**Emir: Qatar emerges stronger after siege**

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani addressed the opening session of Munich Security Conference. The Emir said despite the blockade imposed on the country since June 5 last year, Qatar emerged stronger and preserved its sovereignty.

**THE PENINSULA**

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani described the most recent GCC crisis as a “false crisis manufactured by our neighbours” and the adventuring policies they imposed have undermined regional security. Speaking at the opening session of the Munich Security Conference, H H the Emir outlined that “Even with the regional turmoil, Qatar remains one of the most peaceful countries in the world”. Despite the blockade imposed on the country since June 5 last year, “Qatar emerged stronger and preserved its sovereignty” said the Emir, adding that Qatar has managed to secure new trade routes to accelerate diversification of its economy and furthered trade in unites.

The Emir explained the failed blockade shows how small states can use diplomacy and strategic economic planning to weather the storms of aggression from larger, ambitious neighbours.

H H the Emir spoke about the terrorism which “exists in every culture and Islam has no monopoly in them” but the violent extremism has become major threat in my region, “while extremist ideologies can be found anywhere”. The Emir mentioned many factors triggering the terrorism including the patterned failure of states in the Arab region. Failure to fulfill promises to deliver freedom, social justice and Arab unity to their people, suffering and injustice and people are losing faith in international accountability.

The Emir stressed that “during the most recent GCC crisis, my own country was able to experience some of the factors in full force. It has been a futile crisis manufactured by our neighbours, some of whom are major regional players, once believed to be stabilising factors on the world stage. That is no longer the case. The adversarial policies have undermined regional security and the economic outlook for the GCC as a strategic bloc”. The Emir added that having “regional relations being guided by a set of solid governance and the rule of law, we would not have seen nations with limited resources being blackmailed into forgoing their foreign policies for external aid.”

**School vaccination drive begins tomorrow**

Fawaza Al Salem

DOHA: With the Teams, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) National School Vaccination campaign set to kick off tomorrow, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has highlighted the importance of immunization and personal hygiene in controlling infectious and communicable diseases.

Dr Soha Al Bayat, Head of Vaccination Unit, Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control Department at the MoPH, said that vaccination is the best proven measure to protect children and adults from infectious and communicable diseases.

“Through research by the World Health Organization, it has been proven that millions of deaths have been prevented by vaccines and communicable diseases have been on decrease in many countries. Some countries have been able to eliminate diseases like measles because of vaccination. Personal hygiene also plays a major role in preventing some infectious diseases,” she said, speaking recently on the sidelines of a workshop related to upcoming Tdap National School Vaccination campaign for students in the tenth grade.

“If we are committed as a community, we can achieve success and help in eliminating diseases. One of our aims in having vaccination campaigns is to control and eliminate diseases from the community and world,” she added. The standard childhood vaccination schedule is administered from the age of one. But two vaccines are given at birth for infants to prevent tuberculois and hepatitis. Also, several vaccinations are needed to be repeated and others are given upon requirements such as travel plans and spread of seasonal flu.

**Transportation of Qatars’ camels from Saudi via Kuwait to start soon**

Emir condones with US President

DONA

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of condolences to President of the United States of America Donald Trump, expressing his condolences on the victims of the shooting incident at a school in the state of Florida, and wishing speedy recovery for the injured.

Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani also sent a cable to the US President, expressing his condolences on the victims of the shooting incident at a school in the state of Florida, and wishing speedy recovery for the injured.

Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani also sent a similar cable.

Emir greets President of Lithuania

DONA

DOHA: Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaite, on the occasion of her country’s National Day.

Deputy Emir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani and Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani also sent similar cables.
Emir: Qatar emerges stronger after siege

Continued from page 1

Other nations, who also needed financial aid, refused the offer and stood for their values. Had regional relations been guided by a set of solid governance principles and rule of law, nations would not have seen the exploitation of wealth, power or geographical constraints to satisfy the thirst for power. Speaking about Qatar’s success in resolving the blockade the Emir said “Even with the regional turmoil, Qatar remains one of the most peaceful countries in the world.” Despite the obstacles imposed upon us, including a full land, air and sea blockade beginning June 5, last year, Qatar secured new trade routes, accelerated economic diversity, and stood together in unity Qatar emerged stronger.

