Hamad Port, Doha Port and Ruwais Port handled over 50 percent more vehicles in January this year compared to same month in 2019, according to Mwani Qatar. General cargo volumes increased 22 percent, while container traffic increased by five percent.

Starting the new year on a positive note, Qatari ports have delivered strong performance in January. Hamad Port, Doha Port and Ruwais Port have witnessed significant rise in cargo handling in the first month of the year. These ports handled over 50 percent more vehicles in January this year compared to same month in 2020, according to Mwani Qatar. General cargo volumes increased 22 percent while container traffic increased by five percent during the month, said Mwani Qatar.

These ports handled 8,618 vehicles, 17,016 tonnes of general cargo and 155,817 TEUs containers in January this year. Mwani Qatar said the ports received 45,614 tonnes of general cargo, 17,479 vehicles and 7,698 heads of livestock in January last year.

Total 250,000 vehicles visited Qatar ports in January this year.

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment, in a statement yesterday, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment has urged visitors to the Al Khor Family Park, which is already going through the follow-up of the Public Parks Authority ‘Ashghal’ and with the remaining closed for development work, to be open from 2pm to 11pm. On Saturdays, the park will be open from 2pm to 11pm.

An aerial view of the renovated Al Khor Family Park.

Al Khor Family Park will reopen on Sunday after remaining closed for development and maintenance work that lasted for 100 days and entailed a cost of QR2bn, said the Ministry of Municipality and Environment in a statement yesterday.

The renovated park will have several new features including a mosque, an open-air theatre and new varieties of animals and birds. The entry fee is now QR15 for adults, and QR9 for children up to the age of 10 years.

The Ministry expects that the park is likely to attract around 500,000 visitors annually.

The development work was carried out under the supervision of the Authority Ashghal and with the follow-up of the Public Parks Department of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment works were carried out from October 2019 to January 2020. Development work included a complete overhaul of the zoological and the addition of different species of animals, providing the highest safety and security standards for visitors.

Seven new sections have been added to the Park that house new varieties of animals and birds. Al Khor Family Park is considered one of the most important and largest parks in Qatar and a breath of fresh air for tourists. The park also contains a mosque that can accommodate 360 worshippers of men and women, and 12 air-conditioned rooms providing drinking water.

There is also a large restaurant consisting of three covered halls, an outdoor hall, six public bathrooms for men and women, and in addition 700 parking lots and 11 dedicated parking for people with special needs.

The park accommodates 315 animals of 49 species, including 290 new ones. The new sections include the following: the crocodile lake and monkey section, the giraffe, bear and monkey section.

The animals and birds that have been added to the Park includes an Asian bear, two African lions, two Bengal tigers, two white tigers, two black jaguars, two giraffes, an Asian cat, and a wild cat among others.

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment has urged visitors to maintain the park facilities and to not damage trees and plants.

The park will be open from Thursday to Saturday from 9am to 11pm, but on Fridays it will be open from 2pm to 11pm. On Sundays, only women and children will be allowed to enter the park.

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment has urged visitors to the Al Khor Family Park to be open from 2pm to 11pm on Fridays.
Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister attends Nato meeting

QNA – BRUSSELS

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah participated yesterday in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) with Nato support Operational Partner Nations and Potential Operational Partners of the Alliance.

The meeting was held at the Nato headquarters in Belgium's capital Brussels.

The meeting was also attended by the State of Qatar’s Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of its missions to the European Union and Nato, HE Abdurrahman bin Mohammed Al Khuwaiz, and Qatar’s Military Attaché in Belgium, Air Brigadier General Rashid Sali Al Khayarun.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Sultan bin Saad Al Marzooqi, received yesterday a copy of the credentials of Andrija Kuzmanovic as Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the State of Qatar. H E the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs wished the new Ambassador the顺利 success in his duties and assured him of the state’s support to upgrade bilateral relations to closer cooperation in various fields.

DIFI focuses on family housing at UN

FROM PAGE 6

Participants were welcomed by HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN, Ambassador Sheikh Alya bint Al Khalifa. In her speech, the Ambassador highlighted the strong relationship between Qatar and the United Nations, especially in peace and security, the environment, human rights, and development.

The event was attended by UN officials, including Dr. Susan Brzesciak, Director of International Policy at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), who presented a report on the importance of family-sensitive social protection.

The second session of the Doha Briefing was organized by DIFI in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN, UNESCO and the International Federation for Family Development (UNIF) to discuss the theme of Families and Housing Instability. In this session, experts highlighted the housing instability and its impact on family resilience and well-being.

The third session focused on the impact of poverty on children, with Dr. Sharifa Al Emadi, Executive Director of the Doha Education City, Sealine Beach, Qatar, who presented a report on the importance of family-sensitive social protection.

Dr. Sheikha Al Amal, Director of Communication at DIFI, gave a presentation outlining the case for investing in parenting programs.

The event concluded with an open discussion on family-sensitive social protection, involving researchers and policymakers.

The event’s focus on family-sensitive social protection is in line with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight the importance of family well-being and development.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives credentials of copy of credentials of Ambassadors

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Al Khor Family Park to open on Sunday

Deer grazing in the main area at Al Khor Family Park, which will open on Sunday, after being set aside for 100 days, at a cost of QR32m.

From the middle of the desert to the top of a West Bay apartment building, this weekend the country’s capital, Doha, will be offering a variety of outdoor activities and events, including family-friendly activities, sports, and cultural events.

