

Special Offer
on all **essilor** Medical Lenses*
*Upgrade Contact Lens Contact Frame 99 to **CRIZAL FREEMANIA** for FREE
Toll Free: 800 0506
www.dioptics.com

Home | 2 Business | 13 Sport | 21

Writing in Islamic art explored at HBKU forum

Vodafone Qatar expands customer base

IAAF to give verdict on Russia doping response

The Peninsula Newspaper | @PeninsulaQatar | @peninsula_qatar

DECADE OF EXPERTISE IN HSE TRAINING

ENERTECH QATAR
SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE

Qatar's Largest International Qualifications & Awards Provider

www.enertechqatar.com
P +974 4421 0888 F+974 4421 0889
sales@enertechqatar.com / admin@enertechqatar.com

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2015 • 1 Safar 1437 • Volume 20 Number 6613 www.thepeninsulaqatar.com editor@pen.com.qa adv@pen.com.qa Editorial: 4455 7741 | Advertising: 4455 7837 / 4455 7780

Emir offers prayer for Qatari soldier

Emir also attends burial of Suleiman martyred in Yemen

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday performed funeral prayer for Qatari soldier Mohamed Hamid Suleiman who was martyred while performing his duty as part of the Arab forces participating in operation 'Restoring Hope' in Yemen.

The funeral prayer was performed at the Messameer graveyard mosque.

The Emir also attended the burial of the martyr, along with the latter's family and several citizens.

The Emir also offered condolences to the bereaved family and to the Qatar Armed Forces.

Minister of State for Defence Affairs and Cabinet Member H E Major General Hamad bin Ali Al Attiyah, Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces Major Gen-

eral (Pilot) Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, several Armed Forces units, officers and military personnel also attended the funeral.

Al Attiyah and Major General Al Ghanem received Suleiman's body at Al Udaid Base and they accompanied it to the graveyard.

Al Attiyah said the Qatari Armed Forces were proud of martyr Mohamed who sacrificed his life while doing his duty as part of the Arab alliance forces in Yemen.

He was defending Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf as a whole, Al Attiyah added.

"The martyr has given us more determination and high morale to defend the legitimate rights through our participation in the battle in Yemen.

All in the armed forces were so happy to participate in this mis-

sion," he added.

Hamid Suleiman, father of the martyr, said the family feels honoured by his martyrdom.

Mohamed was happy from the very beginning to join the special Qatari forces in the mission that they have been carrying out to protect Yemen and defend its rights.

"I was encouraging Mohamed to work hard and be dedicated to his unit and praised his participation in the mission as part of the Qatari Armed Forces.

"Before he left for Yemen, he expressed his determination to defend the rights and legitimacy," said the father.

Hamid said all family members have received his martyrdom with patience and steadfastness.

Before performing the funeral prayer, the Imam of Abu Hamour



Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani carrying the coffin of soldier Mohamed Hamid Suleiman on its arrival in Doha yesterday. Suleiman was martyred while performing his duty as part of the Arab forces participating in operation 'Restoring Hope' in Yemen.

graveyard mosque delivered a short speech, in which he encouraged worshippers to take inspiration from the example set by Suleiman.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni government conveyed its condolences

to the Emir and the Qatari people for the martyrdom of Mohamed in Yemen.

The government praised Qatar for its historic stance of standing beside the people of Yemen. Qatar's participation in the Arab

alliance force led by Saudi Arabia will remain engraved in the memory of the Yemenis, said a statement.

Another picture on page 2

THE PENINSULA

Israeli troops kill Palestinian in hospital raid

HEBRON: Israeli undercover forces raided a hospital in the West Bank yesterday, shooting dead a Palestinian during an attempt to detain another man suspected of carrying out a stabbing, the Palestinian health ministry and doctors said.

The Israeli army confirmed the raid and shooting but did not have details of the man's condition. It said the raid was carried out to detain Azzam Al Shalalda, 27, suspected of stabbing an Israeli settler two weeks ago in the West Bank.

Jehad Shawar, Director, Al Ahly Hospital in Hebron, told Palestine Radio that 20-30 men arrived at the clinic in two mini vans at around 3am and entered with someone in a wheelchair pretending to be pregnant.

CCTV footage from inside the hospital showed a large group of men armed with pistols and rifles, some with beards and others with

keffiyeh scarves on their heads, walking through the corridors, telling hospital workers to get out of the way.

"They held staff at gunpoint and stormed Al Shalalda's room," Shawar said.

Al Shalalda's brother Bilal, was asleep in the room, and he was tied to the bed by the Israeli forces. A cousin, Abdallah, who was in the bathroom, was shot dead when he entered the room, Shawar said. "As his cousin exited the bathroom, which was inside the room, they fired five bullets, one in the head, one in the chest and three in his body," Shawar told the radio station.

"They took Azzam and placed him in the wheelchair they had brought the woman in and exited the room, preventing anyone from giving medical aid to the young man lying on the floor."

Palestinian Health Minister Jawad Awad accused Israeli secu-

riety forces of "executing" Al Shalalda who, he said, was escorting a relative inside the hospital. "The international community must intervene to protect our people from the Israeli killing machine."

In a statement, Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency said it "will not permit terror operatives to hide in any places of refuge".

Bilal said: "As soon as they entered the room they tied me to the bed. (My cousin) was inside the bathroom and wanted to wash for prayer. As he was exiting the bathroom, one of the undercover men shouted at him to stop and they opened fire.

"He arrived on the ground bleeding and they hit my brother on the head and took him away."

The army said Azzam had stabbed an Israeli settler in Gush Etzion. After stabbing, he was shot by his victim but escaped.

A military spokeswoman said

he and his family, including the cousin, were Hamas operatives.

Seventy-six Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli security forces, including 44 Israeli police carrying out or about to carry out attacks.

In Gaza, Israeli occupation forces attacked at dawn Palestinians' farm lands with intensive fires in east of Deir Al Balah, centre of Gaza strip, Qatar News Agency reports.

The occupation troops positioned on eastern border fired a barrage from military vehicles and laid smoke bombs and flash grenades over the lands in conjunction with flights of the reconnaissance planes, Palestinian security sources said. No casualties in the area have been reported so far. The occupation forces target farmers' lands on eastern and southern borders daily.

AGENCIES

SCH reviews steps against H1N1 virus

DOHA: The Supreme Council of Health (SCH) yesterday held a meeting with other authorities concerned to discuss ways to prevent a possible spread of H1N1 influenza A virus in Qatar.

Three A (H1N1) cases were detected in a primary girls school last week.

All the infected were from one family studying in different classes.

The school was closed for one day following the cases and precautionary measures have been taken.

The meeting chaired by Dr Saleh bin Ali Al Marri, Assistant Secretary-General, Medical Affairs, the SCH, was attended by officials from the SCH, Supreme Education Council (SEC), Hamad Medical Corporation and Primary

Health Care Corporation. The meeting discussed ways to ensure the best coordination among all the sections concerned to fight the virus.

The SCH said it will hold a press conference on Sunday with participation of senior officials from all entities concerned to discuss the issue.

It reassured that the virus which belongs to the seasonal influenza group, as per the classification of World Health Organisation (WHO) does not pose an epidemic threat.

Majority of the infections are either mild or medium that can be treated and cured. Vaccination and anti-viral treatment are available in the country.

THE PENINSULA

Five candidates confirmed for FIFA presidency

ZURICH: Prince Ali bin Al Hussein (Jordan), Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa (Bahrain), Frenchman and former FIFA official Jerome Changagne, UEFA Secretary-General Gianni Infantino (Switzerland) and South African Tokyo Sexwale were named official candidates by FIFA's electoral committee.

Liberia's Musa Bility failed an integrity check and UEFA president Michel Platini is suspended for 90 days pending a full Ethics Committee investigation.

The February 26 poll will elect successor to Sepp Blatter. Each candidate required support of five member federations before the integrity check by the committee which ranges from possible fraudulent behaviour and match manipulations to human rights violations.

QNA/AGENCIES

Lebanese protest for president

Lebanese Phalange Party supporters wave national flags and shout anti-government slogans during a protest for presidential elections, near the Parliament building in Beirut, Lebanon, yesterday. Lebanon has been without a president since May 2014.

See also page 5

IS video vows attacks in Russia very soon: SITE

CAIRO: Islamic State (IS) has released a video, threatening attacks in Russia "very soon", the SITE monitoring group said yesterday.

Al Hayat Media Centre, IS' foreign language media division, released a Russian language video with chants of "Soon, very soon, the blood will spill like an ocean", SITE reported.

Meanwhile, at least 100 soldiers and fighters were killed in northern Syria in over 24 hours of fierce fighting earlier this week as pro-government forces reached an air base that had long been besieged by IS, a monitoring group said.

Most of these killed were IS militants, followed by government forces and its allies, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The breaking of the siege was the most high-profile military victory for the Syrian government since Russia intervened in the conflict with an air campaign on September 30.

Earlier, government troops reached the

Kweires airbase in the northern province of Aleppo, where soldiers and officers had been held up for nearly two years.

Recent offensives by government forces mostly against insurgents not linked to IS in the west and northwest of Syria have been backed by Russian air strikes, as well as Iranian troops and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters.

But their progress has been limited at best, with rebels putting up fierce resistance and even advancing in some areas, such as in Hama province where certain areas have come under heavy bombardment.

The Syrian army and allied forces also captured the town of Al Hader in the northern province of Aleppo, state television said, quoting a military source, in their latest advance into a strategic rebel-held area. The rebels fled the town south of Aleppo city after pro-government forces took full control, it said.

See also page 5

AGENCIES

Emir offers funeral prayer



Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday performed funeral prayer for Qatari soldier Mohamed Hamid Suleiman who was martyred while performing his duty as part of the Arab forces participating in operation 'Restoring Hope' in Yemen.

NHRC to hold dialogue on human rights and development

DOHA: The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) will hold dialogue on Sunday and Monday in cooperation with Qatar Foundation (QF) for Social Action on development based on human rights.

Set to take place in the presence of officials and specialists from the NHRC, QF and other state entities, the session will discuss issues, including standards of human rights, human development approach, international legitimacy and the importance of joining international conventions.

The event will also touch on the most important rights in agreements Qatar has joined and national mechanisms to protect human rights.

Experts will also discuss the regular comprehensive review and duties and responsibilities that come with human rights.

QNA

UK activist recalls suffering of Palestinians at QC event

Booth addresses 'Palestine: Where I found Islam' forum

DOHA: Qatar Charity recently organised an event entitled 'Palestine: Where I found Islam' which was attended by British activist Lauren Booth.

The event was held at QC's development centre, in cooperation with the Department of Women at Youth for Jerusalem Association, Qatari women, and Abdullah Al Ansari Shrine Complex.

Booth spoke about Palestinians' suffering and needs, her story about embracing Islam and Palestine's role in making that happen.

Wives of many Arab and foreign ambassadors, female officials representing their countries' ambassadors, and other guests from different cultural backgrounds attended.

Booth also talked about the tragic situation in Palestine and how because of the Palestinians she found her path to Islam.

While being and living with them, she said, she was intro-

duced to Islam. She explained how Palestinians' suffering influenced her life.

She decided to do everything she could to alleviate their suffering and offer them a helping hand.

"The Palestinian people deserve the best. They are holding on to their cause and willing to do whatever it takes in its name. They are suffering and we have to help them overcome it," said she.

Badrifa Al Yaqout, Director, Female Department, QC, welcomed her and the audience. She praised Booth's humanitarian motives which led her to Islam.

Nour Mash'al, Director, Female Department, Youth for Jerusalem, thanked QC and the participants for this solidarity move with Jerusalem.

Hanadi Hilwani, a Murabita from Jerusalem, spoke through a recorded speech and thanked all the people standing with the



Officials at the event.

Palestinians in general and with Jerusalem in particular. The event also featured a performance of Dabka, a traditional Palestinian dance.

QC displayed its most important projects which serve Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque.

THE PENINSULA

Ambassadors back Qatar boat show

DOHA: Qatar International Boat Show (QIBS) 2015, being held at Mourjan Marinas, in Lusail City, Doha until November 14, received ambassadors and representatives from various embassies on the opening day on November 10.

Visitors from the Bosnian, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Swiss, and the US embassies were among many who made their way to the show to attend a special VIP day marking the start of the third edition of the exhibition.

Italian Ambassador Guido Sanetti, one of the first ambassadors to give his support to the show since its inception in 2013, said Italian companies are proudly involved in the FIFA World Cup 2022 stadiums' construction, and in the realisation of Doha Metro.

"With this awareness, we are happy to bring again to Qatar our best companies in the nautical sector.

"If diplomacy is the art of compromise, no such idea is applied when we speak of a combination among Italian traditions, such as technology, design, materials and customer services. These factors are the ingredients of our offer for the boating and yachting world market."

German Ambassador Hans-Udo Muzel said once again the German embassy is proud to present a sizeable number of premium yacht makers in Doha.

"German ships and marine engineering are among the finest in the world.

"Many of the best yachts, luxury boats and passenger ships carry the label 'Made in Germany'. At the QIBS you have the opportunity to experience first-hand what makes this label so prestigious."



Visitors at Qatar International Boat Show (QIBS) 2015 at Mourjan Marinas in Lusail City.

French Ambassador Eric Chevallier said the number of boat owners in Qatar is constantly increasing and bringing opportunities to the industry.

"I wish success to this new edition of QIBS and hope to see more and more exhibitors and visitors, especially from France."

Polish Ambassador Krzysztof Suprowicz said for the third time the show is bringing the best of the world's yachting, sailing and watersports to Doha.

"Throughout these years, the event has been able to attract a considerable number of industry professionals, visitors and water recreation fans," he said.

US Ambassador Dana Smith said she enjoyed QIBS last year and looked forward to visiting exhibitors and learning about lat-

est trends in the industry.

"Qatar is a vibrant, dynamic society changing every day. Like the US, Qatar is a country focused on the future, and events such as QIBS showcase some of the finest American designs our manufacturers have made available."

QIBS 2015 is open from 12.30pm to 9.30pm today and tomorrow. This edition has been dedicated to the memory of Essa Al Mannai, the conceptualiser and Chairman of the event, who died over a week ago. It was his vision of Qatar staging its own boat show, together with his determination that led to the staging of the first edition of QIBS in 2013.

THE PENINSULA

Writing in Islamic art explored at HBKU forum

DOHA: Scholars from around the world explored the role of writing in Islamic art and culture during the sixth biennial Hamad Bin Khalifa University Symposium on Islamic Art.

This year's symposium, titled 'By the Pen and What They Write: Writing in Islamic Art and Culture', featured 12 speakers, all leading scholars in the art world.

They discussed some of the earliest Arabic scripts found on rocks in the desert prior to Islam and the importance of paper to facilitate the spread of the Holy Quran's message.

Islamic art historian Dr Sheila Blair delivered the keynote address on 'Writing as Signifier of Islam'.

"Writings in Islamic art are of great interest to people in this region and around the world and it is fantastic to be part of the symposium's 10-year milestone. We hope to see more years of bringing renowned art scholars to the symposium," said Dr Blair.

Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCU-Qatar) Dean Dr Akel Kahera stressed the contribution of the symposium which over the years has addressed the history of Islamic art, architecture and culture, including the role of water, colour, light and writing.

"The Birth of Arabic Writing in Stone" presented by Robert Hoyland reviewed the earliest Arabic script found on rocks on the desert margins of the Levant and Arabia in the centuries prior to Islam. Angelika Neuwirth highlighted that it was the Holy Quran that re-established writing in Arabic script and became a highly meaningful and authoritative source of knowledge due to which Islam has survived beyond the prophets' lives and spread across continents.

Typography as a building block of written communication and a vital form of expressing cultural identity



VCU-Qatar Dean Akel Kahera delivers the opening remarks at the symposium.

and ideology was discussed in Huda Smitshuijzen Abifares' paper 'Arabic Typography and the Shaping of a Modern Design Culture'.

Jonathan Bloom spoke on 'How Paper Changed Islamic Literary and Visual Culture', while Kristine Rose Beers discussed 'Reading with Conservators: The Language of Book Archaeology'.

Massumeh Farhad, Chief Curator and Curator of Islamic Art at Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, analysed the intricate link to the written word with images, in her lecture 'Reading between the Lines: Text and Image in Sixteenth-Century Iran'. The symposium ended with Nasser Al Salem's 'Calligraphy Presentation', which explored non-conventional mixed media forms of traditional Arabic calligraphy.

THE PENINSULA

Focus on aesthetic phenomenon in Islam

DOHA: Qatar University College of Shariah and Islamic Studies will hold an international conference next month entitled 'The aesthetic phenomenon in Islam' to discuss dimensions of Islamic aestheticism in architecture, calligraphy and other art forms.

Forum details were outlined by college Dean Dr Yousef Al Siddiqi, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, and Head of the Conference Preparation Committee Dr Sultan Al Hashmi, and Dr Moal Iziddin, Professor of Islamic Studies and Head of the Conference Scientific Committee.

The two-day forum begins on November 15, attended by researchers and experts from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Jordan who will present over 18 papers on issues related to aesthetic

perspectives inherent in Islam.

Workshops and discussions will address topics such as the meaning and philosophy of aestheticism in Islam, aesthetic standards and testimonies in Islamic culture, and aestheticism in Islamic intellectual output, among others.

Dr Al Siddiqi said: "The innovativeness of Islamic intellectualism has encouraged Muslims' creativity in the field of culture and architecture. Many monuments and buildings in the Islamic world demonstrate intellectualism of Muslim and Islamic scholars, scientists and artists. The college is well-placed to hold this conference in its role as a key partner with national and regional organisations in dialogue on intellectualism and aestheticism in Islam."

THE PENINSULA

Fish haul



Two fishermen at Al Wakrah fishing port relax on their boat alongside their catch yesterday morning. SAJAD SAHIR

FM meets new UK, Canada envoys



Foreign Minister H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah yesterday received new British Ambassador Ajay Sharma who submitted a copy of his credentials. The Minister also received new Canadian Ambassador Adrian Norfolk who submitted a copy of his credentials.

Qatar slams Beirut blasts

DOHA: Qatar has strongly condemned twin bombings that targeted Burj Al Barajneh in the southern suburb of Beirut yesterday, killing and injuring several people. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said these criminal acts are contrary to human values, and would drag the region into chaos and instability. It called on Lebanese political leaders to protect the country and the people from the consequences of such criminal acts that aim to ignite sedition and drag Lebanon into chaos and violence. The ministry reiterated Qatar's firm stance renouncing violence in all its forms and manifestations whatever its source and motivation. It expressed condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

QNA

Turkey envoy with football team



Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Demirok with his country's national football team at his residence in Doha yesterday. The team will play Qatar in an international friendly at Lekhwiya Stadium today.

SALIM MATRAMKOT

Heya Arabian fashion expo opens

By Reynald C Rivera

DOHA: The eighth Heya Arabian Fashion Exhibition opened yesterday with 200 designers from around the world showcasing latest creations in the new Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Visitors to the week-long event can select from designs of abayas, jalabiyas, kaftans, shaylas and evening gowns displayed at 273 boutique stands on 10,000sqm exhibition space.

Fifteen designers will display creations on the catwalk daily while design gurus tackle fashion issues at the local and global levels at forums and workshops.

"The exhibition has a big difference from the previous one, with the presence of international pavilions, participants and daily forums and workshops. This is not only an exhibition but also a way to support fashion entrepreneurs," Hamad Al Abdan, Director of Exhibitions, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA), told the media at the opening. QTA and Design



Sheikha Munira bint Nasser Al Misnad opens the exhibition. ABDUL BASIT

Creationz have organised the event which has seen more designers from the Gulf, Europe and Southeast Asia display their signature take on Arabian fashion.

"Far more than a fashion exhibition, Heya is a multi-cultural event, designed by artists and thought leaders, and woven with the thread of Islamic culture and heritage," said Al Abdan.

Jawaher Al Kuwari, Head,

Advisory Committee, Design Creationz, said Heya has seen rise in numbers and a growing interest among international participants hosting fashion-focused programmes for audiences.

Among the features of this edition are programmes by Sheikha-Hub World Islamic Fashion Show and Forum Series (SWIFF) and hands-on workshops by Qatar International Design Consultancy (QIDC) and Glam Your Image.

The expo, Al Kuwari said, aims to contribute to a better understanding of the Arabian fashion style. "It's a way of celebrating the diversity of the world in which we live. Heya collections are an expression of the contemporary Muslim women's exquisite taste."

Sheikha Munira bint Nasser Al Misnad opened the exhibition in the presence of state officials and representatives of diplomatic missions. The opening event was followed by a fashion forum, 'The Theory of Aesthetics: Clothing as the Ultimate Expression of Arabian Culture and Tradition' featuring panelists including Azin Vally and Ludmila Hyman from the US and Zeina About Chabab from Palestine. Today's event will highlight a workshop by QIDC, a lecture series by Lucia Russo from Italy and a SWIFF fashion show featuring Southeast Asian fashion designers.

The expo for women is open today from 3pm to 11pm and tomorrow until Wednesday from 1pm to 11pm.

THE PENINSULA

30 to train in social responsibility standards

DOHA: Thirty people from government and private sectors will be trained in the principles of international standards for social responsibility ISO 26000.

This was among recommendations raised by a workshop on international standards for corporate social responsibility which ended yesterday. It was conducted by the Department of Elderly and People with Disabilities at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The people will also be trained to obtain certificates accredited by Task Group Chair of ISO 26000, said Najat Al Abdullah, Director of the department.

Recommendations included formation of a task force with members having accredited certificates to continue building capacities in areas of integration of people with disabilities in sustainable development programmes. The workshop recommended adoption of suggestions and scientific initiatives of the Scientific Community Council to enable people with disabilities in decisionmaking. It also proposed a special website to enhance direct communication and participation of people with disabilities and other interested indi-

viduals. The meeting recommended encouragement to partnerships between government and private sectors to take part in funding programmes and initiatives to enhance integration of people with disabilities in sustainable projects.

Lt. Col. Ahmad Zaid Al Mohannadi, Director, Community Policing Department, the Ministry of Interior, said the workshop aimed to highlight Qatar's efforts since 2008. However, there is a need for qualified people to address efforts in a context that make Qatari institutions acquire international accreditation of social responsibility ISO 26000.

He said the Community Policing Department is ready to support and adopt initiatives to realise integration of people with disabilities. Integration of this important segment of society in goals of sustainable developments and investing in capacity-building is essential part of Qatar National Vision 2030, said Dr Wafa Al Yazidi, Director, Medical Rehabilitation, Hamad Medical Corporation.

THE PENINSULA

62,500 gallons of rainwater removed

DOHA: The Services Department at Al Shamal Municipality pumped out 62,500 gallons of rainwater following scattered rains in different parts of the country, including Doha, on Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, the public cleaning section of the municipality removed 150 tonnes of sand accumulated by strong winds on Road 77 in Ras Laffan. The road was closed for several hours and reopened for traffic after clean-up in collaboration with Al Khor and Al Dakhira municipalities and Al Shamal security force. Al Shamal Municipality also inspected barber shops.

THE PENINSULA

Boracay, Philippines

Sun day, fun day!

50% off on air fare
from Doha to Manila
Just Up & Go!

Sale Period: November 13 to 15, 2015
Travel Period: December 1, 2015 to March 15, 2016

cebuspacificair
cebuspacificair.com

cebuspacific
سيبو باسيفيك

Terms & Conditions: 50% off is applicable on fares only, inclusive of 7kg hand carry baggage allowance but exclusive of check-in luggage and meals. Web Admin Fee, applicable fees and taxes shall apply after 50% off fare discount. Promo rates are subject to availability and are non-refundable. For your convenience, flight changes, availing of prepaid baggage allowance for your check-in baggage and web check-in service can be done up to 4 hours before scheduled flight. International fare is on a book and buy basis.

Regency Travel and Tours Tel: (974) 4442-1413 / (974) 4435-3774

JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Qatar) Limited

Warning Announcement to Fishermen and Mariners

Rig Release in Qatari Waters

In pursuant and under directives from the Department of Marine Regulations, **Ministry of Transport**, this announcement is to inform all fishermen and mariners that JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Qatar) Limited ("JX Nippon") intends to release the mobile offshore drilling unit, "GDI Al Khor" in Qatari Waters, from Location A during a day between 15th November 2015 and 17th November 2015 inclusive.

JX Nippon warns all vessels not to pass around Location A during this period of time and fishermen are reminded to remove their equipment.

Vessels ignoring this warning shall be responsible for all liabilities arising from their negligent behavior (e.g. damage to equipment and delay times) which will also result in a significant financial loss.

Nahrwan Qatar UTM Zone 39N		
Label	Northing (m)	Eastings (m)
A	2,911,534.36	593,986.90
Label	Latitude	Longitude
A	26° 19' 21.94" N	51° 56' 30.03" E

For more details contact - Tel: +974 4485 0465, Fax: +974 4483 7638

The consequences of our actions

By Sheikh Salman Al Oadiah

Once attended a conference where I had a sense of frenetic action all around me. The people there were constantly involved in one activity or another. There were workshops, conference sessions, and side events going on all the time. It was a really positive atmosphere. It felt like something important was happening and things were being accomplished. It reminded me of what the Companions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to repeat while they were at work building the mosque in Madinah:

Those who go to the mosque all the time
Standing and attending, are not the same

As those who shy away from getting dirty.

Getting dirty is something you have to get used to if you are going to build something. You cannot be over-sensitive about it. It is one of the consequences of hard work, living life, and getting things done.

When the closing session of that conference adjourned, everyone left until I was alone at the venue. The isolation felt acute after all that bustle and activity.

My experience at that conference made me think about how life's real successes depend on working under a wide range of conditions and circumstances, and adapting to change.

Winston Churchill said: "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." Remembering these words helped me through a lot of tough times.

Some people excel when they are in the public eye. They draw their inspiration and enthusiasm from those around them. If they are going to be consistently productive, they need to learn how to persevere when they are not in the limelight. It should make no difference to their performance whether they are addressing thousands of people or an audience of ten.

