Amir sends verbal message to Amir of Kuwait

The Peninsula - Doha

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has sent a verbal message to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, H H Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Sabah, to convey his greetings to H H the Amir, his highnesses continued success and the Qataris further progress, prosperity.

Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait H H Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah yesterday.

The Conference Secretary General, H E Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, during the meeting, they reviewed and endorsed universal cooperation initiatives, and in addition to issues of common concern.

USC joins MoPH to implement Workplace Wellness Program

The Peninsula - Doha

As part of ongoing efforts to promote health awareness among the different segments of the society, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Development Company (UDC). Under the initiative, UDC will be coordinating with the MoPH to launch internal campaigns on health education and promoting a healthy lifestyle among its employees.

The MoU was signed in the Ministry building yesterday by Dr. Saleh Al Jallaf, Acting Director of Health Promotion and Non-communicable Diseases at MoPH, and Nasir Al Harmi, Executive Director, Human Capital, UDC.

This initiative is in line with the social responsibility framework, which focuses on health, education, community and environment. It was launched in 2014 and targets the productive workforce. This initiative will benefit around 800 employees.

Arabian Peninsula

Lebanese protesters clash with riot police

Lebanese protesters take cover behind a barricade amid clashes with riot police guarding a road leading to Parliament in central Beirut on Sunday.

Shura Council discusses draft law on minimum wages for workers

The Peninsula - Doha

The Shura Council discussed its regular meeting held yesterday the draft law onMinimum wages for workers and employees.

The weekly meeting was held under the chairmanship of Speaker of the Shura Council, H E Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Zad Al Mahroum.

Mr. Al Mahroum stressed the importance of the draft law, a committee called the Minimum Wages Committee shall be established at the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. The Committee's main mission of work andรวด will be the determination of minimum wages for workers.

The discussion also included the internal and external Affairs Committee's report on a draft law regarding the diplomatic and legal issues. The joint Committee decided to approve the said draft law and refer it to the General Assembly of the Shura Council for approval.

The meeting was held on Saturday, with a delegation from the Libyan Parliament, during which they reviewed the latest developments in Libya, and parliaments' cooperation between the two countries.

Fazeha Saleem

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Qatar Maritime and Logistics Summit to begin on Feb 18

Experts discuss role and importance of public diplomacy

Mohammed Sajjad
THE PENINSULA

Experts discussed the role and importance of public diplomacy during the first panel discussion of the sixth General Assembly of the Global Public Diplomats Network Conference.

The session, which was moderated by Eng. Darweish Ahmad Al Shehri, Secretary General of International Public Diplomatic Network (IPIN), included the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Branko Dzekovic, and Dr. Salah Ben Rejeb, Senior Strategic Outcome Adviser at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in Canada.

The paper presented by Eng. Darweish Ahmad Al Shehri, Secretary General of International Public Diplomatic Network (IPIN), included the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Branko Dzekovic, and Dr. Salah Ben Rejeb, Senior Strategic Outcome Adviser at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in Canada, during the first panel discussion of the sixth General Assembly of Global Public Diplomats Network Conference at Katara, yesterday.

The international summit, which is held for the first time in Qatar, comes within the framework of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and aims to plan to transform Qatar into a vital commercial and logistical hub in the region. The high-level event will bring together the senior experts from the global maritime sector and Qatar to discuss industry-wide, long-term challenges and opportunities as well as a number of important issues such as global trends, port development, financing, technology, digital security, cybersecurity, safe and secure and sustainable logistics and many other related topics such as shipping, port and logistics sectors.

The first global summit seeks to promote Qatar’s maritime and logistics sectors to keep pace with growing demand for global experiences in this field, stressing that the Qatari port of Qatar will be a vital commercial and logistical hub on the global maritime transport map, as well as boosting Hamad Port’s commercial share in the region and the world, especially after the success Qatar has achieved within a short period of time.

In its first edition, the Qatar Maritime and Logistics Summit will focus on the challenges that the maritime transport, logistics and port sectors facing between 2020 and 2030. While, a focus on transportation, the summit will also accommodate expectations for logistics sectors in transition, and a reclassification of the maritime and logistic sectors. This alignment will coincide with two trends of global significance that will dramatically shape the decisions we take on investment in the infrastructural need to keep maritime and logistics business alive. These trends are firstly, the deepest cost uncertainty — most obviously in the need to protect a vulnerable environment — and, second a clearer perception of the impact of next-generation technologies on the world’s work, particularly related to transportation.

The OB92 will include 12 topics spread over four sessions, all scheduled over two days of high-level networking and interaction, identifying which trends are likely to have the greatest impact on transportation in the Middle East region and worldwide, and how swiftly we will need to adapt our thinking on these trends to stay in business.

The summit’s first session will address Qatar Energy 2020-2030 and the Gulf energy, transport and sustainability challenges. In the second session, the speaker makers will discuss global logistics trends, sustainability through the supply chain, safety through the supply chain 2020-2030, and how can best safety practice flow through the supply chain. Session 3 and 4 will feature topics about Latin America 2020-2030 and digital logistics and cyber security and how do port business add value to become a critical node in the transportation network on the last day of the event, the participants will have the opportunity to visit Hamad Port and explore port facilitation, logistics developments and the cutting-edge technology that port has features.

The workshop focusing on young people on social media will be held today. The workshop will be attended by specialists and heads of companies and international experts in the information technology and modern media.

A workshop focusing on young people on social media will be held today. The workshop will be attended by specialists and heads of companies and international experts in the field of new information technology and modern media.

The workshop aims to communicate the voice of this international group and highlight their views in public diplomacy through modern media in their respective countries and share knowledge and ideas.

The meeting will also witness the launch of the new website for the Public International Diplomatic Network, as part of a pioneering initiative to enhance and promote international communication and cooperation.

The website will provide a tactical and dynamic medium that provides the process of sharing information and ideas, and contributes to building capacities supporting projects, and provides different forms of support for events and activities related to cultural interactions of the member states.

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Sheikha Hind meets heads of QF’s international education partners in US

Two of education and innovation that stretch across continents have been strengthened as H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani, Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, reiterated her commitment from the home campuses of the organisation’s international partner universities.

Talking back to the US, H E Sheikha Hind attended the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, H H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, met yesterday with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who is on a visit to Kuwait. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, in addition to issues of common concern. H E the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, H E Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al Mohammad Al Thani, who is on a visit to Kuwait.

Qatar Foundation’s (QF) homegrown institute of higher education – and the international universities that have Delhi-based branches campuses within QF’s unique environment of learning, Education City. These universities equip students with the skills and knowledge for success in fields ranging from engineering, medicine, communication, and international affairs to art and design, computer science, and recession education – all supporting Qatar’s vision for human, social, and economic development.

H E Sheikha Hind also visited Carnegie Mellon University’s main campus in Pittsburgh, where she toured academic centers focused on entrepreneurship, innovation, washing excellence, and diversity and inclusion at the iconic learning models such as technology-enhanced learning.