The Dogsound team, led by Kirk Myers — who has trained High Jinks, a projected members of the community for over a year — will be hosting a series of dog training sessions at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) to help improve the training concept into the very heart of Qatar’s community.

As part of Qatar Foundation’s Qatar National Sport Day activities, Dogsound will be holding high-intensity interval training sessions in various locations across the country, including Education City, Sealine Beach, JW Marriott Marquis, Al Khor and Al Gharrafa Doha. The Dogsound team, led by Kirk Myers, who has trained High Jinks, a projected member of the community for over a year, will be hosting a series of dog training sessions at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) to help improve the training concept into the very heart of Qatar’s community.

Following the great success of the first Qatar Sport Day, and in order to enhance the efforts of development in the field of academic research in mathematics in Qatar, the Qatar University’s Centre for Research and Development launched the second edition of Qatar Math Day on Sunday.

This academic platform gathers all those interested in mathematics in Qatar, including researchers and instructors, in the field of education and research, to exchange research and educational experiences.

The event will also include presentations relating to academic research in the field of mathematics and on mathematics teaching methods in Qatar. In addition, mathematics instructors in the secondary level of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education can join, in addition to those interested in all support to upgrade bilateral relations to closer cooperation in various fields.

QF takes fitness to the heart of the community

The Dogsound hosts fitness classes as part of Qatar Foundation’s National Sport Day celebrations.

Dr. Sheikha Al Amal, Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), speaking at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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Qatar’s missions abroad host NSD activities

Qatar Airways organised NSD events at Oryx International School campus

Qatar Airways sponsored the NSD event at Oryx International School. The event included various activities such as sports, games, and music, aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles among students. The school’s facilities were utilised to host the activities, which were designed to engage students in a variety of physical and creative pursuits. The event was well-attended, with participation from students, teachers, and families, fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere.

British comedian-musician Rainer Hersch to perform at Souq Waqif tomorrow

Rainer C. Riedel 
THE PENINSULA

Bringing his unique brand of humor to the stage, British comedian-musician Rainer Hersch is set to perform at Souq Waqif tomorrow. Hersch, known for his engaging style and talent on the guitar, has been captivating audiences worldwide with his blend of comedy and music. This performance promises to be a treat for fans of his stand-up routines and musical pieces. Hersch’s ability to connect with his audience through both humor and music makes him a popular choice among comedy enthusiasts.

Qatar Airways staff posing for a group photo.

Qatar Airways staff pose for a group photo during the NSD event at Oryx International School, showcasing the airline’s commitment to community engagement and social responsibility. The photo captures a moment of camaraderie and shared pride in the event, highlighting the airline’s role in fostering a healthy and active lifestyle among students.

Temporary closure on Gharrafat Al Rayyan Interchange tunnel

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the temporary closure on Gharrafat Al Rayyan Interchange tunnel for maintenance work. The closure will be in effect from 10 PM tonight until 5 AM tomorrow. Ashghal recommends that drivers use alternative routes to avoid delays.

Qatar Airways is the official airline sponsor of the professional football competition across South America, including the Copa CONMEBOL, Copa America, and the CONMEBOL Recopa.

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Qatar Airways is proud to sponsor premier sporting events across South America, reflecting its commitment to supporting local and international sporting activities. This sponsorship underscores the airline’s belief in the importance of sports as a unifying force and a catalyst for cultural exchange.

British musician and comedian Rainer Hersch

Hersch, a multifaceted artist, has made a significant impact in the comedy and music industry. His performances are renowned for their wit and musicality, engaging audiences with a blend of stand-up comedy and guitar-based comedy routines. Hersch’s versatile approach to his craft makes him a sought-after performer in both the UK and internationally. His upcoming concert at Souq Waqif promises to be a memorable evening for fans of his unique brand of entertainment.

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

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Turkey will send additional troops to Idlib, northwest Syria, for the sake of a durable ceasefire, Turkey’s Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said on Saturday.

“We are sending additional troops to enable a permanent ceasefire. We are going to federal the SNA,” Akar told reporters after a NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels.

“Force will be used against those who do not comply with the law, including non-state radicals, and all measures will be taken to protect our forces,” the minister said.

The announcement followed the easing of a Russian-Arab-Azeri Award regime force on Turkish nursery regime in a existing cease-fire as well as attack on Idlib in recent, sending hundreds of thousands of them flocking to the nearby border with Turkey.

Akar also said that the attacks by the regime on Idlib were “continuing both randomisation and targeted.”

“A regime is firing heavy artillery at the region. Some are firing regime-made howitzers and heavy machine gun at the region,” he said.

Akar also said that Turkey “is doing all it can to hold the ceasefire, to control migration, to stop the bloodshed and to stabilise the situation.”

“The Turkish military is on the way to observe a local cease-fire in Syria’s Idlib yesterday,” according to the Turkish military.

A Turkish military convoy was seen moving through the region.

The crisis escalated further after a US drone strike earlier this week, he urged the crowds to turn out at the polls in large numbers.

On Saturday, he had alleged that Iranian military was involved in the March 3ילid attack, a regime drone strike that killed 290 people in two Balochi camps in Iran.

The operation was aimed at the “violent organization” and “terror groups,” the minister said.

“The government of Iraq has green-lights resumption of flights,” said Akar, adding that Turkey would also rule out candidates. Half its parliamentary elections will be held in early 2021.

The coalition has been in power since 2016, having more than 90 per cent of parliament.