Success at being a writer, public speaker, intellectual – or even being a mother, father, spouse, or friend – depends on our outlook on life, our hopes, our satisfaction, and our convictions. Some people get caught up in the zeal of a public movement or crisis and work at a heroic level, propelling themselves to the forefront of the movement. They speak, mobilise, write, and maintain a presence on social networking websites. They stand for or against policies, make demands, counter opposition, and find themselves fulfilled and refreshed in the process, in spite of spending many sleepless nights. You almost always hear them speaking to people about the issues that concern them. Then, when the issue gets resolved or the crisis has passed, they dissolve back into the crowd, never to be heard from again.

For some of them, it means becoming idle, and the idle time takes its toll on them. After months or years, they begin longing for another cause to come their

Everything belongs to Allah and comes from Allah. However, he placed cause-and-effect relationships in this world for us to act upon and with which we organise the activities of our lives.

way and capture their imaginations and engage their lives, but it never comes. Years later, you ask about them, but no one can tell you anything.

In other cases, they find a different kind of success. You hear that they completed their studies, enjoy successful careers, made a profitable business for themselves, married and raised a family. All of this is good. These people have turned to working on a mundane, less extraordinary level. Yet, it is hard not to miss them and the positive impact they used to have on people's lives.

Then there are others whose names we want to hear again, those who used to draw crowds and provide leadership in times of crisis. You find that they now work in silence, building, organising, establishing, thinking and planning. As a consequence, they are less likely to react to things as forcefully. These are the people who have learned that those who truly have an impact on life are the ones who show persistence and fortitude and never fail to get things done. They do not need the public eye. They are not like the spectators who crowd around a traffic accident and then drift away without purpose.

Those who can only be active in times of crisis fail to realise their full potential. They put all their efforts into the one thing and expect everyone else to do the same. They think they are building a future for generations to come. They are good at making their voices heard, but never get to the heart of the matter. The problem is that when things settle down they never ask themselves about the consequences. They never reassess their positions. It is a problem of youth that they work within a narrow perspective and are satisfied with the inner sense of accomplishment that they get from it. They sometimes say: "We must act, and leave the consequences to God."

This saying needs to be looked at critically. Everything belongs to Allah and



comes from Allah. However, he placed cause-and-effect relationships in this world for us to act upon and with which we organise the activities of our lives. We must consider the consequences of our actions.

Allah says: "Whoever does something wrong will be recompensed for it, and he will not find besides Allah a protector or a helper." [Surah Al Nisa': 123]

He also says "Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change their own condition" [Surah Al-Ra'd: 11]

And: "Allah does not make prosperous the deeds of those who work corruption." [Surah Yunus: 81]

And: "And whoever fears Allah, He will make for the ma way out." [Surah Al-Talaaq: 2]

Whenever we baulk at considering the consequences, our work becomes deficient, misguided, and ill-advised.

When an individual or a society achieves success, in the East or West, it is not something random or accidental. It comes as a result of Allah's mercy and wisdom in that whenever people work for their worldly lives in a correct and productive manner, they make progress. Those who do not work and take the practical steps toward worldly success are deprived of success even if they are pious and devoted. This is the norm that Allah has placed in the world.

At the same time, it may be that most people in the world live in the moment. They do not think about the future or plan for it. They wrestle with their immediate concerns in a simple and straightforward manner, then forget about what they did or said at that time. It is not expected that all the people in a country are going to become like geniuses or philosophers. It would not be expected that the people would follow such an elite if

they were found among them.

I once met a young man at a social gathering who brought life to the evening and set the tone of the conversation. His spirit, energy and enthusiasm inspired everyone, and he had brilliant ideas. He believed people could make a difference if they were creative and he spoke about life's many opportunities.

At that meeting, I felt that there was a young man who is going to make a future by building the present. His enthusiasm rubbed off on me and I keenly followed everything he said and I asked him a number of questions. I hoped to keep in touch with him.

Circumstances got in the way and we lost touch, and I never heard any news of him again.

There are a lot of people like that. They start out inspired and have the ability to inspire others, then either obstacles get in the way or they find things not going smoothly enough, so they slow down in their efforts and ultimately come to a grinding stop and retreat from any progress they might have made.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I walk slowly, but I never walk backward."

You hear about a great preacher or thinker, or read a book by that person which makes you think that here is someone who is going to do great things. Then you wait for a long time and never hear that person's name again. Why does this happen? I decided to look at the lives of influential people, whether they were religious scholars, educators, literary figures, intellectuals, or community leaders; those who remained active throughout their lives and continued to have an impact. It became clear to me that their persistence and long-term influence had the following causes:

1. They had noble far-reaching goals, along with the patience and foresight to pursue them over the long haul. They

were able to realistically evaluate their circumstances and strike a balance between their hopes and their practical expectations.

2. They were adaptable and able to respond to different situations. They could resist frustration and despondency and negotiate obstacles, missed opportunities, and difficult circumstances. They were flexible and not locked into a narrow vision. When they found the path ahead to be blocked, they did not give up. Instead, they looked for other ways to proceed. They never blamed the times.

It is necessary to adapt yourself to the heat and the cold, light and dark, plenty and scarcity, success and failure, so you never take failure to be the end of things. Being patient does not mean to simply wait around. It means to look for other ways to prevail. Do not limit your vision to a specific image of your goal that must be realised exactly as you picture it. This is unlikely to bring success.

3. They were able to reinvent themselves. They could renew their thoughts and activities and they could seek out wisdom wherever it could be found. They were insatiable for it, and that is why they could always avail themselves of new ideas and new opportunities. Ibn Mas'ud said: "There are two kinds of insatiable people: those who covet knowledge and those who covet wealth."

Even if you are eighty years old, do not presume that there is nothing new for you to learn, even about a topic you have studied well and even from sources you think you have exhausted.

Today, those of us of the older generation are learning a lot about technology – and the world – from our children. We need to have a spirit that seeks knowledge with humility. This keeps our minds vital and our lives dynamic, not like a cassette tape that plays the same recording over and over again. We should be like the Sun that every day illuminates a new horizon. The Sun does not become a different heavenly body, but it rises from a new point in the east and goes to a new setting place in the west every day.

4. They lived for a long time. Those whom Allah blesses have noble goals, flexible minds, and the ability to reinvent themselves, are refined by time. They get beyond the heat of youth and become more proficient at responding to their circumstances. They gain knowledge and become better experienced. They earn the love of the good people around them. They rise above the varying circumstances of the times and through their persistence they prevail and prove their detractors wrong, especially if they live long enough that they outlive many of their peers.

Those who from the beginning think they have reached perfection are quick to extinguish their own flames. This is because they think they have arrived before they have even gotten underway.

<http://on.islamtoday.net>

Contributions to mathematics and medicine

Seeking knowledge is obligatory in Islam for every Muslim, man and woman. The main sources of Islam, the Quran and the Sunnah or the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), encourage Muslims to seek knowledge and be scholars, since this is the best way for people to know Allah (God), to appreciate His wondrous creations and be thankful for them.

Muslims have always been eager to seek knowledge, both religious and secular, and within a few years of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) mission, a great civilisation sprang up and flourished. The outcome is shown in the spread of Islamic universities; Al Zaytunah in Tunis, and Al Azhar in Cairo go back more than 1000 years and are the oldest existing universities in the world. Indeed, they were the models for the first European universities, such as Bologna, Heidelberg, and the Sorbonne. Even the familiar academic cap and gown originated at Al Azhar University.

Muslims made great advances in many different fields, such as geography, physics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, pharmacology, architecture, linguistics and astronomy.

Algebra and the Arabic numerals were introduced to the world by Muslim scholars. The accretion, the quadrant, and other navigational devices and maps were developed by Muslim scholars and played an important role in world progress, most notably in Europe's age of exploration.

Muslim scholars studied the ancient civilisations from Greece and Rome to China and India. The works of Aristotle, Ptolemy, Euclid, and others were translated into Arabic. Muslim scholars and scientists then added their own creative ideas, discoveries and inventions, and finally transmitted this new knowledge to Europe, leading directly to the Renaissance. Many scientific and medical treatises, having been translated into Latin, were standard text and reference books as late as the 17th and 18th centuries.

Islam and Science

MATHEMATICS

Muslim mathematicians excelled in geometry, as can be seen in their graphic arts, and it was the great Al Biruni (who excelled also in the fields of natural history, even geology and mineralogy) who established trigonometry as a distinct branch of mathematics. Other Muslim mathematicians made significant progress in number theory.

It is interesting to note that Islam so strongly urges mankind to study and explore the universe. For example, the Noble Quran states:

"We (Allah) will show you (mankind) Our signs/patterns in the horizons/universe and in yourselves until you are convinced that the revelation is the truth." (Quran 41:53)

This invitation to explore and search made Muslims interested in astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, and the other sciences, and they had a very clear and firm understanding of the correspondences among geometry, mathematics, and astronomy.

The Muslims invented the symbol for zero (The word "cipher" comes from Arabic sifr), and they organized the numbers into the decimal system - base 10. Additionally, they invented the symbol to express an unknown quantity, i.e. variables like x. The first great Muslim mathematician, Al-Khawarizmi, invented the subject of algebra (Al-Jabr), which was further developed by others, most notably Umar Khayyam. Al-Khawarizmi's work, in Latin translation, brought the Arabic numerals along with the mathematics to Europe, through Spain. The word "algorithm" is derived from his name.

MEDICINE

In Islam, the human body is a source of appre-

ciation, as it is created by Almighty Allah. How it functions, how to keep it clean and safe, how to prevent diseases from attacking it or cure those diseases, have been important issues for Muslims.

Ibn Sina (d. 1037), better known to the West as Avicenna, was perhaps the greatest physician until the modern era. His famous book, Al Qanun fi Al Tibb, remained a standard textbook even in Europe, for over 700 years. Ibn Sina's work is still studied and built upon in the East.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself urged people to "take medicines for your diseases", as people at that time were reluctant to do so. He also said: "God created no illness, except that He has established for it a cure, except for old age. When the antidote is applied, the patient will recover with the permission of God."

Since the religion did not forbid it, Muslim scholars used human cadavers to study anatomy and physiology and to help their students understand how the body functions. This empirical study enabled surgery to develop very quickly.

Al Razi, known in the West as Rhazes, the famous physician and scientist, (d. 932) was one of the greatest physicians in the world in the Middle Ages. He stressed empirical observation and clinical medicine and was unrivalled as a diagnostician. He also wrote a treatise on hygiene in hospitals. Abul Qasim Azzahravi was a very famous surgeon in the eleventh century, known in Europe for his work, Concession (Kitab Al Tasrif).

Other significant contributions were made in pharmacology, such as Ibn Sina's Kitab al-Shifa' (Book of Healing), and in public health. Every major city in the Islamic world had a number of excellent hospitals, some of them teaching hospitals, and many of them were specialized for particular diseases, including mental and emotional. The Ottomans were particularly noted for their building of hospitals and for the high level of hygiene practiced in them.

www.scienceislam.com

Sayings of the Prophet

"It is difficult for a man laden with riches to climb the steep path, that leads to bliss." (Muslim)

"The best of you are those who are best to the women." (Tirmidhi)

"Whoever loveth to meet God, God loveth to meet him" (Bukhari)

"Once a man, who was passing through a road, found a branch of a tree with thorns obstructing it. The man removed the thorns from the way. Allah thanked him and forgave his sins." (Bukhari)

"Who are the learned? Those who practice what they know." (Bukhari)

"Allah has revealed to me, that you must be humble. No one should boast over one another, and no one should oppress another." (Muslim)

"A true Muslim is thankful to Allah in prosperity, and resigned to His will in adversity." (Muslim)

"A Muslim who meets with others and shares their burdens is better than one who lives a life of seclusion and contemplation." (Muslim)

Germany should give aid to Turkey if EU deal fails: Vice Chancellor

BERLIN: Germany should unilaterally provide aid to Turkey for refugees to help slow the flow across the Aegean Sea to Greece if the EU fails to reach a common deal with Ankara on the issue, Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said.

Gabriel's comments highlight frustrations in Berlin with the EU's discordant response to the refugee crisis, which has already seen hundreds of thousands pour into Germany this year, straining both local authorities and the coalition government.

"If the Europeans can only do it in a limited way, I consider it sensible for Germany to make an advance or pay on its own," Gabriel told a gathering of his Social Democrats, junior partners in Chancellor Angela Merkel's right-left coalition.

Germany, which is expecting up to one million refugees this year, is seeking to slow the number of arrivals and wants EU neighbours to share the burden.

Without financial help Turkey would be unable to improve conditions for the about two million Syrian refugees within its borders, Gabriel said.

Merkel, who discussed the issue with Turkish leaders during a visit to Ankara last month, wants to seal a European deal with Turkey on aid and closer ties in return for help to ease refugee flows from coming to Europe.

The EU last month offered Turkey an "action plan," including "re-energized" talks on joining the bloc, as well as aid and the prospect of easier travel visas, in return for its help in stemming the migrant flow. Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Simitoglu said last month that the EU plan had not taken final shape and it was wrong to give the impression that Turkey wanted a certain amount of funds to keep refugees in Turkey.

No formal meeting between Obama, Putin at G20

WASHINGTON: There is no formal meeting scheduled between US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin when the leaders of the Group of 20 major economies gather in Antalya, Turkey, next week, the White House said.

"But, as is often the case at the G20 and other multilateral leaders' meetings, we fully expect they'll have ample opportunity for discussion directly," US national security adviser Susan Rice said at a White House news briefing.

REUTERS

Syria army takes rebel town in Aleppo

Capture of Al Hader, near Damascus highway, comes 48 hours after seizing Kweyris air base

DAMASCUS: Syria's army, backed by allied forces and Russian air strikes, seized a key rebel town south of Aleppo yesterday its second major advance in the province this week.

State television announced the capture of Al Hader, a former opposition bastion near the key Aleppo-Damascus highway, just 48 hours after regime forces broke a siege by the Islamic State (IS) group of the Kweyris air base in the east of Aleppo province.

"Syrian troops and allied forces have full control of Al Hader," a military source said of the town, which is around 25km south of Aleppo city.

The source said troops from Lebanon's Hezbollah movement as well as Iranian forces were participating in the operation.

Both advances come after Moscow launched an air campaign in support of regime forces on September 30, prompting the army to begin offensives in several provinces.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor confirmed regime forces had taken control of large parts of Al Hader, though it said fighting was ongoing inside the town.

It said both Syrian and Russian warplanes were carrying out strikes in the area.

"The town is the biggest headquarters for rebel forces in southern Aleppo, and capturing it would bring the army closer to the key Aleppo-Damascus high-

way," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Al Hader was largely controlled by Al Qaeda affiliate Al Nusra Front and other allied Islamist groups, he said.

The town has been a key goal in the regime's offensive south of Aleppo city launched on October 17 with Russian air support.

Aleppo city has been divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since shortly after fighting began there in mid-2012.

The situation is largely reversed in the countryside surrounding the city, and a large stretch of the Aleppo-Damascus highway leading from the government-controlled portion of Aleppo is under opposition control.

BASE FOR NEW OFFENSIVES

The capture of Al Hader comes after regime forces on Tuesday entered the Kweyris military base in the eastern Aleppo province, breaking an IS siege that had lasted for more than a year.

The Observatory said "that more than 400 combatants had been killed in the battle for the base, where around 1,000 regime troops had been trapped for months. The group said at least 60 IS jihadists and 20 regime soldiers had been killed in the fighting."

It also reported the deaths of 13 Iranian forces and eight members of Hezbollah.

The monitor said fighting was

ongoing to the west and southeast of the airport on Thursday, with Russian warplanes carrying out strikes in support of government troops.

A military source said that the army planned to use the airport as a forward operating base for new offensives against IS in the province.

He noted that the base is a few kilometres (miles) from the station that supplies electricity to Aleppo city, as well as to major IS strongholds in the province.

"Kweyris airport is not just an air base but an integrated military base and taking control of it will give joint Syrian and Russian forces an advance post from which to launch other operations," the source said.

"The Syrian army is preparing for the start of military operations in areas where clashes have not occurred for three years," he added.

He noted in particular the base's proximity to IS-held Deir Hafer, around 10km from Kweyris, as well as Al Bab, a major IS stronghold to the north.

Around 20 countries and international bodies are to meet in Vienna this weekend to hammer out a roadmap for peace to end Syria's more than four-year civil war.

Neither representatives of the Syrian regime nor opposition groups are expected to attend this stage of the dialogue.

AFP



A pro-government fighter inspects a tunnel reportedly used by opposition fighters in the Syrian town of Arbid on the outskirts of Kweyris military air base, in Aleppo, yesterday.



Lebanon's Prime Minister Tammam Salam (front center) speaks at parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri (top) during the session at the parliament in Beirut, yesterday.

Lebanon parliament okays loan laws in first session in a year

BEIRUT: Lebanon's parliament yesterday met for the first time in a year in a bid to avoid losing millions of dollars in international aid and loans.

The session, called by speaker Nabih Berri, was convened despite a boycott by one of Lebanon's Christian parties over an ongoing dispute about the need for a new president. Lebanon's National News Agency said parliament approved a raft of legislation, including several bills to secure millions of dollars in funding from the World Bank.

The lending institution and other international donors have been warning for months that Lebanon's political gridlock risked costing the country more than half a billion dollars in loans and aid.

France has already cancelled more than €100m in aid for

several projects because parliament failed to ratify legislation on which the funding was contingent.

The money on the line includes a loan of around half a billion dollars, the World Bank's largest ever to Lebanon, for a dam project intended to provide 1.6 million people with water for drinking and irrigation.

Lebanon is facing a chronic political deadlock in large part because of existing tensions exacerbated by the conflict in neighbouring Syria.

The country's two main political blocs — the Western- and Gulf-backed group led by former prime minister Saad Hariri and the bloc led by Hezbollah and allied with Iran and Syria — disagree over the conflict that erupted next door in March 2011.

That disagreement has spilled

into most parts of the political process in Lebanon, leaving the country without a president since May 2014 because parliament cannot agree on a successor.

There have been no legislative elections since 2009 and the parliament last met in November 2014 to extend its own mandate, for the second time.

The session Thursday, which is set to continue into the evening and on Friday, was held despite the boycott of the Christian Kataeb party.

Others had threatened to boycott, but in the end attended.

The Lebanese presidency is by tradition reserved for a Maronite Christian and the lengthy presidential void has exacerbated fears among some in the community that their political power is being diminished.

AFP

Yemen: Coalition strikes, fighting kill 24 rebels

ADEN: Saudi-led coalition air strikes and attacks by pro-government forces killed at least 24 rebels yesterday in Yemen's south, where the insurgents have been pushing to regain lost ground, military sources said.

Warplanes bombed two rebel troop transports north of Damt, the Daleh province's second-largest city, which the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and their allies recaptured on Saturday, a military official said.

The strikes killed 13 rebels and wounded several more, said Ali Moqbel Saleh, the commander of a loyalist military camp in the region.

Elsewhere in the same region, 11 rebels died in ambushes on convoys by fighters loyal to exiled President Abraham Mansour Hadi, another military source said.

After they recaptured second city Aden in July, loyalists, backed by coalition strikes, supplies and troops, pushed the rebels out of Daleh and four other southern provinces.

But the rebels this weekend recaptured several positions in the south, sparking deadly fighting.

Insecurity persists in the recaptured provinces, and loyalist forces yesterday discovered a large cache of explosives stored near the Aden airport.

"Seventeen barrels filled with TNT were found in a house" next

to the airport and an adjacent military camp, loyalist General Adel Al Halimi said.

The seizure of the cache took place following "suspect movements by armed men in the vicinity of the military camp," Halimi added, saying coalition and loyalist forces were being targeted for a "terrorist act".

In March, Saudi Arabia formed a coalition in support of Hadi's internationally recognised government.

Around 5,000 people have been killed in the conflict since March, more than half of them civilians, according to UN estimates.

A new round of UN-brokered Yemen talks to end the conflict is expected to kick off in Geneva this month.

Yemen's third largest city Taiz is at the mercy of thousands of Houthi militiamen allied to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, the man whom local people rose up against in 2011.

Residents accuse the militias of blocking food aid and bombarding neighbourhoods indiscriminately as they battle to take Taiz in a seven-month-old civil war.

Despite stepping down in 2012, the ex-president still has the support of many in the army, and the people of Taiz believe they are enduring a collective punishment by the militias and Saleh loyalists



People walk on the collapsed roof of the Teaching Faculty after coalition air strikes destroyed it in Yemen's northwestern city of Saada, yesterday.

for their past opposition activism.

"Every day we suffer shelling by howitzers and Katyusha rocket attacks — not just on our resistance forces but on civilian areas, homes, hospitals, markets and drinking water taps," said Tawfiq Al Sha'bi, head of the city's Lawyer's Union.

Of the more than 1,600 Yemenis killed in the civil war, medics in Taiz say more than 1,600 have died in the city which was once renowned for its cosmopolitan culture.

Residents overwhelmingly blame their besiegers. However, a Saudi-led coalition has intervened in the civil war against the Houthis who are allied to Iran, and daily strikes from its jets have also allegedly killed many civilians.

Saleh says he is independent, though his critics accuse him of helping to direct army loyalists to settle scores and win back some of his old powers.

AGENCIES

Twin suicide blasts kill 37 in Hezbollah bastion

BEIRUT: At least 37 people have been killed and more than 180 wounded after twin suicide bombings rocked a stronghold of Lebanon's Shia Hezbollah movement in south Beirut, officials said.

Police said two men on foot set off suicide vests in front of a shopping centre in Burj Al Barajneh, in the southern suburbs of the capital, where the movement is popular. The Red Cross said 37 people had been killed and 181 wounded in the blasts, which happened around 6 pm, according to witnesses.

A photographer saw extensive damage to buildings around the site of the blast and bodies inside some of the nearby shops. There was blood on the streets, and security forces were trying to cordon off the scene and keep people from gathering.

The blast is the first to target Beirut's southern suburbs since June 2014, when a suicide car bomb killed a security officer who had tried to stop the bomber.

But prior to that, a string of attacks targeted Hezbollah strongholds throughout the country.

Between July 2013 and February 2014, there were nine attacks on Hezbollah bastions, most claimed by Sunni extremists.

The groups claimed the attacks were in revenge for Hezbollah's decision to send thousands of fighters into neighbouring Syria to support President Bashar Al Assad's forces against a Sunni-dominated uprising.

Local television stations showed footage of wounded people being carried away by emergency services and civilians. "I'd just arrived at the shops when the blast went off. I carried four bodies with my own hands, three women and a man, a friend of mine," one man who gave his name as Zein Al Abideen Khaddam told local television.

AFP

The Peninsula

ESTABLISHED IN 1996

CHAIRMAN
SHEIKH THANI BIN ABDULLAH AL THANIACTING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. KHALID BIN MUBARAK AL-SHAFI
editorinchief@pen.com.qaACTING MANAGING EDITOR
HUSSAIN AHMAD
hussain@pen.com.qaEDITORIAL
TEL: 44557741 / 44557743
FAX: 44557746 / 44557758
P. O. BOX: 3488, DOHA, QATAR
E-MAIL: editor@pen.com.qaADVERTISING: TEL: 44557837 / 780 FAX: 44557870
CLASSIFIED: 44557857 E-MAIL: adv@pen.com.qaSUBSCRIPTION / HOME DELIVERY
TEL: 44557809 / 839 FAX: 44557819
E-MAIL: info@tawseelqatar.com
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: ANNUAL QR 675
6 MONTHS QR 340

Editorial

Terror franchise

A major swoop by police in six European countries has led to the arrest of at least 15 Islamist militants who were planning to launch attacks in Norway and the Middle East. The snaring of the militants underscores the urgency with which police in European countries is approaching the threat of terrorism that has acquired international dimensions. It also speaks volumes about the efficiency of the policing agencies in Europe, stretched as they have been by the unenviable task of keeping tabs on terror plots that threaten not only the vast continent but other regions as well. The Italian security forces said it was an incredibly complicated operation that had been going on for five years. The duration of the operation points to the diligence with which it needed to be executed given that the raids were conducted across borders in Italy, Britain, Norway, Finland, Germany and Switzerland.

Europe has been in the cross hairs of international terror groups who seek to take advantage of the geographical spread of the continent, targeting liberal values, in keeping with their fundamentalist designs aimed at creating fear and hatred. Militants married to misleading and false ideologies have been summoning all their resources and strength to recruit people internationally that has led to the spread of militancy extensively across regions and continents. It is known that the Islamic State group has recruited members in countries as varied and disparate as Malaysia, Australia, India and the United States.

The cracking of a terror network in Europe shows how militancy has become deeply entrenched in the continent.

The European raids targeted the Rawti Shax group that was planning to attack Norwegian and British diplomats in the Middle East. Sitting on a powder keg for long, the Middle East has been embroiled in a number of insurgencies that have killed thousands and displaced millions. The refugee crisis being faced by Europe has been the result of insurgencies and civil wars pushing out people from their homelands in the Middle East.

Rawti Shax was trying to free Norway-based fundamentalist preacher Najmuddin Ahmad Faraj, who is also known as Mullah Krekar. The Kurdish Iraqi militant known to incite racial hatred is in a Norwegian jail. Police believe the militant group planned to resort to hostage taking in a bid to get Krekar released. It has come to light that the network is affiliated to the Islamic State group. Krekar cannot be deported to his native Iraq from Norway as he could face execution there. The network communicated with the help of the deep web — an illegal and highly secretive part of the Internet that cannot be penetrated by spying agencies.

The international operation by European security forces and intelligence agencies is commendable as it has preempted the egregious designs of militants bent on causing bloodshed and destruction. The busting of the network is a blow to militancy and a morale booster for security forces worldwide.

