Indians, Russians and Chinese to get visa on arrival soon

Online tourist visa processing system to be implemented by the first to second quarter of next year.

By Raynald C Rivera
The Peninsula

DOHA: Indians, Russians and Chinese visiting Qatar will be able to obtain tourist visas on arrival soon, Qatari Airways Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker announced yesterday.

"The State of Qatar is finalising agreements in order to allow citizens of Russia, China and India to arrive at the airport and get visas on arrival like the other 33 nations that already have this facility," said Al Baker.

Currently, 33 countries have visa on arrival arrangements with Qatar including the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Iceland, Greece, Finland, Spain, Monaco, the Vatican, Ireland, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and South Korea.

HIA expansion on track

DOHA: The expansion of Hamad International Airport (HIA) will push through as planned and be completed on time, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said yesterday. Asked on the national flag carrier’s investment in expanding its fleet, Al Baker said, “We have nearly 300 aircraft on order to the price of almost $70bn and our fleet expansion is progressing as planned.”

"The Ministry of Interior is putting processes in place because it needs IT infrastructures to be acquired and the MoI is aggressively working on that and it will soon make an announcement to this effect. It will be in weeks, not months," he said.

Al Baker was addressing the media at the agreement signing between Qatar Airways and Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) and VFS Global – a visa processing services provider yesterday at Four Seasons Hotel Doha. The agreement will pave the way for an online visa processing system.

The new online visa processing system will be implemented by the first to second quarter of next year and will be available for passengers of all airlines, he said, adding the new system will make it more convenient for visitors as they will be able to get visas within 48 hours after applications.

Breathbreak in pesticide research

DOHA: In a major breakthrough, the Central Food Laboratories at the Ministry of Public Health has developed an analytical method to estimate the remaining 120 pesticides in vegetables and fruits by using Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LC MS MS). The method has been internationally approved by the Laboratory Accreditation Bureau.

Amnesty for illegals gets under way today

DOHA: A three-month amnesty for illegal residents, coming after about 14 years, will take effect in Qatar today. The Search and Follow Up Department of the Ministry of Interior will start receiving amnesty seekers at its premises off Sabaah Road from this afternoon.

Amnesty seekers can approach the Department from 2pm to 8pm from Sunday to Thursday every week to complete the formalities for their departure.

Amnesty for illegals

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Emir and Erdogan hold telephone talks

DOHA: Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held last evening a telephone conversation with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. They discussed issues between the two countries and ways of enhancing them, and exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

Emir congratulates King of Malaysia

DOHA: Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to King of Malaysia Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri’ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah on the occasion of his country’s National Day.

Emir greets Trinidad and Tobago President

DOHA: Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Anthony Carmona on the occasion of his country’s National Day.

Emir congratulates Kyrgyzstyan President

DOHA: Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day.

Curtains on Summer Festival

Fireworks mark the conclusion of Qatar Summer Festival 2016, on the Doha Corniche last evening.

QDB launches 5th edition of Al-Fikra 2016

Carrenco warns of ‘surprises’ as Qatar, Iran square off

By Mohammed Osman
The Peninsula

QDB launches 5th edition of Al-Fikra 2016

Carrenco warns of ‘surprises’ as Qatar, Iran square off

41 Royal Plaza, Tel, 4413 0699
City Center, First Floor, P.O. Box 4483 9236
Salam Stores – The Gate Mall, Tel, 4448 5555
Qatar condemns attack on Tunisian army patrol

Doha: Qatar has strongly condemned the bombing that targeted a Tunisian army patrol on Monday in Mount Sammama in Kasserine governorate near the border with Algeria. It left six people, including minor children, injured.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said the criminal act is contrary to humanitarian values, ethics and principles and weakens Qatari solidarity with the Tunisian government in its quest to establish security and stability in the country. It also expressed condolences to the Tunisian government, the government of the country, saying that the act constitutes a new attempt to undermine the security and stability in the country.

Qatar condemned the return to terrorist activities and violence in all its forms and manifestations and called for concerted international efforts to eradicate the scourge and eliminate its causes. It also expressed condolences to the Tunisian government, the people and the families of the victims, reports QNA.

Qatar-Canada relations reviewed

Doha: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Sultan bin Saif Al Mansouri met Canadian Ambassador Ahmed Shaikh Mohammed and reviewed relations in the transport and communication fields and means of enhancing them.

A three-kilometre length, was also constructed in each direction, tripling the traffic capacity of the existing road.

The new pump station completed in Labour City

DOHA: The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) yesterday opened Al Sheehaniya-Leatooiriya road from tomorrow.

The work comes as part of four packages of construction of pumping station and rehabilitation projects, comprising construction of new stations, upgrading of existing stations and rising mains spread across Doha, Al Wakrah, Al Rayyan and Saliya executed in a span of five-and-a-half years. The completed pumping station which has a length of five kilometres rising main would discharge sewage out of the Labour City into the Industrial Treatment Plant at a maximum capacity of 471 litres per second. A reclaimed sewage effluent (RSE) line, with a three-kilometre length, was also constructed to supply irrigation water to the Labour City landscape to provide a green and conducive environment for workers.

In line with the Qatar Labour Law, the utility innovations will guarantee a proper handling of the sanitary sewerage system, thus improving workers’ health and welfare.

The Labour City’s new constructions had a total value of QR1.1bn, while the cost of the multi-phase pumping station construction and upgrading programme is about QR61.7m, while the cost of the multi-phase pumping station construction and upgrading programme is about QR61.7m.

In line with the Qatari Labour Law, the util-

Dress for the gallery, play for yourself.

A collection of tennis-inspired T-shirts, impeccably stylish and quintessentially British.
Visa facility to boost tourist arrivals: Al Baker

The expansion of Hamad International Airport (HIA) will push through as planned and be completed on time, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said yesterday.

“The project aims at doubling HIA’s capacity from 30 million to 60 million passengers. The project will go on and we have plans in place. The expansion will soon take place because we have to expand the airport to cater to the expansion of Qatar Airways,” Al Baker said in response to a question at a press conference yesterday.

The initial phase of the project has commenced with parking areas. “We have started the first phase of expanding the parking areas in order for us to release the space around the expansion area of the airport so that we can move the parking areas from the north end of the terminal building in order for us to start construction,” he explained.

The first part of the final construction phase of the airport has started and it will be ready by the end of this year. “The terminal expansion of the airport to increase capacity will be completed on time by 2021, latest,” he added.

“QA has a continuous plan of fleet expansion and fleet replacement to keep the average age of our fleet very young. Already, QA has the youngest aircraft fleet of any airline in the world,” he said.

“However, our strategy to develop tourism in Qatar is a long-term one, and we are determined to continue developing the infrastructure necessary to support the growth of this sector.”

Among the initiatives, QTA is pursuing in partnership with the private sector to drive up tourism growth include developing new and varied tourism products, expanding Qatar’s calendar of tourism festivals and events, and enhancing the level of expertise and quality among tourism sector professionals, said Al Ibrahim.

“Visa facility to boost tourist arrivals: Al Baker”

Visa facility to boost tourist arrivals: Al Baker

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

Qatar Airways offices, Al Baker.

The agreement is part of Qatar’s efforts to attract more visitors to Qatar online with Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy 2020. “It will help Qatar to raise its visitor arrivals from 2.5 million last year to over five million visitors in just three years,” said Al Baker.

Zaheen Karkaria, CEO of VFS Global, shared the same view, saying, “This service will leverage on our experience and reliability in providing seamless visa application services, and will act as an important tool to boost tourism and make Qatar a preferred tourist destination.

“We are pleased to partner with Qatar Airways and Qatar Tourism Authority to make the visa visa application process available to travellers globally through online and mobile platforms. These new channels, which are sure to prove convenient and beneficial for visitors here, epitomize the need of flexibility and security in the visa application process,” added Karkaria.

Hassan Al Ibrahim, Chief Tourism Development Officer, QTA, said: “Qatar Airways and QTA will be working with VFS Global and the MoI in the coming months to establish the new system, after which full details including visa fees will be announced.

The steps taken are expected to increase Qatar’s openness ranking on the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index. He called this soon-to-be-launched visa processing system “a milestone” in Qatar’s efforts to develop the country as a world class destination.

Facilitating the visa application process is an important step in our drive to increase the number of visitor arrivals to Qatar, and in raising inbound tourism spending.

It is no secret that global tourism this year is facing pressures - both economic and security-related - which have impacted travel figures and the hospitality sector’s performance across the region.

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Visa facility to boost tourist arrivals: Al Baker

FROM LEFT: Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Rashid Al Mazroui, Directer, Airport Passports Department; Akbar Al Baker, CEO, Qatar Airways Group; Hassan Al Ibrahim, Chief Tourism Development Officer, QTA; and Zaheen Karkaria, CEO, VFS Global at the press conference yesterday.

Pic: Abdul Basit / The Peninsula

The Peninsula

The projects include setting up commercial shops for hardware items, generators and groceries, among others. “Commercial vehicles like vans and pick-ups were also provided,” he said.

The beneficiary families comprising over 300 members will be able to earn enough money to cover their daily expenses. They were also provided with financial support for training and consultancy to set up businesses and make them productive.

The poor families with no income were selected for the projects and priorities were given to those with disabilities, widows and divorcees. It was also kept in mind that each beneficiary family should have enough members to run the business.