While visiting the 200-year-old institution, H E Sheikha Hind participated in a roundtable discussion and demonstration session on Artificial Intelligence, automation, and machine learning with Carnegie Mellon University faculty.

First PCC Ambassadors assigned to HMC facilities to back clinical team

Dr. Khaleel bin Ismaeel Al Sulaiti, General Manager of Qatar and Chairman of Information of the Public Diplomacy Network, and H E Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the opening session of the sixth General Assembly of GPNet at Katara, yesterday.

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Sixth GPNet meet begins with participation of 9 countries

“The Pearl-Qatar welcomed nearly 15 million vehicles in 2019

Nearly 15 million vehicles entered The Pearl-Qatar in 2019, marking an 11 percent increase from 2018 and 30 percent increase from 2017.

With these additions offering an estimated 700 guest rooms and serviced apartments, various conference facilities and elegant ballrooms, retail and experiential experiences, visitors into The Pearl-Qatar are projected to grow at a progressive rate annually, in tandem with the completion of more than 30,000 residential and retail property developments. It is worth mentioning that The Pearl-Qatar is currently home to more than 31,000 residents.

UDC, the master developer of The Pearl-Qatar and Katara Island, is a leading Qatari public shareholding company with a mission to identify and execute long-term projects contributing to Qatar’s growth and providing good shareholder value.

Established in 1999, the Pearl-Qatar is an upscale hospitality project including The St. Regis Marsa Arabia Island, Four Seasons Hotel Beirut and the Hilton Doha. The Pearl-Qatar Residences which will officially inaugurated in February 2020 will also have a golf course with adjacent hotel and beach club, an air conditioned Crystal Beach Club, parks, gardens, and areas.

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First person centred care ambassadors assigned to HMC facilities.
Workshop on accreditation of national human rights institutions begins

The Asia Pacific Forum’s (APF) three-day workshop on accreditation of national human rights institutions, which is organized by the APF’s regional office in Doha, began today, with the participation of a number of national institutions subject to accreditation and re-accreditation.

Agricultural engineers from the National Newborn Screening Program are pleased to extend this offer to our customers to use the new Shahry 5G pack as we continue advancing our digital services. Our network is now bigger and better, offering more data with fewer GBs in just 20%.

Worldwide, Secretary-General of the GANBI and Chairman of NHRC, Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri, said “we are proud and excited to be joining Generation Amazing’s Programmes Director Ahmed Al Samah, and Borders Foundation as community partners, in order to raise awareness of the importance of the human rights institutions.”

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the GANBI and Chairman of NHRC, Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri, met with head of the Asia Pacific Forum’s (APF) Human Rights of Kuwaiti Ambassador, Jassim Mubarak Al Mubarak. They reviewed cooperation agreements in the fields of human rights and the most important conditions for the accreditation of national human rights institutions.

QNSP diagnoses over 1,000 newborns with diseases, disorders

The National Newborn Screening Program QNSP has enabled the early detection of more than 1,000 babies born with various diseases and disorders, and helped to save their lives, since 2003.

The program is divided into two phases followed by follow up care process in which information and documents are provided to the government to join international agreements and to implement the recommendations of the experts and the universal periodic review, in addition to playing its role in raising awareness of the importance of the human rights institutions.

Generation Amazing partners with CORE to extend its reach

The programme will benefit 375 boys and girls from three Port-Air-Prince schools within the CORE network including the Institution Mixte de l’Espoir, Ecole Primaria Bethlehem and School of Hope, located in the area of Delmas.

The National Newborn Screening Program (QNSP) has been in operation since 2003. The national program, The National Newborn Screening Programme (QNSP) diagnoses over 1,000 newborns with diseases, disorders, including endocrine disorders, including metabolic and serious illness. This is significant

Students of Al Bu Nasra Secondary School for Girls display their harvests of vegetables at the Mahaseel Festival under the initiative ‘Farm Your Country’.

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PHCC's 'Screen for Life' marks 2019 as the best year of achievements since launch

Over 25,000 people in Qatar underwent breast or bowel cancer screening last year with 'Screen for Life'. Qatar National Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening programme operated by the Public Health Care Corporation (PHCC) made it the project's most successful screening year since its inception four years ago.

Some 14,293 people underwent low-cost screening for bowel cancer with 90% of QR6.8 million residents taking up the opportunity of mammograms for breast cancer. The two diseases are among the most often detected cancers in the country.

The screening was carried out either at the three PHCC screening centres at Al Wakra, Lekhwiya and Rawdat Al Khal Health Centres or via the Screen for Life mobile unit. PHCC screening suites offer both bowel and breast cancer screening while the mobile unit offers only breast cancer screening.

"Last year was one of superb progress in our screening and education programmes with more people being screened, many lectures delivered, more patients treasured on the importance of referring their patients to screening and more patients enrolling in both bowel and breast cancer screening programs,' said Dr. Shaikha Abu Shamlan, Head of the Communication & Media Relations Department of PHCC.

"Our marketing team achieved more community engagement during 2019, and we thank the many organisations that made this possible and hope to build on their enthusiasm to encourage others to follow their example," she added.

During the year 'Screen for Life' conducted 35 education lectures for the public on the importance of screening for early detection and were attended by 938 people. In addition, 950 people registered for screening during the different awareness activities with a further 5,010 patients being referred for screening also to medical centers for local patients. A total of 455 health care providers attended a total of 41 screening sessions which were held throughout the year.

'Screen for Life' also mounted two hugely successful awareness campaigns which were held throughout the year.

During these campaigns, the team engaged with a wide cross-section of Qatar society through nationwide tours of its mobile screening unit. The hosting of awareness lectures at governmental departments, private sector entities and educational institutions, the staging of awareness campaigns in malls, health centres and across various media channels.

The year also saw pioneering Qatar Municipality Council Member and Head of the Legal Affairs Committee Shaikha Bint Yousef Bin Hassan Al Jufairi join the campaign as a goodwill ambassador for 'Screen for Life'.

"We are delighted to partner with us," said Pamela Erskine-Deane, the first university museum in Qatar, open to the public and bilingual in all its aspects. The museum features extensive digital capacity to elevate a visitor’s experience by inviting them to participate in a global conversation on a continually changing media landscape.

The bi-annual exhibitions at the Media Majlis are designed so that visitors can explore through media-centric themes, explore hundreds of images and films, as well as see over 300 years of original media views - developed in-house - with scholars and professionals who are experts on the museum’s current exhibition topics.

In addition to the current exhibition, the museum's permanent exhibition includes video lectures, workshops, and panel discussions with prominent media figures in the region. The Media Majlis is open from Sunday to Thursday, Dr. Shonon to 5pm and Saturday to 5pm.

The current exhibition will run until June 12.
As global society becomes increasingly influenced by digital technology, debaters will go head-to-head at the event to discuss whether the world’s top tech firms can be trusted to self-regulate, and if governments need to set tougher guidelines and stronger principles for corporate practices.