The hard-liners running for seats in the next parliament are headed by Bagher Qalibaf. Their list includes 12 young and Hezbollahi administration. Hezbolah is expected in mid-2021.

The crisis escalated further after a US drone strike earlier this week, it was reported.

The US killing of Iran’s top military commander Qassem Soleimani last month after the US drone strike was championed by Rouhani for the 290-seat parliament.

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The Madinah Charter reflects pluralism both in the content and in the history of the document. F. E. Peters explains that “the contracting parties, although they did not embrace Islam, did recognise the Prophet’s (PBUH) authority, accepting him as the community leader and abiding by his political judgements.”

The Madinah Charter was of such necessity. Inter-religious and inter-ethnic relations in the Madinah Charter were a fusion of attributes which provides ample material for extrapolating an ummah along with the believers. To our approach to the wide, diverse pluralism to everyone. For people are one, united, living in the same house of the Quran and in the same valley of Yathrib. It prompts us to understand how “the people are one community” (ummah) along with the believers. To our approach to the wide, diverse pluralism to everyone. For people are one, united, living in the same house of the Quran and in the same valley of Yathrib. It prompts us to understand how “the people are one community” (ummah) along with the believers. The Madinah Charter and pluralism

I slam, a religion of mercy, is not a permit terrorism. In the Quran, God has said that “people should not be killed from shooting kindness and disasters upon them, unless they have fought you about your religion, and been persistent in their wrongdoings.”

The Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) exalted the Madinah Charter which shows that God is educating people, who then become a type of channel through which they had benefited from the charter and peace, not from war. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible. When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible. When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible. When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible. When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible. When you slaughter an animal, do it in a manner that causes the least amount of fright and suffering possible.”

The act of inciting terror in the hearts of civilians, the wholesale destruction of buildings and properties, the bombing of innocent men, women, and children are all forbidden and detestable acts according to Muslims. If an individual Muslim was to engage in terror of this kind, this person would be guilty of violating the laws of Islam.

1. Narrated in Sahih Muslim, Book 8, Hadith 124.
2. Narrated in Sahih Muslim, Book 8, Hadith 124.
3. Narrated in Book 8, Hadith 123.
5. Narrated in Book 8, Hadith 121.
6. Narrated in Book 8, Hadith 120.
8. Narrated in Book 8, Hadith 118.
15. Narrated in Book 8, Hadith 111.
Sudanese govt reaches settlement deal with USS Cole victims' families

By CAIRO

Sudan's transitional government said yesterday it has reached a settlement with families of the victims of the 2000 attack on USS Cole in Yemen, in a bid to lure the African country taken off the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism.

The settlement is the latest step in Khartoum's attempts to prevent the U.S. from placing Sudan on its state sponsors of terrorism list, which would impose new and tougher economic sanctions on Sudan.

The agreement resolves an injunction of $300 million in lawsuit against Sudan, which was filed by victims of the attack. The settlement was approved by a judge in the U.S. District Court in New York.

The agreement includes a provision that the U.S. government will not place Sudan on the list of state sponsors of terrorism, which would impose new and tougher economic sanctions on Sudan.

The government also agreed to pay $310 million to the victims' families, along with the wounded and their families, along with the wounded and their families.

The settlement was reached after months of negotiations between Sudanese officials and representatives of the victims' families. The deal was signed in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

The agreement is a major step in Sudan's efforts to improve its relations with the U.S. and other Western countries. Sudan has been on the state sponsors of terrorism list since 1995, when it was accused of supporting terrorists in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Sudanese officials said they had reached an agreement with the victims' families after months of negotiations. The deal was signed in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

The agreement includes a provision that Sudan will not place the U.S. on its own state sponsors of terrorism list, which would impose new and tougher economic sanctions on Sudan.

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New coronavirus deaths in China see rise record as virus spreads onboard ship

Reuters — Shanghai/Delhi

The Chinese province at the center of the coronavirus outbreak reported a record rise in deaths and thousands more infections using a broader case definition yesterday, while Japan became the third place outside mainland China to suffer a fatality.

The province of Hubei, where the virus originated, recorded 905 cases and 44 deaths on Wednesday, provincial authorities said. Ninety of the cases were in Wuhan, the city at the center of the outbreak, while the other 10 were in Xiaogan, according to local media.

Japan confirmed its first coronavirus death in a 60-year-old man in the city of Yokohama in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo, adding to two previous fatalities in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

In a separate development, the government confirmed it was considering placing the southern provincial capital Vientiane in Laos under lockdown from Saturday, which would take the total number of countries imposing some form of lockdown to around 30. The heaviest hit was Europe, where 99 countries were implementing some form of lockdown.

In Hubei province, in central China, officials said 242 people died there on Wednesday, the biggest daily rise so far. They also reported 4,426 new confirmed cases, bringing the total deaths in China to 1,367.

In April, heighted global deaths

It appeared in large part to be due to methodology, as well as data issues, since only admitted infections to be counted. Tala, or rhinovirus, account for much of the virus's diversity and is a constant source of infection, according to local media.

It has also been using computational language processing technology, which involves the use of a deep learning model to predict the spread of the virus. The model was trained on a dataset of more than 200,000 clinical cases. It has been shown to be effective in predicting the spread of infectious diseases such as influenza and measles.

But the model has been used to predict the spread of the coronavirus in China, and the results have been compared with the official data from the Chinese government. The model has been able to accurately predict the spread of the virus, with an accuracy of around 80%. It has also been able to predict the spread of the virus in other countries, such as South Korea and Italy.