Meanwhile, RAF plans to provide 7,000 sacrificial animals to poor people worldwide during Eid Al-Adha. More than 40,000 people will benefit from the initiatives in 52 nations. RAF has signed agreements with 180 local partners in these countries.

RAF launches income-generating projects in Iraq’s Irbil Governorate

RAF launches income-generating projects in Iraq’s Irbil Governorate

Home

DOHA: Some areas of Ummed, Al Wakrah, Al Thumama, Mousaimiti, Rawad Al Igam and Al-Malak have experienced sudden outage for a few hours yesterday.

A Kalaharva team rushed to the affected areas in northern Iraq to restore power, which was not immediately known.

RAF launches income-generating projects in Iraq’s Irbil Governorate

The peninsula launches income-generating projects in Iraq’s Irbil Governorate

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RAF launches income-generating projects in Iraq’s Irbil Governorate

One of the beneficiaries with his small business set up by RAF in Irbil.
Ministry to provide schools buses with new colours

DOHA. In preparation for the start of the new academic year 2016-2017, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education will offer new school buses with new colours. Some Independent schools have received new buses and all others, especially the secondary schools, are expected to receive buses on Monday, 4th September. The teaching and administrative staff at all Independent schools will start work on Sunday.

306 abandoned vehicles registered

DOHA. The Technical Monitoring Section and Affairs Services at Al Wakrah Municipality registered 306 abandoned vehicles and equipment and removed 100 last month. Twenty-four vehicles were taken back by their owners. The municipality said it is conducting campaign to prevent such violations. Meanwhile, the municipality destroyed 630 kg of fish found unfit for human consumption.

Pesticides method published in magazine

Continued from page 1
The method has also been published in a major scientific research in Drug Testing Analysis magazine, the ministry said yesterday. A research team, headed by Dr. Gosa Ramadani and comprising Med Ali Jubeir, Najar Al Malakh and Ali Saad, has prepared a comprehensive research plan on developing highly efficient analytical method to estimate the remaining of 120 pesticides in vegetables and fruits.

Cucumber and apple have been selected as samples for vegetables and fruits respectively through two main experiments. The first featured the study of the method efficiency and accuracy through a series of experiments, solutions and statistical results.

The second experiment included the set up of a confirmation study for the efficiency of the analytical method by using PT samples.

The new method was chosen among the best five methods out of 100 methods tested by the International Assessment Institute. The research was also presented at the International Workshop Validation and Regulatory Affairs which was held in Canada in 2016.

Kyrghyzstan keen to boost ties with GCC

Kyrghyzstan's Ambassador Nuran Nyazaliev (centre), with other officials and community members during the 25th Independence Day celebrations and the soft opening ceremony of the embassy yesterday.

By Faazena Saloom

The Peninsula

Kyrghyzstan's ambassador in Qatar Nuran Nyazaliev has expressed keenness to boost ties with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The ambassador said the GCC is important to Kyrghyzstan, whereby the region - in Abu Dhabi and Doha, "Kyrgyzstan is giving great importance to strengthening cooperation between Kyrghyzstan and Qatar. We have attracted Kyrghyzstan's attention to the various projects and the new embassy in Doha."

According to Nyazaliev, Emir Thani is expected to visit Kyrghyzstan by the end of this year on an invitation from Kyrghyzstan's ambassador.

"We look forward to enhancing cooperation between Kyrghyzstan and Qatar. The Emir's visit to Kyrghyzstan will increase cooperation. We have excellent political and cultural cooperation and we will continue to work in the area of trade and investment. Bilateral agreements have been signed in the areas of culture, education, transportation, tourism, which are very important," said Nyazaliev.

"There are great opportunities for Kyrghyzstan to invest in Qatar. We have attracted Kyrghyzstan's attention in the sectors of infrastructure, tourism, energy and mining. These are very important to Kyrghyzstan," he added.

Nyazaliev said his ministry and members of the business community in Qatar. As a result, Kyrghyzstan Food Company has sent two export groups to study the region, its infrastructure, and its market and food production in Kyrghyzstan.

Nyazaliev said the absence of direct flights between Doha and Bishkek was a problem. “There is no direct flights between Doha and Bishkek. We are working on it," he said.

As the day passes, guests can enjoy a personalised leisure experience such as the rejuvenating benefits of the Arabian Gulf. Available from Sunday to Wednesday, there is time to enjoy the joy of leisure as redefined by the hotel with a 20 percent discount on the stay. The hotel invites guests to explore first-hand its leisure and recreational facilities, special rates and added values on water sports activities.

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Kyrgyzstan keen to boost ties with GCC

Ceremony marks soft opening of the embassy and 25th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's independence.

The St. Regis Doha lines up exciting offers this Eid

The Peninsula

Ministry to hold training courses for employees

DOHA. The Human Resources Department at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment will start training courses for its employees this month. It is expected to hold 10 work shops on topics, including writing reports, management, organisation of work and electronic archiving system. The ministry will also hold training workshops for municipalities’ employees and departments under the leadership of Ali Al-Mukhtari, Director-General of Human Resources Department. He said the department is preparing a plan for next year, especially after the merging of the two ministries.

He said the ministry organised 10 training courses in different fields from January until August. The number of beneficiaries reached 109, he added. Among them were officers and employees of municipalities.

16 violations by mobile phone shops detected

DOHA. The Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MEO) detected 16 violations during its inspection campaign targeting mobile phone stores.

The campaign resulted in 16 fines and cases were referred to the competent authorities, including prohibiting mobile phones and phone covers.

The MEO conducted an unannounced inspection campaign targeting shops that sell mobile phone accessories as part of its assessment strategy to ensure compliance by retail outlets with Law No. 9 of 2008 on consumer protection.

The inspection campaign also aimed to crack down on price manipulation and protect consumer rights.

Law No. 9 of 2008 indicates administrative fines in addition to lines ranging between QER1000 to QR1m in line with the applicable consumer protection laws.
**DOHA.** Trader Vic’s will let you enter the wonderland at Hilton Doha from today throughout this month.

The Peninsula +974 44233318 or visit www.doha.rosasianas.com

**Trader Vic’s spices up season with Asian experience this month**

Trader Vic’s will welcome you to a journey to Asia and its lively environment and always savouring authentic dishes from all over Asia.

Join us on a journey to Asia and explore the delicious dinner selection on weekdays or weekends, and the famous Tiki Friday Brunch while savouring authentic dishes from all over Asia, with some live stations of all in one place.

Trader Vic’s Doha restaurant, famous for its polynesian cuisine, lively environment and always accompanying sounds of live music, is spicing up the season with the incredible food-laden feasting regular and favourite dishes from all over Asia.

For reservations, call Trader Vic’s +974 44233318 or visit www.doha.rosasianas.com.

**DOHA.** Al Mana Group of companies, a leading Qatar-based conglomerate, is revolutionizing cinema experience with the introduction of a new, exclusive luxury cinema concept.

FLIK Cinemas, an Al Mana Group company, has announced the opening of the first platinum and gold class theatres multiplex in the GCC, in Lagoona Mall, West Bay, this month.

Two more cinema multiplexes will follow in Mirqab Mall and Doha Mall, providing additional 11 screens in each multiplex. FLIK Cinemas in Lagoona Mall will deliver an unrivalled cinematic experience in opulent surroundings, where punch technology meets the classic art of filmmaking.

Combining innovative technology with outstanding service, FLIK Cinemas will create a unique, world-class cinema experience, superior to any current offering.

In Lagoona Mall, the platinum and gold class multiplex will offer four screens and 72 seats in a sumptuous environment; putting the classic designed genuine leather reclining seats with tables and cup holders.

To complement the experience, guests can choose from a carefully designed menu by Fauchon Paris, offering a wide variety of elegant cuisine to be ordered from and delivered to the client’s seat in the platinum theatre. A personalised service waiter is available at the client’s seat in the platinum theatre. A personalised service waiter is available at the client’s seat in the platinum theatre.

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Patients benefit from new model of care at Al Maha Children's Unit

DOHA: Al Maha Children’s Unit at Rumailah Hospital has seen a rise in number of patients by about 120 percent at Al Maha Children’s Unit.

In Al Maha 1 is a 26-bed long-term facility providing complex care for children aged from three months to 14 years. Al Maha 2 is based on a collaborative model of treatment. Many of them have their breathing supported by a mechanical ventilator. The length of stay for each child varies from months to years depending on the patient’s diagnosis, ranging from hereditary disorders (genetic disorders) and neuro-muscular disorders to respiratory failure.

Al Maha 1’s head nurse in charge was previously born at 25 weeks and was admitted to the Al-Maha 1 at birth and is still admitted, hospitalised and dealing with one medical condition also. Al Maha 1, however means that Amira now four years old, is no longer dependent on hospital care and now resides with her family.

At three months of age, Amira, who was the first child in her family, was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with respiratory failure because of a viral illness. From then until the age of four, Amira was hospitalized and treated to a mechanical ventilator through a tracheostomy, suffering from chronic episodes of acute illnesses, recalled Dr. Nenam Rabab Shakkaf Abdalla Mohamed, General Pediatric Consultant at Al Maha Children’s Unit.

The current model of care at Al Maha 1 has undergone gradual improvement since the specialized model of care at Al Maha 1 due to the collaborative work of different clinics such as Pediatric Pulmonology, Dr. Aanjel Elshafy and Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, Dr. Patrick Shehun. The outcome of this model of care was extremely rewarding for the patient, her family and her clinic.