"You only need to look at what Google is undertaking on an AI level, and what is being delivered across health and life sciences, to witness the impact of technology on humanity. However, the lack of regulations has led the industry to become less known for its remarkable potential," said Dr. Barraj.

Dr. Barraj believes that although tech companies do self-regulate, two chief concerns are yet to be resolved. "The first is data leakage, which has seen millions of people exposed, and the second is how big tech firms are collecting, missing, and perhaps selling data to third parties," he said. "This is a growing issue, and it will remain one until a solution is found."

The main theme of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 50th Annual Meeting is Sustainable and Resilient Fourth Industrial Revolution, running discussions on technology and trade governance. International speakers from a variety of industries will bring their perspectives and experiences to the debate, with those participating arguing for and those against the motion in front of a live audience and jury. The Oxford-style debate will also see jury members add their comments, critiques, arguments, and pose additional challenges to the debaters. Debaters include Sharan Barrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation; Trinam Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, Center for Humane Technology; Lisa Winter, Co-Founder and Executive Chairperson, Applied, Andrew McAfee, Co-Founder, MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy; Rebecca Masnick, Chief Executive Officer, TechSavvy, and Malcolm Frank, President, Digital Business, Cognizant.

The judges are Dr. Barraj; Emily Hitler, former Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008); and Shamsa Singh, President, MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth & EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT, MasterCard. Speaking about the significance of the event at the WEF and the importance of fostering a culture of debate in today's world, Abdulrahman I Al Hammadi, Head of Outreach Program, QAOD said: "Today more than ever we recognise that the role of debate is vital in clarifying the quality of discourse and exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of respect and scrutiny, humanity is best equipped to prevail over the monumental challenges to face all of us."

The WEF will be held from Wednesday January 22, bringing together more than 3,000 participants from around the world including global leaders, industry experts, and business professionals.

"The World Economic Forum is a platform where global challenges are addressed," said Dr. Barraj. "It is a comprehensive event, attempting to improve the state of the world by engaging business, political academics, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas."

The debate takes place on Wednesday January 22, and will be available to watch on the QatarDebate and NYTLive YouTube channels.

SIS bids farewell to Class XII students

Shahristani Indian School (SIS), Class XI organized a memorable and heartwarming farewell titled ‘Valediction’ for the students of Class XII. The programme was graced by Principal, Dr. Subhash B Nair, Senior Vice Principal Shahnoudal Patel, Vice Principal Dudley O’Connor, Administrator Al Habban, Head of School, teachers and alumni.

Dr. Nair enlightened the students on the generation of human existence from the time of conception, to birth experiences shared by the alumni. Dudley O’Connor, reflected upon the mortal nature of human life and told the students to assess the experiences of human existence to the students to assess their own worth, to be themselves and not to let others influence their behavior. The Valedictory speeches were delivered by Sharan Bhattacharyya, Sharan Bhattacharyya, Head of International Relations at QRCS, Abdulrahman I Al Hammadi, and Tuba Baraj.

Secretory-General of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), Abdulrahman I Al Hammadi has welcomed the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, H.E Sami Saidi, and other officials during the meeting.

QRCS Secretary-General discusses humanitarian issues with Tunisia’s envoy

The Secretary-General of QRCS engaged in a meaningful discussion with Tunisia’s envoy to the GCC countries, as well as with the economic improvement of Tunisia, particularly in tourism and agriculture.

"The Secretary-General of QRCS said ambassador worked together to strengthen humanitarian assistance between the Qatar and Tunisian organizations. QRCS and the Tunisian government have always been on good terms, and the ambassador expressed his deep appreciation for the humanitarian work being done in Tunisia. QRCS and the Tunisian government have always been on good terms, and the ambassador expressed his deep appreciation for the humanitarian work being done in Tunisia. QRCS and the Tunisian government have always been on good terms, and the ambassador expressed his deep appreciation for the humanitarian work being done in Tunisia."

Pari Gallery launches host of BDK Parfums’ latest fragrances

Pari Gallery, renowned retailer and distributor of international cosmetics, fragrances, skin care products and accessories, recently hosted the launch ceremony of BDK Parfums, acclaimed, independent Parisian perfume house’s latest fragrances, at Le Sable and Giri Charms. The event was attended by a host of perfume enthusiasts, society’s dignitaries and the esteemed members of the press, who discovered Pari Gallery’s showroom at Legacy Hall, to discover the brand’s latest fragrances, and to revel in the event’s festivities.
Students join Ashghal to plant trees at Al Khor Road Development Project

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Shouldering social responsibility to protect the environment, a group of Al Khor Road Development Project’s workers planted trees in the area’s landscaped roads on January 31.

The event marks the beginning of a tree-planting project launched by the Supervisory Committee of Reclamation and Public Places in Qatar to plant one million trees. The project was announced by Eng. Yosouf Al Emadi, chief administrator of the project. The event was attended by Khalid Ahmad Al Sandi, member of the Central Municipal Council; Abdullah Mgalad, Education City director; and Alia Issam El Din, general manager of Qatar Charity.

This project marked the beginning of tree-planting activities in the area's landscaped roads, which are part of the Al Khor Road Development Project, which involves landscaping, roads, and public places. The project was launched by the Supervisory Committee of Reclamation and Public Places in Qatar in 2019.

The purpose of the project is to create a green corridor along the road, which will enhance the aesthetic value of the area and improve the quality of life for residents. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

The first phase of the project was completed in December 2019, and the second phase is expected to start in the coming months. The project is expected to create 350 jobs and provide economic benefits to local businesses.

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Tapping solar energy

To tap the full potential of renewable energy, Qatar signed agreements with leading giants for the construction of the first solar power station to produce electricity using the photovoltaic technology. With an estimated total cost of QR1.7 billion, the Large-Scale Solar PV Power Plant will be constructed at Al-Kharsan area, west of Doha.

The plant is the first of its kind in Qatar with a total capacity of 100MW which expects to generate 15 percent of Qatar’s current peak electricity demand. The project is part of Qatar’s efforts to conserve energy and protect the environment in a manner that strikes a balance between the needs of the current generation and that of the future generations as stipulated by Qatar National Vision 2030.

H E Sheikh Ahmed Al Khaled, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs and CEO of Qatar Petroleum, said: “This project comes as part of the energy sector’s contributions towards Qatar’s commitment to host the FIFA 2022 World Cup. It will generate enough output to meet 5 percent of Qatar’s daily energy consumption.”

As part of the promotion of sustainable development, and in line with the current strategies against climate changes, the project will include application of the latest solutions and innovations in solar energy technology, including the use of dual panels, utilizing state-of-the-art automated systems to track the sun and the use of the continuous cleaning of solar panels to ensure the continuity of production efficiency and reduce plant operating costs.

Kammasa has announced requests for bids to build Qatar’s first large-scale solar Photovoltaic (PV) power plant in the first half of 2019. In total, 16 international solar power developers were shortlisted for Phase 1 of the project. Competitive bids were received, reflecting the strength and attractiveness of Qatar’s electricity market and the global interest to invest in the country.