Consultancy Capital Eco- nomics said the surge in deaths did not necessarily point to an acceleration in the spread of the virus, but rather to a previous underestimation of its spread.

For now, the latest figures do not appear to undermine the recent signs that the virus is slowing down, it said. It noted that the number of people hospitalised in China had declined from a peak of 2,000 to less than 1,000.

Chinese scientists are testing new antiviral drugs and other preliminary clinical trial results are due next week, although WHO officials have cautioned a vaccine may take nine months to develop. Hundreds of infections have been reported in more than 200 places outside mainland China.

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Another police officer, Rajesh Kumar said the crash occurred on an untraced road and vehicles over- ran the road, preventing and controlling the epidemic.

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EDITORIAL

Immersive experience

COME this Saturday, there will be two more outdoor exhibitions for families to explore an National Museum of Qatari History (NMQ) will open two very interesting experiences for children of all ages: a museum by making it more accessible and provide many community events bringing young and old alike to the museum grounds – similar to the permanent galleries at the Islamic Art (MIA). The MIA Park has become a community hub for families to visit, relax in the two new playgrounds also as it will definitely invoke curiosity in a child about the history of the country and will offer a nice way for parents to guide them through the journey of Qatar. A third playground will be open at MIA later which will focus on the oil and gas history of Qatar. AR technology has been utilized to make the visit an unique experience for all generations. From the natural evolution of the land to a time where Qatar was one of the major pearl traders of Asia, the playgrounds – similar to the permanent galleries at the National Museum of Qatar – are immersive and experimental, telling the story of Qatar and its people; “Qatar Museums’ (QM) Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al Mayassah and H.E. Ambassador Khalid Al Ali, said about the playgrounds.

These open places not only play an important role in intellectually stimulating the visitors, they also become a community hub for families to visit, relax and interact in a safe and secure environment. The best example of this is the annual Festival of the Desert at the park since 2017. The park hosts many community events bringing young and old alike to the museum grounds – similar to the permanent galleries at the Islamic Art (MIA). The MIA Park has become a community hub for families to visit, relax in the two new playgrounds also as it will definitely invoke curiosity in a child about the history of the country and will offer a nice way for parents to guide them through the journey of Qatar. A third playground will be open at MIA later which will focus on the oil and gas history of Qatar. AR technology has been utilized to make the visit an unique experience for all generations. From the natural evolution of the land to a time where Qatar was one of the major pearl traders of Asia, the playgrounds – similar to the permanent galleries at the National Museum of Qatar – are immersive and experimental, telling the story of Qatar and its people; “Qatar Museums’ (QM) Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al Mayassah and H.E. Ambassador Khalid Al Ali, said about the playgrounds.

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Sunday, FEBRUARY 08, 2020

For Dr. Rappaport, founder and managing director of popular French dating app Happn – which recently launched its “100% white” feature in the UK, “we’ve seen what’s changing in terms of market share” since Facebook began rolling out its app on the Americas and parts of Asia last year. He adds a fundamental issue is whether social networks are a good fit for dating.

“We are committed to ensuring that museums are places of learning for all generations. From the natural evolution of the land to a time where Qatar was one of the major pearl traders of Asia, the playgrounds – similar to the permanent galleries at the National Museum of Qatar – are immersive and experimental, telling the story of Qatar and its people,” Qatar Museums Chairperson H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassah and H.E. Ambassador Khalid Al Ali, said about the playgrounds.

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Pakistan’s government approves new social media rules

Pakistan has approved a new set of rules that will govern the use of social media in the country, including measures to block content deemed “seditious” or “offensive.” The new rules are aimed at curbing online content that is deemed to be in violation of the law, trying to uphold the integrity, decency and respect of individuals and the sanctity of institutions. The rules also state that interpretations of the regulations in Pakistan “shall take precedence over any community standards or rules or community guidelines or policies or any other instruments devised by a social media company.”

The approval of the new rules follows accusations by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government that social media companies have been allowing and silencing online content deemed “unlawful,” to the extent that they have even gone above and beyond what the law requires to do so.

According to the new rules, companies will be required to provide subscriber information, traffic data, content data and any other information or data that is sought, the regulations stipulate. The rules also state that interpretations of the regulations in Pakistan “shall take precedence over any community standards or rules or community guidelines or policies or any other instruments devised by a social media company.”

Nineteen companies that do not comply with the new rules risk being blocked online, according to a copy of the regulations.

Pakistan's capital Islamabad on a two-day official visit

Erdogan arrives in Pakistan on 2-day official visit

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Pakistan on a two-day official visit. Erdogan will separately meet Pakistan’s President Arif Alvi. He is also scheduled to address a joint session of Pakistan parliament today for a four hour time slot in November 2018, 2012 and October 2000. Meanwhile, Pakistani and Turkish businessmen gathered in Islamabad that yesterday to discuss ways to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

The gathering was held at a special networking session, which was organised by Pakistan’s Commerce Ministry, said a statement by the ministry.

Accompanying Erdogan on his trip, the Turkish businessmen delegation is comprised of leading business representatives from engineering, energy, tourism, construction, defense, automotive, information technology, and other sectors.

More than 200 government businessmen from Pakistan counterpart sectors, leading trade bodies, including Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, software professionals, and Pakistan-Turkey Friendship Association attended the session.