The other side

Obstruction of free speech

NOWHERE better epitomizes the open debate and free expression that are such cherished parts of American academia - and American life - than the campus quad. So the sight of protesters at the University of Missouri harassing and blocking journalists was startling, to say the least. The incident was especially troubling since a rising tide of student activism, admirable in many respects, seems increasingly infected by a strain of intolerance of dissenting views.

"Hey hey, ho ho, reporters have got to go" was the chant Monday as protesters surrounded and harangued Tim Tai, a student photographer on

assignment for ESPN. Tai was trying to chronicle the protests of alleged racism that forced the resignation of two top university officials. "This is the First Amendment that protects your right to stand here and mine. . . . The law protects both of us," said Tai as he tried to reason with the crowd. Incredibly, among those trying to bully Tai were university staff members. As another student videoed the events, an assistant professor of mass media (no, we are not making that up) asked, "Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here? I need some muscle over here."

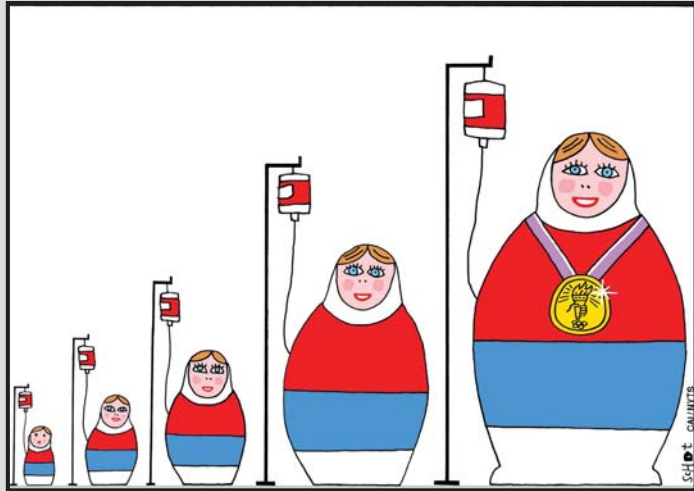
No one has been able to explain how the media - earlier sought out

by protesters wanting to publicize their complaints - became the enemy. But it was clear from the video, which went viral, that at least some students believed that their rights and views should trump the rights and views of others. Similar disturbing behavior was on display in another recent video, also gone viral, of college students exercising their rights. This time the scene was Yale University, where a professor was shouted down and bullied as he tried to express his views about a controversial e-mail written by his wife, a lecturer at Yale. Among the insults hurled at him: "You should not sleep at night! You are disgusting." And "Walk away, he doesn't deserve to be listened to."

Punishing dissent became far more than just a threat when the student government at Wesleyan University last month voted to cut funding for the 150-year-old campus newspaper because it had the temerity to publish an opinion piece by a conservative writer questioning the tactics (but not the message) of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The spark for student action in these cases was allegations of racial bias and institutional insensitivity, serious concerns that should be taken seriously by the larger public as well as by university administrators.

The Washington Post



Cartoon Arts International / The New York Times Syndicate

Income inequality causes Republicans to shift rhetoric

By Sahil Kapur

WITH the Iowa caucuses less than three months away, the Republican presidential candidates have suddenly begun discussing income inequality a whole lot more.

During the first two debates, GOP candidates used words like "inequality," "disparity," "rich," "poor," and "middle class" just 0.06 percent of the time, according to an analysis by the communications and consulting firm Logos Consulting Group. That rate tripled in the October 28 debate, the first one after the Democratic debate that featured more discussion of inequality. It rose again to 0.20 percent in Tuesday night's GOP debate. But Republicans have resisted policy shifts to match the change in rhetoric, and remain committed to lower taxes and fewer regulations, which took hold under Ronald Reagan, when taxes were higher and the wealth gap narrower.

Along with Republican frontrunners Donald Trump and Ben Carson, Bush, Rubio and Cruz also oppose Democratic-backed proposals to combat inequality such as lifting the federal minimum wage.

"The only possible reason Republicans ever talk about inequality is if their polling is telling them they are vulnerable on this issue," said Bruce Bartlett, a former senior policy analyst for Reagan who has since gone highly critical of the GOP. He argued that Republicans generally don't fret about inequality. "Concern for inequality leads to redistribution, which all Republicans believe is evil."

In January 2012, when eventual Republican nominee Mitt Romney dismissed talk of income inequality as predicated on "envy" and "class warfare" that should be confined to "quiet rooms," it reflected a widespread reluctance among those in his party to

discuss the growing gap between the country's rich and poor. That reluctance has subsided in the run-up to the 2016 election as Republicans find fault with rising inequality and stagnating wages that have contributed to a nagging sense of gloom despite an improving economy under President Barack Obama.

"People are really struggling right now. In this economy, the disposable income of the great middle is down," Job Bush said Tuesday in the economy-focused debate hosted by Fox Business at the Milwaukee Theater.

If nothing else, rising inequality serves as a fresh way to attack Obama's economic record and position Republicans for the 2016 general election as unemployment falls to a seven-year low of 5 percent and stock markets are performing at record highs.

"I actually don't expect inequality to be a feature of the primary landscape," said conservative economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, arguing that GOP discussions of poverty are about connecting with the poorest voters and as "an indictment of the Obama record - rising poverty, stagnant wages and median incomes" to which they want to tie Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

The tax plans of major Republicans feature large tax breaks that would provide disproportionate gains to the affluent, according to the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation. Bush's proposal would raise after-tax incomes for the highest earners by 16.4 percent; more than any other group. Senator Marco Rubio's plan would give the top 1 percent a 27.9 percent break, higher than an average 17.8 percent cut for all taxpayers. Sen Ted Cruz's 10 percent individual flat tax would give the top 1 percent a 34.2 percent tax cut; compared to an average 21.3 percent across all groups.

Although Republican frontrunner Donald Trump has raised hackles in calling for closing the "carried interest" tax loophole that benefits private equity and hedge fund managers, his overall tax plan also disproportionately benefits the top 1 percent.

"I think it's a real advance that

they're talking about our historically high levels of economic inequality," said former Obama White House economist Jared Bernstein. "But when you look at the astounding regressivity of their tax plans, which would further drive up after-tax inequality, it's clear that they're lip syncing, not singing."

Along with Republican frontrunners Donald Trump and Ben Carson, Bush, Rubio and Cruz also oppose Democratic-backed proposals to combat inequality such as lifting the federal minimum wage. Republicans unanimously want to repeal Obamacare, the 2010 law that has slowed the rise of inequality by extending health-care coverage to nearly 17 million middle- and low-income Americans, funded in large part by taxes on the affluent. Many Republican candidates are also campaigning on cutting Social Security, which has dramatically reduced poverty among seniors.

Asked Tuesday if the widening wealth gap is a problem, Senator Rand Paul responded, "absolutely" and cheekily noted that inequality is most acute in cities that are run by Democrats. The closest he got to an explanation for growing income disparities was the Federal Reserve's policy of keeping interest rates low.

A challenge for the GOP is that growing inequality may exacerbate its "empathy gap" in 2012, Obama won 81 percent voters who wanted a candidate who "cares about people like me." Debate moderator Neil Cavuto asked Rubio what benefits he'd take away from Americans; Rubio dodged. Maria Bartiromo asked Republican Carly Fiorina to respond to the fact that the economy added more jobs per month under Bill Clinton and (so far) Obama than under George W. Bush; she dodged.

To bolster their case with the middle class, Republicans argue that regulations serve to empower the rich, rather than protect consumers. Rubio said Tuesday that banking regulations hurt those who cannot "hire the fanciest law firm in Washington or the best lobbying firm to deal with all these regulations."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Quote of the day

Saving Schengen is a race against time. And we are determined to win that race.

Donald Tusk
European Council chief

Touchy varsity students jolt faculty

In the age of Facebook and Twitter, trigger warnings and microaggressions, college professors can go from being educators to the accused in the blink of an eye.

By Michael E Miller

Dale Brigham thought he was doing the right thing. As anonymous death threats against minorities swirled on social media Tuesday night, setting the college town of Columbia, Mo, on edge, the bespectacled Mizou professor began receiving e-mails from terrified students, "Good Evening Professor Brigham," wrote an African American student in Brigham's Nutritional Science 1034 class. "There are online threats at our school warning the minorities to not step on campus tomorrow. I am scared for my life therefore, I will not be attending class tomorrow. When can I makeup the exam?"

Brigham, a popular professor and fitness buff who volunteered with many Mizou athletic teams and clubs, responded with a challenge.

"If you don't feel safe coming to class, then don't come to class," Dale Brigham replied in an e-mail that appears to have been sent to his entire class. "I will be there, and there will be an exam administered in our class."

"If you give into bullies, they win. The only way bullies are defeated is by standing up to them. If we cancel the exam, they win; if we go through with it, they lose."

"I know which side I am on," Brigham wrote. "You make your own choice."

Many minority students responded with anger and disbelief.

"That's our lives in danger," said Trinita, 19, an African American student of Brigham's who asked *The Washington Post* not to use her full name for fear of retaliation. "I don't want to even touch campus. I don't even want to leave my house, let alone go to campus."

"My teacher had the nerve to email me, 'If we cancel class, then we let the bullies win.' Like this is a game or something," wrote another student on Twitter. Soon the anger spilled beyond the confines of Brigham's classroom. People posted his office phone number and e-mail address on Twitter.

"How can [you] tell a student to face bullies when there are threats that he will die?" reads another e-mail posted to Twitter. "He is fear for his life and you are telling him to still risk his life to

come to YOUR class to take a test? Are you kidding? These aren't bullies we are talking about. . ."

By late Tuesday night, Brigham had apologized to students. "I could have and should have used much better words in trying to say that we must stand up to hatred and not let those kind of people who make threats run our lives," he wrote to at least one class member.

But it was too late. By Wednesday morning, the flood of criticism had become too much for the Missouri professor, whose most high-profile previous interaction with the media was an interview on the inelasticity of demand for peanut butter.

"The exam is cancelled," Brigham wrote. "No one will have to come to class today. And, I am resigning my position."

"I am just trying to do what I think is best for our students and the university as an institution," Brigham told *KOMU 8 News*. "If my leaders think that my leaving would help, I am all for it. I made a mistake, and I do not want to cause further harm."

Dozens of students took to Brigham's defence, bemoaning what they called the professor's unfair treatment.

"I'd go on a hunger strike over Dale Brigham's forced resignation, but he taught me better than to deprive my body of essential nutrients," quipped one former student.

The loudest voice objecting to Brigham's treatment, however, belonged to a former Mizou Tigers football star. "Grow up," tweeted former wide receiver T J Moe. "We are raising a society of more cowards."

But Brigham was not alone among Missouri faculty facing outrage. Melissa Click, the media professor who barred a journalist from photographing protesters and called for "muscle" to help remove him, and Janna Basler, the director of Mizou Greek Life who also blocked journalists, have also come under fire.

While Brigham underestimated the gravity of the threats, Click and Basler appeared to have overestimated them by including media among those menacing protesters.

All three made missteps under the omnipotent eye of social media. And all three are paying the price.



A student on the campus of University of Missouri - Columbia. The university looks to get things back to normal after the recent protests on campus led to the resignation of the school's president and chancellor.

Combined, their experiences reflect a harsh new reality for American university professors: a combination of politics and technology has made it easier than ever for professors to become targets. In the age of Facebook and Twitter, trigger warnings and microaggressions, college professors can go from being educators to the accused in the blink of an eye.

The phenomenon can be seen across the country and traced to the rise of smart phones.

In 2006, a conservative group openly offered UCLA students money to inform on professors.

The Bruin Alumni Association offered \$10 for an "advisory" that a class should be examined, \$50 for "full detailed lecture notes and all professor-distributed materials," and \$100 for "full, detailed lecture notes, all professor-distributed materials and full tape recordings of every class session," the group's founder, Andrew Jones, told *Inside Higher Ed*.

Critics called it "spying" "right out of the Stalinist playbook."

In 2013, conservative students called for the firing of an adjunct lecturer after a video of him railing against Republicans went viral online.

Among the other cases highlighted: a University of Kansas associate professor put on indefinite administrative leave for angrily tweeting about the NRA after the 2013 Navy Yard shooting and a Bergen Community College professor who was punished for posting a photo of his daughter doing yoga in a "Game of Thrones" t-shirt.

"In effect, this is what an American university looks like when it is subsumed to the pressures of anti-intel-

lectual interest groups and legislators, as well as an ideological blindness bent on reducing higher education to nothing but a corporate model," AAUP's report said.

This February, Northwestern professor Laura Kipnis wrote an essay in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* criticising permissive behaviour on campus, only to be targeted by a crowd of 30 protesters. Students filed a Title IX lawsuit against her, but she was cleared of wrongdoing.

In June, a professor wrote an anonymous piece for *Vox* titled "I'm a liberal professor, and my liberal students terrify me."

"I'm a professor at a midsize state school," the piece began. "I am not a world-class teacher by any means, but I am conscientious; I attempt to put teaching ahead of research, and I take a healthy emotional stake in the well-being and growth of my students."

"Things have changed since I started teaching. The vibe is different. I wish there were a less blunt way to put this, but my students sometimes scare me — particularly the liberal ones."

The student-teacher dynamic has been reinvigorated along a line that's simultaneously consumerist and hyper-protective, giving each and every student the ability to claim Grievous Harm in nearly any circumstance, after any affront, and a teacher's formal ability to respond to these claims is limited at best.

"... The relationship of trust between professors and students seems to be weakening as more students become monitors for microaggressions," echoed NYU professor Jonathan Haidt in an article for the *Atlantic* on "the coddling

of the American mind." "I don't mind if students complain directly to me. Each lecture involves hundreds of small decisions, and sometimes I do choose the wrong word or analogy. But nowadays, e-mail and social media make it easier for students to complain directly to campus authorities, or to the Internet at large, than to come talk with their professors."

"Increasingly, professors must ask themselves not just 'What is the best way to teach this material?' but also 'Might the most sensitive student in the class take offense if I say this, and then post it online, and then ruin my career?'"

For Brigham, Click and Basler at Mizou, this now appears to be coming true. All three are now facing the fierce and lasting consequences of momentary but misguided decisions.

Click, whose screaming, screen-grabbed face spread like wildfire on social media, has been branded "Public Enemy No 1 for conservatives." Rush Limbaugh took a whack at her in a radio show. Even the supposedly liberal media and academia turned on her. The Post's media blogger, Erik Wemple, called for her to be fired. Her Mizou colleagues, meanwhile, were considering revoking her courtesy appointment to the university's journalism school Tuesday afternoon when Click spoke there about the trouble and resigned instead, retaining her faculty position in the Department of Communications.

She and Basler, also caught on the viral video confrontation, have both apologized. Yet both could be in serious trouble. Basler has been put on administrative leave pending an investigation, the *Columbia Missourian* reported.

It could get worse for the two protest supporters.

The videographer, Mark Schieberkecker, has filed a "municipal simple assault" complaint against Click with the MU Police Department, claiming she physically and verbally assaulted him, according to the *Missourian*.

He has also called for Basler to resign or be removed.

Meanwhile, a former associate dean of the Mizou journalism school has filed Title IX complaints against both Basler and Click over the incident.

"Apparently, in the eyes of MU, it is OK for a staff member or faculty member to assault a student without ramifications," Brian Brooks told the *Missourian*.

Brigham, however, has some (literally) powerful backers. Dozens of former students took to social media to bemoan his resignation.

On Wednesday evening, Brigham received a boost from an even more powerful backer: the University of Missouri. Brigham's resignation had been rejected, a Mizou spokesman told *KOMU*.

THE WASHINGTON POST

A gamble to shutter Guantanamo Bay prison

According to the analysis in Justice Robert H Jackson's 1952 Supreme Court opinion, the president's constitutional authority is "at its lowest ebb" when he takes steps "incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress."

By Charles Lane

Closing the prison for alleged terrorists at Guantanamo Bay may or may not be a good idea. But if, as seems possible, President Obama shuts it and transfers the inmates to military prisons inside the United States, he will be acting against the manifest will of Congress.

Large, bipartisan majorities have repeatedly enacted national defence bills containing provisions that bar the use of appropriated funds for that purpose.

Obama has signed each bill, expressing reservations about the Guantanamo provisions. The exception was the next-to-last defence bill, which he vetoed, partly on other grounds. After the passage Tuesday of yet another

bill — by a bicameral, veto-proof, bipartisan majority, including a toughened Guantanamo-closure ban — the White House predicted he would sign it even though he remains determined to fulfill a 2008 campaign pledge to close the prison. The only way to do that would be on his own.

Can he? According to the influential analysis in Justice Robert H Jackson's 1952 Supreme Court opinion on presidential powers, the president's constitutional authority is "at its lowest ebb" when he takes steps "incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress." Any action "at once so conclusive and preclusive must be scrutinised with caution," Jackson wrote.

Advocates of unilateral action on Guantanamo don't dispute the applicability of Jackson's paradigm; they argue that even this



A guard in a cellblock inside Camp V, a prison used to house detainees at Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base.

exact standard gives Obama ample authority to shut Guantanamo. He's waging war lawfully pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force against Al Qaeda, et al. Accordingly, as commander in chief, he has wide latitude over the conduct of hostilities, including the treatment of detainees.

If anyone's violating the Constitution, it's Congress, by purporting to micromanage the president's tactical decisions, according to a thoughtful Post op-ed by former administration lawyers Cliff Sloan and Gregory B Craig. "The question here is not whether the president can unilaterally take the nation to war or hold detainees without congressional authorisation," they write. "The question is whether Con-

gress can tell the president where military detainees must be held."

This would distinguish Congress's current ban on funds to close Guantanamo from its 1984 ban on spending to aid the Nicaraguan contras, the circumstance of which by Republican Ronald Reagan's administration infuriated Democrats and triggered the Iran-Contra affair. The former purports to interfere with presidential conduct of an ongoing, authorised conflict; the latter purported to prevent the president from starting an unauthorised one.

In truth, the Supreme Court has never squarely addressed this precise issue.

Jackson was writing about President Harry Truman's nationalisation of steel mills to

support the Korean War effort without congressional support — not against legislated congressional opposition. Sloan and Craig invoke a nearly 70-year-old case, *US vs Lovett*, which held that "Congress may not use its appropriations power to achieve goals otherwise beyond its constitutional authority," they write.

However, Lovett turned not on Congress's power of the purse as such, but on its use to punish without judicial trial certain individuals, by withholding their salaries, which the court struck down as a bill of attainder.

At least some Founders implied that Congress could check presidential war-making through its spending power. George Mason said: "When the same man, or set of men, holds the sword and the purse, there is an end of liberty." In *Federalist 38*, James Madison called it "particularly dangerous to give the keys of the treasury, and the command of the army, into the same hands."

Even if Obama's power as commander in chief allows him to close Guantanamo, and to negotiate the prisoners' transfer to other nations, bringing the men into the United States might impinge on Congress's authority over immigration law — a separate, if so far, unannounced, constitutional basis for its attempted ban.

Furthermore, the Constitution gives Congress power to "make rules concerning captures on land and water." This has historically been construed to mean physical property, but

Justice Brett Kavanaugh of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has suggested in a recent opinion that it might apply to prisoners as well.

Things might be different in a "short-term emergency," Kavanaugh noted. But the fact that Obama has acquiesced in Congress's ban for roughly six years undercuts his claim that executive action is extra-urgent now.

Of course, it's not entirely clear how a presidential Guantanamo closure could get to the Supreme Court; someone would have to show actual injury worthy of standing to sue. Neighbours of a base designated to hold the prisoners? Congress itself?

If history teaches anything about presidential power, it is that politics and policy shape constitutional arguments. The arguments advanced by Obama's backers now are similar to those in a 1970 memo by President Richard Nixon's assistant attorney general (and later Chief Justice) William H Rehnquist, against the McGovern-Hatfield amendment to defund the Vietnam War.

In 2008, Obama faulted President George W Bush for "trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch, and not go through Congress at all."

Now Obama might be about to risk the same accusation for an objective that he may prize above perfect consistency.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Ties could be restored but US must apologise: Rowhani

Syria solution should not only be about Assad, says Iran president

ROME: The nuclear deal reached between world powers and Iran could lead to better relations between Tehran and Washington if the United States apologised for past behaviour, Iranian President Hassan Rowhani (pictured) was quoted as saying yesterday.

The pragmatist president, who championed the July 14 deal, has pushed for closer engagement with the West since his 2013 landslide election win.

But Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has continued to rule out normalising ties with the "Great Satan", as he routinely calls the United States.

In an interview with Italy's *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, Rowhani suggested that the United States and Iran could open embassies in each other's capital after decades of mutual hostility, but said Washington should apologise, without going into further detail.

"One day these embassies will re-open but what counts is behaviour and the Americans hold the key to this," Rowhani told the newspaper ahead of a trip to Italy this weekend, his first to a European capital. "If they modify their policies, correct errors committed in these 37 years and apologise to the Iranian people, the situation will change and good things can happen."

Iran and Washington severed ties shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution when radical students seized the US embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostage for over a year. Relations came under further pressure in the last decade over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Under the nuclear deal reached in July, Iran will curb its nuclear programme in exchange for an easing of sanctions on its economy. Tehran denied Western suspicions it wanted to develop an atomic bomb.

Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, gave his conditional approval to the deal with six world pow-



that peace and stability return," he said in the interview, also broadcast on *Europe 1* radio. As for who should run the country, "it is all in the hands of the Syrians. It is for them to decide who is their leader," said Rowhani.

Iran is the main regional ally of Syria and provides Assad with financial and military aid, including military advisers on the ground. Rowhani's comments come ahead of a new round of international talks on Syria in Vienna tomorrow.

The talks will bring together around 20 countries and international bodies to try to agree on a roadmap for peace that would include a ceasefire between Assad's forces and some opposition groups.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the country's more-than-four-year conflict have gathered pace since Russia launched air strikes in Syria in late September.

Previous attempts to bring an end to the conflict, which has killed more than 250,000 and forced millions from their homes, have stumbled over the fate of Assad, who the opposition and Western governments insist must go.

But regime allies Russia — which has waged weeks of intense air strikes against Syrian rebels — and Iran are resisting Western and Saudi pressure to force Assad from power. "What country has managed to fight terrorism without a strong state to fight terrorism," said Rowhani.

"We must first of all, in Syria, eradicate terrorism. It is the first priority... We must create security that the people can come home."

Rowhani's interview comes days ahead of his first visit to France as president, during which he is to meet on Tuesday with French President Francois Hollande.

Rowhani is due to see the Italian prime minister and business leaders during his November 14-15 visit to Rome and will also hold talks with Pope Francis.

He will then fly to Paris for talks on November 16-17.

AGENCIES

Refugee action plan



A woman holds her infant wrapped in the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey, yesterday. European Union and African leaders approved an action plan they hope will help stem an unprecedented and politically explosive flow of migrants across the Mediterranean.

German arms firm wants to export tanks to Oman: Paper

BERLIN: German arms manufacturer Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) wants to export over 70 Leopard tanks to Oman, *Der Spiegel* magazine reported yesterday.

Germany's arms exports have come under scrutiny because of the increasing sums involved and because increasing amounts have been heading to countries outside the European Union and Nato, including to regions prone to instability like the Middle East.

Der Spiegel said Oman had invited KMW and a Turkish competitor to tender for a contract, which could have an order worth more than €2bn (\$2.14bn), analysts say.

Der Spiegel said the Federal Security Council, the German body that monitors the export of military goods, had given KMW a temporary export licence for a

Leopard tank for a test in Oman.

It said, however, that this did not constitute preliminary approval for the exports of all tanks, the magazine said.

No one at KMW was immediately available for comment.

Last year, Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel pledged to be much more cautious in licensing arms exports at a time when Germany is trying to help reduce tensions in the Middle East.

Despite this pledge, the German government approved significantly more arms exports in the first half of this year.

Germany recently approved the export of grenade launchers, assault rifles and sub-machine guns worth over €3m to Oman, which is viewed as a relatively stable country in the Middle East.

REUTERS

US offers reward in hunt for Al Shabaab leaders

NAIROBI: The United States has announced rewards worth a total \$27m for information on six top commanders in the Somali militant group al Shabaab, which has launched attacks across East Africa.

The US Department of State said on its website that this included up to \$6m for information on Abu Ubaidah, the al Shabaab leader who took command in September 2014 after his predecessor, Ahmed Godane, was killed by a US missile strike.

The United States, other Western powers and countries in the region see the fight against the Al Qaeda-aligned group as a vital part of the battle to prevent Islamist militancy spreading in East Africa and beyond.

Under the Rewards for Justice programme, up to \$5m was also offered for information on three other commanders, including Mahad Karate, also known as Abdurahman Mohamed Warsame, who is accused of playing a major role in the Garissa university attack in Kenya in April that killed almost 150 people.

The two others, Maalim Daud and Hassan Afgooye, were behind activities, such as training, recruiting and financing for the group, the State Department said.

Al Shabaab ruled Somalia for several years until 2011, when its forces were driven out of the capital Mogadishu by African Union troops. Since then, it has lost most of its main strongholds but still controls swathes of countryside and still launches attacks.

Among its most high-profile assaults was a raid on Westgate shopping mall in Kenya's capital Nairobi in September 2013, that left 67 people dead. It also launched attacks in 2010 in Uganda, which, like Kenya, has troops in Somalia fighting the group. The US programme offered up to \$3m each for information on two other senior figures in the group. The US State Department has offered rewards for other al Shabaab leaders in the past under its Rewards for Justice programme.

REUTERS

Kurds report advances in battle to retake Iraq's Sinjar

NEAR SINJAR TOWN, IRAQ: Kurdish peshmerga forces have started clearing parts of the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar and have established positions along an Islamic State (IS) supply route between its two main strongholds in Iraq and Syria, the coalition said.

Backed by US-led coalition air strikes, the Kurds launched an offensive in the early morning designed to cordon off Sinjar, take control of strategic routes and establish a buffer zone to protect the town from artillery.

A victory in Sinjar could give the Kurds, government forces and Shia militias momentum in efforts to defeat IS, which controls large areas of Iraq and Syria and has affiliates in Libya and Egypt.