One of the initiatives is the recent involvement of the rehabilitologist, Dr. Amjed Tuffaha and Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, Dr. Patrick Shehun. The outcome of this model of care was extremely rewarding for the patient, her family and her clinic.

In this regard, Nenam Rabab, clinical senior lecturer in Public Health Medicine at the Institute of Global Health Innovation and the School of Public Health at Imperial College London, also the project lead for GIDH said: “The success of the WISH conference is significant. This conference presents a remarkable opportunity for the collective intellectual power of senior health policymakers from around the world to come together at a common platform and address risky subjects including the design and delivery of healthcare systems.”

Egbert Schillings, CEO of WISH said: “Since the inception of WISH, the body of research on the diffusion of innovation has become the centre of programme’s outreach in an innovation that neither spreads nor stops in real life. However, the key to failure is to take off like a kite, but one that is on the surface that does not exist.”

The WISH 2016 Summit, to be held from November 29-30 in Doha, will feature seven ground-breaking projects in collaboration with Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) during its 2016 conference in Doha.

Reading campaign activities at Dar Al Salam Mall

DOHA: Qatar Foundation (QF) is set to host a variety of interactive and educational National Reading Campaign activities at Dar Al Salam Mall this weekend.

The action-packed schedule, running every afternoon from Thursday to Saturday, is designed to encourage a love of reading from an early age. Welcoming children and parents alike, the activities will include themed storytelling, book making sessions, scramble and jigsaw puzzles. The weekend event will feature the great conclusion of the National Reading Campaign just in time for the Qatar Summer Festival at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), which was organised in collaboration with Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA).

WISH to host forum on GDHI project in Nov

GDHI is a research project funded by Qatar Foundation WISH Summit.

DOHA: The World Innovation Sum- mit Healthcare (WISH) 2016 will host a forum on its Global Diffusion of Healthcare Innovation (GDHI) project during its 2016 conference in Doha in November.

GDHI is a research project founded by Qatar Foundation for National Security in the WISH Summit. It explores how healthcare workers and their care leaders in six different parts of the world source innovations to meet their needs. It also examines the role of different organisations in propagating ideas and solutions for these needs.

The first phase examined the eight case studies of innovations, successfully scaled in a number of countries, to determine the factors that enabled the success of these innovations. The second phase will present the third phase of research at WISH 2016. The forum will focus on the content, rather than the supply, of innovation. It will examine the ‘gulf factors’ for innovation, rather than how innovations are ‘pushed’ or ‘pulled’ into wider practice.

In this regard, Matthew Garth, clinical senior lecturer in Public Health Medicine at the Institute of Global Health Innovation and the School of Public Health at Imperial College London, also the project lead for GDHI said: “The success of the WISH conference is significant. This conference presents a remarkable opportunity for the collective intellectual power of senior health policymakers from around the world to come together at a common platform and address risky subjects including the design and delivery of healthcare systems.”

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US rebuffs Israeli over settlements

JERUSALEM: Israel approved plans yesterday for 463 homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank, while also giving settlers the message that any construction done without planning will be retroactively legalized.

The Israeli government said it had approved plans to build 42 settlements in the West Bank including an additional 69 homes in two settlements in the southern West Bank.

The move comes as the United States is trying to start peace talks with Israel and the Palestinians, after US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital last month.

The US said the plans would be implemented in a “hands off” fashion, meaning it would not intervene in the Israeli decision-making process.

The announcement came as Israel’s Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said that the US was “fulfilling its role as a mediator between the two sides.”

The US said it would not intervene in the decision-making process, but could still impose sanctions on Israel if the plans were implemented.

The US has previously warned that settlement construction would complicate efforts to reach a peace deal.

The announcement comes as the US is preparing to announce mediation efforts to end the breakdown of the peace process in the Middle East.

The announcement comes as Israel is preparing to announce mediation efforts to end the breakdown of the peace process in the Middle East.

No truce with Syrian Kurds: Turkey

ISTANBUL: Turkey said yesterday that a truce with Syrian Kurds in northern Syria is “a joke” and the strike was conducted by a US Predator drone. American offici- als said: “That’s a joke.” A US defense official said when asked about Moscow’s strike: “It’s a joke.”

The strike was a “joke,” according to the US Defence Department.

The US has long been concerned that Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory are undermining efforts to achieve a two-state solution.

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Israel has rejected the US offer of a two-state solution.

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Gabon’s Bongo wins re-election; oppn cries fraud

The opposition rejects Bongo’s victory in election and demands a recount.

Reuters

LIBREVILLE: A count by Gabon’s electoral commission yesterday suggested incumbent Ali Bongo had narrowly beaten challenger Jean Ping in a presidential election that Ping’s camp denounced as fraudulent and said the Gabonese will not accept.

A senior source in the commission and a security aide to Ping’s camp confirmed the contentious numbers gave Bongo a 48.5% share of the vote to Ping’s 49.8%.

The electoral commission was scheduled to announce the results Saturday’s poll on Tuesday evening, but by 11am the following day the panel was still in a closed-door meeting.

“This is a masquerade,” a commission source told AFP.

The opposition demanded a recount of one province that showed a 1% swing to Ping over an earlier count.

The party yesterday claimed to have an independent tally showing Ping won 35% of the vote versus 8% for Bongo, with only one province counted — a claim the government condemned as an attempt to destabilise the country.

“We don’t have confidence in the process. We have never had confidence in the process,” Ping’s spokesman Jean Gerard Furet said.

“The Gabonese people will not accept these figures.”

Bongo’s camp said it stood confident of victory, but has been harried by a series of final decisions from the electoral commission, and any who do not respect the ruling.

The European Union, meanwhile, while in a statement yesterday called for publication “decentralised results” for every polling station and urged all actors to help keep the peace.

Gabon state TV played comments from the government warning Ping’s supporters about announcing results before the electoral commission was legal, interpreting with music and soap operas.

“After the results, we will have these initiatives that the Gabonese judicial authorities,” the government warned in its statement, read out by several officials.

It also denounced what it said was “foreign interference” after the French prosecutor’s office publicly said Ping had won.

No military solution to South China Sea dispute: Kerry

Malaysia-I day

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State John Kerry called yesterday on China to apply its historic rights to the South China Sea and say its territorial disputes to protectionism and territorial disputes to protectionism by China, diplomats say.

An arbitration court in The Hague ruled in July that China did not have rights to write into South China Sea and dismissed the case lodged by the Philippines and rejected the claim.

The United States continues to call on China and the Philippines to resolve their dispute to which China said it was to keep to the region, such as China and Vietnam, and for seeking tension.

The United States and Japan claims over South China Sea and say their territorial disputes to protectionism by China, diplomats say.

An arbitration court in The Hague ruled in July that China did not have rights to write into South China Sea and dismissed the case lodged by the Philippines and rejected the claim.

Kerry said the United States urged China to build on the embattled and said the two symmetrically.

“We are also interested in not fanning the flames of conflict but rather trying to encourage the partners to resolve their disputes and claims through the legal process and through diplomacy,” Kerry said.

US and India, in a joint statement issued on Tuesday after secret talks, reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation and said they were ready to discuss any issues with China.

They said states should resolve disputes through peaceful means and “resist self-restraint in the context of actions that could escalate or worsen disputes and affect peace and stability.”

Kerry said the Philippines welcomed the tribunal’s ruling in July but it was not meant to anger China.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte says he will hold talks with China on the issue.

Duterte is attending Asean summit next week in Laos, which hosts US President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and are also going to South China Sea.

Myanmar holds historic peace talks

NAY PYI TAW: Myanmar’s army has launched a major push to end decades of fighting between the military-backed ethnic rebel groups and an appeal yesterday to the country’s ethnic minorities to overcome their differences to achieve peace.

Suu Kyi has made the peace process a priority for her administration, which faces high expectations at home and abroad after sweeps to power in an election last November and more than half a century of military-backed rule.

Delegates in elaborate ethnic costumes, sporting silvereavases and adorned with peacock feathers, mingled and took photographs with military officers, mainstream majority Rakhine politicians and diplomats at the start of the conference.

“If all ethnic parties play a part in the peace process, we must deal with the situation in a way that will benefit all the people,” Suu Kyi said.

Duterte asks Obama to listen to him first on human rights

Duterte, 71, offered to meet Mr Trump this year, should the US Presi-dent’s visit to Manila. But the two leaders may not meet before the US November 8 elections, which will be a key test of Mr Trump’s commitment to a peaceful resolution to the territorial dispute.

Duterte, who has publicly insulted the US president, said at the sidelines of an East Asia summit last week that he was ready to come to Washington “to talk about any issues with him first before bringing up the question of human rights.”

He later said that “American interference” in the Philippines was “getting out of hand”.

Duterte said he had called Mr Obama a “fugitive” after his claim to want to meet him over the issue.

Duterte has ruled out meeting Mr Trump at the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Manila this month, saying that he would not meet the US president first before discussing human rights.

The Philippines is due to host the ASEAN summit and the East Asia summit on September 6-8.

“Duterte is ready to discuss any issues with him first before bringing up the question of human rights.”

Police data released on Tuesday showed that the number of drug-related killings since Duterte were arrested last year has been on the rise.