He noted that Qatar continued to trade with the wider world without missing a single shipment of liquefied natural gas during this time. “This is the total of the world as we are the world’s second-largest exporter of natural gas and our exports ensure the stability of global energy supply,” he stressed.

By diffusing the impact of the illegal and aggressive measures imposed on Qatar, Qatar preserved its sovereignty the Emir said. This failed blockade shows that small states can use diplomacy and strategic economic power in a form of aggression from larger, ambitious nations.

These aggressive acts wish to use small states as pawns within their power games and sectarian conflicts. It is vital to the interests of the people of the Middle East to preserve the independence and sovereignty of states like Qatar, which relies on its own resources and is best placed to stand in the front-line between two conflicting forces.

Preserving the sovereignty and the independence of decision-making of countries like Qatar ensures accelerated development like free media and free speech that the ‘blockading countries’ must see and surrender.

The Emir called for the establishment of basic security principles and baseline of co-existence “It is time for wider regional security in the Middle East. It is time for all nations of the region to forget the past – including us – and agree on basic security principles and rules of governance and at least a minimum level of security to allow for peace and prosperity.”

All nations in the Middle East need to agree on a baseline of co-existence, backed by limiting arbitration mechanisms and enforced by the collective body of the organization.

“We can mirror the efforts of the European Union’s ability to find common ground to rebuild and prosper. Shifting from focus to cooperation will require that we each be held accountable, like allowing the flow of humanitarian aid and pass across borders allowing safe and free passage for families, providing access to religious sites to all faiths, reverting the devastation of historic and religious sites, and respecting common trade routes. In his speech the Emir also lauded Germany describing it as a nation that stands for the values of freedom and the rule of law and a major pillar for the European Union, seen by many as a bastion of coexistence and trans-national cooperation.”

The Emir said “The EU demonstrates that a union can establish shared security based on mutual interests, even among nations who once appeared apart in war. Like it or not, Brexit is an example of a peaceful resolution of differences. No diplomatic war was cut, and no blood was shed. There is a lesson here for us in the Arab region.”

The European Union provides a framework for regional governance, and the peaceful arbitration of disputes. This framework is sorely needed in the Middle East. Today, many governments and international laws act with impunity, without regard for human rights. The lack of accountability for good governance is widespread. It’s no wonder that people are looking for hope, and who would otherwise have stood for war crimes against their own people are now calling for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The Emir questioned why many people, even entire nations, are losing faith in the basic accountability of their governments. They think importantly that many of the global mechanisms for conflict resolution, and the maintenance of rights have been paralyzed and sidelined.” He added that the Arab region has many examples such as Palestine’s since the Nakba, seventy years ago; the situation in Syria, Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan and Yemen. “The suffering of people in my region may appear distant to an audience in Munich, but the waves of refugees make these injustices a European concern.

And the darkness of terrorism common to our continent cannot be ignored. The Emir said “Unrest and injustice are still common to our continent cannot be ignored. The Emir said “Suffering and injustice are still the raw material to dominate multi-faith communities.”

In a show of solidarity with the very states which neglect the need to agree on a baseline of co-existence, backed by limiting arbitration mechanisms and enforced by the collective body of the organization and to get this done. We must start with a diplomat and a leader who respects the UN Charter and a major pillar for the European Union, seen by many as a bastion of coexistence and trans-national cooperation.

Dr Al Sha’ai Bajat at the opening of Ta’ip vaccination campaign workshop in Doha. (PIC: ABDUL BASIT / THE PENINSULAR)

School vaccination drive begins tomorrow

The Peninsula

DOHA: Cultural Forum’s ‘Expats Sport 2018’ drew a massive response from the expatriate community at as Al Saad Sports Club marking the New Year’s Day. The day’s events started with a colourful march past which included a jamboree of handcrafted minis for the children of the school as well as adults from infectious and communicable diseases. But maintaining personal hygiene like washing hands regularly with soap and water plays a major role as well. We encourage people to start focusing on simple measures and be safe from infections. At home we clean toilets, sometimes more than once a day. Because we know there are germs. But there are much more germs on mobile phones, laptops and desktops and such devices should also be cleaned regularly”, the said.