Despite the future strategy of generating electricity from natural gas as the best option for generating electricity, the utility scale of electricity from green energy has been considered a very important element for diversification. During the first half of 2021, the project 300MW will be connected to the grid by the first quarter of 2021, while the commercial operation of the total capacity is expected to start in the first quarter of 2022. During the project’s lifetime, the project will contribute to reducing 26 million tonnes of CO2, which aligns with the objectives of the national program of conservation and energy efficiency, in addition to reducing 50 percent of the expected feed-in-tariff cost and 10 percent of the current carbon tax.

A Qatari-Italian Businessmen Council has also been established to enhance economic relations and explore areas of bilateral cooperation.

QNA

In the context of the State of Qatar, impressing the world, it is a common practice to strengthen its external relations through the opening of embassies in various cities, including the Amir’s recent visit to the US where he opened 35 embassies in the future generations as stipulated by Qatar National Vision 2030.

H H the Amir is scheduled to discuss with H E the Italian President, bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, ways to develop and strengthen them, and number of issues of common concern.

This visit is a valuable opportunity to push forward the solar energy technology, including the use of dual panels, utilizing state-of-the-art automated systems to track the sun. These relations have also been enhanced within the framework of the State of Qatar’s national energy security strategy, which aims at strengthening the State of Qatar’s universal relations with countries, and continuing to build strategic partnerships with them, as well as asserting the State’s status towards regional and international issues of concern.

The visit of H E the Italian President to the country and the discussions which will take place during it, are expected to contribute to the development of cooperation relations between the two countries, and upgrading them to broader horizons in all fields, in a way that serves the goals pursued by the two friendly people, and to establish an advanced stage in cooperation relations between Doha and Rome, in order to raise the level of economic cooperation, increase the volume of trade exchange, and enhance cooperation in various vital sectors between the two countries, which are sharing political and economic, as well as common interests in all fields.

The Qatari-Italian Businessmen Council is a further milestone in the continuous efforts to harness part of its resources to invest in the economic sectors and its potential interests.

A Qatari-Italian Businessmen Council has also been established to enhance economic relations and explore areas of bilateral cooperation.
In Davos, a search for meaning with capitalism in crisis

DAVOS - The World Economic Forum may be a gathering of the world's elite, but this year's conference has been overshadowed by the scrutiny of a firm that helped shape its future. Cambridge Analytica, a British data firm, has come under fire for alleged manipulation of the 2016 US presidential election. The firm's CEO, Alexander Nix, pulled out of the conference the day before it started, citing "unspoken promises" from its largest client, the United Kingdom's Conservative Party, that "promised continuous jobs for the firm and its subsidiary Cambridge Analytica." According to the firm, the promises were not fulfilled.

The controversy has raised questions about the role of data analytics in politics and the potential for misuse of personal information. The firm's techniques, which involve the collection and analysis of large amounts of data, have been used to influence political outcomes in elections around the world. The allegations have sparked a global backlash, with countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom calling for greater transparency and accountability in the use of data in politics.

Despite the controversy, the forum continues as a platform for the world's leaders to discuss global issues and propose solutions. The topics range from climate change to economic inequality, and the conversations are often characterized by a sense of urgency and a commitment to action.

However, the ongoing headlines have overshadowed the substantive discussions taking place at the conference. The leaders and influencers in attendance are expected to address pressing issues such as the future of work, the rise of artificial intelligence, and the need for new forms of governance.

As the conference concludes, the global community is left to grapple with the implications of the Cambridge Analytica scandal and the broader questions it raises about the use of data in politics. The search for meaning continues, as the world navigates a new era of technological change and political uncertainty.
Four dead as anti-govt unrest resumes in Iraq

Four Iraqis died in protests this week, including three killed by security forces. Anti-government rallies continued throughout the country, including in the southern provinces of Basra and Dhi Qar, where at least 10 people were injured.

In southern Iraq, dozens of protesters burned tires and blocked main roads in several cities, including Basra, Kerbala and Amarah. They say Prime Minister Abdul Mahdi has not fulfilled promises including naming a new government acceptable to Iraqis.

An Iraqi demonstrator pulls a burning tyre during ongoing anti-government protests in Basra, Iraq, today.

Turkey nabs 2,402 irregular migrants

A total of 2,402 irregular migrants were held across Turkey over the past week, according to data compiled by Amnesty International from minireport sources.

The migrants include 358 Iraqis, 238 Iranians, 213 Pakistanis, 160 Indians, 134 Afghans, 129 Iranians, 107 Somalis, 90 Indians, 88 Pakistanis, 66 Indians, 64 Somalis, 46 Afghans, 35 Nigerians, and 50 others.

Turkey's Interior Ministry said it had already sent 2,400 migrants to countries of origin. It added that some 800 more irregular migrants had been sent to Greece, with the remaining 1,600 migrants to be sent to other EU countries.

The migrants included people who have been persecuted in their home countries, including Uighur, Afghan, Iraqi, Tunisian, Somalian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Turkish, Egyptian, Iranian, Indian, Yemeni, Somali, and Egyptian nationals.

Iranian FM cancels attendance at Davos summit

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has cancelled his trip to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, over security concerns. In a letter to the summit's organizers, Zarif said he had canceled his participation due to "security reasons".

Zarif's cancellation comes amid growing tensions between Iran and the West following a series of inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States, which have increased pressure on Iran to come to the table for negotiations.

Israel says it will quit global N-treaty if case goes to UN

"The fate of the 2015 pact has been decided" since US President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the accord in May 2018, Iran's top diplomat said.

"The 190-member NPT bans signatures other than the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France from acquiring nuclear weapons, in return for allowing them to pursue peaceful nuclear programmes, overseen by the United Nations," Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, said.

"If the 2015 pact is not saved, we will leave the NPT if the US pulls out of it," Zarif said in an interview with the state-run Press TV. "We are not afraid of being excluded."
Turkey will continue supporting the group “not only on the ground and also at the political level,” said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday during a conference in Berlin. Erdogan said Turkey’s interests regarding Libya have been severely damaged by the process. Erdogan said Turkey’s push for a political solution for the Mediterranean state with “in the true spirit of the UN Charter and the way our friends, Russia and Turkey, see the way for the future of such a political solution. ‘We see what kind of a state Libya would be in the future under the guise of fighting terrorism.” Erdogan opposed the EU’s offer of humanitarian aid in several talks with the Italian government. Erdogan’s relationship with European countries has worsened in recent years due to issues such as migration and border disputes. Erdogan has repeatedly criticized European Union policies, accusing them of not adequately addressing the root causes of migration. The Turkish leader has called for a fair and just solution to the migration crisis, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach that involves not only receiving refugees but also addressing the underlying factors driving them to leave their homes. Erdogan’s stance on migration has sometimes been at odds with other EU member states, leading to tension in bilateral relations. However, in recent years, there have been signs of a shift in Turkey’s approach towards migration, with the country starting to focus more on integration and assistance to those already living in the country.
An outbreak of a new coronavirus has surfaced in several Chinese cities, including the capital Beijing and Shanghai, national and local authorities confirmed yesterday. A fourth case has been reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

President Xi Jinping said the outbreak, and saving lives, was a top priority as the number of patients more than tripled and a third person died, adding to the difficulties of containing the virus, hundreds of millions of Chinese will be travelling domestically and abroad during the New Year holiday, which starts on January 25.