So far the Kurds have captured three villages and penetrated parts of Highway 47, a supply route between Raqqah in Syria and the Iraqi city of Mosul, both of them IS bastions.

"The ground assault began in the early morning hours of Nov. 12, when peshmerga units successfully established blocking

positions along Highway 47 and began clearing Sinjar," said the coalition in a statement.

"The peshmerga will continue operations to re-establish government control over key portions of the areas," Islamic State, a headline Sunni group suspected by Western intelligence officials of playing a role in the crash of a Russian passenger plane in Egypt two weeks ago, overran Sinjar more than a year ago.

Islamic State's killing and enslaving of thousands of the northern town's Yazidi residents

focused international attention on the group's violent campaign to impose its radical ideology and prompted Washington to launch its air offensive.

US military advisers are with Kurdish commanders near Sinjar mountain but are positioned well back from the fighting, a US military spokesman said.

US Army Colonel Steve Warren told Reuters some US advisers were also on Sinjar mountain working with the Kurdish peshmerga forces to advise and assist with the development of targets

for air strikes. The US military estimated that 60 to 70 Islamic State fighters had been killed in US-led coalition air strikes so far yesterday, said Warren, a Baghdad-based spokesman for the US-led coalition effort against IS.

Islamic State uses Highway 47 to transport weapons, fighters and illicit commodities to fund its operations, said the coalition, which conducted more than 250 air strikes in the past month across northern Iraq.

REUTERS



An Israeli soldier points his weapon towards a Palestinian protester during clashes in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, yesterday.

Court okays destruction of Palestinian homes

JERUSALEM: Israel's supreme court yesterday gave its green light to the destruction of five homes belonging to Palestinians accused of taking part in deadly anti-Israeli attacks, the justice ministry said.

Three of the homes are located in the West Bank town of Nablus, belonging to the alleged killers of a Jewish settler couple shot dead in front of their children on October 1, triggering a wave of violence that spread to annexed east Jerusalem and Israel.

The two other West Bank homes, near Ramallah

and in the Qalandiya refugee camp, were linked to murders dating back to June.

On October 22, the supreme court had suspended the army's planned demolitions of several Palestinian homes, including the five cleared yesterday.

Rights group condemn home demolitions as "disproportionate", causing hardship for entire families, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says they are "one of the most efficient tools" in discouraging Palestinian attacks.

AFP

Dubai gold retailer gets 3-year jail term for bounced cheques

ABU DHABI: The owner of a Dubai-based gold and jewellery retailer was sentenced to three years in prison for writing two cheques totalling Dh34m (\$9.26m) that bounced, local media reported.

Gulf News said the defendant was Indian-born M M Ramachandran (pictured), owner of Atlas Jewellery, who was arrested in August in cases related to suspected bounced cheques.

Dubai has in recent years joined the likes of London, New York and Hong Kong as a major gold trading centre thanks to its proximity to the world's largest gold consumer, India, and an aggressive drive to become a regional commodities hub.

This is the second scandal involving Dubai jewellery businesses since the city's rise to prominence as a gold trading centre.

In March 2010, Dubai sanctioned three brothers for unauthorised withdrawals from their company of 1.94 kg of gold and

cash worth about Dh365m.

Dubai court officials were not available for comment but the public prosecutor's office announced a three-year prison term handed down yesterday to a defendant with Ramachandran's initials for "providing a check in bad faith".

Banking and trade sources said the gold retailer had defaulted on loans worth about Dh500m and banks were considering options including legal action to retrieve their money.

The sources said some 15 mostly local banks had granted loans to Atlas Jewellery, which has more than 50 branches across the Gulf and India. After his arrest, the company asked banks for time to put together a repayment plan.

Atlas Jewellery was founded by Ramachandran in Kuwait in 1981 and moved to Dubai after its trading was suspended by the first Gulf War.

It has interests in real estate, healthcare and owns and manages two hospitals in Oman's capital, Muscat.

REUTERS

Australia PM in Jakarta



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (left) walks next to Indonesian President Joko Widodo during his visit to Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. Turnbull is in Jakarta to strengthen ties between the two countries after their relationship was strained in recent years.

Widodo to skip Apec summit in Manila

MANILA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo will not attend an annual summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum members in the Philippines because of domestic issues, a Philippine foreign ministry spokesman in Jakarta confirmed yesterday.

Indonesia is Southeast Asia's biggest economy and has in recent months been the source of smoke from land-clearing fires that has blanketed much of the region.

An Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman in Jakarta confirmed that Widodo would not be attending the November 18-19 summit in Manila, but did not elaborate on the domestic issues keeping him at home.

Vice President Jusuf Kalla

would be going instead, the Indonesian spokesman said.

Widodo cut short his first official trip to the United States last month to oversee his government's efforts to combat the fires that have caused school closures, flight cancellations and pollution levels to spike.

"The haze has really crossed borders. So I think that is the one that he's trying to look into," said the Philippine official, Laura del Rosario.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also decided not to attend the Apec summit, sending Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in his place, a Kremlin spokesman said.

REUTERS

Indonesian action on haze ineffective: Farmers

JAKARTA: Forest fires in Indonesia that have caused choking smoke across much of Southeast Asia will flare up again next year because government action to tackle the crisis is ineffective, a palm farmers group said.

Indonesia and the wider Southeast Asian region have been suffering for weeks from smoke caused by smouldering forest and peatland fires, largely in Sumatra and Borneo islands that authorities have struggled to contain.

Green groups and palm oil plantation firms say a 2009 law that allows smallholder farmers to use slash-and-burn practices to clear land for agricultural purposes is a key cause of the annual fires because the burning gets out of control.

"Burning will still happen because the government hasn't changed the regulations," Mansuetus Darto, secretary at the

Indonesian Oil Palm Smallholders Union, said yesterday.

Indonesia, the world's top palm oil producer and home to the world's third-largest tropical forest, has faced increased political pressure from neighbours Singapore and Malaysia to address the crisis as the haze has spiked to unhealthy levels, causing some school closures and flight cancellations.

Jakarta has said it would review laws that allow farmers to burn up to two hectares, and last week sent letters to plantation firms and provincial governments demanding peatland conversion is immediately halted.

Previously, the government ordered four companies to suspend operations for allegedly causing forest fires and revoked the land licences of three other firms.

Darto, however, said the gov-

Indonesia asks China to clarify sea claims

Jakarta seeks explanation on Beijing's nine-dash line

JAKARTA: Indonesia has asked China to clarify its claims over the South China Sea, but has yet to receive a response, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday, a day after Indonesia's security chief said Jakarta could take Beijing to court over an island dispute.

Beijing's claim to almost the entire resource-rich sea is shown on Chinese maps with a nine-dash line that stretches deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei also claim parts of the waterway.

Last year, the Indonesian armed forces chief accused China of including parts of the Indonesian-ruled Natuna islands within the nine-dash line.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo's administration departed from its usual low-profile role in

the dispute last Wednesday when security chief Luhut Panjaitan said Jakarta could take China to an international court if dialogue over the islands failed. But China said yesterday it did not dispute Indonesia's claim to the Natunas.

"The position of Indonesia is clear at this stage that we do not recognise the nine-dash line because it is not in line with international law," Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir said.

"We asked for clarification on what they mean by the nine-dash line. That has not been clarified," Nasir could not say when the request through diplomatic channels was made to China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China did not dispute Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natunas, but

that there were "some maritime disputes". It was not clear what disputes he was referring to.

"We have consistently upheld that China and Indonesia should find a means of appropriate resolution through direct negotiations and consultation, with respect for international law and on the basis of historical fact," Hong said.

"The Philippines has taken China to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, a case Beijing refuses to recognise.

For years, China has insisted that disputes with rival claimants be handled bilaterally.

When asked if Indonesia could also take China to court, as Panjaitan had said, Nasir responded, "We cannot preempt things before we know how they evolve."

REUTERS

Boko Haram raid, clashes leave 25 dead

NIAMEY: More than 25 people were killed last Wednesday in a Boko Haram attack on a village in southern Niger and subsequent clashes between the Islamist militants and the army, Niger military officials said.

Fighters from the Nigerian militant group killed five civilians in their initial attack on the village located in the West African nation's Bosso district. Niger soldiers drove back the militants, killing around 20 of them, the officers said.

"Reacting quickly, the government's forces were able to push them back. Most of the Boko Haram elements have been neutralised," said one of the officers, based in the Diffa border region.

"The situation is under control and we are carrying out clean-up operations," he added.

Boko Haram has ramped up cross-border attacks into Niger, Chad and Cameroon from its strongholds in Nigeria in recent months.

REUTERS

Obama lauds Myanmar president on poll

YANGON: US President Barack Obama called Myanmar President Thein Sein yesterday to congratulate him on successfully staging a historic general election in which democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi trounced the ruling camp.

Obama also called Suu Kyi and her opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), which has won about 80 percent of the seats declared so far in the lower house, to commend them for their success, which puts her on course to form the new cabinet. NLD is also well ahead in the upper house and regional assemblies.

If the full results confirm the trend, Suu Kyi's triumph will sweep out an old guard of former generals that has run Myanmar since Thein Sein ushered in sweeping democratic and economic reforms four years ago.

"The two leaders discussed the importance for all parties to respect the official results once announced and to work together with a spirit of unity to form an inclusive, representative government that reflects the will of the people," the White House said in a statement following Obama's call with Thein Sein.

Thein Sein's presidential spokesman and Information Minister Ye Htut said on his Facebook page: "He said America would continue cooperating with the Myanmar government."

Obama has visited Myanmar twice over the past three years, hoping to make its transition to democracy a foreign policy legacy of his presidency.

On his call with Suu Kyi, Obama "commended her for her tireless efforts and sacrifice over so many years to promote a more inclusive,

peaceful, and democratic Burma."

Thein Sein and the powerful army chief Min Aung Hlaing have endorsed Suu Kyi's victory, congratulating her on winning a majority of seats in the first free election in 25 years.

The two reiterated their commitment to respect the result and agreed to Suu Kyi's request to hold reconciliation talks soon, although the parties are still to agree on the details.

Such unambiguous endorsements of Suu Kyi's victory could smooth the lengthy post-election transition, ahead of the first session of parliament, which reconvenes on Monday.

"The government will respect and follow the people's choice and decision, and work on transferring power peacefully according to the timetable," read a statement on the Facebook

page of Thein Sein's spokesman.

The armed forces also congratulated Suu Kyi.

"Thatmadaw will do what is best in cooperation with the new government during the post-election period. Public trust can be won through correct deeds," said Min Aung Hlaing in a post on his Facebook account, referring to the military.

"Thatmadaw will continue to strengthen the multi-party democracy system," he said.

Although Min Aung Hlaing's tone matched Suu Kyi's statements seeking reconciliation, their relationship is said to be strained.

Results so far gave Suu Kyi's party 217 out of the 330 seats not allocated to the military in the lower house. Final results are due no later than two weeks after Sunday's poll.

REUTERS



Filipino activists hold placards as Philippine Air Force personnel stand guard during a protest rally against the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit, in front of the US Embassy in Manila yesterday. The protesters are against the visit of US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping for the November 18-19 Summit.

REUTERS

Uganda boosts security ahead of Pope's visit

KAMPALA: Uganda said yesterday it would deploy more than 10,000 police officers backed by soldiers when Pope Francis visits later this month, amid fears of attacks by Al Qaeda militants.

Military spokesman Paddy Ankunda said that given past attacks by the Somali-led Shebab Islamists, the army were "not taking anything for granted", although no uniformed troops would be deployed near the pope.

Shebab bombers killed 76 people in the capital Kampala in 2010, and police say they have foiled a number of attacks by rebel groups since.

Ugandan troops in Somalia are fighting Shebab insurgents as part

of an African Union force, and the Islamists make regular threats.

"The threats have always been coming from Al Shebab", police spokesman Fred Enanga said, 10,200 officers would be deployed to ensure the pope's safety.

"He's a very prominent, very popular figure," Enanga said. "We have to raise the stakes."

It will be the third papal visit to Uganda where around two-fifths of people are Catholic.

In Uganda, the pope will conduct mass at Namugongo martyrs shrine, on the outskirts of Kampala, where early Christian converts executed in the late 1880s are remembered.

AFP

Police torture rife in China, says Amnesty

BEIJING: Torture of suspects in police detention is widespread in China, Amnesty International said yesterday, citing interviews with nearly 40 lawyers – some of whom said they themselves had been beaten.

Suspects were slapped, kicked, hit with shoes or bottles filled with water, denied sleep and locked in chairs forcing them into painful postures for hours on end, the rights group said.

The report comes a week before China's record is set to be scrutinised by the United Nations' anti-torture committee in Geneva.

It cited official data as saying that China's top prosecutorial body received at least 1,321 reports of extracting confession

through torture from 2008 to the first half of 2015.

But just 279 individuals were convicted nationwide of "extracting confessions through torture," over the same period, the Britain-based group added.

"For the police, obtaining a confession is still the easiest way to secure a conviction," said Amnesty researcher Patrick Poon.

"The government seems more embarrassed about the potential embarrassment wrongful convictions can cause than about curbing torture in detention," he added.

Some lawyers representing activists or members of banned religious groups have themselves ended up being tortured, Amnesty said.

Of the 37 lawyers the group interviewed, 10 experienced torture or other ill-treatment themselves in incidents dating back to 2010.

Beijing lawyer Yu Wensheng said his wrists were shackled behind his back with painfully tight handcuffs during a near 100-day detention in 2014.

"My hands were swollen and I felt so much pain that I didn't want to live."

The police officers repeatedly yanked the handcuffs and I would scream," Amnesty cited him as saying.

Courts regularly admit evidence which has allegedly been extracted by torture, the group said, citing a sample of 590 cases in which allegations of torture were made – with the

"confessions" excluded in just 16 cases. China says it is taking measures to reduce the prevalence of forced confessions, including installing cameras in interrogation rooms and adopting laws banning the practice. Chinese officials often say that Amnesty is "biased" against them.

But Amnesty said that Chinese prosecutors and courts are controlled by Communist party officials who tend to side with the police, limiting the impact of such reforms.

"Local officials and police continue to pull the strings of China's criminal justice system. Despite defence lawyers' best efforts, many claims of torture are simply ignored," Poon said.

AFP

Taliban faction chief 'killed'

Police official says Dadullah is dead while militant group denies claim

KABUL: An Afghan police official said yesterday a top leader of a breakaway Taliban faction fighting for control of the Islamist movement had been killed by rival militants, but the report was denied by a spokesman for his group.

The disputed claim adds uncertainty to a confused picture around the leadership battle within the Taliban, which has erupted into fighting this week, with dozens reported to have been killed.

Mullah Mansour Dadullah, brother of a notorious Taliban commander killed in 2007, was among a group of dissidents who opposed the accession of another

commander, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, when he assumed leadership of the movement this year.

Dadullah has been involved in fighting between the rival factions in the southern province of Zabul in recent days and his death, if confirmed, would be a major blow to the dissident group challenging Mansour.

Ghulam Jilani Farahi, deputy police chief in Zabul, said Dadullah had been killed on Wednesday by Islamic State militants, but the claim was dismissed by a spokesman for Dadullah's faction.

The faction spokesman, Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, said he had just spoken to Dadullah.

"He is safe and sound," he said.

"We know Mullah Mansour and his men are now spreading rumours about his killing as they suffered heavy losses at the hands of Mansour Dadullah and his fighters in Zabul," he added.

The rivalry adds further doubt to any prospect of a resumption of peace talks, which were broken off this year when the death was confirmed of the Taliban's founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Mansour's faction denied the fighting in Zabul was between rival Taliban factions. Instead, it said in a statement it was fighting Islamic State militants who had been mistreating the popu-

lation there with extortion and kidnapping.

It said Dadullah had allied himself with Islamic State, called Daesh in Afghanistan, but said he had been acting alone, not as part of a breakaway Taliban faction.

The group did not say anything about his reported death.

Dadullah's dissident Taliban group denied any connection with Islamic State and said Mansour was being funded from Iran.

"We neither support IS nor al Qaeda," Niazi said. "There is no place for al-Qaeda and IS in Afghanistan," he said, without providing details.

REUTERS

Afghan protest



Afghans chant slogans against the killing of civilians from the Hazara minority while carrying pictures of a woman allegedly slain by Islamic State militants in Zabul, during a protest in Herat, Afghanistan, yesterday.

Uzbek activist released after 21 years behind bars

ALMATY: Uzbekistan has released a prominent political activist after he served more than two decades in prison, rights groups said yesterday.

Murod Juraev's high-profile release came less than two weeks after US Secretary of State John Kerry visited the highly-repressive state and held talks with President Islam Karimov.

A former lawmaker who represented an opposition party banned by the regime, Juraev served 21 years behind bars after the nine-year sentence he received in 1995 was extended several times.

Juraev, 63, and his associates were convicted in 1995 of plotting to overthrow the government of Karimov, who has brooked no dissent since he consolidated power following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The activist was first incarcerated in September 1994 before receiving a sentence of 12 years, which was then reduced to nine years on appeal.

"This was not an act of mercy," Steve Swerdlow, Central Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch, said over the telephone.

"The very fact that we are celebrating the release of a political activist who had served much longer than the sentence he was first handed, shows how low our expectations of the Uzbek government have become," Swerdlow said.

Juraev's sentence was extended several times for alleged violations of prison rules, one of which was "incorrectly peeling carrots", HRV said. A number of rights groups claim Juraev was regularly tortured in prison and denied adequate medical care, common accusations in relation to the repressive state's treatment of political prisoners.

Uzbekistan, a country of some 30 million people in Central Asia, regularly finishes in 'Worst of the Worst' ranking of US think tank Freedom House which lists violators of civil liberties. Kerry visited Uzbekistan as part of an ambitious tour of Central Asia, with the country playing an important role in Washington's military intervention in Afghanistan.

AFP

Russian guards not returning to Tajik border

ASTANA: Russia is worried by "terrorists" massing along the borders of the post-Soviet CIS group of states, but re-establishing Moscow's control over the border with Afghanistan "is not on the agenda", a senior official said yesterday.

Russia and its regional ex-Soviet allies have repeatedly voiced concerns over increased activity by Islamist insurgents near its borders with mainly Muslim Central Asia.

Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said last month that he would not rule out a deci-

sion by Moscow to send guards to Tajikistan to re-establish control over the border with Afghanistan.

Yesterday, the coordinator of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) border guard services said there was no such plan.

"This issue is not on the agenda," Russian Colonel-General Alexander Manilov said.

The Russian military used to patrol Tajikistan's sensitive border with Afghanistan, pulling out in 2005 by agreement with the local government.

Speaking on the sidelines of

a CIS border guards' council, Manilov said their estimates showed that "around 4,500 militants and terrorists" had massed near the CIS in Afghanistan's border areas.

"I believe this is significantly more than it used to be before," Manilov said. "I think there are real threats, from penetrations across the border to attempts to destabilise the states on the (Afghan) border."

He said CIS border guard chiefs had information that groups of militants were moving closer to the borders of Tajikistan and

Turkmenistan. He gave no further details. Russia has its 6,000-strong Base 201 in Tajikistan, Moscow's biggest deployment of land troops abroad. In October 2013,

Tajikistan ratified a deal with Moscow, agreeing to extend the deployment of Russian soldiers at the base by three decades. Moscow also has a military air base in next-door Kyrgyzstan. The two volatile nations will receive more military assistance within the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, Manilov said.

REUTERS

Bourse aims to choke Taliban smuggling funds

MELBOURNE: Afghanistan aims to deprive Taliban militants of funds from smuggled exports of the prized blue gemstone, lapis lazuli, by creating its own bourse to sell the stone, which has been traded for thousands of years in the Hindu Kush mountains.

The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises such as smuggling gemstones like lapis, rubies, emeralds, as well as heroin laboratories and kidnapping. Afghanistan loses roughly \$100m a year through gemstone

smuggling, more than the total exports of commodities like coal and industrial minerals like tale, said the country's mining minister.

"It's a big issue for the people of Afghanistan, because they are losing their property to groups of terrorists which on one side are stealing our property and on the other side are strengthening their terrorist group," said mines minister Daud Saba.

Halting smuggling of emeralds, rubies, jade and other material

would be tough, he said, but lapis lazuli trade can be controlled as the stone with unique qualities comes from one mine, Sar-i-Sang, in northern Afghanistan.

The government is working to set up a bourse in Kabul by mid-2016 as a single source for lapis lazuli, which would come with a government certificate.

"We have the monopoly on that type of lapis. That stone has a signature," Saba said on the sidelines of a mining conference in Melbourne on Wednesday.

"And then any other lapis with no certificate should be banned by the international community, as they have done with blood diamonds," Saba said.

Blood diamonds are diamonds mined in conflict areas and sold to fund those wars. The UN sought to ban trade in conflict diamonds. The diamond industry says that since then blood diamonds no longer make up less than one percent of the diamond trade.

REUTERS

Maternal deaths reduced sharply: WHO

BANGKOK: Only nine countries have achieved a UN development goal of reducing the number of women dying before, during or after giving birth by 75 percent since 1990, the United Nations and the World Bank said yesterday. Worldwide, maternal mortality fell by 43 percent in the 25-year period, thanks to access to better-quality health services during pregnancy and childbirth, and to sexual and reproductive health services and family planning, they said in a report.

"Over the past 25 years, a woman's risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes has nearly halved," said Flavia Bustreo, assistant director-general for family, women's and children's health at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The UN member states pledged in 2000 to reduce maternal mortality, defined as a woman's death during pregnancy, childbirth or within six weeks after birth, by three quarters by 2015 as part of the Mil-

lennium Development Goals.

The Maldives, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cape Verde, East Timor, Iran, Laos, Mongolia and Rwanda reduced maternal mortality by between 78 and 90 percent, the organisations' report said.

Globally, the number of maternal deaths dropped 43 percent to an estimated 303,000 this year from about 532,000 in 1990, or to 216 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births from 385 in 1990, the report said. East Asia saw the sharpest drop, to 27 deaths

per 100,000 live births from 90.

A new set of targets adopted by world leaders in September the Sustainable Development Goals, includes reducing maternal deaths to fewer than 70 per 100,000 live births globally.

That will require the pace of reduction to more than triple to 75 percent per year, beginning in 2016, from the 23 percent annual improvement between 1990 and 2015, the report said.

REUTERS

Smuggled orangutans returned to Indonesia

BANGKOK: Fourteen orangutans smuggled into Thailand illegally were sent back to Indonesia yesterday, but the operation was not without incident -- one of the powerful apes tore a wildlife officer's finger off when he tried to put them in cages.

Twelve of the orangutans were smuggled into Thailand as babies and rescued some years ago by police and sent to a wildlife breeding center in Ratchaburi, 80km west of Bangkok. Two of the great apes were born at the centre.

"The animals were still babies when we got them and they should have been sent back right away," Edwin Wiek, director of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand said. "Now it's too late for them to go back to the wild."

Documents from Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said the orangutans originated



Thai National Park officials move cages containing orangutans as they are loaded into an aircraft at the military airport in Bangkok yesterday.

from the island of Borneo in Indonesia.

The illegal trade in endangered

orangutans sees the great apes poached from Indonesian forests for food, to obtain infants for the

REUTERS



Students attend a lecture at Bucheon University yesterday.

Bleak job prospects drive S Korean youth to vocational schools

BUCHeon: Living in a country obsessed with academic success, Jang Dong-hae did what every South Korean parent dreads when he dropped out of university a year into a finance degree, doubting whether it would get him a job with a top firm.

Five years on, and midway through a nursing course at a community college, Jang's parents are happy and his employment prospects are good.

Their priorities will have been influenced by South Korea's unemployment rate. In February more than 11 percent of those aged between 15 and 29 years were jobless, the highest level since the late 1990s. By October it had come down to 7.4 percent, but was still more than double the overall unemployment rate.

Jang, who pays his nursing tuition with money earned from part-time jobs, has joined a grow-

ing number of young South Koreans who are foregoing a more prestigious university education in favour of either vocational training or seeking work straight from school.

With a sluggish economy and a rigid job market, high entrance exam scores don't carry the same promise of future success that they once did.

Unable to find jobs, an increasing number of university graduates and dropouts, like Jang, are entering mostly two- and three-year vocational schools to gain qualifications in nursing, physical therapy, social welfare and early childhood education.

During the past three years the number of university graduates who have gained admission to vocational school has risen by 25 percent to 1,379.

REUTERS

India, UK sign six trade deals

Modi, Cameron hold talks; PM addresses British parliament

LONDON: Britain has signed six deals with India, worth a £1.3bn (\$1.98bn) investment by Vodafone, British Trade Minister Francis Maude said yesterday during a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to London.

After a speech to businessmen in which Modi outlined work done by India to make the country more business-friendly, Maude said deals had also been done with Lightsources, a solar voltaic energy generator, with Intelligent Energy on clean energy and with King's College Hospital.

Earlier, British Prime Minister David Cameron said trade deals worth £9bn (\$13.7bn) would be announced during Modi's visit to Britain.

After talks with Cameron yesterday, Modi became the first Indian premier to address Britain's parliament and was feted with a flypast by the Red Arrows aerobatics team, which trailed smoke over London in the colours of India's flag.

Cameron announced the trade deals at a press conference and also revealed that £3bn of rupee-denominated bonds would be traded in London.

He said British and Indian companies would announce new "collaborations" worth £9bn during



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with British Prime Minister David Cameron during a news conference in London yesterday.

Modi's visit, but gave few details. Cameron also expressed strong support from Britain for India's claim to permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Modi said the two countries had signed a civil nuclear agreement.

The agreement for cooperation in India's Global Centre for Clean Energy Partnerships will strengthen safety and security in the global nuclear industry," he said.

He added that there were plans

for a rupee bond aimed at financing Indian railways.

Britain is the third largest investor in India and there is more investment from India in Britain than in the rest of the European Union combined, Modi said.

Modi's visit has also drawn protests.