Police said that the three men were arrested in August after bringing up the question of human rights with Obama first before bringing up the question of human rights.

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**Rousseff’s impeachment**

Brazil's Senate has finally removed President Dilma Rousseff from office, bringing to an end an impeachment process that has dragged on for nine months and polarised the nation. The impeachment also marks an end to 13 years of leftist Workers Party rule in Latin America’s largest economy.

Senators voted 61-20 to convict the country’s first female president for breaking budgetary laws. The only consolation for Rousseff is that the Senate voted to allow her to retain the right to hold public office under Brazilian law; a dismissed president is barred from holding any government job, including even a teaching job. Rousseff denies any wrongdoing and her lawyers argued that the charges against her were trumped up to punish the president’s support for a huge corruption investigation that had targeted many of Brazil’s elite. And some experts believe the reasons for impeachment are political. Lula was hugely unpopular and was blinded for the multiple crises facing the country.

The impeachment will pay off only if it leads to positive changes in the country and an eradication of corruption. The votes to oust the government of interim president Michel Temer to prove that its action was driven by a genuine desire for change, transparency and good governance. But Temer’s own record hasn’t been blameless so far. He courted controversy by naming an all-male, all-white cabinet and lost three ministers to what is called the Lava Jato scandal in his first month in office. It’s a sad commentary on his poor popularity that at the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Rio, his speech was cut to ten minutes and polarised the nation. The impeachment has led to positive changes in the country.

Dr. Khalid Bin Shafie

**Death of Islamic State’s tactician comes at critical moment**

Syria that has pushed it to adopt a strategy of attacks overseas. Amidst the war in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State has been forced to adapt. It has shifted away from its focus on the war in Iraq and has started to focus on attacks overseas.

The death of Islamic State’s top military leader, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, is a major blow to the group. He was a key figure in the group’s propaganda efforts and had played a key role in recruiting new fighters.

The group has lost some of its leadership and has seen its propaganda efforts diminish. However, the group remains a significant threat and will continue to operate in the region.

**Quote of the day**

“Rousseff’s impeachment is the end of the Workers Party’s rule in Brazil and the beginning of a new era for the country.”

Apostolos Ali Khameni

**THE PENINSULA**

**Established in 1996**

**EDITORIAL**

In order to secure our population, our country and our future we have to increase our defensive capabilities as well as our offensive capabilities.

**VIEWS**

By Samia Nakhoul

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sive areas along the Turkish border and Euphrates basin.

These advances have all but cut IS from its last foothold on the Turkish border, its link to new foreign recruits, while a steady push from the north has brought its enemies to IS’s last bastion, the city capital Raqqa. But these strategic setbacks are not IS’s only inter-

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The Internet revolution has not reached all of us

By Larry Downes
The Washington Post

The Internet is celebrating some important milestones. Last week marked the 40th anniversary of the first mobile connection and the 25th anniversary of the World Wide Web. Millennials can’t even remember what life was like without it—and for baby boomers, the changes to everyday activities have been at once profound and subtle.

But the information revolution is far from finished. Indeed, for many living in the developing world, and even for some Americans (in the US military hasn’tArrived)

Given how far we have come, it may be hard to believe that the idea of a loosely connected web of computer networks, with fast-moving and fast-changing mobile users, originated decades ago with the US military.

The military was looking to maintain reliable and robust simultaneous communications with military assets under extreme and rapidly changing conditions.

Ironically, the military and the first responders have yet to achieve the connectivity goal they established 40 years ago. But consumers and businesses unexpectedly embraced anywhere, anytime, any device computing with a vengeance.

As many as 53 male foeticides were reported in 2015, compared to 50 cases of female foeticides, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The sex ratio at birth in India was 943 per 1,000 males, the worst performing states. Jharkhand has India’s most favourable sex ratio at birth, with 970 females per 1,000 males, followed by Kerala 981 and Karnataka 988.

The sex ratio at birth for India is 943 per 1,000 males, as per Census 2011. Haryana is the worst performing state, according to the NCRB report in 2015. Haryana’s sex ratio at birth is 864 females per 1,000 males, followed by Uttar Pradesh 878, Punjab 903, Himachal Pradesh 908, and Maharashtra 910.

The overall Indian sex ratio at birth should be at least 950 females per 1,000 males, according to the Indian government. The sex ratio at birth in India is 943 per 1,000 males, which is lower than the population sex ratio.

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Until September was taken up readable passports expiring Development. Pakistanis and Human Resource bly Standing Committee on Overseas stateless when handwritten pass- into force at the end of September, abroad could become stateless as a

ISLAMABAD: Millions of Pakistanis abroad could become stateless as a new rule setting up a mobile passport office was introduced on Thursday, said the Foreign Office yesterday. The regime ban- hinders that the Under-Secretary of State for Overseas Development said that the committee is to review the Global Positioning System (GPS) service and the process followed in the provision of travel documents to Pakistanis abroad, while also calling for greater coherence in the administration of the Overseas Pakistanis Welfare Authority (OPWA). The new rule was introduced in order to improve the health of all Pakistanis and particularly women and children by improving universal access to essential health services. The law also sets out the country’s international and federal health policy frameworks in line with international health treaties, conventions and regulations, to which Pakistan is a signatory. The document, which incorporates input from the private sector, donors, UN agencies, academia and public sector stakeholders, was developed by the Ministry of State for National Health Services (MoNHS) and the National Health Policy (NHP) draft guidelines. The document sets out the objectives of which was generated for a common national vision on health, she said. This was followed by technical

Singapore raises Zika tally, first pregnant diagnosed

KABUL: A pregnant woman was among those diagnosed with Zika infection in Singapore, as the number of confirmed cases of the mosquito-borne virus in the city-state has risen to 135. The virus, which has spread through the Americas and the Caribbean since last year, is generally a mild disease but can cause microcephaly — a severe birth defect in which babies are born with an abnormally small head — and underdeveloped brain. The government of Singapore said on Thursday that there were no other pregnant women or those trying to conceive who had tested positive for the Zika virus. The outlook for fertility, health and wellbeing will be improved by a common national health policy. The government has been working with the National Health Service (NHS) to develop a common national health policy framework, which will include a robust health insurance system and a comprehensive framework for the delivery of health services. The policy will be based on the principles of universality, accessibility, quality and affordability. The draft policy was made available to the public on Thursday. The government has also launched a consultation process to gather feedback from stakeholders and the public on the draft policy. The consultation process will run until October 31, 2016.

Pakistan govt launches new health policy

AP

Japan seeks record budget to develop missile system

The new land-to-ship missile system is expected to have a range of 300km. Far enough to reach the territory of the disputed islands, the Yonaguni Shimo-ku daily reported on Tuesday. The ministry declined to confirm the range of the missile. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokes- woman said that the range of the missile was unknown. The ministry also plans to create a mobile amphibious unit with China. Japan’s defence ministry said in a record budget today, with funds for an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system to develop an anti-ship missile system. The budget proposal calls for Japan to develop land-to-ship missiles as an alternative to land-to-air missiles for patrol planes.

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SC asks Bengal to give back farmers’ land

Holdings acquired for Tata Motors plants in Singur in a farce: SC

Reuters

MUMBAI: India’s Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the road for land acquired by the state’s land acquisition for a factory to be returned to farmers, the latest in a series of long-drawn cases that have come to symbolize conflict over land in the country.

The process by which 1,000 acres (400 hectares) of land in Singur was acquired in 2006 was “shocking” and “a farce”, the top court said, in a case also being heard by a Supreme Court bench.

“We are very happy with the verdict,” Kalyan Banerjee, lead counsel for the affected farmers in New Delhi.

“Never in our lives did we suffer a loss,” he said. Tata Motors, one of India’s top five brands, had purchased the land by West Bengal’s previous government for a factory to build the low-cost Nano car.

After violent protests by farmers who did not want to surrender their land, Tata Motors moved the operations to Gujarat state in 2008.

The company has sought compensation from West Bengal for investment of more than $300 million and said it would not give up the land.

“We will study today’s judgment in detail before coming to a decision,” a Tata Motors spokesman said by e-mail.

“LANDMARK VICTORY”

Conflict over land in India has increased as one of the world’s fastest-growing major economies expands, and land is sought for industrial use and development projects.

While several laws have been introduced in the past decade to protect the rights of farmers, some laws have been diluted in their implementation and nor always helped the victims.

Between 1995 and 2013, about five million people were displaced in India by dams, highways, mines and airports, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Mamata Banerjee, who led protests against the West Bengal government’s 2006 “forcible land acquisition”, said the judgment was a “landmark victory”, adding that she had “tears of joy” on learning about the decision and the “peace” it brought.

This is a victory of the people, victory of Ma, Mati Manush (Mother, land and people – Baner- jee’s pet slogan),” an aide Banerjee told media persons at the state secretariat Nabanna.

“The people of Singur suffered so much, they endured so much torture, but they never left me. I have tears of joy in my eyes. Returning land to the farmers of Singur was one promise my government could not fulfill so far that now it can restore the land,” she added.

Earlier in the day, the apex court set aside the acquisition of land by the previous Left Front government in the state for the Nano car plant in Singur of Hooghly district, saying judicial procedures and processes were not followed.

The chief minister then moved the project out of the state and finally set it up in Tamil Nadu in 2009, on land assigned to them by the state’s then finance minister and chief minister Narayana Murthy.

