Doha: Qatar has welcomed the appointment of Qatar Museum as the new President of UNESCO. Al-Jazeera, at the President of the House of Representatives, and Dr. Hamad Al-Thani, the prime minister-designate, formed the new government.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry expressed Qatar’s hope that the formation of the new government would be the starting point for a group of emerging and emerging states in the region, including the countries of the Gulf. It also stressed the need to form a new government that would address Qatar’s security and sovereignty. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) stressed that the new government would address the situation of the Palestinian people, especially in the context of the recent developments in the region.
DOHA: The Public Works Authority, ‘Ashghal’, will start the fourth phase of road development works on C-Ring Road tomorrow. This may affect residents and businesses in the area serviced by the new Salata junction until Al Kinana junction and the stretch from the Centre Roundabout until just before Al Asiri interchange.

Completion of the fourth phase will result in the conversion of roundabouts to signal-controlled intersections to improve traffic flow and reduce traffic congestion during peak hours. As part of the project, a signalised pedestrian crossing will be created for all four crossings at each of the new intersections. The C-Ring Road project will enhance the road’s design and increase its capacity to accommodate the projected growth in traffic. With the addition of a fourth lane, capacity on C-Ring Road is expected to increase by approximately 25 percent.

Work on the fourth phase is being started before starting the planned second phase to prevent an overlap between work on the C-Ring Road project and work on a new expressway project that will commence in the near future. To minimise disruption, two lanes will remain open to traffic in both directions throughout the construction period. According to businesses and residences in the area will be maintained through provision of temporary alternative accesses.

Work on phase four will last nearly five months, and will include adding a fourth lane to each of the new intersections. Work on C-Ring Road will take about two and a half months, and once this section is complete, work will commence on the ‘feeder’ roads leading from C-Ring Road, including Ali Bin Taleb Road and the Salwa Road extension, and will take two and a half months.

The project will require closing some service roads temporarily and providing alternative ones. Pedestrian access to businesses and residential buildings in the area will be provided until the completion of the project.

Since starting the C-Ring Road project, Ashghal has made considerable progress on the construction of the first phase. The Umm Ghuloum roundabout, also known as VIP roundabout, has been removed and converted to a signal-controlled intersection. Ashghal is in the process of laying the final layer of asphalt on the newly added lanes to the intersection and will soon install traffic lights and connect them to Doha’s Intelligent Transportation System. Work on the first phase of the project is expected to be completed on schedule.

The C-Ring Road development project is part of a series of projects implemented by Ashghal to improve the network of local roads and expressways across the country. Road enhancement works include converting roundabouts to signal-controlled intersections and widening roads to increase capacity.

Vodafone Qatar, PepsiCo announce offer

DOHA: Vodafone Qatar and food and beverage major PepsiCo have announced an offer in Qatar. With every 2.25-litre Pepsi bottle, Vodafone Qatar Prepaid customers will get 10 minutes of free calls to any number in the country. The offer will run until the available stock for this promotion is finished. To avail of the offer, customers can simply check the code inside the bottle cap and dial *127* [code] # to activate it. The 10 local minutes will be valid for 30 days from the date of activation.

Regional experiences shared

The meeting discussed the national, regional and global experiences of the deadly disease and chalked out a common strategy to combat it in the region with mutual support. Saudi Arabia’s Health Minister-designate Adel bin Mohammed Faqih said the country had made elaborate arrangements to receive Haj pilgrims. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. The country has taken fool-proof measures against any possible epidemic outbreak. 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More visitors during Ramadan, Eid this year

236,000 people visited Qatar; Eid festival successful

DOHA: A total of 236,000 people visited Qatar during Ramadan and the Eid holidays, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) revealed yesterday.

Figure showed that more than 280,000 people visited Qatar in Ramadan, and nearly 50,000 people visited Qatar during the week of Eid. Occupancy rates in five-star hotels and hotel apartments reached 80 percent during the peak days of Eid, said Hassan Al Ibrahim, Chief Tourism Development Officer of QTA.

Al Ibrahim said the results of the Ramadan in Qatar and Eid in Qatar activities, in terms of hotel occupancy rates and number of visitors to Qatar, were impressive. He was speaking at an awards ceremony held at the Doha Exhibition Center yesterday for an inter-hotel competition held as part of Qatar’s Ramadan in Qatar programmes. The Eid Al Fitr festival in 2013 saw more than 70,000 visitors from the GCC countries, the figure reflects the growth of Qatar’s tourism sector, with the number of GCC visitors increasing by five percent in the first quarter last year.

Al Ibrahim said: “Ramadan tourism is one of the pillars of the ever-expanding Qatar economy and one of the important industries in leading Qatar’s efforts to diversify the economy, with an annual increase in the number of tourists and number of tourism investment projects constantly contributing to the GDP,” said Al Ibrahim.

“We managed to achieve these results thanks to the promotional campaign launched in the neighboring countries weeks before the activities to attract nationals and residents of the Gulf countries, in addition to our cooperation with trade-partners in the region, participation in the regional industry trade shows and in organizing familiarisation trips to promote Qatar as a destination to both media and trade-partners.”

During the awards ceremony, QTA named the hotels that won the Ramadan contest, which was aimed at evaluating the quality of customer experience in hotels during the holy month. The objective of the competition was to encourage the hospitality industry to boost their Ramadan activities this year and make the “Ramadan” brand attractive for citizens, residents, and tourists from the region and around the world.

The Ritz-Carlton, Doha won the Best Ramadan Tent Award, while the St. Regis Doha won the Best Ramadan Experience Award.

Hassan Al Ibrahim (third left), Chief Tourism Development Officer of Qatar Tourism Authority, with officials of Ritz-Carlton Doha and The St. Regis Doha at the Ramadan awards ceremony yesterday.

Huge response to Katara Prize for Arabic Novel

DOHA: The organizing committee of the first ever Katara Prize for Arabic Novel yesterday announced it had received 225 entries ahead of the October 31 deadline.

The entries, which comprise published and unpublished Arabic novels, will vie for the prestigious awards, which include cash prizes an opportunity to be translated into English, Spanish and French and be marketed internationally.

Khaled Abdulrahman Al Sayed, general supervisor of the Katara Prize for Arabic Novel, said since the launch of the Prize, the committee had received 135 unpublished and 85 published novels from various Arab countries.

The main theme indicates the importance of the Prize and the vital position of culture and literature in the Arab world as Arab novels are already crossing borders, Al Sayed added.

He explained that there were significant participation from GCC countries, particularly from Saudi Arabia, and also from Iraq despite the difficult situation in that country, and from Egypt, Morocco and Algeria. Famous novelists have also joined the competition with their distinguished works.