The objective of this initiative was to bring the businessmen from Turkey and Pakistan under one roof to explore ways to enhance trade and investment, “the statement added.

Pakistan Under a UN resolution to tackle armed groups in the country, 713 Rohingya were arrested in Pakistan’s border districts, according to police sources. They said the suspected Rohingya were arrested in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab provinces.

Aye Maung from Khamwe camp, who is locked in battle with Arakan Army (AA) rebels.

Police said they had been searching for 18 suspects, 18 of whom are Bangladeshis, after the sinking. The nine are expected to have been landed amid muslin, a police spokesman said.

“Nine human smugglers have already been arrested in the past two days,” deputy police chief of Cox’s Bazar, Ishrat Hossain said.

Police said trafficked attempts have increased since 2017, with 713 Rohingya rescued as they were being trafficked by boat to other countries, mostly Malaysia, in the past two-and- a-half years.

“During this period seven human traffickers were shot dead in gunfights with police. At least 69 traffickers were arrested,” Cox’s Bazar police inspector Ataur Rahman said.

In the absence of any developed transportation system, the department had to rely on air strikes and night operations to achieve success, officials said. The department had rescued more than 300 human traffickers since the operation began.

Erdogan said he wanted to reiterate Turkey’s commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment with Pakistan, which has already been arrested in Pakistan’s border districts, according to police sources. They said the suspected Rohingya were arrested in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab provinces.

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UK PM tightens control over govt; finance minister quits

BRITISH MINISTER BORTS Johnson yesterday, a surprise move that entitled Prime Minister Boris Johnson to give the go-ahead to a long-planned schuffle by promoting a minister who has often been pushed in front of the cameras to sell government policy.

The prime minister's team had carefully choreographed the reshuffle, presenting it as an opportunity to foster new talent, particularly among women, as well as rewarding loyal supporters to deliver his vision for Britain beyond Brexit.

The reshuffle, which included the promotion of Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, an ultra-loyal supporter of Johnson, who has often been pushed in front of the cameras to sell government policy.

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More letter bombs target Dutch firms

Reuters - Amsterdam

A letter bomb caught fire at a bank in the eastern Netherlands yesterday and another was disarmed at an Amsterdam gas station, the latest in a series of such attacks in the Netherlands this week.

No one was hurt in the incident, an Amsterdam branch of ING Bank, a spokesman said, although police said one person was taken to hospital.

"It did not explode, it caught fire," said Bob van der Veer, a spokesperson for Amsterdam police.

They said there was no bomb at an office of US information agency Dow Jones, located near Utrecht. An office worker said they had "rendered the letter harmless" and that nobody had been injured.

Several letter bombs have been sent to businesses around the Netherlands this year. No injuries have been reported.

Police believe the two letters that detonated harmlessly this week, found at the Dutch bank ABN Amro and a gas station in Rijswijk, are connected with letters sent to seemingly random business locations around the country in early January.

The inclusion of two handkerchiefs, a gas mask, a real estate agent, and a car dealership, among others, are the only common factors.

Police say the letters were sent to local government offices or associations in the Netherlands.

The Dutch government has said it would not hold the mass communication fair in May because of safety concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

But the government said it would not hold the event, in Barcelona, Spain.

"We have decided not to hold the event. It was a decision that we have made," the government said in a statement. "We believe it is not public health reasons in Spain that have motivated the cancellation.

There is no public health reason to hold events of this type in our country," the government added.

But it said it would not hold the event, claiming there were no alternative plans.

"We have decided not to hold the event, as we do not consider it necessary to do so," the government said in a statement.

"The Spanish government said there was no public health reason to not hold the event."

Spain's public health minister, Salvador Íñigo, said in a statement yesterday: "I believe it is not public health reasons in Spain that have motivated the cancellation.

This is a public health reason to not hold events of this type in our country," the government added.

If it were not for the shouting, they did not say what reasons it thought were behind the decision.

Spain has only two people infected with the virus, neither of whom is in Barcelona. Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, sitting alongside Íñigo, also said: "There is not any health concern to exist today. There is no local reason to cancel." John Hoffman, chief executive of GMP, emphasised they were concerned about "a business-critical" people. "The Spanish government said there was no public health reason to not hold the event."

His government said it would not hold the event, in Barcelona.

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The US Senate limits Trump's military powers against Iran

WASHINGTON

The US Senate approved a bipartisan resolution yesterday limiting President Donald Trump's ability to launch military operations against Iran, despite White House warnings that it would make the nation more vulnerable to attack. The resolution, authored by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Tim Kaine, passed by a 55-45 vote.

The resolution would require Trump to send Congress a request to shift power over undeclared military actions in foreign conflicts to the legislature. It is intended to halt a military strike against Iran that was ordered by the Trump administration.

The bill was introduced in the wake of the US General Qasem Soleimani's assassination, a move that was widely condemned by the international community.

The Senate vote was seen as a significant step in curbing presidential war powers, which have been a contentious issue for decades.

US President Donald Trump speaking to the troops during a surprise Thanksgiving Day visit at Bagram Airfield. In Afghanistan, on November 28, 2019.

Trump says China is handling coronavirus 'professionally'

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump praised China over handling of the face of new coronavirus outbreak in an interview that aired yesterday, adding that the US was working closely with Beijing.

"I think they're doing it very professionally. I think they're extremely capable." Trump said.

While Trump disputed that, many US lawmakers and medical experts believe that China has handled the outbreak effectively.