Dr Al Sha’ai Bajat further said that the children should be taught to adopt certain habits such as cough and sneeze etiquette in order to prevent infections spreading. “Some people think that children don’t understand. But it’s wrong and the best time to teach a habit to anybody is when you are young”, he said.

Further, children and staff if diagnosed with diseases should avoid going to school. “If a child has fever, rash or any other unusual symptoms should be seen a physician, who will recommend a time out and treat them properly.” Additionally, the MOH should be notified and counsels should take the right action and arrange for the child to go back to school.

In a show of solidarity with Qatar’s ongoing efforts to host the prestigious World Cup 2022, a colourful balloon releasing ceremony was held with KMIC President, SAM Rashid, Inas General Secretary, Sulaysh Parvarl, Samarkrihro M. Bashir, Sports Director and Khalid Abul, Indian Football Forum General Secretary. Hajeri Al, QIC President, K F Abul, Rahman and Friends Cultural Centre Executive Director, Habibrahan Kusuyari, taking part.

Also present on the occasion was Mohammed Juma Al Hoot, head of the Egyptian Federation of E3 Theme Park, platinum sponsor of the event and Sayigh, Golden Sponsor who presented mementos to some of the guests.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MOHIP will start the eight annual Ta’ip campaign vaccination drive for children from today through to the end of tomorrow.

The drive will be held at several clinics across the country, and will be attended by hundreds of children at each clinic who will receive the vaccine.

The drive is being attended by children who have not received a single vaccination before.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH) has decided to vaccinate all children under the age of 10 years old, with the exception of children who have already undergone vaccination or those who have been exempted from vaccination.

This year, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH) has decided to vaccinate all children under the age of 10 years old, with the exception of children who have already undergone vaccination or those who have been exempted from vaccination.

In the recent past, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH) has decided to vaccinate all children under the age of 10 years old, with the exception of children who have already undergone vaccination or those who have been exempted from vaccination.

During the campaign, children will be given a second dose of the measles vaccine, which is currently available in the country.

Children and adults from infectious and communicable diseases. But maintaining personal hygiene like washing hands regularly with soap and water plays a major role as well. We encourage people to start focusing on simple measures and be safe from infections. At home we clean toilets, sometimes more than once a day. Because we know there are germs. But there are much more germs on mobile phones, laptops and desktops and such devices should also be cleaned regularly”, the said. Dr Al Sha’ai Bajat further said that the children should be taught to adopt certain habits such as cough and sneeze etiquette in order to prevent infections spreading. “Some people think that children do not understand. But it’s wrong and the best time to teach a habit to anybody is when you are young,” he said. Further, children and staff if diagnosed with diseases should avoid going to school. “If a child has fever, rash or any other unusual symptoms should be seen a physician, who will recommend a time out and treat them properly.” Additionally, the MOH should be notified and counsels should take the right action and arrange for the child to go back to school.

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Emir meets US Congress delegation in Munich

MUNICH. Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday received a delegation from the US Congress, including Senators Lindsey Graham, Jim Bisch, Ben Sasse, Sheldon Whitehouse, Michael Bennet and Jeff Merkley. House Representatives Joe Wilson, Joaquin Castro and former Senator Kelly Ayotte, on the sidelines of the 54th session of Munich Security Conference.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed cooperation between the two friendly countries and the Qatar-US strategic partnership in the framework of the joint declaration on security cooperation and the memorandums and agreements signed between the two countries especially in the field of countering terrorism and combating its financing. The meeting also touched on regional and international developments.

The US Congress members expressed thanks to the Emir for the role of Qatar and its efforts in fighting terrorism through Al Udeid Air Base, as well as its constant efforts to maintain stability in the region. The Emir also met with the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yildirim, and his accompanied delegation on the sidelines of the 54th session of Munich Security Conference.

The meeting reviewed the strategic relations between the two countries, ways of developing them in the different fields, in addition to discussing the latest regional and international developments.

The Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Wolfgang Ischinger, and the accompanying delegation at the conference premises in the German city of Munich.