The first edition of the Prize, he said, had attracted a good number of women, as around a quarter of the entries are by women.

He added that the Prize was the first of its kind that linked novelties, plays and translated works and aimed to ensure the presence of Arabic novels at the Arab and international levels, motivating outstanding Arab novelists and innovative writers to move towards new horizons of creativity and excellence. This, he said, will increase people’s interest in reading Arabic novels, and thus increase the level of cultural awareness and understanding.

The Katara Prize for Arabic Novel is committed to the values of independence, transparency, honesty and fairness in the selection of the winners, he stressed.

The organizing committee will be responsible for translating the winning works into English, Spanish and French, and turning one of the novels into a drama. It will also publish and market the novels.

He said the organizing committee was collaborating with different Arab societies, including the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, Arab Publishers Union and the Union of Arab Writers to give the Prize a pan-Arab dimension.

The aim of the Prize is to make the Arabic novel an area of innovation and excellence and turn Katara into a platform for creativity which will bring Arabic novels to the world stages as well as create communication between different cultures by getting these works translated into other languages, he said.

Qatar Airways to launch flights to Asmara

DOHA: Qatar Airways yesterday announced a further expansion of its African operations with plans to launch scheduled flights to Eritrea’s capital city.

The twice-weekly flights will feature 12 seats in Business Class and 142 seats in Economy Class and will fly to Asmara, allowing us to further expand our business on the African continent. There is clearly demand and it’s important for us to support this growth.

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The Doha-Asmara schedules are:

Fridays and Sundays: QR344 departs from Asmara at 2030 and arrives in Asmara at 2359. QR343 departs from Doha at 2030 and arrives in Asmara at 2359.

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**Security vehicle launched at HIA**

First vehicle of its kind in GCC; Ministry of Interior holds patent for cart inspection system.

**Doha**: The Ministry of Interior has launched a new vehicle equipped with advanced systems for intelligent inspection at Hamad International Airport to raise the security level at the airport.

The vehicle will be used by the Airport Security Department and Airport Passport Department in collaboration with Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya).

The systems in the vehicle are capable of and identify weapons, drugs and explosives, which would help enhance the efficiency of security operations without affecting the movement of passengers on the airport.

The launch ceremony was attended by Brigadier Reza Arrif Al Rumahi, Director of the Airport Security Department, Lt-Colonel Muhammad Rashid Al Mazroui, Director of the Airport Passport Department, Captain Engineer Ali Hasan Al Rashid, Head of the Technical Security Section of Lekhwiya, and department officials and security officers from Oman.

Brigadier Reza Arrif Al Rumahi said that the vehicle carried a set of electronic systems for screening travellers and travel documents, checking passes and goods carried by travellers. It can also detect narcotics and explosives even in small quantities, if they were hidden in the body of a traveller. The device also has high-quality images that can be sent to the airport security control room within seconds.

He added that the vehicle had been launched for trial and more such vehicles would be launched soon.

Captain Engineer Ali Hasan Al Rashid said that smart cameras in the vehicle can capture 360-degree panoramic photos. He added that the vehicle had been re-ordered by the Ministry of Interior for the Lekhwiya. The Ministry holds the patent for the car.

**The Peninsula**

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**Minister meets UK officials**

**Edinburgh**: The Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, His Highness the Amir Ahmad Bin Abdullah Al Thani, met with the Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones, Scottish Development, Humza Yousaf, Britain’s Minister for External Affairs and International Development, and British Council Chief Executive Martin Davidson.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the second Edinburgh International Culture Summit.

During the talk, the minister reviewed cultural ties between the two states and measures of developing them. The meeting continued.

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**Duracell to give toys to children at HMC hospitals**

**Doha**: Duracell has joined hands with Hamad Medical Corporation to launch a charity initiative titled “1 Pack – 1 Smile”. For every pack of Duracell TurboMax purchased between July 15 and August 30 this year, Duracell will donate toys to children being treated at Hamad Medical Corporation’s facilities.

“We are proud to announce Duracell’s first charity initiative in Qatar, whereby a small act of kindness, such as giving a toy, gives a long way to spreading smiles across families in the country,” said Nabil Al Ruwaihi, Duracell Marketing Manager for Doha Arabia.

The initiative is part of Duracell’s commitment to support the communities it operates in. The brand has consistently supported several initiatives in the past years, both locally and globally.

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**IBQ names lucky draw winner**

**QNA**: The winner of IBQ’s latest monthly lucky draw with an IBQ official.

**Doha**: International Bank of Qatar (IBQ) has announced the latest winner of the monthly "Thanq" rewards programme at the vehicle launch.

Captain Engineer Ali Hasan Al Rashid launched the vehicle yesterday for trial. The vehicle will be used by the Ministry of Interior for the Lekhwiya.

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**Air India Express changes excess baggage rule**

**Doha**: Air India Express has decided to charge normal excess baggage rates for flights into India, with effect from August 15, 2016. The special excess baggage rule for flights into the Gulf region will not apply at the air-port. It will be applicable only when the excess baggage load is booked in advance through the reservations system. The special excess baggage bag will be allowed by passengers in advance by booking the same through the website www.airindiaex- press.com.
MARRIAGE IN GAZA

Omar Abu Namer, 35, and his wife Haba Fayad, 23, at their wedding in Gaza City's Shati refugee camp yesterday. War destroyed their homes and her big white dress, but Haba and Omar agreed nothing would stand in the way of their future happiness. So they got married, refugees in a UN school.

ITALIAN JOURNALIST KILLED IN GAZA BLAST

GAZA: An Italian journalist, who ajualan on a bomb disposal experts and two other people were killed yesterday when unexploded munitions blew up, medical officials and witnesses said.

The explosion was in Beit Lahia, a town in the northern Gaza Strip that has been the scene of fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants for weeks.

A three-day ceasefire, in effect since Monday, has given the parties an opportunity to search for unexploded munitions.

I didn’t order killings, says Mubarak

CAIRO: In rare testimony to a Cairo court, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (pictured) denied yesterday that he ordered the killing of protesters in a 2011 uprising, saying history would vindicate him.

Mubarak, 86, was sentenced to life in prison in 2012 for corruption and abuse of power.He was cleared on those charges, but is serving a 28-year sentence for the deaths of protesters who died in the 2011 uprising, saying history would vindicate him.

Mubarak said he had killed protesters so as to prevent a “green revolution.”

Researchers yesterday said the practice of mummmification was being carried out there more than six thousand years ago, much earlier than previously thought. They said embalming substances contained in formic acid from the oldest known Egyptian mummies were ancient and likely to have been derived from the venom of scorpions, which are common in the region.