The virus, which is believed to have originated in Wuhan, has spread rapidly across the globe, infecting thousands and causing several deaths.

Brazil lawmakers urge Congress to shale indigenous mining bill

BRASILIA

Opposition lawmakers called in Brazil's Congress yesterday to reject a proposal by a government-led bill that would open indigenous reservations to mining and logging.

The bill, put forward by the executive, is seen by indigenous groups as a threat to their rights and land.

Brazil has one of the largest indigenous populations in the world, with around 850,000 people living on reservations across the country.
Venezuela asks ICC to probe US sanctions

“Since we believe the unilateral coercive measures are crimes against humanity and the population of the country,” Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said.

Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro has offered legal measures against the United States and the United Nations in recent days, saying they were trying to provoke a “political coup.”

The US has not signed up to the court but the ICC can claim jurisdiction over cases that affect people in member states.

The court can however only try individuals who are officially identified as having committed crimes.

Washington imposed sanctions on Venezuela’s Oil Ministry and its leader for violating the country’s sovereignty.

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From 150 - 200 Labors
Ooredoo posts Q29.9bn revenue, Q1.7bn net profit

The company said that reported group revenue was stable at Q29.9bn, in spite of the industry wide shift from voice to data consumption, a reduction in handset sales as well as macroeconomic and currency weakness in some of the markets.

Ooredoo Group yesterday announced its second quarter financial results for 2020 with QR7.3bn, impacted by a fall in handset sales but enhanced by business-to-business growth. Ooredoo Qatar delivered a strong set of results in 2020, against a backdrop of an evolving telecommunications industry. Its success was driven by the precision execution of its digital transformation strategy in concert with the culture of innovation which permeates Ooredoo Group. This enabled us to remain agile and meet the changing needs of our customers.

“Group revenue was stable at Q29.9bn in 2020, in spite of the industry-wide shift from voice to data consumption, a reduction in handset sales as well as macroeconomic and currency weakness in some of our markets,” he added.

Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Saal Thani, Group Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo said, “As a result of our net profit attributable to Ooredoo shareholders increased by 106.44 points, or 1.07 percent, last week decreased by 21.18 percent to reach QR891.68m compared to QR1.7bn in 2019, mainly driven by new Ooredoo ONE ‘all-in-one’ services contributed to a growth of 380 per share. The Group customer base increased by 10 percent to QR1.7bn in 2019, while customer care, enabling us to further optimise our cost base and customer care, making it easier for our customers to and find and use our services. We continued to move more of our services and solutions on the cloud, and in the online and mobile aspects of our offering, while ensuring a user experience that enhances the digital lives of our customers.”

Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Saal Thani

Ooredoo Qatar delivered a steady performance in 2020, building on its global leadership and solid financial performance to provide an excellent online experience for customers. Revenues rose to QR2.6bn, impacted by a fall in handset sales but enhanced by business-to-business growth. Ooredoo Qatar reported a strong set of results in 2020, against a backdrop of a challenging telecommunications industry. Its success was driven by the precision execution of its digital transformation strategy in concert with the culture of innovation which permeates Ooredoo Group. This enabled us to remain agile and meet the changing needs of our customers.

“Group revenue was stable at Q29.9bn in 2020, in spite of the industry-wide shift from voice to data consumption, a reduction in handset sales as well as macroeconomic and currency weakness in some of our markets,” he added.

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The Group customer base increased by 10 percent to reach QR1.7bn in 2019, mainly driven by new Ooredoo ONE ‘all-in-one’ services compared to QR0.25 per share.

QNB National Sponsor of FINA/CNSG Marathon Swim World Series 2020

Ooredoo Group has announced its sponsorship of the FINA/CNSG Marathon Swim World Series 2020 as the National Sponsor of the event. The FINA/CNSG Marathon Swim World Series 2020 will be held on February 14 and 15 at Katara Beach in Doha, where a total of 32 participants, including Nestle’s companies, will compete in the series to be held in Doha for the third consecutive year. The Doha marathon event is the first stage in the world swimming series, which will include races in various locations worldwide, ending in the final stage to be held in Hong Kong. The final stage of the series will be held on February 22 and 23, with Doha hosting the third leg of the series, which will be held in Doha for the third consecutive year. The Doha marathon event is the first stage in the world swimming series, which will include races in various locations worldwide, ending in the final stage to be held in Hong Kong. The final stage of the series will be held on February 22 and 23, with Doha hosting the third leg of the series, which will be held in Doha for the third consecutive year. The Doha marathon event is the first stage in the world swimming series, which will include races in various locations worldwide, ending in the final stage to be held in Hong Kong. The final stage of the series will be held on February 22 and 23, with Doha hosting the third leg of the series, which will be held in Doha for the third consecutive year. The Doha marathon event is the first stage in the world swimming series, which will include races in various locations worldwide, ending in the final stage to be held in Hong Kong. The final stage of the series will be held on February 22 and 23, with Doha hosting the third leg of the series, which will be held in Doha for the third consecutive year. The Doha marathon event is the first stage in the world swimming series, which will include races in various locations worldwide, ending in the final stage to be held in Hong Kong. The final stage of the series will be held on February 22 and 23, with Doha hosting the third leg of the series, which will be held in Doha for the third consecutive year.
Alibaba says revenue growth to be impacted because of virus outbreak

BLOOMBERG - HONG KONG

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. may have to delay reporting revenue for the December quarter that ended in March after the coronavirus that has killed more than 1,000 people worldwide brought operations in China to a virtual halt.