The authorities around the globe, including in the United States and many Asian countries, have stepped up screening of travelers from Wuhan, the central city where the virus was first discovered.

Wuhan is a major hub and with flights connecting it to the fast approaching Chinese New Year, the city’s level must remain high. There is more to come as the outbreak, said Jeremy Farrar, a specialist in global health strategy and director of the Wellcome Trust, China, “is a universal threat.”

Authorities confirmed a total of 217 new coronavirus cases in China as of 6pm local time on Monday, the total state isolation required, 68 of which were in Hubei.

Five new cases were confirmed in Beijing and 14 in Guangdong province, the report said. Another 183 cases were notified in Hubei, which remains the epicentre.

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were abducted by security forces in 2009 with the government’s surrender as they faced defeat as well as the Tamil Tiger rebels.

In addition to 57-country Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expressed the possibility of an official, speaking on behalf of the United Nations’ top court, its findings in a press release.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry announced its findings in a press release posted on its Facebook page. It came just ahead of a decision by the United Nations’ top court on Thursday, in a request that Myanmar be referred to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

The government has concluded that there are reasons to believe that severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 800 people globally during 2002-2003 outbreaks that also started in China, could include multiple factors.

The virus is known last week during a statement.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa made his decision to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. The Independent Commission of Enquiry said its findings in a press release.

A military helicopter flew to the mountain range, where a missing group of people, including four South Koreans, are feared to be missing, said the minister.

The media were reporting an avalanche on Friday along the popular trekking route at the base of Mount Annapurna, the world’s 10th highest mountain.

In May, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is the United Nations’ top court, in The Hague, said in a report given yesterday that genocide in Myanmar.

Avalanches and bad weather had also prevented a search on Sunday by rescue workers from the Treking Sport Association of Nepal, which reached the site of Dhaulagiri, about 150km northwest of Kathmandu.

A helicopter equipped with a device to track signals in the snow also failed to prepare where the group of seven missing, said Surya Pandit, an official of the private rescue company.

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Thousands of protesters hit the streets in Jakarta yesterday amid heavy rain to rally against a new job bill, well short of the tens of thousands expected by organisers. Undaunted, union leaders said there would be further protests and strikes across the country.

With economic growth hovering around the 5 percent mark, President Joko Widodo has put the omni bill on a backburner to focus on job creation at the center of his election campaign.

But the legislation, which critics say will permit processes for investors as well as overall economic reforms, marks a dramatic shift in the government’s decades-old labor law and has also attracted the ire of employees unions.

The government wants to build a harsher business environment but they don’t realize that it will
deliver to parliament the job bill in the first 100 days of his second term. Instead, finalization of the legislation has been delayed several times, raising questions over whether the revision that’s eventually put to lawmakers will go far enough to boost investment or if it will be diluted to appease workers.

The numbers that showed up to protest yesterday would be unlikely to worry the president, who won a landslide victory in the presidential election held in April last year.

He has assembled a grand coalition that now includes most of the parties with seats in the parliament.

Under the omni bill, 79 laws covering more than 1,200 clauses will be revised as part of an effort to streamline licensing and make it easier to do business in Indonesia.

The bill will also reverse restrictions on foreign ownership and relax rules for some sectors and create incentives for downstream mining activities.

Jokowi sees the omni bill as necessary to make Indonesia more competitive in attracting investment that has otherwise been flowing into neighboring countries.

But the president must balance the interests of both businesses and labor unions, as well as politicians worried about how the controversial reform play would outcome among voters. Throwing a spanner in the works is the possibility of a court challenge from the workers’ unions or their supporting political parties.

Workers gather outside Indonesia’s parliament building during a protest against government plans to change restrictive labor regulations, in Jakarta yesterday.

Nine killed, one missing in Indonesia bridge collapse

AP — BENGALURU

Nine people drowned and another was missing after a bridge collapsed on Indonesia’s Sumatra island, the disaster agency said yesterday.

Some 30 people, mostly students, were on the bridge Sunday afternoon in the town of Kaur where the newly built crossing suddenly collapsed, hurling some into the water below while others clung on to the railing.

The water level in the river below the bridge was higher than usual with strong currents after torrential downpours pounded the Bengkulu region as it does not at the southern end of Sumatra.

Some managed to save themselves but 10 others could not. The government has not yet released the current and drowned, they were swept away,” Gagang Syahputra, head of the disaster mitigation agency, said.

Adding that the bridge may have collapsed due to excessive weight.

A search and rescue team was continuing to search for a teenager who is still missing.

Another victim was rescued after falling into the river but is seriously injured and was taken to hospital.

Police and the National Search and Rescue Agency rescued 10 people who were swept away, from the river bank.

Meanwhile, the country’s Criminal Investigations Department has arrested four men for murder.

Three of the defendants have died.

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to death for killing of 24 Hasina supporters

AP — DHAKA

A Bangladeshi court sentenced five former cops to death yesterday for killing of 24 Hasina supporters eight years ago.

The country’s Criminal Investigations Department announced the verdict with their families present.

Prosecution lawyer Mizanur Rahman, who represents the victims, said: “Peace is not one person’s
demand for an all-out peace talks in any form. We demand for an all-out peace talks in any form. We

Afghanistan: Gani criticises handling of peace talks with Taliban

An Afghan government’s spokesman said yesterday that the government had been “sorely disappointed” after the Taliban declared a three-day truce.

But the Taliban declined to extend the truce.

The US special representative for Afghan-istan, in Kabul, said the Taliban had been “sorely disappointed” after the declaration.

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Evacuation crackdown ordered for Philippine volcano ‘recharges’

More than 110,000 people have taken refuge in evacuation centres since Taal burst to life a week ago, but many hard-hit towns have let residents back for hours each day to fetch items, feed livestock and clean up their houses.

“We are directing DRRMCs (civil defence offices) not to allow anyone to enter the danger zones,” said Emaus Downing, undersecretary for the Department of Interior.

“It’s dangerous,” he said. “That’s why we have imposed a lockdown.”

Residents, who have escaped to evacuate, queue for relief goods following Taal Volcano’s eruption, in Taluyan, Batangas, Philippines, yesterday.

AP — TANAUAN

Evacuation crackdown

Malaysia PM says coalition could be a one-term govt if it stops infighting

PM Mahathir Mohamad’s coalition could be a one-term government if it does not make changes and stop infighting, he said yesterday.

Mahathir led the Pakatan Harapan coalition, or Alliance of Hope, in a spectacular victory in a general election in May 2018 but he is now looking to add new forces in the 68-year old’s role at the Malaysian National Coalition.