Mummies older than thought

WASHINGTON: It has long been known that the practice of mumummification of the dead in ancient Egypt — fundamental to that civilization’s belief in eternal life — was old, but only now are researchers unraveling the mystery of just how long ago it began.

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MIDDLE EAST

Nouri Al Maliki

An Iraqi woman and child displaced by the violence in their country look at the aid they received from a Chaldean Catholic Church truck in Beirut yesterday. RIGHT: Iraqi women carry placards which read in Arabic “[Nouri] Al Maliki is our choice” during a rally to show their support for the Iraqi prime minister. An Iraqi woman and child displaced by the violence in their country look at the aid they received from a Chaldean Catholic Church truck in Beirut yesterday. RIGHT: Iraqi women carry placards which read in Arabic “[Nouri] Al Maliki is our choice” during a rally to show their support for the Iraqi prime minister.

FRANCE TO SEND ARMS TO KURDS

PARIS: France has announced it will send arms to the Kurdish fighters in Iraq “in the coming hours” to help them defend their territory against Islamic State extremists. France’s foreign minister, Laurent Fabius, said the French government was also considering sending troops to Iraq. Mr Fabius said France was committed to ending the violence in Iraq, which has caused the Christian minority to flee the country.

UN ENVOYS PESSIMISTIC AFTER SOUTH SUDAN VISIT

JUBA: UN Security officials have warned that South Sudan remains a “long road...that may come too late.” The officials said that with the civil war raging on, the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan is facing its most challenging mission since the country gained independence in 2011.

IS TAKES OVER SIX VILLAGES AFTER FIGHTING KILLS 39 IN ALEPPO

BEIRUT: Jihadists from the Islamic State (IS) group have taken control of six villages in northern Syria, a monitor said yesterday. The clashes left at least 39 fighters dead, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which said the attacks were the deadliest in the region in recent weeks. The IS group, which is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has been fighting government forces in Syria and Iraq, and has taken control of several key border crossings.

MALIKI REFUSES TO GO WITHOUT COURT VERDICT

Khamenei backs Abadi as premier

A man holds a sign reading “Nouri Maliki, our man” at a rally in Tehran yesterday. The Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, backed Abadi for the premiership, saying there was no need to change the government.

ISLAMIC STATE STEELING WHEAT IN IRAQ

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been stealing wheat in Iraq “in the coming hours,” said a monitor of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. ISIL fighters are said to be destroying crops and打断ing the flow of corn and rice, according to the monitor, who said the group was using ISIL-held territories to buy wheat from farmers.

THE GUARDIAN

THE GUARDIAN

THE GUARDIAN
Six climbers die on Mont Blanc

CHAMONIX, France Six French climbers have died after a terrifying 250-metre fall on Mont Blanc, officials said yesterday, one day after a tragic avalanche killed seven tourists.

“We are certain that the climbers unfortunately met their end after a fall of around 250 metres,” rescue police spokesman Frederic Delgado told reporters. 

The eight-carriage regional train to Chur derailed. Several people were injured and the accident likely happened “in the abyss,” he said. 

Terrified passengers described at least 20Minuten.

(to 14 years in jail. She sobbed uncontrollably as the verdict was revealed, saying: “I can’t imagine it will ever be used for the purposes of terrorism.”

Globo News TV. 

Santos firefighters said at least 10 people were injured after the plane crashed. "Our results... indicate that this (Iquique) was suddenly but violently brought to an end by subduction of a small oceanic tectonic plate into the South American continental plate."' said earthquake station coordinator in western Poland.

The air force said it had lost contact with the plane when it fell due to bad weather.

"It is with great sadness that I..." said colleague Ricardo Boulevarde.

"I'm devastated," said colleague Tomasz Wardel, who was inside the plane when it crashed. "We are all very upset," representative Julio Delgado tweeted.

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The standoff over the Russian aid convoy to eastern Ukraine is a precursor to the crisis taking a new turn.

By Sharon Begley

A US intelligence investigators have begun to question whether a recent outbreak of lethal anthrax and bird flu in Austria, Switzerland and Germany was just a coincidence or evidence of bioterrorism.

In a July 28 letter to NIH Director Dr Francis Collins, Russian lawmakers said the rule of the NSABB “has assumed even greater importance and capability” in light of the recent anthrax and bird flu breaches at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIH’s sister agency.

The recent changes to the NSABB’s rules about research on potential pathogens, made under former President Barack Obama, are being seen as a subterfuge to justify the US-Justice Department’s decision to unilaterally extend review of research using dangerous microbes to labs that lacked the safety precautions required for the biosafety level 2 plus.

The move has made it much harder to study hot-button issues, such as the possibility that some outbreaks of dangerous diseases might be the result of bioterrorism.

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Qatar, Gaza and the required role

MOAZ AL-ABDULLAZIZ AL-ISAAC

The Arab Mind, which is represented by the way of thinking process, is based on reaction that is related to a structural damage, according to Belkiz, as the reaction is an unfree practice that makes the way of thinking an extremism nature.

The Arab Mind

I think there is a reasonable explanation for what is happening in the Arab world now. Whenever freedom and democracy are demanded, tyrannical regimes become stronger and dictatorships prevail.

And when people call for a civilian rule and civil society, military authorities pull ahead and overpower religious ideologies. The mental status in the Arab world has reached its lowest level, because people are not only defenceless, but they are also destroying and praying in Iraq and Syria, but also defending the vacant, burning as a result of military conquests, the moral vacuum among the opposing parties.

People wait for these special days and events to begin and all families, whether extended or nuclear, will always come to visit relatives and share happiness of the day on the day. It is a day that the Arab mind will always remember and will not forget.

In my opinion, the Arab mind is a symbol of our past and present. It is a symbol of our identity and of our way of thinking. It is a symbol of our values and our beliefs. It is a symbol of our unity and our diversity. It is a symbol of our history and our future. It is a symbol of our dreams and our aspirations.

There is no other way to think about the Arab mind. It is the essence of the Arab identity and the Arab character. It is the foundation of the Arab society and the Arab culture. It is the soul of the Arab world. It is the root of the Arab tree. It is the heart of the Arab heart. It is the brain of the Arab brain. It is the eye of the Arab eye. It is the ear of the Arab ear.

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SOUTH KOREA: South Korea’s military outlines steps to curb bullying

TOKYO: Japan “strongly protested” yesterday against Russian military exercises on Pacific islands that it also claims and which have been at the root of strained relations between the two countries since the end of World War Two.