As Modi and Cameron shook hands for the cameras outside Number 10 Downing Street, a crowd of about 200 protesters could be heard shouting

anti-Modi slogans nearby. The demonstrators held up banners with messages such as "Modi you are killing Indian democracy" and "Stop religious persecution in India".

Asked about these concerns during his joint news conference with Cameron, Modi said India was a vibrant democracy in which individual rights were guaranteed by the constitution and he was committed to that.

"There is something that is deeply entrenched in our culture, in our traditions, which is that of respecting anything that has to do with intolerance," he said, adding that violent incidents would not be tolerated.

Ahead of his arrival in Britain, more than 200 writers, including Salman Rushdie and Ian McEwan, signed an open letter to Cameron urging him to raise concerns about freedom of expression in India during his talks with Modi.

About 45 British members of parliament, including opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn, signed a motion to debate India's human rights record.

Modi met members of the Sikh community in Britain before beginning his official engagements.

AGENCIES

Nitish oath-taking to show opposition unity

PATNA: Congress President Sonia Gandhi and chief ministers of Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh will attend the November 20 oath-taking of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in an event which is being touted as the beginning of opposition unity against the BJP.

Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda will also attend the event along with Assam's Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. So will former chief ministers Babul Marandi and Hamant Soren of Jharkhand and INLD leader Abhay Chautala from Haryana.

"We have decided to invite all leaders opposed to the BJP to attend the ceremony," Janata Dal-United (JD-U) spokesperson Ajay Alok said here yesterday.

JD-U general secretary K C Tyagi said all the senior leaders opposed to the BJP's brand of politics would come together in the first major show of opposition unity since Narendra Modi became prime minister in May 2014.

"It will be a new beginning of opposition unity," he said.

The Grand Alliance led by Nitish Kumar -- who will take oath as chief minister for a third straight time -- also includes the

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of Lalu Prasad and the Congress. It crushed the BJP and its allies, winning 178 of the 243 assembly seats.

The chief ministers expected to attend are Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party, Uttar Pradesh), Naveen Patnaik (BJP, Odisha), Arvind Kejriwal (AAP, Delhi) and Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool Congress, West Bengal).

Lalu Prasad, whose RJD is the single largest party in the new Bihar house, and JD-U president Sharad Yadav will be the main guests at the event, that day.

Nitish Kumar last Wednesday said he will recommend the dissolution of the state assembly on Saturday after holding a last meeting of his cabinet. He will stake claim to form his new government after a joint meeting of the Grand Alliance that day.

According to JD-U leaders here, Nitish Kumar will take oath along with a 36-member council of ministers after the Chhath festival in the third week of November. In the Grand Alliance, the RJD won 80 seats followed by the JD-U with 71 and the Congress with 27 seats. There will be 48 ministers from the RJD, 15 from the JD-U and five from the Congress.

IAN5

K M Mani gone, Kerala's excise minister is next target

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: After the resignation of Kerala's Finance Minister K M Mani in the bar bribery scam, whistleblower bar owner Biju Ramesh yesterday said Excise Minister K Babu was the next on the list to be axed for taking a bribe.

Ramesh had first made the revelation in October 2014 that Mani was paid the bribe of ₹1cr for his promise that the bars closed in the state in the wake of a new excise policy would be reopened.

The bar owner said Babu too was bribed and he personally went to the office of Babu in his state secretariat and handed over ₹50 lakh in cash.

Mani, who has been a legislator from Pala in Kottayam since

1967, resigned last Tuesday after the Kerala High Court said there was a need for further probe into the allegations investigated by the vigilance department.

Ramesh yesterday said his "next target" was Babu, and alleged that the vigilance department "played foul" with his petition that Babu also is a "culpfit".

"It was me who handed over ₹50 lakh to Babu's office. The vigilance did not probe this charge of mine against Babu in the way it should have been done. But I am not going to sit idle, and I will take forward this case to its logical conclusion," Ramesh said yesterday.

The report of probe by the vigilance department into Ramesh's allegation against

Babu found its way to the media in the state capital yesterday.

Babu and Chief Minister Oommen Chandy last Wednesday said Ramesh was being levelling allegations for the past one year and it has now become stale and there was nothing new in it.

Ramesh yesterday said he will now approach the state high court against the "hugely partisan" probe by the vigilance department, which gave a clean chit to Babu.

Reacting to Ramesh's statement, CPI-M politburo member S Ramachandran Pillai said the issue was very grave.

"This is a very serious issue and a fresh probe should be initiated," Pillai said yesterday.

IAN5



People walk over fallen leaves of Chinar trees in the Mughal garden Nishtar, on the outskirts of Srinagar, yesterday. Leaves have begun changing colours with the arrival of autumn in Kashmir.

Separatist leader warns of mass protests in J&K

SRINAGAR: Saying Jammu and Kashmir had become "a vast prison", separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq yesterday warned of mass protests and asked Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed to quit.

"For the past seven or eight months, the situation in Kashmir has deteriorated and an alarming scenario is developing due to repression and stifling of dissent," he told the media here.

He alleged that social, religious and political rights of the people had been curtailed.

"The government isn't allowing us to present our views peacefully before people. Our programmes are scuttled by force."

"We are kept under house detention and our workers and youths are arrested. It is a rule through the barrel of the gun," said the chairman of the moderate Hurriyat Conference.

He said the chief minister's pre-election slogans of peace and dialogue had proven to be a facade.

"He (Sayeed) has lost the moral authority to be in power. He has surrendered all rights to police and security agencies. Kashmir has been turned into a vast prison and virtually a police state."

The Mirwaiz came down heavily on the government for imposing restrictions, particularly in the old city of Srinagar which has witnessed frequent protests between protesters and security forces.

"More than 40 times curfew like restrictions have been imposed in the old city this year. Police are using bullets, tear gas, pellets and pepper gas on people. Pepper gas has become a health hazard."

"We feel it is a deliberate attempt on the part of the authorities to compel people to shift from downtown and punish them out for being emotionally attached with the resistance movement," he said.

The Hurriyat leader claimed that 250 youths had been arrested in the Kashmir Valley in the past one week.

He hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who announced a ₹80,000cr economic package for the state in Srinagar on November 7.

"Kashmir isn't an economic or law and order issue. It is a political issue which needs to be resolved politically."

But he (Modi) deliberately ignored this fact.

"Dialogue is the way to resolve the Kashmir issue, but the Indian leadership is using arrogance and aggression instead. The state government is taking dictation from Delhi and is at war with the people."

Mirwaiz said he has invited separatist, religious, trade, student and civil society groups on November 18 at his party headquarters to discuss the current situation.

IAN5

Chetia's extradition paves way for deporting murder accused Hossain

KOLKATA: With Bangladesh handing over the outlawed ULFA's fugitive leader Anup Chetia, India is all set to return the favour with the extradition of Nur Hossain, wanted for seven murder cases in his country.

Hossain, along with 34 others, has been indicted by the Bangladesh police for the sensational Narayanjanj murder case in 2014 in which seven people, including Narayanjanj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam were killed and their bodies dumped in a river. Earlier in October, a West Bengal court had ordered the repatriation of Hossain who was caught by the state police in June 2014 for illegally entering the country.

"We have sent the documents for his extradition to the central government which will decide the date of his extradition. The for-

mality are nearly complete and as and when the centre decides the date we will act accordingly," a top police officer said.

Currently lodged in Dum Dum correctional home, the charges pressed by the state police against Hossain were withdrawn by the court. Informing that Hossain will be extradited at the earliest, Bangladesh Minister: State for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal described the extraditions of Chetia and Hossain as a reflection of the highly cordial ties.

"Bangladesh and India have always shared very cordial relations. The Indian government's loquaciousness on sending back Hossain is just a reflection of that relationship. We have been told that Hossain will be extradited very soon," Kamal said over the phone from Dhaka. Bangladesh government had been seeking Hossain's

extradition for quite some time.

"The Narayanjanj murder case has been a big political issue in Bangladesh and they have been making efforts to get him back for almost a year now. With the extradition of Chetia, the ball for Hossain extradition has now been set in motion and according to information, his is likely to be handed back in December," the officer said.

Once the central government fixes the date of extradition, the police will hand over Hossain to the Border Security Force (BSF) who in turn will hand him over to its Bangladeshi counterpart: Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). "We have been informed about Hossain's extradition process, but we are yet to be intimated about the date," said a BSF officer.

IAN5

CM's office to check ex-priest's death probe

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar said yesterday that his office would monitor the police investigation into the mysterious death of activist and former priest Bismarck Dias.

"The probe is being monitored by my office. I assure of fullest cooperation and assistance from my government in this matter," Parsekar said after he met a delegation of family and friends of Dias at the state secretariat here.

The chief minister also promised to expedite the forensic analysis of Dias' viscera, which police said would help in ascertaining whether his death was natural or not. Dias' body was found on November 7 along the Mandovi river, leading to protests across the state by civil outfits and the Opposition.

IAN5

Maggi noodles fly off shelves after relaunch

NEW DELHI: Ever since it was launched last Monday, the popular snack Maggi noodles has been flying off the shelves at stores and on digital platform Snapdeal, stakeholders said yesterday. After a five-month ban on the two-minute noodles for alleged high levels of lead and Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), the Indian arm of the Swiss giant

announced a pact with Snapdeal for the online sale of the instant noodles apart from re-introducing it in 100 cities in the country.

Snapdeal said yesterday that the first batch of 60,000 Maggi welcome kits were sold out within five minutes of Maggi 'Flash Sale' going live. Registration for this sale opened on November 9. Reliance Fresh CEO Damo-

dar Mall confirmed the rousing consumer response. "Stocks are flying off the shelves," Mall said.

"On Dhanteras, the first invoice for Maggi in the country was made to Reliance Retail, Kolkata distribution centre, by Nestle."

"Nestle has shared with us clearances they have from the states. By this weekend, the product should be available in all

stores in states where the ban on Maggi noodles death was lifted," Mall said. Reliance Fresh was supplying "three-pack" noodles in this phase, he said. Since customers expect quick availability of choices, Reliance Fresh has been working with Nestle team to live up to consumer expectations, he said.

IAN5

Police bust Europe terror network

Group was trying to free top militant

ROME: Police yesterday announced a swoop on a European jihadist network that was allegedly planning to kidnap diplomats and carry out attacks to try to spring its leader out of detention in Norway.

Seventeen arrest warrants were issued and 13 people were detained in Italy, Britain and Norway, according to Eurojust, the EU's judicial cooperation unit.

The other wanted suspects were believed to be fighting in Iraq or Syria for the Islamic State (IS) group, according to Italian police, who led the operation.

Investigators said the network was trying to free Norway-based fundamentalist preacher Najmuddin Ahmad Faraj — also known as Mullah Krekar — who is listed as a terrorist by the United States and United Nations.

Krekar has been serving time since 2012, apart from a brief period at the beginning of this year. He was freed in January after completing his term for intimidation and death threats, but rearrested at the end of February for inciting crime.

Giuseppe Governale of the Italian police's Special Operations Group told journalists the operation had "dismantled an integrated cell that included — in addition to Italy — Britain, Norway, Finland, Switzerland and Germany". The sting on the cell, which was "affiliated with IS", was "the most important police operation in Europe in the last twenty years". The network developed "on the 'dark web', little-known (Internet) platforms that we have managed to penetrate," Governale said, adding that the swoop has allowed police to snuff "a

process of recruitment, of sending (fighters) into combat abroad".

Governale said the network "was about to continue sending many other jihadists abroad; it was about to carry out attacks, including suicide bombings, to try to free their chief, Mullah Krekar".

They were planning "attacks against Norwegian and British diplomats in the Middle East", including "kidnappings to allow them to negotiate Krekar's release in exchange for prisoners", as well as attacks on "members of parliament in Norway".

The 59-year-old Krekar, a Kurdish Iraqi, has been living in Norway since 1991. He has been at risk of deportation since 2003 after Norwegian authorities ordered him to be expelled as a threat to national security.

He has been accused of inciting racial hatred and is renowned for inflammatory statements, including declaring Al Qaeda mastermind Osama Bin Laden "a good Muslim" and comparing former American president George Bush to Adolf Hitler.

While courts upheld the expulsion ruling, Norwegian law bars him from being deported to Iraq, where he risks the death penalty. Krekar founded the radical Islamist group Ansar Al Islam, but insists he has not led it since 2002. Norway's Justice Minister Anders Anundsen said Italy had requested Krekar's extradition but Oslo would first need assurances that "Italy would not send Krekar to Iraq". If granted, the extradition would be done as quickly as possible, he said.

AFP

Sweden reinstates border controls

MALMO, SWEDEN: Sweden reinstated border controls yesterday in a bid to gain control over the massive influx of migrants arriving in the country, without blocking the steady flow of asylum seekers.

Yesterday at 12 noon (1100 GMT), police began carrying out identification checks on passengers travelling on trains crossing the bridge over the Oresund strait from Denmark, an AFP correspondent reported.

Police were also checking papers at terminals for ferries arriving in southern Sweden from Denmark and Germany.

Those are the routes most used by migrants. "This is not a fence. We need to make sure that we have control ... We have to make sure we know who is coming to Sweden," Prime Minister Stefan Lovén insisted.

"Introducing border controls is not to prevent people from coming to Sweden to seek asylum," the head of the Swedish Migration Agency, Anders Danielsson, meanwhile told Swedish news agency TT.

"On the contrary. They will have their case heard, but we need to (re)gain control," he added.

Sweden, a country of 9.8 million people, has taken more refugees as a proportion of its population than any other country in Europe, as the continent struggles with its worst migration crisis since World War II.

The Scandinavian country expects to receive up to 190,000 asylum seekers this year — the equivalent of 1.5 million people arriving in a country the size of Germany, and more than double the 90,000 it took in last year.

The massive influx has strained Sweden's capacity to take care of the new arrivals, with



A group of migrants, coming off an incoming train, gather on the platform at the Swedish end of the bridge between Sweden and Denmark, in Hyllie district, Malmö, yesterday.

authorities recently warning they were no longer able to provide housing for them.

"People are forced to sleep in tents, in offices and in evacuation centres" normally used for natural disasters, Migration Agency spokesman Mikael Hvinlund said.

"We are not fulfilling our mission, which is to offer a roof to everyone... Re-establishing border controls can help us," he said.

People arriving in Sweden without valid identification documents would be allowed to seek asylum, but those who do not want to do so — for example those who simply want to transit through Sweden — would be refused entry. Police spokesman Ewa-Gun Westford said the border checks would require a large police presence.

AFP

New York cop killer gets jail in drug case

NEW YORK: A man charged in the fatal shooting of a New York City police officer was sentenced to 12 years in prison for a prior drug offence yesterday by a judge who said in court Mayor Bill de Blasio should "look in a mirror" before blaming others for the officer's death.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Patricia Nunez imposed the maximum sentence allowed on Tyrone Howard, 31, after he failed to comply with a court-mandated drug treatment programme that allowed him to avoid incarceration.

AFP

During the sentencing hearing, Nunez sharply criticised de Blasio, a Democrat, for suggesting she had erred in initially allowing Howard to go to drug rehabilitation. "I would suggest that the mayor look into a mirror and ask himself whether it's his own policies, whether those policies made someone think they can go out and shoot a cop," the judge said.

She did not specify the policies to which she was referring. A spokeswoman for the mayor did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Howard is charged with kill-

ing 33-year-old Officer Randolph Holder on October 20.

At the time, Howard was wanted for questioning in an unrelated shooting as well as for skipping a September court appearance before Nunez.

In May, Nunez approved a deal under which Howard pleaded guilty to a 2014 charge of selling crack cocaine, in exchange for two years of drug treatment.

The judge oversees one of several "drug courts" in New York that allow nonviolent drug offenders to undergo treatment rather than face prison.

Following Holder's death, de Blasio and Police Commissioner William Bratton questioned the decision by Nunez and another judge who had transferred Howard's case to the drug court, saying Howard should have been behind bars. Nunez said yesterday those comments created a "false narrative," pointing out that Howard was already free on bail.

Howard, she said, had no prior violent felony convictions and was similar to many defendants who have succeeded in the diversion programme.

REUTERS

Trash from space rains in Spain

MADRID: It's raining space junk in Spain.

Rocket fuel tanks, chunks of satellites or something else entirely... In just over one week, three mysterious objects have fallen from the sky onto the country's southeast, prompting bomb disposal agents and experts in hazmat suits to rush over as puzzled locals looked on.

First up a strange black beehive-like ball was found in Mula, a town in the region of Murcia last week.

Then at the weekend, a similar-looking, smaller object was discovered in Calasparra, just 30 kilometres away in the same region.

"In the early morning of the day when the first object was found, witnesses said they saw between six and seven balls of fire falling from the sky," Maria Jose Gomariz, spokeswoman for Calasparra town hall, said yesterday.

"Maybe there were just two balls of fire and it looked like there were more... or some may have fallen in areas where no one goes."

The discoveries sparked a stir, prompting special agents to rush over and inspect the objects, but in both cases, police determined there was no radioactivity and no danger to human health.

The mysterious space junk was transported to the city of Cartagena where there is a national vocational training centre that specialises in chemistry.

"They could be auxiliary fuel tanks belonging to a rocket," said a source at Murcia's Guardia Civil, the police force that was called to the scene. A third object was discovered on Tuesday in Elda in Valencia.

AFP



A riot policeman looks at an airborne petrol bomb thrown by a youth during clashes between police and protesters during a 24-hour general strike in central Athens, Greece, yesterday. Greeks walked off the job to protest austerity measures demanded by international lenders in exchange for fresh bailout funds.

Brazilian president inspects mine disaster area

MARIANA, BRAZIL: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff flew yesterday over the scene of a mine disaster where a reservoir at a facility owned by two of the world's biggest mining companies burst, leaving eight dead and 19 missing.

The president's helicopter trip over the area around the Samarco iron ore mine near the southeastern city of Mariana came amid mounting criticism of her absence a week after the tragedy.

Her office released pictures of

Rousseff, who has rock-bottom popularity ratings and is facing a push for her impeachment from congressional opponents, peering from the aircraft.

It was not yet clear whether she had actually touched down in the disaster zone, but she was due to give a press conference later — her first on the tragedy.

Earlier, the mayor of Mariana, Duarte Goncalves Junior, told *Estado de Minas* newspaper that he wished Rousseff would enter the site itself.

"She would see a reality that only someone who is here can understand," he said.

Samarco is owned by Australia-based BHP Billiton, the world's number one mining company, and Brazil's Vale, the leading iron ore miner.

Two dams at a waste collection pond broke on November 5, spewing a deadly wall of mud and water which is being tested for toxic elements. Most of the village of Bento Rodrigues was flattened. The disaster — followed by wor-

ries over the safety of a third dam — has left the mining giants facing huge legal fallout.

Shares in both companies have fallen sharply as investors contemplate a clean-up bill that Deutsche Bank estimates could cost more than \$1bn.

Brazil's environmental agency Ibama is slapping Samarco with a fine of 100m reais (\$26.4m) for damage to the environment, *Agencia Brasil* news service reported. The fine could not be immediately confirmed with

officials. On Tuesday, authorities ordered Samarco to collect and preserve evidence related to the dam failures, making it easier for victims to be compensated.

The company will face a daily fine of about \$13,000 if it fails to comply.

New evacuations were ordered Wednesday as workers examined the suspect third dam, adding to the approximately 630 people already forced from their homes.

AFP

ELITE
CAR TRADING
USED CARS
SPARE PARTS
77599936 - 30100232
30100264 - 30100317
Opp. to HSBC Bank, Salwa road, Doha
44829200

شحن البضائع وتحويلها
Having the World at your Reach
Tel: +974 4402 3555
info@gulfwarehouse.com
www.gulfwarehouse.com

ALZAMAN EXCHANGE W.L.L.
YOUR GLOBAL REMITTANCE PARTNER

Currency	TT Rate	Currency	TT Rate	Currency	TT Rate	Currency	TT Rate
QAR/INR	18.15	QAR/PHP	12.92	QAR/LKR	38.70	QAR/BDT	21.58
EUR/QAR	3.98	GBP/QAR	5.58	CAD/QAR	2.83	AUD/QAR	2.67
QAR/EGP	2.13	SAR/QAR	0.9727	KWD/QAR	12.13	BHD/QAR	6.68

Vodafone Qatar expands customer base

Company reports total revenue of about QR1.07bn for six-month period

DOHA: The number of mobile phone customers of Vodafone Qatar has touched 1,486,000 by the end of September 30, registering an increase of 8 percent compared to September last year, said a statement yesterday.

The company yesterday announced its financials for the six months ended September 30, 2015, and reported a total revenue of about QR1.07bn (\$292.7m) during the same period, down 7 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

The second largest telecom service provider in Qatar suffered a net loss of QR213m for the period, while loss per share

was 25 dirhams (QR0.25). The mobile average revenue per user (ARPU) of Vodafone Qatar was QR111, which is a 13 percent year-on-year drop, but stable compared to the previous quarter ended June 30, 2015.

The earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) achieved QR211m for the period; 29 percent lower year-on-year, and representing an EBITDA margin of 20 percent.

Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani Al Thani, Vodafone Qatar's Chairman, said: "On a year-on-year basis, the Company's performance for the half-year reflects the full impact of the aggressive price

competition on our customer ARPU and revenue. However, we are seeing positive trends and expect stronger results in the second half of the year. For instance, our postpaid customers have grown by nearly 50 percent thanks to our network enhancements and competitive postpaid portfolio, including Qatari Red, 10 times more data on all Red plans, and the best roaming pack in Qatar that were all launched during this half year."

"During the period, we have invested more than QR150m in our network infrastructure which has included the continued upgrade of all our network sites

making them at the forefront of technology. We improved our 3G and 4G coverage and further increased capacity which has produced a significantly better customer experience on both voice and data services. A special focus has been on increasing the capacity in the most populated areas in Qatar and in time for the desert camping season, 21 sites have been activated in the most popular camping areas. We are committed to continually investing in Qatar's ICT sector which will play a key role in realising Qatar National Vision 2030."



Vodafone Qatar's Chairman Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani Al Thani.

THE PENINSULA

Bahrain central bank aims for centralised Shariah board

KUWAIT: Bahrain's financial regulator plans to establish by the end of this year a central Shariah board of scholars that will oversee the kingdom's Islamic finance sector, a central bank official said.

The board would be the second of its kind in the Gulf region. Oman's central bank has set one up but Bahrain has a broader profile, having positioned itself as a regional financial centre with links to Saudi and Kuwaiti financial institutions.

The Bahraini central bank already has a Shariah board, but its scope has been limited to vetting its own products.

"One of the major roles of the (new) centralised Shariah board is the overriding power in terms of Shariah compliance," Khalid Hamad, the central bank's executive director of banking supervision, said.

Islamic financial institutions that issue a religious ruling for a financial product in Bahrain will have to seek approval from the centralised board. The central bank's Shariah board, meanwhile, will have the final say on how the ruling is implemented, although there is a mechanism to address differences of opinion between the two boards.

Hamad said Bahrain's initiative could encourage other jurisdictions to follow suit. "I think we will see in the coming years the same or similar initiatives, because this is the way forward."

The United Arab Emirates has also said it will adopt a centralised Shariah board approach to Islamic finance, though a firm timetable has not been given for that plan.

REUTERS

Call for promoting strong Qatar-US economic ties

DOHA: United States' Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, Scott Nathan, yesterday visited Qatar and met several dignitaries, including ministers and business leaders to promote bilateral economic and commercial ties.

Nathan joined Ambassador Dana Shell Smith in meetings with government officials and private sector stakeholders to enhance bilateral economic and commercial ties.

His visit follows the successful launch of the US Qatar Economic and Investment Dialogue held in Washington on October 26.

"Qatar is an important, strategic partner for the United States. Nathan's visit reaffirms our commitment to shared priorities of

generating economic prosperity, creating jobs, and facilitating strong business relationships between Qatari and US companies," said Ambassador Smith.

During his meetings, including with Minister of Economy and Commerce H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Municipality and Urban Planning H E Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani and officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Qatari Businessmen's Association, and the American Chamber of Commerce, Special Representative Nathan highlighted the US-Qatar Economic and Investment Dialogue as a vehicle for bringing together key decision makers to outline ways to strengthen the financial,



Officials after the meeting.

economic, and investment relations between the US and Qatar. He also thanked Qatar for considering so many US firms to guide the country's ambitious infrastructure developments plans.

Nathan also promoted oppor-

tunities for business seeking partners in the US through the US Foreign Commercial Service and SelectUSA. The Foreign Commercial Service at the US Embassy in Doha provides a range of services to American

firms, including commercial advocacy, business matchmaking, and assistance in identifying potential partners, market intelligence, and trade counseling.

THE PENINSULA

Opec sees oil surplus shrinking in 2016

LONDON: Opec said its oil output fell in October and forecast supply from rival producers next year would decline for the first time since 2007 as low prices prompt investment cuts, reducing a global supply glut.

In a monthly report, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said it pumped 31.38 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, down 256,000 bpd from September. That is the first decline since March, according to Opec figures.

The forecast of a decline in supply outside Opec, if realised, would be a further indication the group's strategy is working.

Opec last year abandoned a longstanding policy of propping up prices and instead raised output, seeking to recover market share taken by higher-cost rival production.

Oil is trading at around \$45

a barrel, more than 50 percent below its price in June 2014. "The recent decline in oil prices has encouraged additional oil demand," the Organisation said in the report.

"It has also provided a challenging market environment for some higher-cost crude oil production, which has already shown a slowdown."

The group expects non-Opec supply next year to fall by about 120,000 bpd, following growth of 720,000 bpd this year, "as nearly \$200bn of capex cutbacks this year and next create a gaping supply hole".

Oil companies have cancelled or put on hold projects around the world and Opec expects output in the United States, the biggest source of non-Opec supply growth in recent years due to the shale boom, to be hit by reduced drilling activity.