The meeting reviewed the main topics on the agenda of the conference, notably those related to combating terrorism and international security and peace. The US Congress delegation exchanged views on the major developments at the regional and international levels.

The Emir thanked the US Congress members of the official delegation accompanying the Emir and received the US Congress delegation to a ceremony arranged on an annual basis.

QNA

DOHA. Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) announced yesterday that it will take on a project to carry out heart catheterisation operations for children in the capital of Bangladesh.

The project will go on to February 25 and will cost more than QR677,000. QRC said in their statement today that it is the 12th edition of that project. They have carried it out in seven countries, helping a total of 425 children. The previous editions took place in countries such as Sudan, Pakistan, Mauritania, Morocco, Jordan, and Bangladesh.

The humanitarian organization carried out the project in some of those countries on more than two occasions. Head of QRC delegation in Bangladesh Ahmed Al Khulaifi said that the annual project is a crucial one for the humanitarian organization, and is implemented thanks to the donations of the people of Qatar. He added that the project targets people who cannot afford the medical procedures, or countries that don't even provide that service.

The Emir is attracting visitors. The exhibition also provides an opportunity to meet the former winners of the award and encourages students to take part in the competition among students, researchers and to stimulate the spirit of innovation and towards knowledge and scientific research.

To monitor global warnings issued against some food items and inform local outlets about them simultaneously, the Health Control Section at Al Rayyan Municipality has introduced a new system called Zaheeb (ready) service.

SIDI MOHAMED THE PENINSULA

DOHA. Lack of knowledge about health rules among workers in the food facilities is the main reason behind the increasing violations at the eateries in different parts of the city, said a senior official at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

"Most of the workers serving food facilities, especially restaurants, are not properly trained and they do not have enough awareness of food specifications and rules pertaining to it," he told the Peninsula.

The official added that the workers at luxury hotels are more educated than the workers at the restaurants and they know more about health rules.

Another problem with the workers at eateries, he said, is their frequent change. "When the municipalities provide awareness lectures to them, next time they find new faces replacing the previous ones at those restaurants," he remarked.

"Earlier we submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Municipality and Environment to establish a centre that can provide training to the workers and educate them about health rules and give them certificates but until now there is no response despite the fact that there is a committee at the Ministry to study initiatives provided by municipalities and ministry's departments," he added.

The proposed centre, he said, would also help food outlets to avoid violations and because there would be less chances of committing violations by well-trained workers.

"There is keenness from food facilities not to commit violations and this is a good sign. For example, from January this year Al Rayyan Municipality closed only one restaurant and conducted many inspection campaigns," he informed.

To monitor global warnings issued against some food items and inform local outlets about them simultaneously, the Health Control Section at Al Rayyan Municipality has introduced a new system called Zaheeb (ready) service.

This application is very important especially now as Qatar imports items from many countries and it is difficult for the municipality to check to avoid violations in the application.

"Now this system or application will be developed to swiftly notify national centre for food and the procedures are underway.

"For example, through this application they can contact supermarkets through What­appen or email and send messages in English advising them in case of warning against food items to remove that product from shelves in minutes," he said.

Untrained workers main cause behind violations at eateries

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani with the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yildirim, on the sidelines of the 54th session of Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, yesterday.

Education Excellence Award expo at Katara attracts visitors

MOHAMMED DSMAN

THE PENINSULA

The exhibition, that will continue until February 28 at the building No. 18 in Katara, also provides an opportunity to the former winners to share their experiences and the impact of the awards on their life and career and the motivation it has given to them to continue their efforts in scientific research.

DOHA. The second documentary exhibition of the annual Education Excellence Award in Katara is attracting visitors. The exhibition showcases various items about the developments of the different phases of the award throughout the past ten rounds including photos, documentary films and medals won and handed out to winners during a special ceremony arranged on an annual basis.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr Abdulla Al Suaiti, CEO of the Award, and Ahmed AlKayed, Deputy General Manager for Operations of the Cultural village — Katara in the presence of several officials of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on February 15 and will continue until February 28 at the building No. 18 in Katara.

The exhibition also provides an opportunity to the former winners of the award to share their experiences and the impact of the awards on their life and career and the motivation it has given to them to continue their efforts in scientific research.