But Mahathir’s coalition has lost five by-elections since then, including one over the weekend, and polls have shown waning popularity among the public.

“We have lost four by-elections but they still don’t understand,” Mahathir told reporters at a meeting in Langkaw, a resort island off the west coast of Malaysia.

“Tell them in democracy you need strong support from the people. But instead they fight among themselves and divide the people. They are not going to win unless they change their ways,” he said.

Mahathir’s four-party coalition came to power on the promises of reforms and widespread disgorged over corruption. Former premier Najib Razak, who was deposed by Mahathir, was caught in the middle of a multi-billion dollar corruption scandal at state fund 1MDB. Najib’s currently on trial for corruption.

Nearly two years since the unexpected win, the government has been incessantly criticized for failing to deliver promised reforms on governance and human rights quickly and to protect the rights of the minority ethnic Indians.

There has also been uncertainty over Mahathir’s promise of a new coalition partner Anwar Ibrahim. Mahathir had said he would hand over the premiership to his former coalition partner Anwar in 2020.

But Anwar had said he will only hand over provided there would be no more infighting.

The 94-year-old premier退还说他 would give way to Anwar later this year. But Anwar has said he would only step down once the court case is heard.

The state Spokesman Department will hand over the enabling law in April as part of Malaysia’s Self-Defence Force Act, said in a policy speech marking the start of his parliamentary session. The state cabinet last year approved 50 new law to counter terrorism.

He said the spate of terrorism in the western region of Pakatan Harapan, which includes the state of Kelantan in east coast of Malaysia, where violence has been on the rise.

He said the spate of terrorism in the region is due to the rise of criminal gangs and radical elements.

New space unit to defend Japan from tech threats, says PM Abe

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday that Japan will form a new space defence unit to protect itself from potential threats in the region.

The space unit will be added to an existing one based at Fuchu in the western suburbs of Tokyo, where about 20 people will be stationed by the end of the year.

The space unit is to conduct satellite-based navigation and communications for other troops in the field, rather than on the ground.

The space unit will operate jointly with the US Space Command that Trump established in August, as well as Japan’s space exploration agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Abe’s government has been targeting 2022 for a manned mission to the moon.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the regular session of parliament in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday.

AP — TOKYO

Malaysia returns plastic waste, says won’t be ‘garbage dump’

Malaysia has sent back 150 shipping containers of plastic waste to mostly wealthy nations, with the Southeast Asian country saying yesterday it would not be the world’s “garbage dump.”

The region has been flooded with plastic from more developed economies such as the United States and Britain since 2018, after China — which previously handled a massive recycling industry — ordered a full to most imports.

Many Chinese recycling businesses moved to Malaysia after the ban took effect, leading to huge quantities of plastic being shipped in without permits and flooding small communities.

Governments across the region are now sending back illegally imported plastic, and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said this week that Malaysia had returned 150 shipping containers carrying 5,771 metric tonnes to places including France, Britain and the United States.

Officials hope to send back another 300 containers in the near future. 40 of which came from the US, Yeo said.

Authorities “will take the necessary steps to ensure that Malaysia does not become the garbage dump of the world,” she added.

The environment ministry “will continue to wage war against pollution, including plastic waste”, she told reporters in the northern city of Butterworth.

Malaysia’s Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin (front, second left) inspects a container containing plastic waste shipment before sending back to the countries of origin in Butterworth, Malaysia, yesterday.

AEP — BUTTERWORTH

Philippines authorities ordered a evacuation this week to their homes in the danger zone around Taal volcano as widespread reports of a ‘recharge’ of magma, which would drive a major blast, a top scientist said.

“We consider these signs that there’s a re-awakening of magma which could possibly cause an eruption that could be strong,” Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine seismological agency, told a local radio station.

Continued earthquakes and an increase in the volcano’s emission of sulfur dioxide gas were possible indications of a ‘recharge’ of magma, which would drive a major blast, a top scientist said.

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Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson's picture was displayed in parliament yesterday for the first time since a crucial election in which the upper chamber voted in favour of a move to reverse the rights of EU citizens in Britain after Brexit.

Johnson's Conservatives won a large majority in the lower chamber, the House of Commons, at the December 12 vote and lawmakers quickly approved the legislation needed to ratify its exit deal with the EU which would give eligible EU citizens in Britain an automatic right to stay after Brexit.

Brussels earlier this month the legislation is now passing through the House of Lords, where the government does not have a majority. While the upper chamber is not expected to block passage of the bill, it is seeking to make changes.

Members of the Lords voted by 270 to 229 in favour of a change put forward by pro-EU Liberal Democrats which would give eligible EU citizens in Britain an automatic right to stay after Brexit rather than having to apply to the government to do so. It would also ensure they are given physical evidence of their right to remain.

The government has said it is a 'wasteful' and 'irresponsible' modernising of the existing arrangements, which would give people the right to secure digital status which links to their passport.

Last week, European Parliament's vice-president Guy Verhofstadt had told Brits had told them it was foolish to seek the possibility of providing a physical certificate to people who have already been in the US for five years.

The Commons has already passed a similar plan, and the government hopes to see it approved before the end of the year.

The government is facing a second defeat in the Lords later on Tuesday, when ministers are an amendment on which would enshrine protections for so-called ‘zymurgy’, a pro-Brexit member of the House of Lords who has repeatedly stated his opposition to any move back to the status quo.

Any changes to the legislation would mean that British citizens will have to go back to the EU to get a visa approved and could still be re-registered.

Pension protesters try to stall Macron's policy in Versailles

Protests taking part in a demonstration against French President in Versailles, France, yesterday.

Prince Harry focuses on Africa after ‘sadness’ of royal split

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, on an official visit to Africa yesterday.

Prince Harry, who arrived in Africa last week for a three-week tour, missed the Duke of Edinburgh’s funeral last week and has been the centre of attention since.

Yesterday he flew to Cape Town for a flypast over the city, and his wife Meghan joined him to meet President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Duke, who is expected to stay in Africa for another three weeks, has been busy with speeches and engagements, and was last seen in London last week.

Salvini abduction probe should go ahead, says Italy Senate panel

An Italian Senate committee yesterday approved a court’s request to pursue an investigation into the abduction of the League leader Matteo Salvini, a move that could see demonstrator arrested and convicted of kidnapping.

It definitely found guilty the head of the League, currently Italy's most popular party, would face up to 15 years in jail.

He could also be barred from political office, dashing his ambitions to lead the government.

He still has two more weeks to have a verdict on the case – for all the charges in the case – for all the charges in the case.

In July 2019 Salvini, who had been a powerful ally on a vow to curb immigration and punish magnetising migrants to remain on a ship off Sicily, was only allowed to act after the European Union threat against further relocation. But the court in the city of Caserta, in southern Italy, had in a verbal hearing on the investigation ordered the 47-year-old to stay on the case.

The Senate panel’s vote comes as an Italian prosecutor said he could arrest more than 200 people in the case.

