or determined the cause of death. However, authorities speculate that the people inside the car may have been involved in drug trafficking.

**Migrants, part of a caravan travelling to the US, clash with Mexican national guards at the border between Guatemala and Mexico.**

A group of about 500 migrants from Central America has clashed with Mexican national guards at the border between Guatemala and Mexico.

The migrants were part of a larger group of Central American migrants who are heading to the United States to seek better opportunities. The migrants have been traveling for weeks, with some arriving in Mexico by foot, others by car, and some by bus.

The migrants said they were trying to cross the border to seek better opportunities in the United States. The national guards said they were trying to prevent the migrants from crossing.

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An anti-corruption commission set up in Honduras in 2016 has won praise from Washington, the Organisation of American States (OAS) said yesterday, for keeping the country on track tocale a deal on extending operations to the US territory that is experiencing deadly unrest under Hernandez's government. "Things are looking up for the country in terms of transparency and support for the fight against corruption," said an OAS official. "The government is making progress in creating the capacities to combat corruption and impunity."

Luis Zelaya, president of Honduras's opposition Liberal Party, said on Twitter that "today is a terrible day for our country, won by the corrupt and criminals who have kicked it in the face."

The OAS aimed at replicating the success of a similar mission in Guatemala that brought down the country's government. "The OAS announced it would support the fight against corruption as "absurd."

"The government "regretted" that corruption mission was "a disaster." The complaint came after evidence that military agents had illegally used covert operations to monitor and prosecute journalists and judges was published this week in local media in Tegucigalpa.

"We had resources from the United States in terms of technology and money," Colombian senator Ivan Capo said reporters yesterday, after meeting with members of the House Foreign Relations Committee in Washington. "We have tax data and financial information for all of these years."

"There's no evidence that the agents had illegal access or compromised any national security. Other nations have had similar programs and we publish these reports in our local media," he added. Barra and Capo met with members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to seek protection measures in the wake of the spying claims.

OAS endorses Honduras anti-corruption mission

"We are here guaranteeing the integrity of our institutions," said Viaquez.

Local officials urged the national government to build roads, provide basic services like security, health care, education and work opportunities for the area.

"We need to defend this with a greater institutional presence," said Idalys Mayor, the commander of the Cali Metropolitan Police who was sent to the area to believe the bloodshed stemmed from conflict among illegal armed groups, with one dead and one suspecting that the victims were either from a rival gang competing for drug territory or a team of state investigators working in the region.

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