The exercises on the disputed islands are a blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s efforts to court resource-rich Russia and keep the door open to talks, despite theครรคว่ามุค. Russia denies the islands from Japan in the waning days of World War II and has claimed them provides the neighbours involving military units in the region deployed to the island.

The exercises are known as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the islands in the Northern Territories are totally uncontested,” Abe said.

Japan lodged a “strong protest” at the Moscow Embassy in Japan, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in a statement, calling the exercises “extremely regrettable.”

Japan had already protested at the beginning of the military exercises but resisted its objection yesterday.

In June 2010 Taiwan and China had increased efforts since the beginning of Communist ties with Beijing.

The Chinese cyberwar units were the most senior official to fly over from the mainland and Japan since the beginning of 2004.

The Taiwanese military had set up its own cyber unit to fly over from the mainland in 2004.

In June 2010 Taiwan and China had signed the landmark Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, a peace treaty that characterised as the boldest step since the end of the war.

A Thai Airways official described the incident as a “minor disruption.”

On Friday a report of injuries and the passengers staying in a hotel by the beach.

The Boeing 747, carrying 273 passengers and 16 crew members, was six hours into the journey when the captain found the defect and decided to land.

A spokesperson for the island’s airport described it as a “minor disruption.”

No reports of injuries and the passengers staying in a hotel by the beach.

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Seoul warns Manila on Korean killings

Korean embassy estimates that there were about 100,000 Korean nationals living in the Philippines last year.

MANILA: South Korea has expressed alarm at a rise in crimes against its nationals in the Philippines, warning that there were 200,000 Koreans living in the Philippines, Korean like the weather and its people like they like to study here.

Philippine Tourism Department figures show that South Korea was the top source of tourists to the country, accounting for 22.5% of the total in the first half of 2014.

Seoul’s embassy, in a statement dated Tuesday, said such crimes could affect growing ties between the two countries which has recently seen many South Koreans coming to the Southeast Asian country.

The rising incidence of crimes committed against overseas Koreans while in the Philippines, either on vacation or on business, has alarmed the embassy, said the statement.

It is feared that crimes against Korean tourists will dent business deals and other activities in the host country.

The embassy quoted the murder of a South Korean businessman and the abduction of his Filipino driver. The man was later found dead.

"Seoul said police ensured that "we are doing our best to solve every murder case, whether it is foreign nationals or one of our own citizens."

He said a special task force was looking into killings of foreigners.

"In recent years, many South Koreans have visited or come to live in the Philippines as businessmen or students. There have been increasing reports that there were 200,000 Koreans living in the Philippines, Korean like the weather and its people like they like to study here.

"Philippine Tourism Department figures show that South Korea was the top source of tourists to the country, accounting for 22.5% of the total in the first half of 2014."

They are "in our custody by order of Judge Jose Escudero of Malabon Regional trial court Branch 14," Zapaga said.

He also cited Executive Order No. 105, which states that active military officers may be detained at a military detention facility for their safety.

Zapaga claimed that two other officers are not in loco parentis.

"We’ve been doing our best to solve every single murder case, whether it is foreign nationals or one of our own citizens."

He is facing kidnapping and murder-related charges. He is now at the National Bureau of Investigation.

He is being held at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"He has never sought refuge in the military," Zapaga said.

"We’ve been doing our best to solve every murder case, whether it is foreign nationals or one of our own citizens."
Military fires 60 rockets on Afghanistan

KABUL: Pakistani army fired about 60 rockets on Afghan border areas during the past 24 hours, said Afghan Interior Ministry on Thursday.

The Afghan Interior Ministry's spokesman Sediq Babayee said that 20 rockets were fired from the other side of the border at the Sholgah and Kandahar districts.

ISLAMABAD: A Natioanl Security Conference (NSC) meeting was being held in Islamabad for the past two days.

The conference and meetings were attended by the Interior minister, who later presented the report to the conference.

The Interior minister said that the interior ministry is fully prepared for all border incursions.

Afghan raids kill 80 militants

KABUL: At least 80 Taliban militants including commanders were killed followiing Afghan security forces' operations in the past 24 hours in Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the militants were killed in Nangarhar, Parwan, Tagab, Khost, Farah, Kandahar, Helmand, Nuristan, Kapisa, Kunar and Pakistan provinces.

Karachi to host world’s biggest defence expo

ISLAMABAD: Hours after Pakistan ordered a military coup to hold a general election, legal experts said legal challenges to the coup were being prepared.

The experts reiterated that the situation may be even more alarming as experts estimate that only 10 to 15 of these animals remained.

The fisherman then brought the whale onto the creek yesterday, believing that the most he would fetch them a handsome price; they would be sold at Rs50,000 as well as a few dollars for fishing.

Not many of the fish were as experienced as the fishermen.

It took 40 fishermen to bring the dead whale to the shore, among which, four fishermen were along with them, but discussions were only being hasty.

It is an endangered species and it is found in a particular area, said Moin Khan, the former director-general of the Marine Fisheries Department and the technical adviser of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan)." However, Khan believed that the situation may be even more alarming as experts estimate that only 10 to 15 of these animals remained.

The fisherman then brought the whale onto the creek yesterday, believing that the most he would fetch them a handsome price; they would be sold at Rs50,000 as well as a few dollars for fishing, said Brothers.

Karachi: A three-member team of scientists will cut the whale to get DNA samples from the mammal for testing.

The animal had a serious wound on its tail, said Brosi. "There were also serious injuries on its head and its eyes were closed.

opening the debate on the legality of the elections, the Security Council, which is more of a judicial commission in its own right, has no authority to conduct a judicial inquiry.

The government for its part has rejected the allegations of voting rigging and accused the opposition groups of attempting to bring down the government through democratic means.

The programme offers a comprehensive platform to network with leading specialists at IDEAS, presenting cutting-edge technologies, government officials, senior armed forces leaders and exhibitors, thereby ensuring effective communication between participants of the exhibition.

The seminar presents an interactive platform to defence industries, government officials, senior armed forces leaders and exhibitors, thereby ensuring effective communication between participants of the exhibition.

Global defence industries will meet at the four-day event, giving them a chance to demonstrate, sell and make joint ventures, alliances and create technological collaborations within the defence industry sector.

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Bills scrapping collegium get through LS

Judicial fraternity criticises move

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha passed the Constitutional Amendment (101st Amendment) Bill, which seeks to end the collegium system of appointing Supreme Court and high court judges, without a vote yesterday. The collegium system, which does not allow the government to intervene in the appointment process, had been adopted in 1954 to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

The bills will now have to be passed by the Rajya Sabha before they are sent to the president for his assent, after which they will become law.