Opec production, which has surged since the policy shift of November 2014 led by record Saudi Arabian and Iraqi output, fell in October on export delays in Iraq and lower supply from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said the report, citing secondary sources.

The report points to a 560,000-bpd supply surplus in the market next year if the group keeps pumping at October's rate, down from 750,000 bpd indicated in last month's report.

For 2015 though, the report implies a much larger surplus of almost 1.8 million bpd due to high Opec production and the still-growing rival supplies that have boosted inventories.

Underlining the current glut, the Organisation said the market is in the midst of only the second period in a decade when inventories in developed economies have exceeded the five-year average by

more than an "excessive" level of 150 million barrels.

The first followed the 2008 financial crisis.

Inventories in OECD economies are currently 210 million barrels above the five-year average, the Organisation said, more than they 180 million barrels above that average they stood at in early 2009.

"The build in global inventories is mainly the result of the increase in total supply outpacing growth in world oil demand over the first nine months of this year," the Organisation said.

The Organisation left its 2016 oil demand forecasts unchanged, predicting the world would need 30.82 million bpd of Opec crude and global demand would grow by 1.25 million bpd, marking a slowdown from 1.50 million bpd in 2015.

REUTERS

Ooredoo Group rejigs top management

DOHA: Ooredoo yesterday announced several new appointments, including Dr Nasser Marafih as a member of the Board of Directors, who replaced Omer Abdulaziz Al Hamed Al Marwani; and Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al Thani will be the new CEO of Ooredoo Group.

Dr Nasser, in his new role, will be an adviser to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ooredoo, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Thani.

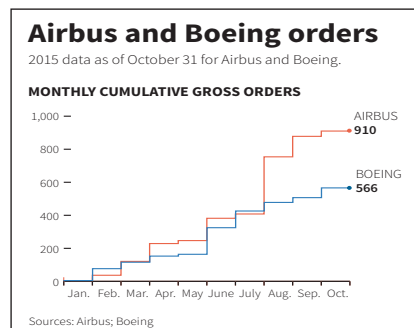
The telecom giant's new Group CEO, Sheikh Saud bin Nasser will be succeeding Dr Nasser Marafih.

Changes also included other executive management members such as Waleed Al Sayed, who has been appointed as Ooredoo Group Deputy CEO and CEO of Ooredoo

Qatar. Yousuf Abdulla Al Kubaisi has replaced Waleed Al Sayed as Chief Operations Officer of Ooredoo Qatar.

Sheikh Abdulla, Ooredoo's Chairman, said: "We offer our highest gratitude and thanks to Dr Nasser for his valuable contributions and efforts that he provided as CEO of the Group. His time in the role was characterised with persistence and hard work, and we look forward to benefit from his service and expertise at the Board. I also want to wish Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al Thani success in leading the Group at this exciting period which will witness a lot of developments in the telecoms industry."

THE PENINSULA



Airport security in spotlight at Dubai show

DUBAI: Airport security concerns came into focus at the Dubai Airshow, which wrapped yesterday, after suspicions mounted that a bomb brought down a Russian airliner in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Sales were quiet at the biennial fair, with the fast-rising Gulf Airshow, that had turned the gathering into a regular venue for mega-deals, saying they had enough on order.

So there was plenty of time to reflect on what easyJet CEO Carolyn McCall told the BBC this week "kept airline chief executives awake at night" — the fear of a bomb being carried or stowed

on board a flight.

What focused their attention was the crash two weeks ago of a Russian passenger jet over the Sinai after it took off from the Red Sea resort, killing all 224 people on board.

British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond charged that some countries have a problem with training and motivating security staff. "You don't need a sophisticated capability to get a small bomb, and that's all you need to bring down an aircraft, a small bomb with a straightforward timer."

"Sadly there are many, many people who can do that. The issue

is about getting it air side in an airport that is supposed to be secure," he warned.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, CEO of Dubai's carrier Emirates, said that security at Dubai International, the world's largest in terms of international passengers handled, is of "utmost concern" for authorities in the Gulf city state.

He said the airline's "security is in constant contact with other airports, in case there is any information ... they need to look at that could be related to security".

Emirates President Tim Clark described the suspected bombing of the Russian plane as a "game

changer", pledging to reassess security procedures at several destinations. "We're reviewing our procedures in terms of security and ramp handling and access to our aircraft," Clark said.

"We have 22 cities in Africa, multiple cities in west Asia — India, Pakistan, et cetera — all of these will have to be reviewed to make sure we're as safe as we can be. "There are many airports in the world where if people wanted to do some pretty bad things they could do them," he said.

He said securing luggage, both check-in and carry-on, was imperative for carriers.

AFP

QE index loses 608.97 points past week

Market capitalisation falls 4.96pc to reach QR570.36bn from previous week's QR600.15bn

DOHA: Qatar Exchange index lost 608.97 points, or 5.32 percent, past trading week when the bourse closed yesterday at 10,830.33 points.

Trading value during this week increased by 19.11 percent to reach QR1.39bn compared to QR1.17bn. Trading volume increased by 11.26 percent to reach 32.35 million shares, as against 29.08 million shares, while the number of transactions rose by 30.44 percent, to reach 19,718 transactions as compared to 15,117 transactions.

Market capitalisation fell by 4.96 percent to reach QR570.36bn as compared to QR600.15bn at the end of previous week.

Banking and Financial Services sector led traded value last week

with 35.44 percent of the total traded value. Industries sector accounted for 28.75 percent. Real Estate sector accounted for 12.10 percent, while Telecoms sector accounted 8.46 percent.

Banking and Financial Services sector led traded volume past week with 23.41 percent of the total. Telecoms sector accounted for 21.42 percent. Real Estate sector accounted 21 percent, while Industries sector accounted 17.33 percent.

Banking and Financial Services sector led traded number of transactions with 28.17 percent of the total number of transactions. Industries sector accounted for 25.85 percent and Telecoms sector accounted 14.92 percent, while Real Estate sector

accounted for 13.25 percent.

From the 43 listed companies 42 fell and one unchanged.

QNB led trading value during the week accounted for 13.21 percent of the total traded value. Industries Qatar accounted for 11.64 percent and Masraf Al Rayan accounted for 9.12 percent.

Meanwhile, the index edged down 23.24 points yesterday. The daily turnover increased to QR289.59m with a volume of 6,016,288 shares from 4,136 deals on Wednesday.

Elsewhere in the region, stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Dubai fell yesterday in response to low oil prices, while Egypt's market held steady in the face of

uncertainty over exchange and interest rates.

Brent oil slipped to a two-month low just above \$45 a barrel yesterday, fuelling concern about austerity steps that governments in the region may be forced to take next year.

The Saudi stock index, which surged 2 percent on Wednesday, dropped 0.6 percent. Miner Ma'aden sank 3.1 percent.

Some major petrochemical stocks such as Saudi Basic Industries were flat, while Saudi Telecom added 2.7 percent. It had surged its 10 percent daily limit on Wednesday after pledging to pay a minimum quarterly dividend for the next three years.

Dubai's index dropped 1.5 percent to 3,265 points. Arabtec

continued sliding, plunging its 40 percent daily limit, after reporting a big quarterly loss on Wednesday, citing poor industry conditions in the region.

Abu Dhabi's index edged down 0.3 percent as Etisalat lost 1.0 percent. Egypt's stock market edged up 0.1 percent after tumbling 10 percent over the previous four days because of fears of a possible currency devaluation or interest rate hike, or possibly both.

The Kuwait index was flat at 5,766 points yesterday while Oman index fell 0.3 percent to 5,849 points.

The Bahrain index edged up 0.1 percent to close at 1,234 point yesterday.

QNA & REUTERS

Kuwait financial regulator opens door for more sukuk issues

KUWAIT: Kuwait's financial regulator has released rules covering issuance of Islamic bonds in a move that could facilitate sales of sukuk by both the government and corporations.

Corporate issuance of sukuk in Kuwait has dropped off in recent years, and the vast bulk of issuance has been in US dollars rather than in Kuwaiti dinars. The government has not issued sukuk.

Bankers blame the lack of a specialised legislative framework covering Islamic bonds; two defaults by Kuwaiti corporate sukuk during the global financial crisis in 2009-2010 made investors wary of new issuance without such a framework.

Rules issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) this week aim to provide a legal basis for issues. The rules outline conditions that sukuk must meet to be tradeable, and describe specific formats such as instruments with perpetual tenors and those which can be converted into shares.

Sukuk issues must be approved by both the CMA and the central bank, according to the rules, which set out the obligations and powers of custodians of the instruments.

The government could be an early user of the rules because low oil prices have strained its finances. Finance Minister Anas Al Saleh said in September that Kuwait planned to issue local-currency sovereign debt by the end of this year to cover its budget deficit.

Mazin Al Nahedh, chief executive of Kuwait Finance House, one of the world's oldest and largest Islamic banks, told an Islamic finance conference in Kuwait on Wednesday that lack of regulation meant KFH previously had to issue sukuk in foreign jurisdictions. The new CMA rules will help to encourage corporate issuance of sukuk within Kuwait, allowing borrowers to tap ample investor demand inside the country, he said.

REUTERS

Rolls-Royce cuts profit forecast again, to review dividend

LONDON: Britain's Rolls-Royce issued its fourth profit warning in just over a year and said it could cut dividend payments as a slowdown in Asia hit demand for servicing older aircraft engines, showing the scale of the challenge facing its new CEO.

Shares in the world's second largest maker of aircraft engines plunged 20 percent yesterday after it forecast profit next year would be more than a third below the current consensus estimate, which analysts had already slashed after a warning in July.

Chief Executive Warren East, who started in July and was almost immediately forced to warn on profits, said the long-term growth of the aero-engine business remained intact and the slowdown next year would be temporary.

But the latest setback will intensify questions about the ability of the 131-year-old group to

adapt to changing markets. The company supplies engines to aeroplanes, ships and for industrial use, having split from the luxury car business of the same name in the 1970s.

Activist shareholder Value Act built up a stake of over 5 percent in Rolls in July and is rumoured to want the company to focus on the aero engine business.

Releasing initial findings of an operating review two weeks early, East said he had already highlighted a number of areas where Rolls could make "fundamental changes".

He launched a restructuring programme to save between £150 and £200m a year, streamline senior management and improve decision making. "I believe we're carrying too much fixed cost in certain parts of our business," East, the former head of technology company Arm Holdings, told an investor call yesterday.

"We're just not sufficiently flexible at managing that cost base in response to changing market conditions."

The company blamed the drop-off in the last four months on airlines grounding older aircraft to fly newer more efficient ones. Analysts pointed to a slowdown in China which has led to some Asian operators parking up their Boeing 777 jets.

Rolls tends to generate higher margins on the parts and servicing it provides for older engines. "This is essentially capacity management by some of our customers," said East.

Rolls shocked investors four months ago when it said profits from its aero-engine business, its biggest unit which last year accounted for about half of profits and which it is counting on for future growth, would shrink in 2016.

The company is exposed to



Visitors inspect the Rolls-Royce Dawn car at the Dubai International Motor Show in Dubai. The show ends on November 14.

some decline in older wide body platforms such as the Airbus A330, on which its Trent 700 has been a big profit source. At the same time, it is yet to see returns on the engine for the A350 platform and no longer involved in single aisle market where production is soaring.

Rolls had already been struggling with a drop in demand from energy customers for its marine

REUTERS

Former VW CEO quits as Audi chairman

BERLIN: Former Volkswagen Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn has stepped down as chairman of luxury brand Audi amid an investigation of two emissions scandals that occurred during his reign at VW.

Winterkorn quit his post at Audi on Wednesday, a spokesman at the carmaker said yesterday, after resigning as chief executive of family-owned Porsche SE, VW's majority stakeholder, last month. The 68-year-old Winterkorn was forced to resign as VW group chief executive five days after the company's rigging of diesel emissions tests became public in the US.

REUTERS

Draghi signals bank's readiness to extend money printing

BRUSSELS/ FRANKFURT: The head of the European Central Bank underlined yesterday the bank's readiness to extend money printing, warning that a key measure of economic health — price inflation — was flagging.

In remarks to European Union lawmakers, Mario Draghi also defended private meetings between policy setters and banks and hedge funds, such as executive board member Benoit Coeure's meeting with a French bank hours before the ECB cut rates. "Signs of a sustained turnaround in core inflation have somewhat weakened," Draghi told the European Parliament's economics committee, addressing a barometer of economic health that could influence the ECB's massive money printing scheme.

His comments, pointing to the risks of a spillover to Europe from a slowdown in China or other

emerging markets, amplify a chorus of similar warnings indicating further possible action as soon as December 9, when ECB policymakers next gather.

"We have always said that our purchases would run beyond end-September 2016 in case we do not see a sustained adjustment in the path of inflation," Draghi added, calling its quantitative easing scheme "powerful and flexible".

"Other instruments," he said, "could also be activated". People familiar with the matter said this week that the ECB is examining whether to buy municipal bonds of cities such as Paris or regions like Bavaria.

The bank launched the programme, under which it buys 60 billion euros a month of mostly government bonds, in March. By next September, when purchases are due to end, the ECB will have spent more than 1 trillion euros to

lift inflation and growth.

The scheme also allows the bank to buy asset-backed securities and covered bonds, but as with European muni bonds, those markets are relatively small.

Facing an unusually high number of critical questions from lawmakers compared to similar earlier hearings, including from one parliamentarian who accused the ECB of being an "arsonist" during Ireland's financial crisis, Draghi defended the transparency of the central bank.

He indicated the ECB may change its involvement with the International Monetary Fund and European Commission that oversee the bailout programmes of countries such as Greece or Ireland.

Draghi also said the ECB would publish the diaries of members of the ECB's executive board, which forms the nucleus of policy, after

a recent request for that information revealed hedge funds and banks had regular contact with policy setters.

"We have had and still have a clear rule — we do not discuss market-sensitive information in non-public meetings," he said. "For our monetary policy to be effective, however, it is important to meet market participants and to also hear their views."

The ECB's transparency has come under heightened scrutiny since Coeure told a closed-door meeting in May that the bank would front-load its asset purchases during the summer months. It has since revamped transparency rules but a recent detailed calendar of the six-person Executive Board illustrated how wide-ranging the contact was with groups including hedge funds or banks.

REUTERS



ECB President Mario Draghi during a hearing by the European Parliament Committee on Monetary Affairs in Brussels, Belgium, yesterday.

Foreign funds to follow IMF lead with yuan bond holdings

HONG KONG: Foreign asset managers are preparing to increase their exposure to yuan-denominated bonds, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) looks likely this month to approve the inclusion of China's "redback" into its currency basket.

A decision by the IMF to add the currency, also known as the renminbi (RMB), to its \$280bn basket of reserves would prompt central banks to follow suit, and fund managers say they, too, would make similar adjustments to their portfolios.

"The endorsement from the IMF raises the RMB's profile as an international reserve currency. We think many official investors will start to allocate to RMB assets," AXA Investment Managers said in a report. Analysts forecast the IMF

would give the yuan an initial weighting of around 14 percent in the basket, which goes by the official title Special Drawing Rights (SDR), bringing about \$40bn direct inflows in the next few years. "Most central banks were spoken to are supportive of the inclusion and are preparing for it. Several central banks are considering their first allocation and some considering increasing their existing ones," said Jukka Pihlman, head of central banks and sovereign wealth funds at Standard Chartered.

But central bank holdings would be the tip of the iceberg. "That will trigger a lot of FX reserve managers to rebalance," said Stephen Chang, head of Asian fixed income at JP Morgan Asset Managers and investors, a re-allocation annually of about 1 percent



A woman takes pictures of new 100 yuan banknotes she withdrew from a bank in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, yesterday.

Chinese bonds as they just started from pretty much zero," he added.

Together with other reserve managers, a re-allocation annually of about 1 percent

of global FX reserves outside of China to yuan assets is expected in the short term. AXA estimates total inflows to be around \$600bn over the next five years.

That would, however, require Beijing to lift or relax existing programmes limiting foreign inward investment — and foreign investors have not yet even used up the quotas allowed to them.

Fund managers and analysts say the vast bulk of any new flow will target fixed-income products, especially high-grade bonds issued by the Chinese government and policy banks, which offer high returns at low risk.

"We are progressively increasing our exposure to yuan bonds, and we are more interested in onshore government bonds compared to (offshore) 'dim sum' bonds," said Bryan Collins, a portfolio manager at Fidelity Worldwide Investment. Foreign participation in China's \$7 trillion onshore bond market is a mere 2 percent at present, and Beijing

is keen to broaden the sources of funding as the economy slows.

Bankers say that the government has done to meet the technical criteria to get included in the SDR should in itself lead to an increase in foreign holdings of yuan assets.

China has scrapped quota limits for foreign central banks and sovereign wealth funds to buy bonds in its interbank market and is planning to extend yuan trading hours to cover the European trading session to attract more investors beyond Asia.

As more investors start to trade yuan bonds, improving market liquidity, that will further boost the appeal, said Sanjiv Shah, Chief Investment Officer at Sun Global Investments in London.

REUTERS

SERVICES

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARES

ARTECH
Sage Accounting, Peachtree, QuickBooks, Dyncam, DacEasy, Tally, POS, Bar Code, Fixed Assets Software s.
Tel: +974 44375654 E-mail: artech@ar-technology.net

ADVERTISING OVERSEAS NEWSPAPER

GEM ADVERTISING & PUBLICATIONS
(Overseas Newspaper Advertisements)
Tel: 44442001 - GSM: 55783303

ATTESTATION



CERTIFICATE ATTESTATION
INDIA, UK, USA, CANADA & GULF countries attestation & other works

ARABIC TRANSLATION

COMPANY FORMATION PRO SERVICES

Tel.: 44351974 / 44919213
Mobile : +974 77711129
info@qatarhelplinegroup.com
www.qatarhelplinegroups.com

CERTIFICATE ATTESTATION EXPRESS ATTESTATION IN DAYS

India, Qatar, U.A.E, Oman, Bahrain & Kuwait
U.K, U.S.A, Canada & Australia
Educational, Marriage, Birth, Salary, P.C.C.
Affordable Rate, Payment After Delivery
Tracking facility, FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY
Toll Free: 800 1516
Mob: 66166894, 30992444 Off: 44424474
www.newindiaattestation.com
Email: enquiry@newindiaattestation.com

CERTIFICATE ATTESTATION

FOR OMAN, UAE, KUWAIT, QATAR, SAUDI, BAHRAIN ETC
FROM INDIA, OMAN, KUWAIT, QATAR, UAE, USA & AUSTRALIA
Branches: UAE, KUWAIT, QATAR, OMAN & MORE THAN "150" OFFICES IN INDIA
UROGULF
UROGULF DOCUMENT CLEARANCE SERVICES
1ST FLOOR ALMANA TOWER AIRPORT ROAD, HIJLA, DOHA, QATAR
LANDMARK: - 1ST FLOOR TOWER IN THE HIGH RISE OFFICES BUILDING
Tel: 09974 - 5206783 / 33101862
qatar@urogulf.com, urogulfg@gmail.com, www.urogulf.com

ATTESTATION SERVICES

Lowest Price & Express Services
India / UK / USA / Australia / Canada / Philippines etc.
Educational / Marriage / Birth / PCC etc.
Free Pick up & Drop
BOLLMAN GENERAL SERVICES
www.attestationexpress.com
expressattestation@gmail.com
Tel: 44880755, Mob: 77049539

ATTESTATION APOSTILLE

ISO 9001:2008 Certified Attestation Company
INDIA, UK, USA, Philippines, S.Africa, Australia, Canada, Newzealand & GCC Nations Etc.
EXPRESS SERVICE
TRAVELING FACILITY
24 X 7 LIVE CHAT
QATAR YOU FREE
800-8007
G-974 70441551 / -974 23489644
GENIUS ATTESTATION

ASIA TRANSLATION & SERVICES CENTRE

Leading Legal Translators & Document Legalization Since 1987. Indian Certificate Attestation. Head Office: 44364555 - Al Hilal Branch: 44621334 - Salwa Road Branch: 40291307. Mobile Contacts: Sulayan - 66192881 / nouss - 77813190
QUEENS LAND SERVICES
Business Set-up and Sponsorship.
Debt Collection. Real Estate Services.
Mob: 77776917 E-mail: info@qsgqatar.com

A/C MAINTENANCE & SERVICES

SAMA COOL
Installation, Maintenance (AMC & On Call) and Servicing of all kinds of Split, Package Units, FCU, AHU, VRF unit and Chillers.
An initiative of Sama Group W.L.L. Tel: 44433199
Mob: 86787636 Fax: 4444 7708 - E-mail: samacoolqatar@gmail.com

For advertisements call:
44557857

BLASTING AND PAINTING

M. PALLONJI QATAR
P.O. BOX: 23933, E-mail: mpallonji@qatar.net.qa
Tel: 44606822 Fax: 44606977 GSM: 55879234

BICYCLES & WATER SPORTS

SKATE SHACK
Al Ain # 3, Salwa Road, For Direction call: Tel: 446-92532
GSM: 552-47885/779-36152 - www.skate-shack.com

BUSINESS SET-UP

LEADER MIDDLE EAST W.L.L.
For fast & reliable BUSINESS SET-UP, LOCAL SPONSORS, Trade Licences, Joint Ventures, Public Relations, Vices & Real Estate Services.
Tel: +974 55745147 E-mail: bizqatar@yahoo.com

CARPET

KASHMIR HANDICRAFT EMPORIUM
Handmade Carpets, Handicrafts & Furniture.
Al Mirqab Street, Al Nasir, Tel: 44452781 GSM: 55553407

ORIENTAL CARPET COMPANY

Exclusive Handmade Carpets, Furniture & Crafts.
Subhan Bin Hamad St., Behind PC One. Tel: 44478794/44131850 GSM: 55596920

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

MAIDS, TEA GIRLS, FEMALE CLEANERS & BABY SITTERS
For all your cleaning and household needs!
WE PROVIDE QUALITY WEEKLY MONTHLY & YEARLY SERVICE
Call Now! 66911780 / 40164116 | www.homecarecenter.qa | info@homecarecenter.qa

nss New State Cleaning & Pest Control

- Cleaning of Domestic & Industrial Premises
- Windows Cleaning
- Carpet Cleaning
- Hospitality Services
- Marble Polishing
- Pest Control Services
- Manpower Supplies

Mob: 66517556 / 55404339
Email: newstate.qatar@gmail.com

AL MUKHTAR Cleaning & Pest Control Services

Treatment for all kind of pests (Cockroaches, Mosquitoes, Ants, Rodents, Crawling & others)
Special Price for Contracting Company for (Termite Treatment)
Tel: 70500381, 74793023, 33553931
Email: add-cleaning@almukhtarqatar.com

QHOLD at work for you

For a Healthy Living
Cleaning Services
CALL US NOW
40165722 / 50074653
Email: info@qhold.com Web: www.qhold.com

CAPITAL CLEANING COMPANY W.L.L.