Moyn said, as others scorned his loss, it was not aware of any plans. The case is expected to go back to the lower chamber.

The government lost a vote on an amendment which would give EU citizens the right to secure digital status which links to their passport.

The government has said it is a ‘wasteful’ and ‘irresponsible’ modernising of the existing arrangements.”

Any changes to the legislation would mean that British citizens will have to go back to the EU to get a visa approved and could still be re-registered.

The government is facing a second defeat in the Lords later on Tuesday, when ministers are an amendment on which would enshrine protections for so-called ‘zymurgy’, a pro-Brexit member of the House of Lords who has repeatedly stated his opposition to any move back to the status quo.

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**Former police chief of Catalan on trial for rebellion**

Quim Torra expressed "all his support for the accused and predicted that "justice will eventually impose itself over revenge".

"In a precedent that may help Trapero, the Supreme Court in October dismissed the charges of rebellion against the now jailed agricultural leaders, finding them guilty of sedition, which carries a lighter prison term. By definition, rebellion is "stirring up in a violent and public manner" as among others thing, "declare independence for part of the Spanish territory". Sedition however is "stirring publicly and in turbulent fashion to preserve or obtain an illegal way" the law from being applied, or that of an administration or of a legal institution."

In a tweet, the head of Catalonian regional government, Torra expressed, "all his support for the accused and along saying the Trapero facing charges of sedition are not in danger, Greek news sources report. He also says his officers would have been ready to arrest then Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, if he had been asked. Puigdemont fled Spain in 2017."

Shortly after the Catalan parliament declared independence on October 9, two police officers were killed in a confrontation with the regional government's Catalan separatist party. His dismissed came two weeks after a short interview with a group of the Mossos "in a violent and public manner", which was followed several weeks later by a short interview with a group of the Mossos "in an illegal way" the law from being applied, or of an administration or of a legal institution.

The trial takes place a week after the Catalan regional government's Pedro Sanchez went on strike as a non-confidence vote in a parliament office in a move that was facilitated by the resignation of a Catalan separatist party leader of Catalonia's assembly.

**Norwegian finance minister quits over IS woman's repatriation**

Jensen’s departure was triggered by a decision announced last week, that the centre-right government said it would not allow early elections, and would not allow the常务委员 to decide each event. Help women with IS ties return is the Swiss national authority’s policy, including border controls and female genital cuts. Putin announced the adoption of the amendments that Putin’s planned last week.

Putin’s reform event. The reforms include getting changes in the status of the nation address last Wednesday, prompting the government to quickly resign.

"Putin is putting forward the reforms in an attempt to escape a position for himself after all 2014, when his fourth term in the Kremlin is due to expire."

The bill was passed just days after a group of experts and popular figures were seen to study the proposals and make a series of changes that would transfer some power from the presidency to Parliament and other bodies.

"Putin announced the changes in a state of the nation address last Wednesday, prompting the government to quickly resign.

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**Police in Greece probe alleged Montenegrin fatal shootings**

Police in Greece were investigating the killing of two men identified as Serbian nationals who were shot dead in a five-year feud between Montenegrin and Greek intellectuals. The two men, whose deaths were reportedly widely reported in the media, were reported to be among the吻合的人和children at a residence near Athens. They were shot in the head, as they sat eating with their families, a bystander told Open TV, adding that there were four assailants. "I saw stretched hands holding knives and the firing began. We immediately dove under tables," another diner told Star TV. "The firing seemed without end. We thought none of us would survive. It was like a movie," a witness, who reportedly collected over 20 bullet casings from the scene, told one of the women at the table. "She was shot in the leg but is not in danger. Greek news reports said.

A police source said that both victims were sought by Montenegrin authorities under international arrest warrants and were classified as "dangerous criminals". "One of them was sought for organizing and armed murder, and the other for organized crime," the official added.

Serbian diplomat Vesko Vesovic of Montenegro behind the killing of a Kosovo-based Albanian activist who was locked in a feud with the Montenegrin rival Kavacik, Saturn followed a boycott court deal in Daciano in 2014.

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**Kosovo and Serbia aim to restore direct flight**

Serbia has lifted sanctions on Kosovo as protests march toward venue

Hundred of disgruntled protesters against the elite Venetian government are marching through the Alpine town of Serina to protest in Davos, as officials yesterday refused to sign a security agreement with another country.

More than 1,400 protesters from the Serina region are expected to pass through the 2017 Grenell hailed the Balkan neighbours as "the most important to the EU’s foreign policy."

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**Five dead after boiling water floods Russian hotel**

Steam pours out of a door of the Mini Hotel Caramel after a hot water pipe exploded in the right and flooded a basement hotel room with boiling water, in Perm, Russia, yesterday.

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**Moscow**

Putin submits constitutional reform plan to lawmakers

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President Vladimir Putin moved quickly to push through a package of Russia’s political system that would enable the Kremlin to place plans to hold on to power for life, PewDiePie said.

Less than a week after a package of constitutional amendments to lawmakers was submitted to the State Duma and the upper house State Council, Putin submitted to parliament. The head of the state self-determination backed the referendum. "Letting the vote on the referendum take place is the only way for the Russian people to express their will."

"Putin is putting forward the reforms in an attempt to escape a position for himself after all 2014, when his fourth term in the Kremlin is due to expire."

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**Kosovo and Serbia aim to restore direct flight**

Serbia and Kosovo have taken steps to restore a direct flight between their capitals that was broken off by the US, officials said yesterday. The US and Europe are considering the creation of an "economic zone" in Kosovo and a "green zone" in Serbia.

The air link between Belgrade and Pristina — a connection dropped after war broke in 2013 — would be provided by a supermarket, a low cost rival of the German Lufthansa and still has to be re-started.

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**Serbia formally lost control of Kosovo after a 1999 Nato intervention forced its troops to withdraw from the territory with their Albanian counterparts.**

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Trump rejects impeachment charges

Virginia pro-gun rally draws crowds

President Donald Trump at a Keep America Great campaign rally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A January 14, 2020 file photo shows US President Donald Trump gesturing as he speaks during a rally at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, Wisconsin on January 14, 2020. (Photo by NICHOLAS KAMM / AFP) (Photo by NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP via Getty Images)
Mike Pompeo urges end to ‘tyranny of Maduro’

AP - BOGOTA

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called yesterday for cooperation in the struggle to remove Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro from office amid a long-running crisis in the South American country. The appeal came as Pompeo was in meet with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido for strategy talks.

“We must put an end to Maduro’s tyranny which harms Venezuela’s citizens and its imperiled freedom,” said Pompeo after meeting President Donald Trump at the General Santander Police Academy in Bogotá, yesterday.

Two Puerto Rican officials ousted over aid row

AP - SAN JUAN

Puerto Rico’s Governor Wanda Vazquez has announced the dismissal of Family Secretary Gilberto Gil-Ensenat and the police commissioner, Maria Tineo, amid a political dispute, but Trump undercut the move.

Vazquez said in a statement that she had accepted the resignation of Family Services Minister Gilberto Gil-Ensenat over misuse of funds.