The two bills seek to end the collegium system of appointing judges and vest the power to appoint judges in the government. The bills will replace the existing system with a new one that will be governed by the Constitution of India. The new system will be known as the "Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2014 for Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts".

Government attempting to polarise voters: Congress

HYDERABAD: Congress spokesperson Mani Shankar Aiyar yesterday accused the government of attempting to polarise voters in the upcoming elections and by-polls.

Aiyar said the government was pursuing a policy to stifle the voice of the minorities. He alleged the UP government was pursuing a policy to stop incidents of communal violence.

He also said the government was pursuing a policy to suppress the minorities in the country so that they dissociate themselves from mainstream politics.

Aiyar said in whichever states elections were approaching, there was an increase in communal violence.

He said in whichever states elections were approaching, there was an increase in communal violence.

Protest in Hyderabad against IS atrocities

HYDERABAD: Members of civil society groups here staged a demonstration here against the brutalities and atrocities perpetuated by the Islamic State against minorities in Iraq.

They were also against the role of the global community in facing the IS issue. The protesters condemned the IS for its persecution of Christians, Shias, Kurds, Yezidis and other groups.

"It is even more reprehensible that the atrocities are being committed by members of the community, by the name of Islam and for the benefit of Sharia law," said the protesters.

They urged the people of the world to condemn these inhuman actions unapologetically," said a statement by the organizers.

"We also condemn the foreign policy of the US that is pursuing a policy of selling arms to the Saudis and limited support to the Syrian people that are threatened with the future of the entire world and the world is not doing anything about it."

"We condemn IS atrocities," the coordinator of the group, Mr. Basheer, said, "We condemn IS foreign policy and.Stop religious financiers." The group also demanded an end to the "imposition of religious faith" and an end to the "imposition of religious faith".

"We also call for the immediate halting of all forms of violence against the people of Iraq," he said. "We call on all people to stand together in solidarity with the people of Iraq against this injustice."

Water fun

A boy sits under a water fountain near India Gate in New Delhi yesterday.

Sushma to visit Singapore

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious plan to boost India's soft power may get a fillip during External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Singapore from August 19 to 21 when the island nation has offered to help India win hosting right for the 2018 Commonwealth Games by travelling to Singapore as part of the 50th anniversary of India-Singapore diplomatic relations.

But the government has already said that it will not be able to host the Games in the near future.

"You can't force people to come to a particular religion. This was something happening in dark age but this can't be tolerated in 21st century," said one of the students, P. Alex.
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India to address terrorism at high-level talks

Foreign secretory level talks in Islamabad on August 25; Modi remarks most unfortunate: Pakistan Foreign Office

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the much awaited India-Pakistan foreign secretary-level talks in Islamabad on August 25, India yesterday said it will address its concerns on terrorism, "with all means available!"

External Affairs Minister spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin, during a press briefing here, also hit back at Pakistani criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing Pakistan of waging a proxy war against India.

He said Modi was merely articulating India's "core concern about relations with Pakistan over terrorism emanating from its soil. India and Pakistan yesterday exchanged some sharp words over Prime Minister Modi's visit with the Pakistan foreign office terming Modi's visit as "most unfortunate."

On the foreign secretary-level talks, the spokesperson said the two top officials are "meeting in the context of directives provided by the prime ministers to be in touch and look at the way for- mula in bilateral India-Pakistan relations."

"They said the talks from the initiative of Modi when he invited his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to his swearing in ceremony in Delhi in May. "India will in any case address its concern on terrorism with all means that are available to us, our tool kit is not restricted in any manner," Akbaruddin added.

On the Pakistani criticism of Modi's visit, the spokesperson said the two top officials are "meeting in the context of directives provided by the prime ministers to be in touch and look at the way formula in bilateral India-Pakistan relations."

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Summer retreat

Two ruddy shelducks and a moorhen stand on the edge of a pond reflecting on the surface of the water in Stuttgart, Germany, yesterday.

Girl, 4, survives ordeal in bear-infested forest

MOSCOW: A four-year-old girl was recovering in hospital yesterday after being lost for nearly two weeks in a bear-infested forest in the Russian far north with only her puppy to defend her.

Karina Chikitova was found emaciated but alive at the weekend, having survived 11 days in the Siberian wilderness in freezing night-time temperatures with only berries to sustain her in what rescuers said was nothing short of a miracle.

The little girl had left her tiny village in the Sakha republic with her dog on July 29 to go and stay with her father who lived in a neighbouring hamlet.

But her father had gone to fight a wildfire and the girl apparently set off by herself into the forest to find him.

With no mobile phone signal in the sparsely populated region where natives take people live from hunting and reindeer herding, her mother only realised after four days that her daughter had set off on her own into the dense forest.

Despite a massive search, Karina was still not found for over a week, the breakthrough only coming when her puppy traipsed back to the hamlet — in which only eight people live — allowing rescuers to send search dogs on the puppy’s trail.

“When the puppy returned to the hamlet, we knew Karina was nearby,” rescuer Afanasiy Nikolayev told the Zvezda TV channel.

“We were sure that the puppy was next to the little girl all this time, warming her at night and scaring away wild animals,” rescue Ahlamay Nikitkiper told the Zvezda TV channel.

When the search party found the puppy a few days later, it was hunched under a tree, drinking and gulping water before being carried out on a kilometre-long line and taken to hospital.

“We were sure she was dead” and not expected to survive, her rescuers said.

The search team came across Karina’s footprints two days later and found her lying in tall grass about six kilometres from her hamlet — in which only eight people live — with her puppy, her mother and Karina’s aunt already searching for her.

The little girl had lost her shoes and was walking barefoot and had lost a considerable amount of weight.

Television pictures showed the wide-eyed girl in a T-shirt and leggings just after she had been found gulping water before being carried onto a helicopter. She said she ate berries and drank water from the river to survive.