“The acquisition was wrong and it was a historical failure,” Banerjee said, attacking the erstwhile Left Front regime.

In contrast, Banerjee said her government never acquired land for forcibly, and even for public purposes like roads and railway infrastructure it negotiated with all stakeholders.

Petrol price up by ₹3.38 per litre; diesel rises by ₹2.67

IANS

NEW DELHI: Amid the recent fluctuation in global oil prices, while the petrol price increased by ₹3.38 per litre and diesel by ₹2.67 per litre on Tuesday, the retail prices – both in Delhi, with corresponding increases.

“During the current fortnight, crude oil prices in the international market have witnessed a sharp rally on the back of weaker oil prices. While there is a corresponding increase in the international price of petroleum products, IOCL said making their charges higher.

Making its previous fortnightly revision in fuel prices, IOCL said the petrol price had been revised across the network.

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Teenager shot dead in new Kashmir protests

AFP

MINAGAR: A teenager was shot dead to the television-administered Kashmir yesterday as thousands of protesters engaged in fresh clashes with security forces after weeks of deadly violence, police and witnesses said.

Paramilitary troopers fired live rounds as restrainers demonstrated against as another said by soldiers searching for protest leaders in the northern village of Nishah, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

“The boy died in the firing. Five other protesters also received bullet injuries,” the officer, who is not authorized to speak to the media, told AFP. Local media said it was 18.

Protesters also clashed with troopers who fired shotgun pellets and tear gas in other areas of the north- ern Himalayan region including in the main city of Srinagar, senior police officer and witnesses said.

“We have reports about 50 protesters were injured in Anantnag, mostly with pellets,” the police officer said of the southern town.

Kashmir has been reeling from a months-long protest movement against a government decision to scrap the special status of the Kashmir region.

Kill a monkey and pocket ₹300

IANS

SHIMLA: In an effort to tackle the increasing monkey menace in towns and villages, Himachal Pradesh yesterday announced a cash incentive of ₹300 for each monkey killed.

The Forest Department would provide an incentive of ₹100 on killing of each monkey in areas outside the forests where they have been declared unlawfully by the central government.

Forest Minister Thakur Singh Bharmahar said in a statement.

He said the decision has been taken to control the population of monkeys in areas outside the forests.

A notification was issued on March 25 by the central government declaring monkeys’ vermin in Himachal Pradesh for a period of six months. Another notification was issued in May to treat monkeys as vermin for a period of one year in 38 wards of the state including Chamba, Kangra, Ula, Bilaspur, Sirmour, Kullu, Hamirpur, Solan and Mandi.

The decision said a committee has been formed consisting of a Divisional Forest Officer, an Assis- tant Conservator of Forests and a Range Forest Officer to determine and authenticate the claims for disbursement of incentives.

The number of monkeys in Himachal Pradesh increased from 4,000 in 2015 to 20,000 in 2016.

Kejriwal removes minister over objectionable CD

IANS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today removed his Social Welfare Minister Sandeep Kumar, saying he had received an “objectionable” CD from him and that there can be no compromise with propriety in public life.

“Received ‘objectionable’ CD of minis- ter Sandeep Kumar. AAP stands for property in public life that can be com- promised. Removing him from Cabinet with immediate effect,” Kejriwal tweeted.

Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said AAP was a party of principles

Commuters and John Kerry caught in flooded Delhi

AFP

NEW DELHI: Heavy monsoon down- pours and thunderstorms brought life in the Indian capital to a grinding halt yesterday as hundreds of thousands of commuters – and the US secret- ary of state – were left stranded on roads.

Early morning torrential rains1 into large seaways of New Delhi and its surrounding areas, hur- ring traffic stuck in massive traffic jams, including the moletrone of top US diplomat Kerry.

“I don’t know how all you Delhiites must have needed their bears to get here,” Kerry told stu- dents at a townhall meeting after arriving at an hour late due to the traffic.

Kerry’s motorcade was caught up in the gridlock for the second time since his arrival in the capital Mon- day, with the heavy showers forcing him to cancel visits to three religious sites.

Television channels showed images of frustrated office work- ers and schoolchildren stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic “driving” through waterlogged streets.

Local media reports said five people were injured in New Delhi’s Badarpur neighborhood after being trapped in the water.

B K Yadav, a meteoroligist department official, said that the rainfall of the annual monsoon season, which is nearing its end.

“We recorded 62 mm in three hours in New Delhi, the highest for this season,” Yadav told AFP.

Traffic jams in New Delhi and its satellite towns of Gurgaon are com- mon in the rainy season, mostly due to clogged sewers, clogged drains and uncontrolled rainfall.

The four-month-long monsoon begins in June and brings heavy mon- rain of the annual monsoon sea- son, which is nearing its end.

“We recorded 62 mm in three hours in New Delhi, the highest for this season,” Yadav told AFP.

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**EUROPE**

**EU split one year after Migrant Merkel offer**

**BRUSSELS.** One year since Ger- many controversially opened its doors to refugees, the EU has tightened the borders of “ Fortress Europe” but remains deeply divided over how to share the burden.

Angela Merkel justifies her decision at the time by saying that the biggest migrant crisis since World War II in 1914 reflects on the EU, not on the Mediterranean countries acting as a major player in Britain’s vote to leave the EU. “This new consensus,” she said, “is a sign that we are ready to work together.”

The result is that Europe’s political climate remains tense, with the vote to leave the EU bringing a sense of uncertainty and division.

Despite reservations in eastern Europe in particular, they agreed on the relocation programme, the Turkish deal and measures to close the main migrant routes.

**Berlin.** The EU has been hit by the flow of migrants through the Greek islands and on sharing out migrants and on

**LONDON.** A second referendum on Brexit. The Leave campaign’s membership has been ex- plained by the Prime Minister Theresa May. Although a Cabinet minister, she was one of the few who opposed Brexit before the referendum.

“We must come to be very clear very soon whether or not there are people who are going to bring a success to it. That is the very first thing. But then, if the second referendum takes place, no attempt to sort out the situation by a back-door, that’s actually going to deliver anything.”

Several opposition figures, including Jeremy Corbyn, have also ruled out the possibility of a second referendum, saying that there was no mandate for anything.

Germany has been one of the few eurozone countries to stop migrants and on

**GERMANY.** The EU has been hit by the flow of migrants through the Greek islands and on sharing out migrants and on

**PRINCESS DIANA remembered**

A woman lays a tribute at left in honor of the late Princess Diana outside Kensington Palace on the 20th anniversary of her death in Paris after a car crash in London, Britain, yesterday.

**Uzbekistan leader’s daughter hints her father is ‘recovering’**

Long banned by rights groups for its strict scrutiny of claims, Karimov has been in Central Asian regimes suspicious of EU leaders.

Elections loom as Spanish MPs reject govt bid

Rajoy, the leader of the conservative Popular Party (PP), today in confidence with 189 votes against and 170 in favour after an acrimonious debate in parliament.

He needed an absolute majority of 170 votes in the 350-seat assem- bly but had failed by only one vote, the centrist C's and the PSOE, to form a new government.

Backed by the con- servative Popular Party (PP), lost the vote of confidence with 189 against 170 in favour after an acrimonious debate in parliament.

The Socialists and other par- ty leaders already agreed to hold the campaigning as a repeat election could be held. Although 28, a sign that fresh polls are looming, “without the parties” emotive pos- ition, a third round of elections is now the most likely scenario,” said Antonio Barroso, a Spanish political analyst at the Elcano research think- tank in London.

Rajoy accused the Socialists of “stubbornly wanting new elec- tions” and warned the political dualistic role jeopardising Spain’s economy and even raising questions about democracy. “It is hard to think of anything that could cause more damage to Spanish democracy than telling citizens that their vote has been useless on two occasions and that a general election needs to be held for a third time,” he said.

Spain suffered a painful eco- nomic slump when a housing bubble burst in 2008 but has bounced back for a quarter of a century. But information is very tightly controlled in the ex-Soviet nation, reports have appeared in opposi- tion media based abroad claiming the regime is dead. Anonymous sources in Uzbekistan denied the report even reached the Russian new- agens. Uzbek officials have made no mention of Karimov’s health since a terse government state- ment on Sunday saying he had been hospitalised.

From Moscow’s Bar- denko neurological hospital have been treating Karimov “from the very first moment,” its head Alexan- der Milegi Dobara, as well as in televi- sion and the press.

**Rajoy says no confidence vote” has no credibility”**

Sanchez told the assembly Rajoy “has no credibility”.

Rajoy reiterated his call for a third election in a year. “Backed by the con- servative Popular Party (PP), lost the vote of confidence with 189 against 170 in favour after an acrimonious debate in parliament.

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Rajoy reiterated his call for a third election in a year. “No party has suffered a brain haemorrhage, yesterday said public support was helping her father’s recovery, as reports continued to ferment around the country’s premier.”

In a letter to the president, it was revealed that Karimov was in a “stable” condition in a Moscow hospital.

Although Rajoy resides in offfice as acting prime minister, he has no powers to propose legisla- tion or spend new infrastructure projects such as roads and railways.

Spain’s public works ministry and the state companies spent 20 percent less on contracts in the first six months of this year than they did in 2015.

The lack of a fully-function- ing government has also delayed the drafting of a 2016 budget, which needs to be approved by mid-June to comply with European Union rules.