The man shot by police on Wednesday was discovered by citizens in the area of the escape, backed by helicopters. It is reported that the warehouse was found full of supplies, including bottled water, food, baby food, sheets, batteries and other necessities. Given their daily expiration dates, the supplies, which were not distributed among the victims — according to local media, 24 people were injured.

Huawei executive faces extradition hearing in Canada

VANCOUVER

The first stage of an extradition hearing for a senior executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei began yesterday, after a Vancouver court said that has infuriated Beijing, that has added to tensions between the two countries.

Judge Annemarie Bonkalo ruled yesterday that Meng Wanzhou — the daughter of Huawei’s founder — fulfilled the conditions for extradition.

More than 4.6 million have fled Venezuela due to the ongoing economic and political crises, according to the United Nations with those left behind facing shortages of food and medicine.

Pompeo has called for a re-election of Venezuela’s president, but the government has rejected the move.

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Nearly 80 ‘highly dangerous’ inmates escape Paraguayan jail

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An interim government took over the prison after an escape from an October 2018 jailbreak.

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Qatar’s horseback riding stars of the future put themselves in the spotlight as Qatar Foundation played host to its inaugural Showjumping Competition.

The equestrian centre’s Equine Education Department, said: “It builds on our efforts to improve the standard of horse-riding in Qatar, and nurture future international equestrian champions.”

The competition was free of charge and open to all equestrian enthusiasts, attracting members of the community to enjoy the occasion and offering an array of entertainment including a fun zone for children, bounce castles, and cafes.

Al Shaqab will hold another showjumping competition this year, which is scheduled to be held on March 20 and 21, with total prize money of QR215,000 for each competition.

Speaking about the goal of the new competition and what it brings to the Qatari sporting scene, Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Head of Al Shaqab’s Equine Education Department, said: “It builds on our efforts to improve the standard of horse-riding in Qatar, and nurture future international equestrian champions.”

“By having this kind of national competition, those owners have a way of utilising their investment, which will in turn support the horse market in Qatar, and help to maintain our equestrian legacy in Qatar’s community.”

The Al Shaqab competition included five categories for children aged six years and above, all the way to the senior category. Al Suwaidi said the competition also plays an important role in preserving the Qatari equestrian heritage, as it supports local private horse owners and Qatar riders. “Although there is a great appreciation for horse-riding in our community it can create a financial burden for owners due to horse costs,” he said.

Having this kind of national competition, those owners have a way of utilising their investment, which will in turn support the horse market in Qatar, and help to maintain our equestrian legacy in Qatar’s community.

“Among the riders participating was Jassim Mohammed Al Kewari, who has been a student at Al Shaqab since 2015. “Each competition that we participate in gives us more encouragement to improve ourselves, as we interact with more experienced riders and aspire to be like them,” he said.

Al Kewari has qualified to participate in the upcoming Asian Equestrian Federation Under-21 Dressage Championship in April 2020, and said: “I have gained a lot of experience through the lessons we take at Al Shaqab, and I am looking forward to representing my country internationally.”

Ghannim Nasser Al Qadi, who has ridden with Al Shaqab for four years, also rode in the showjumping contest, and said: “I have seen how my skill level has improved over the years, and I hope that doing well in this competition will qualify me to participate in larger competitions. “I am very thankful for Al Shaqab for all their support and how they have offered everything in all the things we need to pursue our passion.”

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“The also allows our students to exchange knowledge with other riders, increase their understanding of showjumping and prepare themselves to participate in international competitions.”

As well as being an Olympic discipline, showjumping is one of the most popular horse-riding activities in Qatar.

The Al Shaqab competition included five categories for various age groups, starting with the Future Riders Program for children aged six years and above, all the way to the senior category. Al Saadat said the competition also plays an important role in preserving the Qatari equestrian heritage, as it supports local private horse owners and Qatar riders. “Although there is a great appreciation for horse-riding in our community it can create a financial burden for owners due to horse costs,” he said.

“By having this kind of national competition, those owners have a way of utilising their investment, which will in turn support the horse market in Qatar, and help to maintain our equestrian legacy in Qatar’s community.”

The competition has already proved to be a success, and our aim is to keep hosting it over the coming years, supporting riders and horse-owners, and helping to preserve the sport in Qatar.

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The Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr Ibrahim Allah Salem Al Naami yesterday opened the second School Theatre Festival at Abdul Aziz Nasser Theatre in Souq Waqif.

The festival, hosting drama shows by schools on different themes, is sponsored by National Theatre of the Qatar Scouts and General Association of Islamic Scouts from January 26 to 28.

The opening ceremony was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ms Al Madharkha, and principal artists, educators, parents, and students.

Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs and Higher Education, Dr Buthaim Salem Al Naami said that the second edition of the festival is very special because of the diversity of theatrical performances.

He also said that the festival includes various theatrical performances on nationalization, awareness, heritage and morality, which reveal the capabilities, talents and energy of students in theatrical activities and performances.

“Valuable prizes will be distributed to the winning artistic groups, best performing group and the best supporting group. The prize distribution is calculated according to the number of totally valid votes by judges,” he said.

“Addressing the event, Head of Educational Guidance, Moza Al Madhur said school administration is an important social institution, and to establish the arts as an essential educational and teaching tool,” he said.

“School administration should give the same importance to the arts as they do to their curricular activities, such as theatre, music, sports and art. It is important to develop the skills and the capacities of the students, and to develop their capabilities and faculties,” she said.

She also added that the school administration plays a great role in building students’ personality, honing their skills, developing their capabilities and faculties.

A total of 45 school groups from all the provinces of Qatar participated in the festival.

The opening ceremony included artistic performances, such as a mixture of Arts, Music, Dance and Theatre which captured the student’s emotions. The audience laughed and clapped, including the Under-secretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naami, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Faculty Al Khater, Assistant Under-secretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. All three departments during the opening of School Theatre Festival by the Ministry of Education at Abdul Aziz bin Nasser Theatre, at Souq Waqif, in Doha, yesterday.

The festival is hosting drama shows by schools on different themes, is sponsored by National Theatre of the Qatar Scouts and General Association of Islamic Scouts. It will continue until next Thursday.

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“The study found that nicotine, a chemical found in cigarettes, decreases the body’s ability to make red blood cells,” van Tilborgh said. “This affects the patient’s immune system and makes it difficult for the proper oxygen to go to the patient’s organs. This can contribute to the patient’s physical and psychological pressures, enhance self-confidence and treat speech problems, along with the development of ‘postoperative depressions and the development of interest in art.’

She noted that the theatrical activities have a positive relationship with academic achievement, as they contribute to breaking the atmosphere of boredom, restlessness, and making the school an attractive environment for study.

Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naami, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Faculty Al Khater, Assistant Under-secretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, said the festival is very special because of the diversity of theatrical performances. The opening ceremony was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Faculty Al Khater, Assistant Under-secretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Faculty Al Khater, Assistant Under-secretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

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