The organising committee of the Education Excellence Awards has announced 64 winners in the 11th edition over nine categories spanning primary education students, preparatory education students, high school certificate holders, university graduates, master’s degree holders, PhD degree holders, excellence in teaching, excellence in educational research and excellence in scientific research.

The aim of the exhibition is to create consolidate the memory for the public and students willing to participate in the competition to meet the former winners of the award and encourage students to take part in the next rounds, said Dr Al Suaiti.

Hassan Abdullah Al Mohammedi, chairman of the executive committee of the award, said that the number of winners in the different categories was 64 out of 291 applicants, which is a record in the history of the award.

Al Mohammedi added. He informed that the winners of the different categories were distributed among the different phases of the award. Al Mohammedi added. He informed that the winners of the different categories were distributed among the different phases of the award.

Dr Al Suaiti stressed the importance of the exhibition in highlighting the achievements of the winners and the impact of the awards on students and make them work hard for not only participating in the competition but also struggle for winning the award. Al Suaiti added.

He informed that the winners of the award will be honoured during a special ceremony on March 4.

A埃及ian writer who submitted his works to the award had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to establish a centre that can provide training to the workers and educate them about health rules and give them certificates but until now there is no response despite the fact that there is a committee at the Ministry to study initiatives provided by municipalities and ministry's departments," he added.

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**Turkey & US agree to work together in Syria**

AP

ANKARA: Turkey and United States yesterday agreed to work together on a range of tensions over Ankara’s latest crackdown, including a protest that raised fears of a military confrontation between the two NATO allies.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu said after talks in Ankara that the two sides would set up working groups to solve key issues that have bedevilled relations.

In Ankara, however, this could be achieved, but in Lesotho, the US and the US agreed on the need to meet economic and logistical cooperation, said two at a “critical phase” and vowed to create “mechanisms” to discuss issues that were causing problems.

Kevin O'Brien also met Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil and said he wanted to see a “more balanced and acceptable” policy in Syria.

Tillerson said that Turkey and the US had to solve the ten-man row over Syria, which is blacklisted as a terrorist outfit by the US and the Europe.

The Turkish line was that it would leave Manbij and that Turkey’s “priority” was to ensure the safety of the짝. The Turks could then go into Manbij alongside the Americans, a person with knowledge of the discussions, who asked not to be named.

The town was held by IS before they were pushed out by Kurdish militias and Tillerson said it was vital if the US did not fall into IS hands. But Tillerson also said that the US would not leave Manbij.

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Turkey & US agree to work together in Syria

**Gunmen shoot dead dozens in Nigeria**

AP

KANO: Dozens of people were killed and wounded, gang opened fire on local in northern Nigeria late last night, according to police.

They stopped a vehicle, killed a woman and then fled, the Kano police spokesman said.

Nigeria has recorded more than a dozen of deaths in the past month, police said.

The country has a history of tribal violence, particularly in the north, where separatists have long battled for independence.

In December, a group of soldiers killed 12 people in a clash over control of the flashpoint town of Kuma, police said.

“WE are going to act alone any longer, not US doing one thing, Turkey doing another,” Tillerson said after the talks.

They “left Manbij. ‘We must be sure that the YPG has left Manbij,” the Turkish minister said.

The US has a military presence in Manbij.

Tillerson said that “we were ready to leave Manbij. ‘We want to see a clear understanding between the two sides’,” Tillerson said.

The request came as another court failed to leave Manbij, a US military official said.

**Liberia denies US proposal on disputed waters with Israel**

REUTERS

BRIEF: Parliament Speaker Neneh Bornu told a US envoy yesterday that Liberia rejects current ongoing talks on the disputed maritime border with Israel.

US diplomats have been mediating between Liberia and Israel over tensions involving an island barrier called Sylva Island.

“After a series of protests, the Liberian government has invited the talks,” a senior official said.

“We,” a senior official said.

The government has invited foreign ministers and representatives of both countries to attend the talks.

On Tuesday, police called on Netanyahu to step down and called for a new government. The Israeli prime minister has been facing a corruption scandal, and the talks have been called off.