And weary voters are grow- ing increasingly frustrated with politicians and their inability to compromise or form a government.
Inaugural commercial flight from US lands in Cuba

President Barack Obama and Cuban counterpart Raul Castro announced a thaw after months of negotiations, setting a record for such White House initiatives since coming to office in 2009 — more than the previous 10 presidents combined. Prisoners benefitting from these shortened sentences are expected to number over 1,100 drug offenders and other inmates, setting a record for such White House initiatives.

1-10 conference also marks the first time the IUCN World Congress has convened in Hawaii for the world’s largest gathering aimed at forging people–nature partnerships for global biodiversity conservation.

A flap the picture shows US President and Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio at a campaign rally in The Villages, Florida.

US to host world’s largest conservation meeting

MIAIOM: Some 8,000 heads of state, policymakers and environmentalists converged in Miami for the world’s largest gathering aimed as forging a consensus on how best to conserve the world’s biodiversity. President Barack Obama is expected to address the Conservation International (CI) World Conservation Congress held every four years in a different location around the globe. This year, the conference theme of “Planet on the Crossroads” is aimed at exposing the plight of island nations that are at risk of disappearing due to the coming decades due to rising sea levels.

Obama cuts sentences of 111 inmates

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama commuted the sentences of 111 drug offenders and other inmates, setting a record for such White House moves in a single month. The latest grants came on top of 206 commutations Obama earlier this month, totaling 321 since taking office. Obama’s second term of office has ended in January, 7th prison sentences since coming to office in 2009 — more than the previous 10 presidents combined. Prisoners benefitting from these shortened sentences are expected to number over 1,100 drug offenders and other inmates, setting a record for such White House initiatives.

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In addition, absenteeism among teachers, particularly in rural areas, is higher compared to 81 percent for boys. Primary level remains low at 67 percent although there have been substantial improvements in both boys and girls primary school net enrolment since 2003, the enrolment of girls at primary level remains low at 47 percent compared to 54 percent for boys.

Girls in Pakistan are often not permitted to attend school unless they have a male teacher but there are fewer female teachers than male teachers, particularly in rural areas. In addition, enrolment among female teachers is higher than among male teachers. However, the percentage of female primary teachers who are trained to teach in Pakistan is 76 percent compared to 70 percent of male primary teachers, while female teachers in primary schools are paid 30 percent less than their male counterparts. Twenty-eight year-old Samea, who comes from an impoverished family in the rural area, is one such woman whose dreams of pursuing a higher education were all but stifled, not only by traditional expectations, but also by a lack of financial means.

ROTA, in collaboration with CARE’s local partner, the Pakistan’s Development & Empowerment Action (IDEA) in Pakistan has helped to establish an education project designed to enable young women facing cultural barriers and financial constraints to further their studies. Launched in January 2015, the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) is helping young women like Samea, to complete higher education and pursue a career.

Before Samea was presented with the opportunity to further her studies, she was a volunteer teacher tutoring students in Pakistan’s Swat Valley who were severely limited by a lack of educational means. When Samea began her volunteer teacher role, primary school was all but animal.

The Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) launched in Government Girls Primary School (GGPS), and began hiring teachers for the project. It was at this time that Samea applied for the ALP head teacher position. A role she successfully secured. Since ALP began, Samea undertook 45 days of training to build her capacity as a teacher and move forward with her education.

Addressing the event, Dr. Javeria Shahid, Dean of WCM-Q said: “It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our new students to WCM-Q and to present them to their very first white coat and stethoscope, both of which are such powerful symbols of our profession and the practice of medicine.

“Putting on the white coat for the first time is a big moment to all doctors. It is the moment at which they begin to work with patients and to acquire the practical skills and knowledge required to provide the best care possible to their patients. In short, it is the point at which they start to feel that they are becoming real doctors.

Many of our students have worked hard for two years to have the privilege of wearing the white coat gives a real sense of achievement and it gives us inspiration to meet the challenges of the next four years of study. I look forward to that challenge.”
QDB launches 5th edition of Al-Fikra 2016

Al-Fikra National Business Competition 2016 aims to develop the winning business concepts into successful projects.

By Mohammed Sheeb
The Peninsula

Qatar Development Bank (QDB), the Government entity committed to develop investments within local industries, yesterday launched the fifth edition of its National Business Competition, Al-Fikra 2016, for Qatari-led start-ups.

Commenting on the launch of Al-Fikra, Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khaili, CEO of QDB, said: “Every great company starts with an idea, which needs nurturing and support to flourish. This is why, at QDB, we are hugely keen on focusing our efforts and enabling individuals in Qatar to turn their ambitions into real businesses.

In an effort to assist aspiring entrepreneurs in developing their ideas and transforming them into real projects, QDB has collaborated with a group of prominent supporters and strategic partners to organise Al-Fikra this year. The competition is sponsored by Sasol and Qatar National Bank (QNB) as official sponsors, and ExxonMobil as the platinum sponsor.

Commenting on the competition’s role, Alistair Routledge, President and General Manager of ExxonMobil Qatar, said: “Together with our partners at QDB, we are very excited to see the 2016 edition of Al-Fikra Competition. Al-Fikra has become a remarkable platform for Qatar’s next generation of business leaders to cope with a highly competitive and innovation-focused market.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Majid Al Naemi, Deputy General Manager of SME at QNB said: “Our affiliated support of the Al-Fikra Competition aims at promoting the ideas of Qatar entrepreneurs by highlighting their innovative work, which contributes to diversifying the economy and regenerating the creative spirit of the business owners.”

Bonda Vilakazi, Director of Gas Development & Gas F&B at Sasol, said: “Alistair believes in innovation and green gas ideas. Sasol has supported several institutions and organisations over the past few years, with the aim of contributing to the development of the SME sector in Qatar. As envisioned in the Qatar National Vision 2030, we are confident that the private sector will play a pivotal role in the country’s future growth.”

A committee of eight evaluators from the local business community, QDB and its official competition partners will evaluate the business plans that may be developed through this programme.

The programme targets entrepreneurs and newly-registered local businesses to support them in successfully developing their business concepts. The competition is scheduled to run for a period of three months, from August to the current year. This year’s Al-Fikra competition is open to university students, entrepreneurs and working professionals. The teams will be entered into a special educational and coaching programme, enabling the participants to learn the necessary skills to develop their business ideas into successful private value-adding businesses.

They will then propose their business plans that may be developed into operating entities in Qatar.

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QDB President Alistair Routledge said: “QDB extends its support to local business communities, and stands ready to work together as key partners to help businesses grow into major companies and to turn their ambitions into real businesses.

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City Center maintains leading market position

DOHA. City Center Doha is among Qatar’s most popular shopping destinations with an average daily footfall of around 100,000 people, according to a report published by global real estate consultancy CBRE. City Center is part of the prominent Aalami company, one of the GCC’s largest growing diversified companies.

Dietmar Siersdorfer, CEO of Siemens Qatar, said: “City Center Doha was the perfect partner when we started creating a unique lifestyle destination for customers. The continuous efforts and investments by Aalami in redefining the shopping experience at City Center Doha’s prime West Bay location, will ensure the mall keeps pace with the retail sector’s rapid development in the country.”

QNB’s ATM campaign winners announced

DOHA. QNB has announced the names of 30 lucky winners of its recently-launched ‘ATM Use & Win’ campaign.

The winners participated in a campaign for QNB customers between March 23rd and July 31st 2016. The ‘ATM Use & Win’ campaign sees a large number of participants, who performed transactions or ATM use for a chance to win an Apple Watch and Samsung Galaxy S5.

QNB has the largest ATM network in Qatar with more than 400 Interactive Teller Machines (ITM) scattered across 20 branches. Participants who perform transactions at QNB ATMs will be able to win cash prizes, ATM refunds, free cash withdrawals, free ATM fees, and do fund transfers among other services.

Also, a select number of QNB ATM cash withdrawals will be tagged with a unique QR code technology which uses the time-based one-time password system, allowing secure access to banking facilities through the biometrics of customers’ iris, so that they can further enhance their choices by using their banking card or PIN.

Gulf Air unveils new campaign

DOHA. Gulf Air has launched a new season campaign. Slashing fares up to 50 percent for passengers travelling across the airline’s network for the period of September 1 until December 10.

The tickets will be available for purchase starting from 18th of September 2016, offering attractive and low prices to many winter city locales and beach-bound summer destinations.

Businesses need leaders who understand innovation: KPMG

Shukri Eid is Cisco’s MD for East region

DOHA. Cisco Middle East has announced that Shukri Eid (picured) has been appointed Managing Director of its East Region effective immediately. Shukri will lead the Cisco’s business in the UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Yemen and work closely with partners to support public and private sector customers in their efforts to digitise and become more competitive.

Cisco is a Cisco museum of nearly 10 years and has worked in multiple leadership capacities across the organisation. Over his 20 year career he has led high profile strategy, business and technology transformation engagements, working with senior officials and executives across emerging markets.

Commenting on Shukri’s appointment, Mike Weston, Vice President for Cisco Middle East said, “This is a dynamic time where we are experiencing fast-paced changes and evolving trends across industries. As a technology leader our focus is accelerating our ability to respond to our customer and partner needs in support of their aspirations. Shukri Eid is a passionate leader with an extensive track record of achievements under his belt, and I am confident of our ability to capture the tremendous opportunities that exist across our markets with him at the helm of the East Region. His management expertise and profound appreciation for the opportunities presented by the digitalisation of public and private sectors is ideally suited to execute against our strategic priorities and drive continued growth.”