The Chinese e-commerce giant said on Wednesday that the company’s earnings report since the epidemic emerged in January. “It is really difficult to have an estimate on March quarter” because it is only halfway through period, said a company executive in a conference call after the results. “Overall revenue will be negatively impacted.”

Alibaba is the first major Chinese technology corporation to report results since the epidemic emerged in January. Chinese technology corporation employees, suppliers and merchants have not been able to return to work, and disruptions such as epidemics, regional development in short flights.

“The market has been dominated by the Chinese technology corporation for delivery personnel. Zhang said the company is trying to keep its own workers safe, including having many work from home. “We took every effort to protect the safety of our employees,” he said.

Alibaba shared its forecast that about 3 percent in pre-market US trading. Already, China’s most valuable corporation has struggled to sustain growth during an economic slowdown in its home market, and is now grappling with the uncertainty of the coronavirus outbreak. While widespread home confinement is spurring demand for online services from grocery delivery to office apps to streaming entertainment, the disease is snarling nationwide transport and threatens in the long run to dent consumer spending.

Alibaba declared a waiver of some service fees for merchants on its main direct-to-consumer platform to help those struggling with the fallout from the outbreak. That may further depress the top line in 2020.

Alibaba’s decision to waive platform service fees in the first half of the year to support small merchants, not only dampens revenue, but also signals that online retail may not be immune to China’s coronavirus outbreak.

This increases the possibility of a downturn in the March and June quarters in the company’s earnings report yesterday.

Alibaba has shored up 4 percent of its value since a broader Chinese selloff began in January, underperforming arch rival Tencent Holdings Ltd., which as a mobile gaming and social media operator is better shielded from the short run from the epidemic.

Alibaba is rolling out special programs to support merchants, including lowering the fees for delivery personnel. Zhang said the company is trying to keep its own workers safe, including having many work from home. “We took every effort to protect the safety of our employees,” he said.

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Competition heats up in global turboprop engine market

REUTERS - SINGAPORE

Competition is heating up in the world of smaller turboprops that were an ignored corner of the aircraft industry, turboprops were an ignored corner of the aircraft industry, putting some passengers off, travel experts say, even though many in the industry say that reputation is already out of date. Alibaba is the first major Chinese technology corporation to report results since the epidemic emerged in January. Chinese technology corporation employees, suppliers and merchants have not been able to return to work, and disruptions such as epidemics, regional development in short flights.

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Officials reiterate Tokyo Olympics are on

AP - TOKYO

Tokyo Olympic organisers reiterated their message yesterday at the start of two days of meetings with the International Olympic Committee. The 2020 Games will not be delayed by the virus that is spreading from neighbouring China.

Japan reported its first death from the coronavirus on Thursday, the Japanese government confirmed at least 250 cases, including 198 from a cruise ship quarantined at the port of Yokohama, Tokyo.

Sitting among IOC officials was Dr. Richard Budgett, the IOC's Medical and Scientific Director who does not travel for these inspection visits.

The Olympics open in just over five months, and theATHLETICS

annual colourful pre-games in Japan - a clear signal the games are on track.

Japan reported its first death from the coronavirus on Thursday, the Olympic organising committee said he was "very saddened" that the spread of the infection disease could "rob those who have worked so hard for the games".

He backed down a day later from the Olympic movement, said not to take place in Beijing in spirit.

The virus has also wiped out the indoor world in each and every category in Nanning, world tournaments, soccer matches, and almost all sports in China, including qualifying events. It is also keeping Chinese athletes from traveling to Spain, so could put their presence in Tokyo in jeopardy.

The Singapore tournament, and the Hong Kong Sevens, were rescheduled from April to October yesterday, with organisers saying the decision was taken "in response to continuing health concerns relating to the outbreak of the virus". The World Rugby Sevens Series competition, an event with close ties to the Olympic movement, will not take place until Beijing in spirit.

The virus is also causing a Formula One race set for April in Bahrain, which draws more than 150,000 over a race weekend.

The Hong Kong and Singapore rounds of the World Rugby Sevens Series were rescheduled from April to October yesterday, with organisers saying the decision was taken "in response to continuing health concerns relating to the outbreak of the virus". The World Rugby Sevens Series competition, an event with close ties to the Olympic movement, will not take place until Beijing in spirit.

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Racing series that abandoned plans for a race meeting would take place. The London-based MCC will play four limited-overs matches against local clubs. The 12-man squad comprised players from English counties such as allrounder Ravi Bopara and spinner Samit Patel. Sangakkara is the president of the club. After the Sri Lanka team was attacked by terrorists in Lahore yesterday, Pakistan had to play home matches in the United Arab Emirates. The first Tests in Pakistan in more than a decade were recently staged against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, under heavy but safe security. “The MCC’s world cricket committee has been one of the strong advocates of cricket coming back for Pakistan,” Sangakkara said. “Security is always a major concern everywhere in the world. In Pakistan, I think the steps that have been taken over the last few years have mollified great amounts of confidence in the cricketing nations beyond the shores of Pakistan, and slowly but surely that confidence is building up.”

For us to make the first step, Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Wasim Khan said Pakistan, where cricket is the mother sport, should be supported. “Cricket belongs to everyone, but the players have to have that platform and display their skills needed to make that support,” Sangakkara said. The fact is that you need to have an underpinning of young to inspire to take up the game. “So if there is no home cricket for a very long period of time, there is a danger that sometimes that kind of hunger might go away. The more cricket you play here at home, the more young children and the juvenile fans of Pakistan can see their side, their players play in front of them, within almost touching distance.”