AFP
DEBT MARKET sees growth rebound in GCC

Oil rises from 13-month low

NEW YORK: Brent crude oil rose by nearly $1 in choppy trading yesterday, recovering from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from a 13-month low as turmoil in Iraq and Libya kept concerns from

Sony PS4 sales surge past record 10m mark

TOKYO: Sony said yesterday that global sales of its newest PlayStation have surged past the 10 million mark in less than a year, a record for the Japanese electronics giant. The PlayStation 4 console, released in November, has been a big hit for the struggling firm, which launched a steep price cut in a bid to claw back profitability. The release of the PS4 in the United States and other markets has helped to improve Sony’s fortunes after a disappointing response to the console’s predecessor, the PS3. Nintendo’s Wii U, launched in late 2012, took more than a year to sell just under six million units. "As the response we have received for the PS4 system’s unique gameplay experiences..." the company said in a statement. "The PS4 is a hit in a battle for dominance of the digital home entertainment market with Microsoft’s Xbox One and the Wii U as a top-selling console. Geographical proximity was also important, as the market focused on companies who were most familiar with local applications and practices other than scholars from remote jurisdictions. But the study found that the share of an institution’s scholar board, and the length of the relationship with the scholar, was not significantly associated with whether the institution, did not have an impact. IMF study suggested institutions were rational in paying such fees, the market preferred the share of companies which had the most respected scholars-endorsing the instrument. Geographical proximity was also important, as the market focused on companies who were most familiar with local applications and practices other than scholars from remote jurisdictions. But the study found that the share of an institution’s scholar board, and the length of the relationship with the scholar, was not significantly associated with whether the institution, did not have an impact. IMF study suggested institutions were rational in paying such fees, the market preferred the share of companies which had the most respected scholars-endorsing the instrument. Geographical proximity was also important, as the market focused on companies who were most familiar with local applications and practices other than scholars from remote jurisdictions. But the study found that the share of an institution’s scholar board, and the length of the relationship with the scholar, was not significantly associated with whether the institution, did not have an impact.

Not all sukuk are created equal: IMF

The study could increase the use of the shari’ah framework, tended to draw a positive reaction from the shari’ah market, with the shares of companies using that framework performing relatively well. But a base-level transaction in which the originator sells a asset to a special-purpose vehicle, which issues sukuk certificates to obtain money for the asset, is not the same. The IMF also looked at other characteristics of sukuk such as the size of the shari’ah market. This was apparently because of the importance of the instrument, its perceived as signals of financial strength at the issuing company, were not found to be statistically significant for the responses of equity market investors. Boards of Shariah scholars at financial institutions issuing sukuk rules on whether the Islamic banks follow religious principles. A small number of prominent scholars around the world at risk of multiple boards, commanding big fees for doing so.

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**BoE focuses on weak wages**

Central bank says wage developments key to interest rate hikes

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**LONDON:** The Bank of England has confirmed that a key interest rate hike this year will depend on stronger wage growth and said its assessment of the labor market is based on an improved outlook for pay. BoE Governor Mark Carney said at the end of June, including $1.1 billion in a pre-tax profit for the second quarter, jump 47 percent from a year earlier, buoyed by record oil and gas production.

The BoE's quarterly economic update on Wednesday was released with an upgrade to the growth outlook for this year and said lower unemployment and inflation remaining below its 2 percent target. Britain is set to grow faster than any other big, rich nation this year.

But the economy has only just recovered its size of before the financial crisis, far slower than market expectations, but the BoE upgrade to its previous forecast, to 2.1 percent growth this year, means there is now less room for a rate rise within the next three months - something which made clear before seen Carney spoke.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney (centre) speaks during the bank's quarterly inflation report news conference at the bank office in London yesterday.

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**TAQA swings to profits; pulls out of talks in Iraq, Libya**

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**SHANGHAI:** China's bank loans plunged in July from the central bank's quarterly report, as the world's second-largest economy is expected to see a slow recovery in the second quarter.

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**BRUSSELS:** Industrial production in the eurozone grew by 0.5 percent in June, official data showed yesterday, marginally below an already tepid recovery that might have already reached its peak.

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**Japan’s economy shrinks after sales tax hike**

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**JAPAN:** Japan's economy shrunk in the second quarter, austerity policies to close a $1.1 trillion budget deficit.

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**China prohing more than 1,000 auto firms**

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**CHINA:** China’s auto industry regulator has cut a list of 1,000 auto firms that have been assessed as non-compliant with Chinese laws and regulations.

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**Germany and France, the single currency block’s biggest economies, will also release growth data for the quarter, and likely to show a rise in the eurozone’s growth.

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QE index extends rally, jumps 243.52 points

Industrial and telecom sectors emerge as main gainers

First oil sails from Libya's Ras Lanuf since end of blockade

GCC posts strong IPO activity in terms of volume in Q2

Telecom Egypt posts 11pc rise in Q2 profit

Telecom Austria business down
Wary banks eye Argentine debt deals

**NEW YORK:** International banks braced to reach a deal to buy a chunk of Argentina’s debt that had been auctioned off via a New York hedge fund using the so-called “master trust” technique, which requires banks to show interest to the end, before the fund, which is holding $10 billion of bonds, including $1.66 billion of bonds, including $1.66 billion of bonds, made a move.

Argentina’s $10 billion of bonds will be bought from the fund, which has failed to pay interest on the bonds since 2001, when it initially defaulted on a $30 billion debt. The fund, which is controlled by Elliott Management, has been in discussions with the Argentine government since 2012, when it made a $1.33 billion offer to buy back the bonds.

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Brokers face exodus as advisers get better deals in indie firms

BY ELIZABETH BILLS


Prices are rising for independent brokerages that can make more money and save on taxes, and advisers are looking for and starting an independent firm before their retirement.

Merrill Lynch was the first of the four to announce a mass exodus of employees with more than three or four years, as long as the broker’s clients stay with the firm, and the money is good enough to retire on.

At rates of pay, a broker bringing in $750,000 a year and commissions could receive $112,000 at best over four years, which is taxed at the highest federal rate of 35 percent, or $39,200.

In his first few weeks of business, he or she would keep those 25-percent-interest auto loans — or, possibly, only whatever they can offer that is thoughtful or personalized can often say more than a line of text. The National Apprenticeship Service brings together apprentices and employers. Apprentices were part of my business plan for growth and set up a business, it would be to ask for help when you need it. The auto-financing company RAND studied used uniforms, so I started noticing something I felt there was an appetite for that led to potential clients.

The financially marginal, on the other hand, cannot sell because of demand for a product and see the quality of the workmanship involved.

Some of their business is based on relationships he built with clients, and I don’t think that’s going to change. He said Wells was considering changes to the retirment policies that could keep advisers from leaving. Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley have not publicly announced policies, but advisers confirmed they exist.

For now, he is going to hold on to equity and transition some clients to his son, but he also expects to do better financially than he would have retired from Wells.

In his first few weeks of business, he has already called on potential clients and arranged for meetings and dinner appointments. He said he plans to use the same techniques that worked for him at Wells, which he learned from his mentor, Rick Johnson.

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**THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014**

**MARKET**

**GOLD & SILVER**

- **ORI:** 53.2006
- **SILVER:** 2.3402

**CRUDE OIL**

- **BRENT:** $102.93
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**INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

A list of shares from the world.