Complete General Cleaning Services for Old and New Villas
Tel: 4482257 Mobile: 33189899 / 55665328 / 77609026
E-mail: capitalcleaningwll@gmail.com
AL MUTWASSIT CLEANING & PEST CONTROL
Kharaba Street, Behind White Mosque, Tel: 44367555 Fax: 44367999 GSM: 55875920 / 55860432
STAR PLUS W.L.L. CLEANING & PEST CONTROL
Complete General Cleaning and Marble Polishing Also Pest Control and Gel Service.
Muguliana - Tel: 44371342 GSM: 55872811

COMPUTER & IT

National Computer Center
ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR COMPUTER NEEDS
Scanners and Printers • Hard Disk Drives
CPU's • Graphic and Sound Cards
Educational Software • Network Interface Cards
Desktop & Laptop • DVD/CD Writers & CD Media
Desktop Accessories • Cartridges & Inkjet
Internet Centers • System Components
High-end Gaming Tools
Mouse
Power Supplies/Connectors Adapters
P-15, Al Rayyan Complex, Al Rayyan Rd, Doha-Qatar
Tel: +974 44317897 / 44351280
E: ncc@nccqatar.com
W: www.nccqatar.com

COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

FAMILY COMPUTER CENTRE
Al Rayyan Complex, Rayyan Road.
Tel: 44438361/44370779 Fax: 44449130

CAR SERVICE CENTRE

CHAUFFEUR SERVICE CENTRE
Second to none comprehensive and general maintenance & services of all kinds of Vehicles. Also deals in sales of parts etc. Call: 5820652

DENTAL CLINIC

Dr. Martins Dental Clinic
22 years of Service in Qatar
Dr. Martin Thomas B.D.S., M.D.S
Specialist Prosthodontics & General Dentist
Ferooj Al Soufan Area. Tel: 44444330 Mob: 33494057
Email: martinsdental@gmail.com WhatsApp 33494057

GULF DENTAL CENTER GROUP

Hilal Branch: 44670701/22 Dunal Branch: 44217338
Wakra Branch: 44771011/22
MANILA DENTAL CENTER
Old Airport, Backside of Lulu Hypermarket
Tel: 44414661/2

ELECTRONICS

telco International
Provides full range of products and services in the field of industrial and consumer electronics.
Full range of security services & solutions, surveillance solutions, fire/alarm systems
Full integrated solutions tailored to customer requirements.
We provide world class products and services such as:
Video Surveillance Systems • CCTV • Broadcasting Equipments
Vehicle Location Systems • ID Systems • Power Supplies, UPS & Inverters
E-Card (Electronic Security) • Trackers • Server Cooled
CONTACT US AT: P.O. Box 3366 Doha-Qatar
T: +974 4433 8306 / +974 44161656
F: +974 4433 8306
E: telco@telcoqatar / W: www.telcoqatar.com

FLORIST

Floral Design & Delivery Services
Floral Delivery & Design Services
Landscape Gardening & Maintenance
Tel: 44212630 Fax: 44212618
www.floristqatar.com

FURNITURE

APOLLO FURNITURE
Salwa Road, Tel: 44689522 (3 Lines)
www.apollofurnitureonline.com

GLASS COATING

APOLLO ENTERPRISES
Crystal Bond Glass Coating Against The Sun's Harmful Rays, Heat Resistance. Salwa Road. Tel: 44426664
GSM: 55830870/33599574 E-mail: milbor@belzona.org

GENERAL TRADING SERVICES

International Trading & Technical Services Co., LLC
PROVIDER OF GENERAL TRADING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
Security & Safety • General Maintenance
Oil & Gas • Hospitality Services • Electronics
Electrical • Facility Management • Computer & IT
Services Offered: Engineering, Commissioning, System Integration, Installation, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance
CONTACT US AT: P.O. Box 22225 Doha-Qatar
T: +974 4441 6561/416366
F: +974 4441 6410
E: service@intertrading.com W: www.intertrading.com

INVEST IN QATAR

HELPLINE GROUP OF COMPANIES
We provide A to Z support for the Company Formation, Commercial Registration, PRO Services & Real Estate Services. Call Now: 77711129/44351974/44919213 - www.helplinegroups.com

Advertise in our Real Estate Section
Daily in Pen-Mag
For more information Email: adv@pen.com.qa

IMMIGRATION SERVICES

GET PERMANENT RESIDENCY OF CANADA & AUSTRALIA in 6-12 MONTHS
WVIC'S
APPLY UNDER EXPRESS ENTRY SYSTEM TO GET PERMANENT RESIDENCY OF CANADA IN 6-12 MONTHS
WALK-IN FOR FREE COUNSELING ON ALL RESIDING DATES FROM 10AM - 6PM AT WVIC'S OFFICE SUNDAY CLOSED
FOR APPOINTMENT ONLY (APPOINTMENT, IMMEDIATE)
APPLY UNDER SOLICITORS CATEGORY & REACH AUSTRALIA IN 6-12 MONTHS
PROFESSIONS IN HIGH DEMAND IN AUSTRALIA: Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Software & Petroleum), Teachers, Teaching (Professors & Lecturers) Nursing, Healthcare, IT, Sales & Mktg, Banking, Insurance, Finance & Accounts and many more...
WVIC'S WILL ASSESS YOUR PROFILE AND GUIDE YOU THE BEST TO BECOME ELIGIBLE UNDER THE EXPRESS ENTRY SYSTEM.
Major Entry of www.jobsonline.com is known the preferred choice of Global Employers
WVIC'S has a global presence with Associate Offices in CANADA, Toronto, AUSTRALIA - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart, Oman - Muscat, Kenya - Nairobi & India - 17 Offices
Doha Branch: P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278
WVIC'S QATAR (LARGEST SETTLEMENT SOLUTIONS)
Mezzanine Floor, HCB Bank Building, Adjacent to HCB Bank Building, Opposite New Quality Avenue, Old Airport Road, Unmanned Area, Doha, Qatar. PO Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278 P.O. Box 200278
E-mail: qatar@wvicgroup.com | Website: www.wvicgroup.com

JOB PORTAL

QATAR JOB MARKET ONLINE JOB PARTNER
JOBSEEKERS
Create your Professional Profile
Upload Your CV
Search/Apply for Jobs
Set your job Alerts
EMPLOYERS
Post your Job Vacancies
Search for CVs
Direct Contact with Jobseekers
Get Resumes by Email
www.QatarJobMarket.com
Tel: 40165723

JEWELLERY

CANARA JEWELLERY
Al Mansoura, Bin Dirham Street.
Tel: 4442071, 44357283 E-mail: canarajewellery@yahoo.com
canarajewellery@gmail.com - www.4422071.com

MEDICAL SERVICES

HOME CARE CENTER
www.homecarecenter.qa
We provide LICENSED NURSES for medical care at homes and various facilities including: SCHOOLS - KINDERGARTENS - COMPANIES CONSTRUCTION SITES
66911789 / 40164116
Call Us Now!

MASSAGE

KOTTAKKAL AYURVEDIC MASSAGE CENTRE
Ayurvedic Massage, Pilgrimage & Thai Massage.
Near Badriyya Signal, Bin Mehmood.
Tel.: 44360061 GSM: 33453697

INTERNATIONAL MASSAGE CENTER (AYURVEDIC)
Indian & Thailand Rejuvenation, Back & Joints Pain, Paralysis, Rheumatic Diseases. Home Services. Opposite: Al Jazeera Tower, Bin Omran. Tel: 44218166 GSM: 77702421

ROYAL THAI MEN SPA
Authentic Thai Massage! Thai Traditional Massage, Aromatherapy, Hot Oil, Sauna, Body Scrub, Foot Massage, D Ring Road (High-way), New Salda, Near Al Adhi Stadium. Tel.: 4466745 www.thaimassageqatar.com

Pen-Mag
Tel: 44557857
adv@pen.com.qa

Quickly de Kreisker produces neat run as Ouaddar bags win

The veteran Moroccan rider regales fans with sublime performance

By Rizwan Rehmat

DOHA: Celebrated Moroccan rider Abdelkebir Ouaddar yesterday produced a sublime run with Quickly de Kreisker to clinch honours on day one of the season's final competition of the 2015 Longines Global Champions Tour.

Ouaddar, the first Moroccan to qualify for the World Championship in Normandy last year, enjoyed a richly deserving ride with Quickly de Kreisker to win the CSI5* 1.50/1.55m class at Al Shaqab Arena.

The 53-year-old, who gets royal treatment back home, walked off with the top prize of €30,195 after he clocked a time of 37.97secs.

Germany's Hans-Dieter Dreher, astride Cool And Easy, finished in second spot in a time of 38.72secs despite producing a flawless routine.

Twenty-year-old Bertram Allen guided Molly Malone V to third spot after a ride that was clocked at 39.14secs.

Allen, the 2015 LGCT Paris Grand Prix winner with Romanov, bagged €13,725.

Title favourite Luciana Diniz from Portugal created a bit of stir with a neat run with Winningmood, securing the fourth spot.

Diniz, just two points behind points leader Scott Brash of Britain, clocked a time of 39.36secs.

Swiss rider Pius Schwizer, astride Giovanni van het Scheefkastee, completed the top five (49.70secs).

In the 1.45m class, Emanuele Gaudiano, astride Guess, scored an emphatic win with an impressive time of 26.83secs.

The Italian rider picked up the top prize of €1650 for his flawless routine.

Egypt's Abdel Said surprised fans with a sublime run with Luron S Z to secure the second spot.

Luron S Z also produced a neat run in a time of 27.32sec as 26-year-old Egyptian picked up the prize of €1000.

Irish rider Cian O'Connor, astride Super Sox, finished in



Moroccan rider Abdelkebir Ouaddar receives the winner's shield from Omar Al Mannai after guiding Quickly de Kreisker to win on day one of the season's final event of the 2015 Longines Global Champions Tour at Al Shaqab Arena in Doha yesterday.

third spot with a time of 27.53secs. The 35-year-old rider picked up the prize of €750.

Earlier in Doha 2015 Invitational, 1.20/1.25m class, Qatari rider Khejaim Rashid Al Azba combined with Zenit 35 to win the a time of 55.32secs.

Ali Yousef Al Malki, astride Jackson, finished second in a time of 55.89secs.

Gysmo 26, ridden by Hamad Nasser Al Qadi, clinched the third spot. Al Qadi clocked 57.88secs.

In the 1.35/1.40m class (against the clock), Rashid Towaim Ali Al Marri produced a slick run with Beyonce, winning the competition in a time of 60.05secs.

Al Marri, later completed a neat routine with Kannada, securing second spot (64.82secs). Nasser Shbbab Albagami, who was astride WKD Lexington, completed the top three (67.31secs).

THE PENINSULA



Moroccan rider Abdelkebir Ouaddar (left) is seen in action while Emanuele Gaudiano (right) celebrates his win on day one of the season finale of the Longines Global Champions Tour at Al Shaqab Arena in Doha yesterday.

RESULTS ON DAY ONE

Class 01: Doha 2015 CSI5* 1.45m

Two Phases Special 2nd Phase Against the Clock

Emanuele Gaudiano, Guess, 26.83

Abdel Said, Luron S Z, 27.32

Cian O'Connor, Super Sox, 27.53

Bertram Allen, Quiet Easy, 27.93

Lauren Hough, Royalty Des Isles, 28.67

Hans-Dieter Dreher, Colore, 28.70

Harrie Smolders, Aytetoro, 28.76

Ondrej Zvara, Carmen Arcus, 28.82

Nasser Al Ghazali, Argelith Squid, 30.21

Toshiki Masui, Vrdoliti, 30.22

Class 02: Doha 2015 CSI5* 1.50/1.55m

Table A: Against the Clock with Jump-Off

Abdelkebir Ouaddar, Quickly de Kreisker, 37.97

Hans-Dieter Dreher, Cool And Easy, 38.72

Bertram Allen, Molly Malone V, 39.14

Luciana Diniz, Winningmood, 39.36

Pius Schwizer, Giovanni van het Scheefkastee, 49.70

Gregory Wathelet, Eldorado van het Vijverhof, 38.39

Simon Delestre, Chesall, 43.22

Ludger Beerbaum Chiara, 43.46

Sergio Alvarez Moya, Carlo, 43.98

Maikel van der Vleuten, VDL Groep Arera C, 46.74

ORDER OF PLAY AL SHAQAB ARENA TODAY AND TOMORROW

Friday 13th November

2:30 National Competition 1.20/1.25m against the clock with jump off

4:30 National Competition 1.40m against the clock with jump off

6:30 CSI5* - Table A - with jump off, 1.50/1.55m (first round)

8:35 Arabian Horse display

8:55 CSI5* - Table A - with jump off, 1.50/1.55m (jump off)

Saturday 14th November

10:45 National Competition 1.20/1.25m Two phases

Following National Competition 1.35/1.40m Two phases

2:30 CSI5* - Table A - no jump off 1.50m (€61,500)

5:15 CSI5* Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Doha, 1.60m two rounds against the clock with jump off (€450,000)



Qatar's Basset Hassan Mohammed, astride The Toymaker, is seen in action at Al Shaqab Arena yesterday.

Bassem eyes productive run at home event

DOHA: Qatar's star rider Bassem Hassan Mohammed is pleased to compete in the three-day show jumping gala on home soil, saying he wants to finish the 2015 season "on a positive note".

"For us, it is an important event since I have my family and friends here," Bassem said. "It is a special event," the Dutch-based star said. "Yes, I am based in Holland. It is really nice to come here and compete in such fine weather at such an amazing event," he added.

"Yes, that's true," Bassem said when asked if show jumping had grown in Qatar. "There are many youngsters in Qatar wanting to learn and train in show jumping."

"We have many young kids at Al Shaqab and then at Qatar Equestrian Federation (QEF). It is really good for the sport that they are involved at such a young age," he said.

Since then, Bassem has made a number of key appearances on the Qatari Nations Cup team. His first international win came in Chantilly and Valkenswaard in 2012 with Levicic. In 2014, he was part of the Asian Games Gold medal winning Qatari team.

"I am looking forward to competing at the Olympic Games," Bassem said when asked about his goals in 2016.

"It is really something unique that I will be going to the Games. I have really nice horses. The trainer will decide who I ride at the Games. "I have good horses for sure. I feel I am going to do really well," he said. "It is important we do better here this week compared to last season. I hope I can finish the season on a good note," he said.

Bassem's international show jumping career began at the Doha Olympic Qualifiers in 2011.

Bassem qualified for his first FEI World Cup Final with Rosalia La Silla in 2013. He put in a fantastic performance in the 2014 LGCT Antwerp Grand Prix with a new horse Primeval Dejavu, finishing 4th. Later in the season, he became the first Qatari ever to win an LGCT Grand Prix when he rode Victoria to victory in Monaco.

THE PENINSULA



Turkish Football Federation officials visit Aspire Academy

DOHA: An official delegation from the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) visited Aspire Academy yesterday afternoon.

Professor Valter Di Salvo, Director of Performance and Science at the Academy, welcomed the delegation.

During a comprehensive tour of the Academy's facilities, the delegation was briefed about the educational and training programmes the Academy provides to its students, who form Qatar's future generation of elite athletes.

Furthermore, Academy officials presented an overview of the Academy's history and the significant developments it has achieved in the fields of sports education and science, and both sides discussed potential future collaboration between them.

The delegation included Ali Durust, Vice-President and Executive Board Member, Kadir



Turkish Football Federation officials during their visit to the Aspire Academy in Doha yesterday.

Kardas, Secretary General, Fatih Terim, Head Coach of the national team, in addition to a number of TFF officials.

The TFF delegation is visit-

ing Doha on the occasion of the friendly match between Qatar and Turkey set to take place today.

THE PENINSULA



Jockey Gaetan Faucon guides Raedah past the winning post to seal his victory in the Al Rayyan Owners Cup at Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club (QREC) in Doha yesterday. Rasan, ridden by JP Guillaume, finished second while Taraf, who had Richard Mullen in the saddle, secured the third place. PIC: JUHAM

Carreno wants brave show against Turkey

Qatar coach eyes a positive result ahead of Bhutan clash; match to start at 8:30pm at Lekhwiya Stadium today

DOHA: Qatar is ready for twin challenges this week, national football coach Daniel Carreno said ahead of today's international friendly against Turkey at Lekhwiya Stadium.

Qatar will face Bhutan in a 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2019 Asian Cup joint qualifying match on November 17 in an away fixture.

Leading Group C with five wins in as many games, Qatar are eyeing Turkey clash with aims of retaining their winning streak that has allowed to jump seven spots in latest FIFA rankings. "Our preparations began a few days ago. During this period, we trained with two games in mind - one friendly against Turkey and then our game against Bhutan (November 17)," Carreno said yesterday.

"I have already announced the list of players. There are a few changes (from the last game) since my players have picked up injuries. But I feel I still have a group of players that can deliver for us in both games," he added.

"The game against Turkey is a good opportunity for us to assess our situation. This match will help us prepare for Bhutan clash," Carreno said.

"Our target from Turkey clash is that we want a positive result by playing a bold game," Carreno



Qatar coach Daniel Carreno during a press conference yesterday at Lekhwiya Stadium ahead of the friendly match against Turkey. RIGHT: Turkey coach Fatih Terim gestures during a press conference yesterday at Lekhwiya Stadium.

said. "It will be a big opportunity for players to hit the pitch and get some match practice. This team has a lot to offer in terms of quality and fitness. If we get a good result, that will boost us further

in FIFA rankings," Carreno said. Carreno said Qatar will miss the services of influential striker Khalifa Ibrahim. "Khalifa is not ready 100 percent. I wanted him to play this



game but it was decided that he goes back to Al Sadd and regain match fitness," Carreno said. "It was decided that Ibrahim needs more time to regain full fitness. The player has accepted our

stance. I wish the best and hope that he recovers fast. We know he is a valuable player and want him back," Carreno added. Mohammed Muntari, Qatar striker, said: "I think it is an important match

for us against Turkey. We will have to fight on the pitch in order to get a positive result." He added: "We would like to win so that we can maintain a winning streak because we are playing a very important game against Bhutan on Tuesday."

Turkey coach Fatih Terim yesterday said he expected the two teams to present 'an exciting match' for fans.

"I expect a better performance from all the players, especially the young ones," Terim said. "I want to see the performance of the young players," he said. "Qatar is heavily investing in football and the game is fairly organized here," Terim added.

"It will not be an easy match." "It is not easy to beat them to on their own turf," Terim said.

"I watched Qatar matches. I know many of their players. Qatar has good, serious team. They are coached by an experienced Uruguayan. It will not be easy but we want to win," Terim said.

"I hope it is a good game between two friendly countries," Terim said.

The match kicks-off at 8:30pm. Arrangements have been made to welcome families to the game, the organisers said on Wednesday.

THE PENINSULA



Turkish team during a practice session at the Lekhwiya Stadium yesterday ahead of the friendly match against Qatar. The match will be played today with the kick-off scheduled at 8:30pm.

Al Sadd, Mesameer to play friendly

DOHA: Al Sadd will play a friendly match against Mesameer tomorrow, as part of preparations for the upcoming match in Round 9 of the Qatar Stars League (QSL) when they look to face Al Khairatiyat on November 22.

A number of Qatari players were absent from training as they are currently involved with the senior and Olympic national teams. Training on Wednesday took place over two sessions with Khalifa Ibrahim joining the team after excusing himself from international duty due to personal reasons.

Al Sadd is in the 3rd position in the Qatar Stars League table with 18 points. They have five wins, three draws and no losses.

Meanwhile, Al Arabi football club is scheduled to play a friendly game against Bahraini side Al Basit in today due to a two week break in the Qatar Season League.

In Round 9 the Dream Team will face their toughest test yet when they take on El Jaish on



Khalifa Ibrahim

played on November 21. The team will resume their training sessions today following a period of rest which was granted to the players after Round 8.

Al Arabi is currently in 4th position in the Qatar Stars League table with 16 points from five wins; they have one draw and two defeats.

Meanwhile, the Qatar Stars League has temporarily stopped after the conclusion of Round 8, this is due to player commitments for their respective national teams, the QSL will

resume on November 20. Many national teams at the moment are participating in international friendlies and official fixtures, and the players have been allowed to leave Qatar provided that is, that they are back in time for the commencement of Round 9 of the Qatar Stars League.

In the meantime, Al Rayyan who is currently top of the league table is aiming to maintain their winning streak in Qatar Stars League. The Lions are missing the services of Paraguayan midfielder Victor Caceres who has travelled to South America to join up with his fellow countrymen.

El Jaish, who currently sit in second, have only one foreign player missing in the form of Uzbek winger Sador Rashidov, whilst Al Sadd (3rd) have no foreign internationals away on national duty. Al Arabi (4th) has their Iranian international Sayed Ashkan who has joined up with the Persian Stars. The remaining three foreign players haven't been called up for national duty.

THE PENINSULA

QSL: Sagbo rediscovers form

DOHA: The French born Yannick Sagbo has had somewhat of a perplexing career after showing much promise as a youngster at Monaco, where he was part of a reserve squad which won the reserve's professional title. The number nine scored 13 goals in 25 matches during that formative period.

The following season, on 13 May 2008, he signed his first professional contract, agreeing to a three-year deal which kept him at the club until 2011. During that time though, he made 19 appearances (mainly as a substitute) and scored no goals. He then moved to Evian where he played 99 times and scored 25 times. This won him the attention of Hull City who made a move for the front man as they eventually brought him to the KC Stadium in 2013.

However, featuring mostly as a substitute and then being loaned to Wolverhampton Wanderers and after that Huddersfield, the Ivorian didn't have much time to make a name for himself in the English game.

In total he played 32 matches for Hull City, scoring just twice. At Wolverhampton, he made four appearances but couldn't find the net either but in his defence; he was injured and struggled with fitness.

Sagbo at Umm Salal
Sagbo, it seems has once more rediscovered his form and early promise and this bodes well for

Yannick Sagbo	
Vital stats	
Age:	27
Nationality:	Ivorian
Height:	1.83cm
Weight:	78kg
Position:	Rightwinger or Forward



Yannick Sagbo (left) is in supreme form at the Qatar Stars League (QSL) this season.

the Orange Fortress who have publicly stated that they are looking for a top four finish this season. Umm Salal currently sits in 5th spot with 15 points in the Qatar Stars League.

After leaving Premier League side Hull City for the warmer climes of the Arabian Gulf, the Ivorian has managed to score six goals in just eight Rounds of QSL action and has also provided three assists. This means that the number nine has been directly involved in nine of his team's goals so far this season. A number nine generally holds the most advanced offensive position on the pitch, and is often amongst the highest scorers in a team. So far, Sagbo is fulfilling that role immaculately.

Sagbo scored consecutively for six Rounds and then just before the league break in Round 8, he scored perhaps one of his most important goals against defending champions Lekhwiya. He has scored against Al Khor, Al Sadd, Al Rayyan, QSC, Mesameer and Lekhwiya so far and is quickly

making a name for himself as a clinical finisher. Sagbo currently sits joint fourth in the top scorers chart so far this season.

Playing style
Not necessarily the quickest of frontmen, Sagbo relies more on his technical ability, physicality and good finishing. As the radar graph below indicates he has quite a high degree of (71% on target), this has helped turn Umm Salal into one of the most clinical finishers in the league (they've scored 17.8% of their shots - the most in the QSL).

He also takes 3 out of 4 shots from inside the box, and is strong in the air statistically. Interestingly he does more high intensity running without the ball than with it, meaning he works hard in defence for Umm Salal.

The Ivorian will be in action in Round 9 of the QSL when his side takes on Al Ahli at Al Gharafa stadium at 16:00 on November 20.

THE PENINSULA

Losail MX Championship Round 2 kicks off tomorrow



MX2 category leader Ryan Blair from Great Britain in action at Losail MX track in this October 5, 2015 file photo.

DOHA: The second round of Losail MX Championship will take place tomorrow with around 40 riders ready for action at the Losail MX track.

The victory in the MX1 was for the British rider Benjamin Menzie, who participated for first time in the Losail MX Championship and had a tough battle with the Kuwaiti rider Mohammed Jaffar who ended in second place.

"I had a good start in the opening round even it was my first time at the Losail track, but now that I know better the track, it will be easier for me to go faster, but for sure that there will be a good competition with Jaffar and Anderson, let's see," said Menzie.

In the MX2 category, the leader is Ryan Blair also from Great Britain followed by the Kuwaiti riders Mesahay, Abou Shaibah and Mooth Al Ansari in the standing.

For this round the Honduras rider Sara Handal will take part in the MX2 category.

For the MX1, MX2 and Veterans, free practice will be at 9:05 and qualifying practice at 10:00.

The first race is scheduled at 11:10 and the second one at 12:45. Regarding the Junior championship, free practice and qualifying will be at 9:30 and 10:00 respectively and the junior races at 11:55 and 13:30.

THE PENINSULA

Doha Open



Action at the Doha Open at Qatar beach Volleyball Academy courts in Al Gharafa yesterday. The semi-finals and final of the event will be played today.

National Car Rental
15 & 30 seat buses
Call: 5547 8150

IAAF to give verdict on Russia doping response

President Putin orders action over explosive doping claims; IAAF due to hold meeting today

MOSCOW: The governing body of world athletics yesterday was considering what action to take against Russia over alleged doping and corruption at the heart of the country's track and field programme after President Vladimir Putin ordered his sports officials to crack down hard on any wrongdoing.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) council was due to hold a conference-call meeting on Friday having told Moscow to respond to the allegations contained in a no-holds-barred report issued by an independent commission of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Monday.

The IAAF chief Sebastian Coe said that he was "completely shocked" by the extent of the alleged doping and cover-up and he ordered the IAAF council to consider sanctions against the Russian Athletics Federation.

The author of the 336-page report, Canadian lawyer Dick Pound, said that the Russians should be barred from all athletics competition, even next summer's Olympics, unless they acted quickly and strongly to stamp out the systemic doping.

The Russian reaction since Monday's report has been conflicting although the head of the country's anti-doping laboratory, Grigory Rodchenkov, who WADA

said deliberately destroyed almost 1500 drug samples, resigned his post after his lab was stripped of its accreditation.

Sports minister Vitaly Mutko then said that Russia would consider appointing for the first time a "foreign specialist" to take up the vacant position, but that this would have to be discussed with WADA first.

The fallout from the bombshell report on Tuesday reached as far up the ladder as Putin, who told sports officials in the Black Sea resort of Sochi that they needed to act to stop the cheating.

"We must do everything in Russia to rid ourselves of this problem," Putin said in footage shown on Russian television of the meeting -- ironically called to discuss the country's preparations for Rio 2016.

"We must carry out our own internal inquiry," he said, telling sports officials to show "the most open and professional cooperation with international anti-doping authorities".

"This problem does not exist only in Russia, but if our foreign colleagues have questions, we must answer them," he said.

It was the first time Putin, himself an avid sportsman, had commented publicly on the charges.

The country's second-largest bank VTB, meanwhile, said it would not renew a sponsorship



A security guard walks on the territory of the federal state budgetary institution "Federal scientific centre of physical culture and sports", which houses a laboratory accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), in Moscow, Russia, on Wednesday.

contract with the IAAF, but insisted the decision had nothing to do with the doping scandal engulfing the Olympic's flagship sport.

One of the IAAF council members considering what action to take against Russia, legendary Ukrainian pole-vaulter Sergei Bubka, warned that it would be wrong to punish innocent athletes for the transgressions of others.

"All those involved, officials, managers or coaches, must pay

the price," he said in an interview with the AIPS world sports journalists association.

"But ordinary athletes, those who have nothing to do with this matter, should not have to miss a single competition."

The IAAF, he said, needed to live up to its responsibilities as an important player on the world sports stage but it must take it "case by case, person by person."

Mikhail Butov, the Russian athletics federation's secretary

general and also one of the 27 council members of the IAAF who will meet on Friday, conceded that doping was an issue.

"We are conscious of the problem that we've got. We've got a problem with doping," he admitted to the BBC.

The crisis engulfing athletics comes hot on the heels of a massive corruption scandal at world football's top body FIFA and as cycling is still recovering from the Lance Armstrong doping scandal.

On Wednesday shamed former IAAF president Lamine Diack, 82, who is facing corruption charges, resigned from his position on the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Olympic chief Thomas Bach, in his first reaction to WADA's findings, said the report was "sad and shocking", pointing to allegations that some officials demanded vast sums of money to hush up positive dope tests.

"I would never have imagined that in an international federation, money would be solicited from athletes to manipulate results," said the International Olympic Committee president.

Fears are growing that the scandal could widen to include other countries and other sports, as WADA suggested in its report.



Magic Johnson, a five-time NBA champion and member of the original US Dream Team, has been named Vice-Chairman of the group trying to bring the 2024 Summer Olympics to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles adds Magic to 2024 Olympic Games bid

LOS ANGELES: Magic Johnson, a five-time NBA champion and member of the original US Dream Team, was named Vice-Chairman of the group trying to bring the 2024 Summer Olympics to Los Angeles, LA24 said in a statement on Wednesday.