Think this is wonderful for the country and it’s great for the global game. We shouldn’t lose sight of how important the strength of Pakistan is in that big picture of having global cricket. “The MCC is a part of that, the mixture of that, and the old guy you can go to and talk about it is wonderful. As part of our usual review process of player performance, our coaching and support staff time with Matthews this week, and they all came to the conclusion that was a valuable week.”

We’re confident Matthew will benefit from a break from the game, come back refreshed, and look forward to working with him after he is ready to grab that home run.”

The London-based MCC announced last year’s one-day World Cup and the following Ashes series, and Healy said they would be unfazed by more hostility. “Steve and I have ticked off pretty much every box since coming back, and it’s an opportunity for us to keep the young guys out of the spotlight,” added the paceman. “We’ll probably try to take as much heat as we can actually, try to keep the young guys away from the limelight.”

Both Smith and Warner have thrived since returning to the national team, two years after the ball-tampering in South Africa the following year. The first Tests in Pakistan are independent, the spirit of cricket is strong and the philosophy of the MCC is that we support international tours of Pakistan. “Cricket belongs to everyone, but for the players to have that platform and display their skills needed to make that support,” Sangakkara said. “So if there is no home cricket for a very long period of time, there is a danger that sometimes that kind of hunger might go away.”

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The MCC is a part of that mixture, and I think that is wonderful for the game.”

Former Sri Lankan cricket great Kumar Sangakkara lauds PCB efforts

Reuters

MCC squad arrives in Pakistan, set to play 4 matches on tour

Former Sri Lankan cricket great Kumar Sangakkara lauds PCB efforts

A Maryland Cricket team led by former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara arrived in Lahore yesterday to support international tours of Pakistan. The London-based MCC will play four limited-overs matches against local clubs. The 12-man squad comprised players from English counties such as allrounder Ravi Bopara and spinner Samit Patel. Sangakkara is the president of the club.

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FABIAN WUSSIN
THE PENINSULA

The world’s leading long-distance swimmers will face formidable challenges to begin what is the world’s largest and most prestigious FINA Marathon Swim World Series at the stunning Katara Beach in Doha on Saturday.

Katarina has done a great job up till now to organise the event and I wish the best for all athletes in the competition,” he added.

Katarina said she had been working with the organizers of the event to make sure it runs smoothly.

The PGA tour has been a successful club in the history of Al Kass International Cup, and this year’s event will take place in Qatar on Saturday.

The race will start at 6pm after Friday prayers.

I would like to thank FINA for giving us opportunity to host this event as we prepare for the 2023 World Championships,” said the event’s chairman, Herve Guegan.

The three-goal victory was thoroughly deserved by PSG, who will now face Barcelona on Monday.

Meanwhile, action at the Al Kass International Cup: PSG

Katarina will be hoping to win the CL this season, which would be their first title since 2011.

Al Kass International Cup: PSG

Paris Saint-Germain, the most successful club in the history of France are participating in the 2023 World Championships, the penultimate stop of the 10-meet series.

The men’s marathon will see 103 racers in action while 54 female athletes will also make a splash in Katara waters in the first stop of 10 meet series.

FINA Technical Delegate John West, who also spoke at the press conference yesterday, said the competition will be tough.

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Egyptian giants and three-time CAF Champions League winners Zamalek are ready to play Esperance Sportive du Tunis in their CAF Super Cup clash under lights today at Thani Bin Jassim Stadium.

Zamalek, coached by Patrice Carteron, have arrived in Doha knowing that Tunisian rivals Esperance lost last year’s title to Raja Casablanca of Morocco at the same venue.

Chasing their second CAF Super Cup title, Esperance are making their second successive appearance in Qatar after winning their last four years ago. Zamalek is also a great club and we fear no one,” Carteron said ahead of the final.

“We always look for victory in every game. We have to differentiate between facing Esperance in the Super Cup, and facing them again later in the Champions League,” Carteron said.

“Zamalek are a very tough team. We have to take the 90-minute match with a very high level despite the changes at the levels in the club and its confirmed the quality of his work ethic. For sure, we will put the best version of our team and we are happy to face Esperance,” he added.

When asked about his thoughts on playing in Doha, he said yesterday. ‘The hosting of this match is perfect and wonderful. It is good for everyone to see African teams playing here. It is an opportunity to come here because the match has a great TV interest around the region. The organisation in Qatar is wonderful.’

‘The experience and knowledge of the players is very important. We have to take the 90-minute match with a very high level despite the changes at the levels in the club and its confirmed the quality of his work ethic. For sure, we will put the best version of our team and we are happy to face Esperance,” he added.

“We always look for victory in every game. We have to differentiate between facing Esperance in the Super Cup, and facing them again later in the Champions League,” Carteron said.

‘There are two totally different encounters and each game has its special circumstances,’ the coach added.

‘Zamalek is doing very well now. We focus on ourselves whatever our opponent is. We are playing to win and hope fully the Super Cup will be our title in our beloved supporters,’ Carteron said.

‘Esperance assistant coach Mejdi Traoui yesterday said: ‘A 90-minute match with a very important African title win has been missing for Esperance for a long time. So we are fully prepared to play the game with our full-strength and we have great desire to win. We are prepared because we are playing a very respectable team’.

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