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**QATAR EXCHANGE**

**DAILY TRADING REPORT**

**13-08-2014**

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**SPORT**

**BALLMER OFFICIALLY BECOMES NEW OWNER OF LA CLIPPERS**

I will be hardcore in giving players, coach and staff support they need’

LOS ANGELES: Former Microsoft chief Steve Ballmer officially became the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers yesterday in an estimated $2bn deal after months of legal wrangling, the National Basketball Association (NBA) said.

Ballmer said he was “humbled and honored” after the transaction was sealed when a California court ordered a further court order went into effect confirming that Shelly Sterling had the authority to sell the team.

The team went on the block after the NBA slapped a lien ban on her estranged husband and its owner, Donald Sterling, who bought the club in 2004 for $2 billion.

The action was in response to a video aired on celebrity website TMZ that showed Donald Sterling making a racist remark.

In the video, that followed, the 89-year-old billionaire initially agreed to the sale of the team, but then abruptly withdrew his endorsement of the $2bn figure that enabled him to sell the Clippers as a trustee of a foundation that owned the team after Sterling had been deemed mentally incapacitated.

The NBA Board of Governors had previously approved the sale and Sterling now takes on the title of Clippers Governor.

Ballmer thanked Clippers fans for remaining “tirelessly loyal to our franchise through some extraordinary times.”

“I will be hardnosed in giving the team, our great coach, staff and our families and their fans the best game-night experience in the NBA,” he said.

“Player development is going to be the key to our future. I cannot wait for the new season to begin. Donald Sterling said.

“Shelly Sterling said. “I am happy for the team, the fans, the city of Los Angeles. I am confident that Ballmer is expected to launch another title of Clippers Governor.

**NEW YORK:** The Indiana Pacers are not counting on injured All-Star forward Paul George returning to the lineup before the season but said yesterday their expectations for team success will remain as high as ever.

George, who led Indiana in last season’s Eastern Conference finals, is recovering from surgery to repair a broken leg and suffered a similar trauma as a result of a car crash.

“You can’t just replace Paul George,” Pacers president of basketball operations Larry Bird said during a news conference. “Are our expectations lowered any? I don’t think so.”

We’re going to do our best to make this work and just compete on a consistent basis. We’re going to get a competition team out there.

Everyone’s going to get an opportunity to show off what they can do. I think we’ll be an exciting team. We have a lot of things to look forward to. My goal is to win as many games as we possibly can and get in the playoffs.”

Paul George is expected to return in time to play against the Boston Celtics on Nov. 1.

**NEW YORK:** The Dodgers are counting on injured All-Star first baseman Paul Goldschmidt to play the 2015 season, but said yesterday their expectations for team success will remain as high as ever.

Goldschmidt, who led the theoretical American League in hitting and adding value per at-bat, has been suspended for 21 days by the MLB for violating baseball’s joint drug policy.

Los Angeles Dodgers’ catcher Yasmani Grandal (left) and first baseman Adrian Gonzalez (right) are expected to play the 2015 season.

**KUALA LUMPUR:** World Badminton number one Lee Chong Wei has revealed that injury concerns are leaving him “very upset” when his body is giving him trouble, “I am beginning to feel the heat of a hamstring injury and although he was not picked as the favorite in a 31 tournament in Copenhagen yesterday when linebacker Jarred Cosart (left) and defensive end TJ Fatinikun (right) turned in their second consecutive, the world champs are aiming high.

The Los Angeles Dodgers avoided the Los Angeles Angels in the National League Division Series after losing the tiebreaker and are set to face the New York Mets in the World Series.

The Los Angeles Dodgers pulled away from the Los Angeles Angels in the NL West on Monday night after overcoming the Baltimore Orioles.

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim catcher牛Ifetiala Justin (right) and Los Angeles Dodgers’ in the 5th inning of their MLB baseball game at Turner Field in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday.

These two file photos show then Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer (left) and Ballmer now takes on the role of Clippers Governor.

**Los Angeles Dodgers**

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The Brooklyn Nets star is expected to play against the Cleveland Cavaliers in the regular season opener on Oct. 29.

**Resolute Pacers aim high**

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NZ eye world record in Australian clash

All Blacks at the same time mainly focused on World Cup

WELLINGTON: The All Blacks head into the Rugby Championship against Australia on Saturday with a record of world record in the last 20 months. With Steve Hansen’s side looking to extend their winning streak to 18, the focus will be on Hansen himself. The injured Luke Romano is set to return to the starting five while a fit and full-time in the back row.

The injured Luke Romano is set to return to the starting five while Steffon Armitage will also start in the back row.

The Wallabies are without the services of Michael Hooper and James O’Connor, who are injured. They will be relying on the likes of Karmichael Hunt and Sean McMahon to fill the void.

The All Blacks have a significant advantage in terms of experience, with Hansen’s side having played 18 more games than the Wallabies. This experience has helped them to secure three World Cup titles and three Rugby Championship titles.

The Wallabies will be looking to bounce back from their loss to the All Blacks in their last encounter, which was their fifth consecutive defeat. With Hansen at the helm, the All Blacks are expected to continue their winning streak.
**CINCINNATI:** Novak Djokovic pulled away from Roger Federer to win the Western & Southern Open Masters 1000 title missing from his French Open haul.

**NEW YORK:** Roger Federer is set to take on the “fast four” as last weekend’s Toronto finalist and world number one Dominic Thiem at the US Open.

**LONDON:** Tsonga, a title winner last week in Toronto, will take on world number one Federer in the Western & Southern Open Masters 1000 final.

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**CARDIFF** Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a goal at Old Trafford, making Madrid the most expensive team in the world. Ronaldo was an estimated £270m cost in a strike force that blighted his 2014 World Cup campaign with his former national team coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari.

**Ribery retires from French international duty**

**Gerardo Martino** was enjoy- ing his first competitive match as coach of Argentina, leading them to a 2-0 win over Sevilla in an all-Spanish affair.

**Ronaldo double helps Real Madrid lift the Super Cup**

**Bayern Munich** has announced his retirement from international football, he said in an interview with the German newspaper Bild. Rouney, 32, was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year in 2006.

**Ribery's reward**

**SPORT**

**Buenos Aires**: Argentina's new manager Gerardo Martino (pictured) is the new manager of the national football team following Alejandro Sabella's decision to step aside in the wake of their World Cup final defeat in July.

**Ribery retires from French international duty**

**SPORT**

**Soccer**

Bayern Munich's players celebrate on the pitch with the trophy after the UEFA Super Cup final match against Sevilla at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, 14 August 2014.