Labour leader Maria Elena Durazo was also named a vice chair. Johnson and Durazo will join four-time Olympic champion swimmer Janet Evans on the bid's board of directors.

"Earvin 'Magic' Johnson is not only one of the greatest athletes of all time; he's also one of our city's most successful business leaders," said LA 2024 Chairman Casey Wasserman in a statement.

"A 1992 Olympic gold medalist, he's a true champion on and off the court, and his work in our community has set a new standard for Olympic legacy and post athletic career-path for sports superstars.

"That is precisely what the Olympic family is looking for right now under the visionary Olympic Agenda 2020.

"But our bid would not be possible if we did not have the support of the hard-working people of Los Angeles, California and the United States. That is why it is so important to welcome Maria Elena Durazo as vice chair."

A three-time NBA most valuable player who spent his entire career with the Los Angeles Lakers, Johnson helped the United States win gold at the Barcelona Olympics.

After retiring, Johnson became a successful businessman and part owner of Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers but is equally well known in Los Angeles for his philanthropic efforts.

"The only thing greater than bringing a sports championship to Los Angeles would be bringing the Olympics back to the best sports town in America," said Johnson, 56, who retired suddenly in 1991 after announcing he had contracted HIV.

"I was here for the 1984 Games, and I saw a city that was united and honored to welcome the world.

"As a former Olympian, I'm proud to join the LA 2024 team and give them 'an assist' in returning the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games to the United States."

Los Angeles, which has twice before hosted the Summer Games in 1932 and 1984, stepped in as a late replacement as the U.S. bid after Boston withdrew its candidature due to a lack of support.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will elect a winning bid in September 2017 from a race that includes Paris, Rome, Budapest and Hamburg.

Rio de Janeiro will host the Summer Games next year with Tokyo holding the event for a second time in 2020.

AFP

Nets mark first win of the season

NEW YORK: Reserves Bojan Bogdanovic and Shane Larkin combined for 27 points as the Brooklyn Nets recorded their first victory of the season, shocking the Houston Rockets 106-98 at Toyota Center on Wednesday.

Brooklyn (1-7) turned a dominant performance on the offensive glass and some clutch shooting down the stretch into their first road win against Houston (4-4) in nine games. Bogdanovic finished with a team-high 22 points, including a dagger three-pointer with 70 seconds left that lifted the Nets to a 104-98 lead. Larkin added 15 points on 6-for-10 shooting. Bogdanovic and Larkin also combined for 17 rebounds in snapping the Rockets' four-game winning streak.

Warriors 100, Grizzlies 84

After a quiet first half at FedExForum, Stephen Curry turned up the volume in the second half and finished with a game-high 28 points as Golden State (9-0) remained the league's only unbeaten team with a victory over Memphis. A little more than a week after the Grizzlies had suffered a franchise-worst 50-point defeat to the Warriors at Oracle Arena, Memphis scrapped to within a point of the defending NBA champions in the third quarter. Memphis lost its fourth



Brooklyn Nets' centre Brook Lopez (left) and guard Jarrett Jack celebrate after defeating the Houston Rockets 106-98 at Toyota Center, Houston on Wednesday.

straight and shot just 34.3 percent, going 24-for-70 from the floor.

Hawks 106, Pelicans 98
With Anthony Davis sidelined, New Orleans did not have a frontcourt answer for either Al Horford or Paul Millsap against Atlanta.

Horford scored 26 points and Millsap had 16 rebounds to go with 19 points as the Hawks pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat the shorthanded Hornets.

Hornets 95, Knicks 93
Cody Zeller hit a layup off an inbounds pass with 0.4 seconds remaining and Charlotte then held on in a bizarre finish for a victory over New York. New York rookie Kristaps Porzingis hit a three-pointer at the buzzer that initially was ruled good but the basket was disallowed after officials determined that the clock

already expired. The win moved the Hornets (4-4) to the .500 mark for the first time this year.

Magic 101, Lakers 99
Nikola Vucevic hit a shot at the buzzer to lift Orlando to a victory over slumping Los Angeles.

Vucevic, who entered the game as a reserve after missing the previous three games with a knee injury, finished with 18 points and five rebounds. Reserve Shabazz Napier scored a career-high 22 points to lead all scorers. The Lakers were without veteran Kobe Bryant for the second consecutive game because of a sore back.

Raptors 119, 76ers 103
Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and Luis Scola added 17 of his season-high 21 in the pivotal third quarter as Toronto beat short-handed Philadelphia.

England's Danny Willett is second in the standings, Ireland's

AGENCIES



Pittsburgh Penguins right wing Patric Hornqvist (left) and centre Sidney Crosby celebrate after Crosby scored in the shootout against the Montreal Canadiens at the CONSOL Energy Center, Pittsburgh on Wednesday.

Crosby, Perron score as Penguins edge Canadiens

TORONTO: Sidney Crosby and David Perron scored on Pittsburgh's only attempts in a shootout, and the Penguins won their 10th in 12 games by rallying to beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-3 at the CONSOL Energy Center on Wednesday.

The Penguins, down 3-2 after being outshot 13-1 during a two-goal Montreal second period, won after trailing following two periods for the first time since Jan. 5, 2014.

Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury made 32 saves to continue the best start of his career and deal the NHL-leading Canadiens (13-2-2) only their fourth loss.

Fleury turned aside both of Montreal's skaters in the shootout -- centre Alex Galchenyuk and centre David Desharnais.

Pittsburgh right winger Patric Hornqvist beat goalie Mike Condon under the crossbar with 6:35 remaining in regulation to tie it at 3-3 -- a goal created when Crosby kept control of the puck by taking it between his legs before feeding Hornqvist.

AGENCIES

Masters: Garcia grabs lead in Shanghai as Willett fails to fire

SHANGHAI: Spain's Sergio Garcia shot a sparkling eight-under-par 64 to grab the first round lead at the European Tour's BMW Masters in Shanghai yesterday.

The Spaniard produced nine birdies in his round at Lake Malvern Golf Club in Shanghai to sit one clear of South Korea's An

Byeong-hun and Victor Dubuisson of France in the penultimate event of the European Tour's Race to Dubai series, later this year.

World number 11 Garcia is looking for his first win this year and was optimistic of breaking the drought after another trade-mark strong round tee-to-green.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, the current Race to Dubai leader, is not playing in Shanghai this week which gives the chasing pack an opportunity to close in on the world number three before next week's finale in the UAE.

England's Danny Willett is second in the standings, Ireland's

Shane Lowry third and South African Louis Oosthuizen fourth but all three struggled to keep pace with Garcia on Thursday's opening day.

Willett could only manage a level par 72, while Lowry and Oosthuizen were at two-under in a share of 24th.

England's Justin Rose boosted

his chances of improving on his fifth place standing by firing an opening round five-under-par 67 to share sixth with compatriot Paul Casey and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee.

Thongchai's card was spoiled by two dropped shots in his final four holes.

AGENCIES

AGENCIES

EASY SUDOKU

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Yesterday's answer

Easy Sudoku Puzzles: Place a digit from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains all the digits 1 to 9.

HYPER SUDOKU

13x13 grid for Hyper Sudoku puzzle.

13x13 grid for Hyper Sudoku puzzle.

Yesterday's answer

How to play Hyper Sudoku:

A Hyper Sudoku puzzle is solved by filling the numbers from 1 to 9 into the blank cells. A Hyper Sudoku has unlike Sudoku 13 regions (four regions overlap with the nine standard regions). In all regions the numbers from 1 to 9 can appear only once. Otherwise, a Hyper Sudoku is solved like a normal Sudoku.

KAKURO

Kakuro grid with numbers and dark cells.

How to play Kakuro:

The Kakuro grid, unlike in sudoku, can be of any size. It has rows and columns, and dark cells like in a crossword. And, just like in a crossword, some of the dark cells will contain numbers. Some cells will contain two numbers. However, in a crossword the numbers reference clues. In a kakuro, the numbers are all you get! They denote the total of the digits in the row or column referenced by the number.

10x10 grid for Kakuro puzzle.

Yesterday's answer

ALL IN THE MIND

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

PARSNIP EHC AEP Z P M J E J
BANANA, BEAN, BEETROOT, BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CARROT, CAULIFLOWER, CELERY, CHERRY, CUCUMBER, DATE, EGGPLANT, FIG, GRAPE, GRAPEFRUIT, LEEK, LEGUME, LEMON, LIME, MANDARIN, MELON, MUSHROOM, OKRA, OLIVE, ONION, ORANGE, PARSNIP, PEA, PEACH, PEAR, PINEAPPLE, POTATO, PRUNE, PUMPKIN, RHUBARB, SPINACH, SPROUT, SQUASH, STRAWBERRY, TARO, TOMATO, TURNIP, YAM.



Today in History
November 13, 2010

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was greeted by crowds of enthusiastic supporters on her release after 15 years under house arrest.

1920: Five thousand representatives from 41 nations attended the first full session of the League of Nations

1940: Walt Disney's Fantasia, starring conductor Leopold Stokowski and Mickey Mouse, opened in New York

1970: Hafez al-Assad seized power in Syria in a bloodless military coup
1980: The U.S. spacecraft Voyager I sent back the first close-up pictures of the planet Saturn

Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with numbers and black squares.

ACROSS

- 1 Slow Wi-Fi woe
4 House smaller than a villa
10 Italian wine city
14 Big lug
15 Ran amok
16 Word before dive or song
17 "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" network
18 Layout of city streets, parks, etc.
20 "Oh heavens!"
22 The "A" of E.A. Poe
23 It's so crazy it just might work
28 Ye ___ Shoppe
29 Winter hrs. in Calgary
30 Carpool who played Sweeney Todd
31 Cardiologist's procedure, for short
34 With wisdom

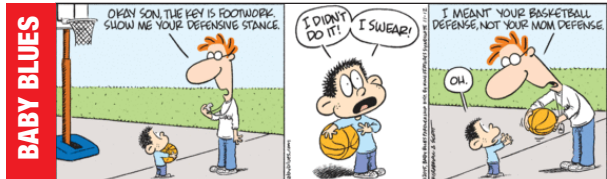
DOWN

- 37 Tolerant
39 In vogue
41 Ostentatious display
42 Bran source
43 Slangy pal
44 Language of Pakistan
48 Presumptuous sorts
54 Dress-up item for a little girl
55 Capital of the Bahamas
56 Office item suggested visually by this puzzle
60 The "A" of U.S.D.A.: Abbr.
61 Dancer in "a club down in old Soho"
62 Desisted
63 Big prune?
64 City NW of Munchen
65 Wilkes, obsession of Scarlett O'Hara
66 Coast Guard rank: Abbr.

Word search grid.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

- 1 Cry from a crow's-nest
2 What some losers in court do
3 Actor Butler or Depardieu
4 Remnant
5 Broadcaster
6 Melodramatic sound
7 "Let's call ___ day"
8 Any one of the company in "Threes Company"
9 Mix up
10 Allegro ___ (very quick, in music)
11 Hornswoggled
12 Chasing game
13 Stopper
19 Ancient times, in ancient times
21 Win back
24 In the thick of
25 Chemical cousins, in a way
26 ___ eyes (potion ingredients at Hogwarts)
27 Some
33 Pitch-selecting gesture
34 Like the apparel in a certain Christmas carol



NOVO

- SCREEN 1 Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30 & 10:00pm
SCREEN 2 Spectre (2D/Action) 2:00, 3:00, 6:30 & 11:55pm
SCREEN 3 Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 10:00am, 1:30, 5:00, 8:30 & 11:55pm
SCREEN 4 Blunt Force (2D/Action) 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 9:00 & 11:00pm
SCREEN 5 Burnt (2D/Comedy) 7:00pm
SCREEN 5 Everyday I Love You (2D/Drama) 11:45am, 4:30 & 9:20pm
SCREEN 6 Doctor Proctor's Fat Powder (2D/Action) 2:20, 7:00 & 11:50pm
SCREEN 7 Goosebumps (2D/Adventure) 12:00pm, 4:00, 8:00 & 11:55pm
SCREEN 8 Steve Jobs (2D/Drama) 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15 & 11:45 pm
SCREEN 8 Hatched : Chicks Gone Wild (2D/Animation) 11:00am, 12:30, 3:45 & 7:00pm
SCREEN 9 Unconscious (2D/Drama) 2:00pm, 5:10, 8:35, 10:15 & 11:55pm
SCREEN 9 Spectre (2D/Action) 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm & 12:50am
SCREEN 10 Spectre (2D/Action) 11:30am, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 & 11:30pm

MALL

- SCREEN 1 Spectre (2D/Action) 1:00 & 11:00pm
The Hero Of Color City (2D/Animation) 4:00pm
Hatched : Chicks Gone Wild (2D/Animation) 6:00pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 8:00pm
SCREEN 2 Vedalam (2D/Tamil) 2:15 & 10:45pm
Steve Jobs (2D/Drama) 5:00pm
Blunt Force Trauma (2D/Action) 7:15pm
Unconscious (2D/Drama) 9:00pm
SCREEN 3 Akhil Akkineni (2D/ Telugu) 2:00pm
Thoonnganam (2D/Tamil) 4:15pm
Unconscious (2D/Drama) 6:30pm
Everyday I Love You (2D/Drama) 8:15pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 10:30pm

LANDMARK

- SCREEN 1 Vedalam (2D/Tamil) 2:15 & 10:45pm
Steve Jobs (2D/Drama) 5:00pm
Blunt Force Trauma (2D/Action) 7:15pm
Unconscious (2D/Drama) 9:00pm
SCREEN 2 The Hero Of Color City (2D/Animation) 2:30pm
Hatched : Chicks Gone Wild (2D/Animation) 4:00pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 5:30pm
Spectre (2D/Action) 6:30 & 11:00pm
Akhil Akkineni (2D/ Telugu) 2:00pm
Unconscious (2D/Drama) 4:15pm
Thoonnganam (2D/Tamil) 6:00pm
Everyday I Love You (2D/Drama) 8:15pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 10:30pm

ROYAL PLAZA

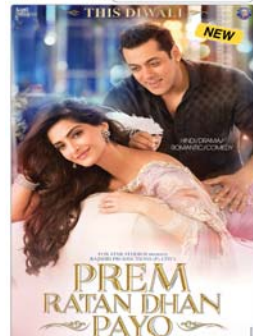
- SCREEN 1 Spectre (2D/Action) 2:15pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 4:45, 7:45 & 10:45pm
Hatched : Chicks Gone Wild (2D/Animation) 3:00pm
The Hero Of Color City (2D/Animation) 4:30pm
Spectre (2D/Action) 6:00 & 11:00pm
Everyday I Love You (2D/Drama) 8:45pm
Steve Jobs (2D/Drama) 2:30 & 9:00pm
Unconscious (2D/Drama) 5:00 & 11:15pm
Blunt Force Trauma (2D/Action) 7:00pm

ASIAN TOWN

- Vedalam (Tamil) 1:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00pm, 1:00am & 2:00am
Ennu Ninte Moidhen (2D/Malayalam) 7:00pm
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (2D/Hindi) 5:00 & 11:00pm
Thoonnganam (2D/Tamil) 5:00, 8:00, 10:00pm, 1:00am & 2:00am
Akhil Akkineni (Telugu) 2:00, 4:00 & 7:30pm

SHOWING AT VILLAGGIO & CITY CENTER

SHOWING AT VILLAGGIO & CITY CENTRE



10th
Shopping
Festival



مهرجان
التسوق
العاشر

2015/12/30 - 11/14

تسوق واربح Shop & Win

QR. 2,000,000

جوائز WORTH OF PRIZES



عند شرائك بمبلغ ٥٠ ر.ق من المحلات
المشاركة تحصل على كوبون السحب
Shop for QR. 50/- from any participating outlet
and get a coupon to enter the Mega Raffle
Draw and win exciting prizes



Starts Tomorrow

CONTACT:
55537966
44557837

المنظمون، Pēninsula
التسوق

برعاية: Sponsored by

CHEVROLET جايده للسيارات Jaidah Automotive



Spark LG Jumbo

مركز نابكو للمفروشات NABCO FURNITURE CENTRE ABCO



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04.30 am	Zuhr	11.18 am	Maghrib	04.49 pm
Shorook	05.49 am	Asr	02.25 pm	Isha	06.19 pm



Weather

Minimum: **22° C** Maximum: **28° C**
HIGH TIDE 06:00 - 17:00 **LOW TIDE** 12:45 - 23:15

Slight dust to blowing dust at places with some clouds and relatively cold by night.

Tweeting on the Orient Express — Agatha Christie goes social

LONDON: With her page-turning detective mysteries and murder whodunnits, Agatha Christie's novels have won over generations of fans since they were first published 95 years ago.

Now, in a world of smartphones and tablets, her work is being targeted at digital audiences with an app telling one of her tales through a social media feed of messages, photos and videos. *Murder on the Orient Express* features the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot.

Based on Christie's set of short stories "The Mysterious Mr Quin", the pilot "Mr Quin" launched yesterday is being billed as the first digital drama of its kind. Agatha Christie Productions has teamed up with entertainment mobile platform TELL to bring the eponymous Quin and socialite Satterthwaite into a contemporary setting.

The story, in which characters talk to each other via Twitter-like text, images and videos, begins at a country manor party where hostess Lady Laura plans to unveil her new online venture.

But the tone soon darkens when a mysterious Mr Quin takes over Satter-

thwaite's live blogging of the event, turning the conversation to the suicide, five years ago, of the guests' mutual friend.

"All of the characters tell their stories on social media so, you voyeuristically look in at their worlds as the story comes out," TELL interactive director and producer Kevin Moss said. "We kind of call it an entertainment stream and you literally use your thumb to scroll up and down the timeline." Viewing is on demand or via an immersive scheduled show, in which audiences receive messages and can participate by posting comments.

To give a sense of real footage, the production, starring "Game of Thrones" actor Gethin Anthony as Satterthwaite and Rebecca Scroggs as Lady Laura, was shot on GoPros and iPhones. "(In) any whodunnit ... murder mystery, it's always interesting, you have your opinions," Scroggs said. "And this way you can actively share that." Christie, who died in 1976, wrote dozens of stories, which followed much-loved characters such as moustached detective Hercule Poirot and elderly Miss Marple.

REUTERS

Star Wars Fighter



People gathered around a life-sized Star Wars X-wing Fighter model on display at Singapore's Changi Airport, yesterday. The event coincides with a media tour of a Star Wars themed All Nippon Airways ANA R2D2 Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft which was opened to the media as it makes its first Asian stop outside Japan.

New Facebook app fires news to smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook released a Notify application designed to keep iPhone users up to speed on the latest news and entertainment happenings.

Notify debuted with more than 70 "stations," most of them media outlets serving up magazine stories or breaking news.

The list of Notify launch partners included *Wired*, *Vogue*, *Time*, *Getty Images*, *CNN*, *ABC*, and *Comedy Central*.

"Whether you're into sports, celebrities, news, movies, music or shopping, Notify makes it easy to find notifications you're into," Facebook product manager Julian Gutman said in a blog post.

People who download Notify are invited to select "stations" they want to get updates from. Each selected source will have clearance to "push" notifications to iPhone lock screens, alerting people to posts or news, according to Gutman. The Notify application was tailored for iPhones and available only in the United States, according to Facebook.

The release came just weeks after Facebook launched an Instant Article feature on iPhones that speeds up the display of news stories shared by friends at the giant social network.

Launch partners for the feature included NBC News, The Atlantic, Slate, The New York Times, The Daily Mail, National Geographic, and the Washington Post. A beta program of Instant Articles geared for Android devices is open to the public, and is expected to be ready for broad release by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, Facebook Inc said requests for account data from governments globally jumped 18 percent in the first half of 2015.

Government requests for account data increased to 41,214, with a bulk of those requests coming from US law enforcement agencies. The technology industry has pushed for greater transparency on government data requests, seeking to shake off concerns about their involvement in vast, surreptitious surveillance programmes revealed by former spy agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Facebook, Microsoft Corp, Yahoo Inc and Alphabet Inc, formerly Google, last year began publishing details about the number of government requests for data they receive.

REUTERS

AGENCIES



A model poses with a 12.03 carat cushion-shaped fancy vivid blue diamond mounted on a ring at Sotheby's auction house in Geneva, Switzerland.

'Blue Moon' diamond fetches record \$48m at Sotheby's auction

GENEVA: An exceptional 12.03-carat diamond dubbed "Blue Moon" was sold in Geneva for 48.6m (\$48.4m, €40m) Swiss francs, setting a new world record, auction house Sotheby's said. The vivid diamond, described as flawless by experts, was bought by a private collector from Hong Kong, who immediately renamed it "The Blue Moon of Josephine".

The rock, set in a ring, went under the hammer for 43.2m Swiss francs, with the final sale price amounting to 48.6m Swiss francs including fees.

David Bennett, head of Sotheby's international jewellery division, said the sale broke several records, making the gemstone "the most expensive diamond, regardless of colour, and the most expensive jewel ever sold

at auction". It also fetched the highest-ever price per carat, he said, with the buyer shelling out 4.02m Swiss francs per carat.

Two bidders were locked in a telephone bidding war for eight minutes before the hammer went down, with the precious jewel staying within its pre-sale estimate of \$35-55m.

The diamond was discovered in South Africa in January last year and was the largest cushion-shaped blue stone in the fancy vivid category to ever appear at auction. The record-breaking sale comes a day after rival auction house Christie's sold a rare 16.08-carat pink diamond, the largest of its kind to ever appear at auction, for \$28.5m, narrowly beating pre-sale projections.

REUTERS

Chocolate show



A model presents a creation made with chocolate by professional designers and pastry chefs during the Chocolate Fashion Show at the Salon Du Chocolat in Beirut, Lebanon, yesterday.

Astronomers start on giant Chile telescope

CERRO LAS CAMPANAS, CHILE: Chilean President Michelle Bachelet put hammer to stone on an Andean mountaintop last evening to mark the start of construction for one of the world's most advanced telescopes, an instrument that may help shed light on the possibility of life on distant planets.

The Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), scheduled to be completed by 2024, will have a resolution 10 times that of the Hubble spacecraft. Experts say it will be able to observe black holes in the distant cosmos and make out planets in other solar systems with unprecedented detail.

Such technology, astronomers say, will help humans determine how the universe formed and if planets hundreds of light years away could support life.

"With this science, there are no limits to the possibilities that are open," said Bachelet, standing on the GMT's site, a wind-buffeted, 8,250-foot (2,500-meter) moun-

tain-top. "What it does is open the door to understanding," she said.

The GMT - a collaboration of institutions in the United States, Chile, South Korea, Brazil, and Australia - will rely on seven intricately curved lenses, each almost 28 feet (8.5 metres) wide.

For the system to work, no one lens can have a blemish of more than 25 nanometers, which is some four thousand times smaller than the average width of a human hair.

"Astronomy is like archaeology; what we see in the sky happened many years ago," said Yuri Beletsky, a Belarusian astronomer for the GMT. "The biggest expectation is that we find something that we don't expect," he added on a bus driving up simultaneous switchbacks to the planned observatory.

Two other massive instruments - the European Extremely Large Telescope, also in Chile, and the Thirty Meter Telescope in Hawaii

- are scheduled to be completed in the 2020s as well. But GMT President Patrick McCarthy says the telescope's massive single lenses and wider observation field will allow for more precise measurements.

Among the phenomena he hopes to observe is dark matter, mysterious invisible material that makes up most of the universe's mass.

Astronomers say Chile's bone-dry Atacama Desert, host to the GMT and dozens of other high-powered telescopes, is uniquely suited to space observation as it has dry air, high mountains, and little light pollution.

McCarthy also points out that another advantage for astronomers in Chile is that the airflow from the nearby Pacific Ocean is smoother than that over continental deserts, meaning scientists have to contend with less atmospheric interference.

REUTERS

Cacao tree will survive climate change, says study

LONDON: Cheer up! The cacao tree from which chocolate is extracted is not going to die out in the near future, as was feared by the industry, suggests a new reassuring study that finds that cacao tree is much older than previously realised.

The main problem faced by the chocolate industry is the lack of genetic variation in cultivated cacao, which makes it vulnerable to pests and blights.

The lack of genetic variation also puts cacao trees at risk from climate change, jeopardising the long-term sustainability of the industry.

However, the species' early evolutionary origin is good news - it suggests that cacao has had enough time to diversify genetically, with each wild population adapting to its local habitat. "Here, we show for the first time that the source of chocolate, *Theobroma cacao*, is remarkably old for an Amazonian plant species," said study's lead author James Richardson from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

IANS

New material to make seawater drinkable

NEW YORK: Engineers have found a material for cost effectively removing salt from seawater. The material, a nanometer-thick sheet of molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂) riddled with tiny holes called nanopores, is specially designed to let high volumes of water through but keep salt and other contaminants out.

The process is called desalination. "Even though we have a lot of water on this planet, there is

very little that is drinkable. If we could find a low-cost, efficient way to purify sea water, we would be making good strides in solving the water crisis," said study leader professor Narayana Aluru from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The team modelled various thin-film membranes and found that MoS₂ showed the greatest efficiency, filtering through up to 70 percent more water than graphene membranes.

"Finding materials for efficient desalination has been a big issue, and I think this work lays the foundation for next-generation materials," Aluru added.

Most available desalination technologies rely on a process called reverse osmosis to push seawater through a thin plastic membrane to make fresh water.

The membrane has holes in it small enough to not let salt or dirt through, but large enough to

let water through. They are very good at filtering out salt, but yield only a trickle of fresh water.

"Reverse osmosis is a very expensive and energy intensive process. A lot of power is required to do this process, and it's not very efficient. In addition, the membranes fail because of clogging," Aluru said. The study was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

IANS

Solar panels cover Beirut river



Photovoltaic panels are seen above the river bed in the Lebanese capital Beirut, yesterday. As part of the government's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to instal 200 MW of solar farms by 2020, the construction of the Beirut River Solar Snake project is the largest of its kind on a national level.