In addition to his focus on developing and delivering on business strategy, Shukri will champion people development and build on the momentum achieved by following up Cisco one of the most attractive places to work for top talent in the technology sector.

“I look forward to my new role during what is an exciting time for Cisco and the region. The board and management teams have a responsibility to accelerate their journeys towards becoming more competitive and more connected in the new economy,” said Shukri Eid.

Siemens appoints new CEO for Qatar

DOHA. Engineering giant Siemens has appointed Adrian Wood (pictured) as CEO of the company’s operations in Qatar effective from September 1, 2016, as his new role after almost four years as CEO of Siemens in Kuwait.

Wood takes over from Saleh Al-Far, who will pursue a new opportunity.

Wood’s career at Siemens started in 1998 as a Marketing Analyst within Siemens Environmental Systems in the United Kingdom. During his tenure in the UK, Wood was instrumental in driving growth across the company’s diverse business, leading to a 30 percent increase in the number of employees to around 300 and more than doubling Siemens’ business in the country. Adrian Wood brings to Qatar a wealth of regional and international experience from his successful career at Siemens. I am confident he will make valuable contributions to our operations in Qatar,” said Dietmar Siersdorfer, CEO of Siemens Qatar.

In Qatar, Wood will focus on strengthening the company’s footprint, making it difficult for businesses to fully understand and compete with our services. Capturing the right digital data helps businesses to truly understand their customers’ needs when planning and executing business transformation activities.

Businesses need leaders who understand innovation: KPMG

KPMG Middle East has released the latest in a series of surveys designed to give business customers in the Middle East insights into how to become the leading ICT player in the future. The survey, which provides an overview of the state of the ICT sector and offers insights into how businesses can accelerate their journeys towards becoming more competitive and more connected in the new economy, has been launched to coincide with the IT and telecom needs of companies across any industry.

In Qatar and a “one-stop-shop” for the IT and telecom needs of companies across any industry.

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KPMG’s survey found that 96 percent of organisations are in the midst of business transformation programmes aimed at improving customer value. However, while executives often recognise the need to transform, they can struggle to harness the capabilities of their diverse workforce to transform quickly and efficiently use technology leading to the creation of new business value.

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India growth slows sharply to 7.1% in April-June quarter

AFP

NEW DELHI: India’s economic growth slowed sharply in the first quarter of the fiscal year, official data showed yesterday, missing expectations but raising hopes of an upturn sooner than expected.

Gross domestic product expanded 7.1 percent year-on-year, the government in January 2015 revised its base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Economists were expecting it to remain stable at 7.6 or 7.7 percent, but the government in January 2015 revised its base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

The numbers also followed a short of economists’ expectations, with most forecasting a slightly slower pace in GDP growth to around 7.6 percent for the quarter.

India’s rosy GDP figures have drawn questions since it is not clear whether they are accurate. The National Accounts Statistics (NAS) are based on a sample survey and are rough estimates.

India’s economy grew at a robust 7.8 percent in the fiscal year ended March 31, according to the government’s data.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made kick-starting the economy his top priority, and his government has moved quickly to roll back high fuel prices and trim taxes on consumer goods.

“Even though we are witnessing impressive gains in the food, rural and industrial sectors, there is a general sense that the economy is not growing as robustly as expected,” Kartik Iyer, chief economist at Yes Bank in Mumbai said, adding that GDP growth to around 7.6 percent for the quarter.

India’s economic expansion has been fuelled by a steady rise in foreign investment, a marked slowing of inflation, and a robust recovery in private consumption.

Investors from Kuwait topped the London sales through Chestertons, followed by those from Dubai, Bahrain, and Kuwait.

“The ongoing political uncertainty, with most investors from the Middle East and India shifting to Dubai, London, and Kuwait, underscores the continued popularity of international investors in the region,” Chestertons MENA, a leading real estate company that is a joint venture between an American developer and an Arab real estate company said.

In 2015, London demonstrated its popularity with Indian buyers, as Chesterton’s closed property sales worth over QR840 million (Dh5.3 billion) to GCC east investors. London proving to be the top market of choice, with sales worth QR350m, representing over 70 percent of total sales in 2015.

Infact, investors from Kuwait topped the GCC list, accounting for 28 percent of total London sales through Chestertons, followed by those from Dubai (16 percent) and Bahrain (11 percent). The balance of other buyers were made up of nationals from the US, South Africa, Germany, and Switzerland.
Apple Operations International, a subsidiary of Apple Inc, is seen in HoleHy, Cork, in the South of Ireland.

EU Apple ruling heralds twilight of easy tax deals

By Alex Webb and Adam Satomian
Bloomberg

T he days when US technology companies could easily shift tax payments out of Europe are coming to an end. For decades, businesses like Alphabet Inc. and Apple Inc. had been able to pay little or no tax in the country where they earned their profits, exploiting weaknesses in the rules governing corporate income taxation.

But Brussels has been aggressive in its efforts to ensure that multinationals with aggressive tax planning strategies can expect to pay more tax. And on Tuesday, a European Union tax court ruled that an Irish law allowing Apple to pay an effective tax rate of almost zero on its profits in the country was illegal.

The ruling is likely to boost the pressure on multinationals with aggressive tax planning strategies, and may prompt other countries to begin to reassess their own tax rules.

The case has already been cited by other governments seeking to avoid losing tax revenues to multinationals.

In the past, multinationals have been able to shift profits to low-tax jurisdictions around the world, including Ireland and the Netherlands, by various legal and accounting means. The European Union has been trying to tackle this problem for years, and the tax court ruling could be a significant blow to their efforts.

The case was brought by the EU against Ireland, which has been accused of giving Apple a significant tax advantage.

The court said that Ireland's tax deal with Apple was illegal because it allowed the company to pay an effective tax rate of almost zero. The deal, which was struck in 2014, was designed to attract Apple's Irish headquarters to the country.

The ruling is likely to prompt other countries to reassess their own tax rules, and could lead to more scrutiny of their tax arrangements.

The court's decision is likely to be appealed, and it may take years before it is finally resolved. But the ruling is a significant blow to the EU's efforts to clamp down on tax avoidance by multinationals.

The case has already been cited by other governments seeking to avoid losing tax revenues to multinationals, and is likely to be used as a precedent in other cases.

The tax court is likely to be closely watched by governments and businesses around the world, and its ruling is likely to have implications for tax practices in other countries.

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Australia clinch ODI series with crushing victory

John Hastings claimed six wickets before Aaron Finch and George Bailey’s attacking half-centuries powered Australia to a series-clinching six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the fourth One Day International (ODI) yesterday.

Australia rode on Finch’s 19-ball 55 and an unbeaten 50 from Bailey to chase down 212 in 31 overs and take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, Hastings’ career-best bowling figures of 6-45 helped bowl out Sri Lanka for 212 after electing to bat first despite Dhammika de Silva’s 71 (55 balls).

In reply, Finch’s opening stand gave Australia a rocket start against a Sri Lanka attack that missed the skipper Angelo Mathews’ medium pace after the all-rounder hurt his call while batting.

Hastings, who picked the record for the fastest fifty – in 18 balls – by an Australian, struck eight fours and three sixes as he carted the Sri Lankans into all parts of the ground with an acrobatic spin barrage.

Batting first, Sri Lanka were bowled for 212 with the loss of 9-96 with spinners Sachith Pathirana’s triple strike in the space of five deliveries shocked the visitors’ surge but only for a brief while.

Pathirana got the wickets of opener Joe Root and Dhananjaya De Silva for 19 on the fifth over of the innings. He then bowled veteran Travis Head, who scored 40, as the forward as he anchored Australia’s 212-9.

Yorking Australia to a series-clinching six-wicket victory, Travis Head was trapped lbw off Dilshan Munaweera for 0.

Man-of-the-match: Travis Head.


England hit world record 444-3 to crush Pakistan

New to the three formats, Australia powered through to an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

Three Olympic champs set for 200m battle

Three Olympic champions are set to face each other at the 2016 IAAF Diamond League meet in Zurich today.

Jamaica’s Elaine Thompson (left) crosses the line ahead of Switzerland’s Michelle Cueni (right) to win the 100m in 10.98sec.

New Zealand’s Bevan Contractors Otago Polytechnic have claimed six wickets before Aaron Finch and George Bailey’s attacking half-centuries powered Australia to a series-clinching six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the fourth One Day International (ODI) yesterday.

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New York: Wimbeldon champions Andy Murray and Serena Williams powered the second round of the US Open as the former came out on Arthur Ashe Stadium court on Tuesday.

Williams, launching her latest bid to secure her third leg of the Grand Slam sweep, showed little rusting and didn’t let up in her 6-3, 6-3 victory over 28th seed Magda Makarova.

The US world number one appeared untouched by the bulk right shoulder that has hindered her in recent weeks, delivering a dozen aces and 27 winners in 63-minute contest.

“I knew today I needed to be focused because I’ve played her. She’s got in the past. She’s got deep in majors,” Williams said of the Russian left-hander who beat her in the fourth round of the 2012 Australian Open.