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COLOMBO: Cricketers like Mhash, Samath, Javawarade have been at the core of recent developments in the sport of cricket in Sri Lanka. They have been key players in the selection process, often called upon to take critical decisions during tense moments in the game. With the recent victory against India, the Sri Lankan team has moved up to the number one position in the ICC Test rankings. The team's performance is largely attributed to the talents of the players discussed above.

COLOMBO: Mhash, the Sri Lankan batsman who has been in top form recently, scored a century against England in the final Test match. The left-handed opener's performance was crucial in helping Sri Lanka clinch the series 2-0. His innings were characterized by a combination of power and grace, as he guided the team to a strong total.

COLOMBO: England's Moeen Ali has been a consistent performer in Test cricket. The all-rounder's contribution with both bat and ball has been instrumental in England's recent success in the format. His ability to provide regular runs and take wickets has been a key factor in England's dominance in the last few years.

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan team has been lauded for its disciplined approach in recent years. The team's performance in the current Test series against India has been a testament to their focus and commitment. The team's consistency in the field has been particularly impressive, with fielders making crucial stops and runs out of batters.

COLOMBO: Mhash acknowledged the importance of preparation and planning in cricket. He stressed the need for players to constantly work on their skills and fitness to perform at the highest level.

LONDON: A proud Muslim of the Islamic revolution, Mowen has achieved a rare brand of cricketing success. He has become a cult figure after performing a spectacular catch during England's training session against India.

Mowen's performance during the training session that included an attempt on the wicket of Azhar Ali, the captain, caught a lot of attention. The catch was widely praised on social media and has been hailed as one of the greatest catches in recent years.

Mowen, who has been in good form recently, was praised for his display by many of his teammates. "He's been through this process before and I hope he will be fine," Mathews said. "He's a very good cricketer and we will miss him but we have him for the last Test and he will be crucial for us.

"I have seen Mowen's catch on TV and it's a fantastic catch," said Darren Sammy, the former West Indies captain. "It's a shame we couldn't see it in the Test but we have to respect the decision of the match officials.

"I think England's catch should have been given out and I don't think they should have given him out," said Sammy. "He's a very good cricketer and I think they should have given him out.

"I don't think we should have given him out," said Sammy. "He's a very good cricketer and I think they should have given him out."
Al Sadd edge out Lekhwiya for Sheikh Jassim Cup glory

Late strikes by new Brazilian signing Muriqi power ‘Wolves’ to 3-2 victory

BY RIZWAN REHMAT

DOHA: Two late strikes by Brazilian substitute Luiz Guilherme Muriqi powered Al Sadd to Sheikh Jassim Cup glory as the “Wolves” beat Lekhwiya 3-2 at the Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium here yesterday.

Al Sadd — who took the lead through a winner by midfielder Rodrigues Tabata in the ninth minute after he scored thanks to a new, impromptu Muriqi who fired a brace (in the 77th and 89th minutes respectively) to give the Doha giants a trophy on day one of the new season.

For Lekhwiya it was a case of as near yet so far, as the Qatar Stars League (QSL) champions rallied for the lead through Yasser Meskini in the 12th minute.

However, former Asian champion Al Sadd fought back in style to seal their 13th triumph in the event that was first played in the 1977-78 season.

Played in austere like conditions at Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, both teams struggled for ball possession in the early part of the game as both sides went out to gain an advantage at the start of the new season.

In the early part of the game, Al Sadd dominated their opponents and took the lead in the ninth minute off a controversial penalty.

Referee Usman Alghazi quickly pointed to the penalty spot when Al Sadd’s Al Mahdi brought down Meskini with a deft push.

Quick to take the spot kick, Brazilian midfielder Vladimir Weiss went to the right of Al Sadd goalkeeper Abdulla with a ferocious strike.

With five minutes to go before the first-half whistle, Meskini clipped one towards the goal from the edge of the Al Sadd box but the ball narrowly passed the crossbar.

Barely 10 minutes into the second half, Laudrup decided to bench an out-of-sorts Sebastian Soria who struggled with his runs second half.

In the 46th minute, Al Sadd equaliser.

In the 66th minute, Al Sadd substitute Brazilian forward Hassan Al Haydos rounded goalkeeper Soria who struggled with his runs.

With five minutes to go before the second-half whistle, Msakni converted with a left-footed shot from the goal line.

Five minutes from time, Al Sadd converted with a free-kick after Lekhwiya goalkeeper Leomonti fumbled on a corner kick earlier on.

Five minutes from time, Muriqi powered Al Sadd to a 3-2 lead by slotting the ball home after a cross from Ali Al Haydos with a needless tackle, a move that resulted in a penalty.

Al Sadd forward Hassan Al Haydos (right) fights for the ball with Lekhwiya defender Mohamad Mhousa Al during the Sheikh Jassim Cup final at Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium in Doha yesterday.

Muriqi form delights Al Sadd coach

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The form of Brazilian Luiz Guilherme Muriqi left Al Sadd coach Hassan Ammar grinning last night after the 28-year-old striker produced a trophy-winning performance ahead of next week’s AFC Champions League quarter-final clash against Saudi side Al Hilal.

Al Sadd yesterday beat Lekhwiya 3-2 to lift the Sheikh Jassim Cup trophy thanks to late strikes by Muriqi who was brought in as a substitute by coach Ammar.

The Brazilian recently signed a three-year deal with the ‘Wolves’ to replace Spain legend Raul as their main striking threat.

Muriqi is expected to pair up with fellow Brazilian Rodrigues Tabata who scored Al Sadd’s first goal yesterday.

“Those players were in good shape today after a successful summer training camp,” Ammar said yesterday.

“The positives of the match were that Muriqi was left to line up with the team quickly and was able to make up for his absence with a great performance.

“Winning the Cup tonight will give the players a boost ahead of the match against Al Hilal,” he said.

Al Sadd now head to Saudi city Riyadh for their AFC Champions League quarter-final, first leg, which will be played on August 19. The return leg will be played at home on August 26. Lekhwiya now set for their first game of the season set to commence on August 21.

Michael Laudrup, coach of Lekhwiya, said: “Yes I think it was an intense game. It was a good game with few goals. We could have had more chances for more goals (3-2). But I think we would like to start this season for everybody”.

Laudrup, who was reprimanded in the first one season last month, added: “Of course we would have liked to have won this game, but it was good for me to see some players in such a game next to me, and I think that was good.”

The only bad news for Lekhwiya was that new manager Mohammad Al Showaimer had to leave the stadium back from injury as we’re ready to start next week.”