“She knows how to play big matches on big courts. She’s not intimidated. I knew I had to come out today it was my tournament or option really.”

Williams said she didn’t know until she stepped on her how she might respond to the ad.

“Every day,” she just said it was great,” said Williams, who is chasing a record seventh title on the hard courts of Flushing Meadows where she first triumphed in 1999.

A victory would see her break the Open Era record of 22 Grand Slam titles she now shares with Margaret Court and in Margaret Court’s all-time mark of 24 titles.

While Williams has struggled since Wimbledon, Murray went from claiming a second title at Flushing Meadows to a successful defence of his Olympic gold in Rio.

Vying to become the fourth man in the Open Era to reach all four major finals in a calendar year. Murray, two wins short of becoming the first man to make a Slam sweep.

“We’re one win away,” Murray said.

The 30-year-old Scot, who beat him to gold in Rio amid widely-conceived expectations that the American would go on to capture a record-tying third Olympic gold in Tokyo.

Murray needs to win just one more match to claim the men’s singles title.

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**TOP EURO TRANSFERS**

**Paul Pogba**

Juventus (ITA) to Manchester United, 90 million euros (€90m) + fees

- **Transferred from尤**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Granit Xhaka**

Borussia Monchengladbach (GER) to Arsenal, 40 million euros (€40m) + fees

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Gonzalo Higuain**

Juventus (ITA) to Napoli, 90 million euros (€90m)

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Jesús Navas**

Sevilla FC (ESP) to Manchester City, 45 million euros (€45m)

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Lionel Messi**

Barcelona (ESP) to Paris Saint-Germain, undisclosed

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Antoine Griezmann**

Atletico Madrid (ESP) to Barcelona, 100 million euros (€100m)

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Marco Verratti**

Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) to Tottenham Hotspur, 110 million euros (€110m)

- **Transferred from**
- **From**
- **To**
- **Reason**

**Manchester City clear decks as transfer deadline nears**

Manchester City have reportedly been undertaking talks with several key players in order to facilitate the signing of new arrivals. As the transfer window draws to a close, the club is aiming to strengthen its squad ahead of the upcoming Premier League season. The likes of Raheem Sterling and John Stones are expected to leave the club, while new signings are expected to arrive. The club is also keen on securing new deals for existing players, with Gundogan and Stones set to sign new contracts. The club is hoping to complete all transfers before the deadline.

**Barca may extend Qatar Airways sponsorship to 2020**

Barcelona may extend its sponsorship deal with Qatar Airways beyond 2020. The current deal, worth 10 million euros per year, runs until 2020. The club has expressed interest in extending the deal, and talks are expected to take place in the coming weeks. The club is looking to secure a long-term deal that will provide financial stability and help in the club’s overall planning. The extension would be a significant boost for the club, which has faced financial challenges in recent years. The club is also looking to strengthen its team and compete for major honors, and a new deal would provide the necessary funds to do so.
DOHA: Newly promoted sides Al Shahaniya and Muaiter will be looking to make their presence felt in the new Qatar Stars League (QSL) season kick-off on September 15.

Al Shahaniya head into the new QSL season hoping to avoid a repeat of the 2014-2015 campaign when they failed to be relegated. The club also made a change of management in the summer with Spanish coach Miguel Larriera making the switch from Qatar Stars League champions Al Rayyan.

The Tunisian tactician is no stranger to managing in the region, and has taken charge at a host of teams in Saudi Arabia. His most noticeable spell was in charge of Al Kharaf between 2008 and 2014, during which he won both the 2010 Arabian Gulf League (QSL) and Super Cup. Shahaniya will be hoping his experience can aid the side in bearing the drop.

There has also been a busy summer on the transfer front with what has been a tough season for Shahaniya. The club has only made a couple of local signings so far this season.

Whilst in terms of local talent, Amir Osim has lined up a Board member of the International Football Association (IFA) to join the club. This is the second signing for Al Shahaniya ahead of the new season.

Muaiter have had a busy season so far, with a number of players arriving from other clubs in the region.

The club have also been busy in the transfer market, bringing in a number of players from other clubs in the region. The most notable of these is the signing of Uruguayan striker Pablo Zeballos from Al-Wakrah for the 2016-2017 season.

Players of newly-promoted Qatar Stars League side Al Shahaniya pose for a photo prior to a match in this file photo.

**Newly-promoted teams look to impress as 2016/2017 season kick-off on September 15**

**The Peninsula**

**DOHA:** Saudi Arabia claimed gold and first place medals in the boys U-12 age-group on the opening day of the 25th GCC Gymnastics Championships at the Al Khawla bint Al Azwar Indoor Hall yesterday.

It was a 12-year-old Saudi gymnast who won the final of the six-medal boys U-12 age group, finishing with 12.350 points. He was followed by Iran's Rahbar with 11.336 points in second place, and Bahrain's Alshayeb with 11.186 points in third place.

Among the women, the Saudi gymnast won gold in the girls U-12 age-group, followed by Alshayeb in second place and Iran's Rahbar in third place.

Kuwaiti did not send entries due to the accession of their National Olympic Committee with United Arab Emirates and Oman also did not enter into the international tournament.

Meanwhile, Qatar will be in full swing when their vault team began their campaign today. The hosts are expected to pick up medals.

Earlier, a colourful opening ceremony marked the beginning of the four-day tournament.

The Qatar Gymnastics Federation (QGF) President Ahmed Al H misti said such tournaments will help the sport gain more popularity in the country.

**The GCC Championships is an important tournament which helps youngsters as well as the seniors show their talents. We are proud to host the competition,** said Al H misti, who is also a Board member of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).

**QSL: Tough season ahead for Al Shahaniya and Muaiter**

**Players of newly-promoted Qatar Stars League side Al Shahaniya pose for a photo prior to a match in this file photo.**

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QATAR VS IRAN FACTBOX

Road to Russia: Al Anabi coach insists his team will be a surprise package in the qualifying campaign as two teams meet today

By Fawad Hussain

DOHA/TEHRAN: A surprise is regularly seen at matches between Qatar and Iran. But Qatar coach Jose Daniel Carreno is sure that his team will be a surprise package in the qualifying campaign.

Carreno warns of ‘surprises’ as Qatar, Iran square off in Tehran

If there is a nation in Asian football that prides itself on surprise packages, it is the tiny Gulf nation of Qatar. The team has surprised many when it topped their group winning 10 matches out of 10 in the 2011 Asian Cup qualifying campaign. The Al Anabi coach insists his team will be a surprise package in the qualifying campaign.

The team has been deemed a dark horse by many, but Carreno is not worried. “We will have difficult matches but I hope that we will secure one of the qualifying spots on this road. Our aim is to reach the World Cup Finals. The squad has no injuries and we have 23 prepared players who want to play tomorrow,” he added.

There are no suspensions or reported injuries for either team.

World Cup hero Milutinovic urges Qatar to ‘seize’ chance

After a country which crowned World Cup winners in 1990, 1994 and 1998, saw its Costa Rica team beat Scotland and Sweden in 1990 and watched its USA side progress to the knock-out stage in 1994, helping kindle interest in football in the States.

Alongside Brazilian Carlos Alberto Parreira, who is the only person to have coached five different sides in World Cups, Carreno is a hero. Milutinovic’s name is as much part of World Cup folklore as Franz Beckenbauer, Marco Mar- kov, Johan Cruyff and Zinedine Zidane.

Although he has no official coaching role in Qatar, Milutinovic is regularly seen at matches in Doha and travels to no games across Asia.

Milutinovic, now called Qatar’s ambassador to football, believes the nation’s World Cup hopes rest on its World Cup 2022 organiser dream and reach the finals for the first time in Russia in two years’ time.

Qatar begin the Asian Football Confederation’s third round of qualifiers today, having gone through the second round topping their group winning seven games out of eight.

Now they are playing against the AFC big boys and have been drawn in Group A, which contains Iran, South Korea, China, Uzbekistan and Syria.

Qatar are 80th in the FIFA world rankings.

A poor start could crush Qatar’s dream of avoiding becoming the first side since Italy in 1934 to host a World Cup without ever before playing in a final.

A good start though and Qatar will have the backing of the public.

Milutinovic says Qatar should learn from Iceland’s example during the Euros and make sure the team and the supporters make “a connection” for the home-matches.

An interview with a quick chat about Qatar’s World Cup dreams could quickly turn into several hours, tea and lots of talk.

Ground covered includes Red Stewart, the 1934 skipper, Eric Wynalda, England's last dis- astrous World Cup campaign, a deadly explosion at a Northern Irish checkpoint, Germany’s 1974 World Cup winners versus the 2014 team, the footballing brothers, wearing a bullet proof vest in Bagdad, Hugo Sanchez and Tom Izzo.

Milutinovic scribbles furiously on napkins, drawing roughly sketched areas and showing position he would like players to take up.

He speaks a mixture of English, Spanish and French. He interprets himself to take calls from Serbia, bumps into a Chinese family and speaks Mandarin.

He turns 72 on September 7, but the energy of a much half his age would clearly subdue 23 years on international football.

Asked if he would have taken the recent England or Belgium vacancies, he says: “I would have gone like this,” pointing to his shirt and storms.

And despite talking for four hours, he says he has happily given little away.

“I’ve done my job. I speak a lot but said nothing,” Milutinovic says with a smile.