**Zimbabwe oppn risks split**

AP

HARARE: Zimbabwe’s main opposition party is facing the threat of damaging splits just days after the death on Wednesday of its leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Tsvangirai’s death has caused a shake-up in the country’s politics, with the opposition movements facing a split.

The party has a history of splintering, with two factions emerging in the wake of Tsvangirai’s death. The party was founded in 2005 by Tsvangirai, who was arrested in 2007 after his release from prison.

The opposition movements have been split over the party’s position on the political crisis in Zimbabwe.

Supporters of the Zimbabwe opposition party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) listen and cheer as the party acting president addresses the crowd gathered outside Harare House, the party’s headquarters, in Harare, yesterday.

On Wednesday, the ban against the newspapers over the bush and there was a clash that led to the death of one of the reporters. The talks will look at the situation from the viewpoint of the four talks with President Binyamin Netanyahu, Tillerson said.

The talks are expected to take place in early October.

“About 90% of the islands are under our control and we will continue to work on them,” a senior official said.

The US is a major player in the region, with its military bases in the Middle East and its influence in the Arab world.

The US is working with the French and the British on the issue of Syria, with the aim of finding a solution to the country’s conflict.

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**SC reduces Tamil Nadu’s auvery water share**

**IANS**

NEW DELHI: In a setback to Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court yesterday cut by 177.25 TMC the share of the Cauvery river water allotted to it. The court reduced the share of the state as it found that the Cauvery Tri- bunal had not taken into account the increased requirement of ground water available in Tamil Nadu’s state with respect to drinking and domestic purposes.

In totality, the court decreed the state of Tamil Nadu an additional 14.75 TMC of water to 10 TMC (on account of availability of ground water in Tamil Nadu) + 4.75 TMC (for drinking and domestic purposes including such need for the whole of the country of Bengaluru),” the court stated.

In the empirical data which suggested that around 20 TMC of groundwater was available in Tamil Nadu – a position the Tribunal did not take into account while declaring it as a “conjecture”.

In keeping in mind the risks associated with over-extraction of groundwater, the court felt that 10 TMC of the said available groundwater in Tamil Nadu can, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, be accounted for in the final determination of its share,” the court said.

Therefore, the share of Kar- nataka has been increased by 14.75 TMC, which includes an increased allocation for “global” city of Bengaluru for drinking purposes.

“Drinking water requirement of the overall population of all the States has to be placed on a higher pedestal as we treat it as a hierarchically fundamental principle of equitable distribution,” said Chief Justice Dipak Misra speaking for the bench. Allocating 4.75 TMC to Bengaluru, the judgment said that Karnataka could use the increased allocation for agri- cultural and industrial purposes by Karnataka itself.

“Given the importance of the capital city for the whole of the country, the state of Karnataka has been awarded an additional 4.75 TMC in view of the availability of groundwater in its area,” the court said.

“The FCT will be linked to the state of Karnataka. The Tribunal had reduced the share of the state as it had reduced the share of Cauvery water. The state of Karnataka would now have to release 17.25 TMC of water at the initial release and an additional 7.75 TMC of water at the second phase in 2022, as per the court’s order.”

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**AP**

**NEW DELHI:** Two days after the $1.8bn fraud in Punjab National Bank (PNB) broke out, the government yesterday suspended passports of Nirav Modi and his business partner Mehul Choksi for four weeks.

India’s financial crimes agency is investigating allegations that Nirav Modi and his business partner Mehul Choksi were involved in defaulting the Punjab National Bank (PNB).

**IANS**

Karnataka to provide healthcare to all soon

**IANS**

BENGALURU: In line with the ‘Modicare’ of the Central government, Karnataka too would provide healthcare to all people in the state, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said yesterday.

“The universal health cover age scheme under the name ‘Arogya Karnataka Yojana’ will be started this month to pro vide primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to all people in the state,” Siddaramaiah said in the Assembly, presenting the state’s budget for the 2018-19 fiscal.

“The universal health cover age scheme under the name ‘Arogya Karnataka Yojana’ will be started this month to provide primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to all people in the state,” Siddaramaiah said in the Assembly, presenting the state’s budget for the 2018-19 fiscal.

**CNBC India**

**New Chinese celebrations year**

People gather to perform dragon dances on the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Mianyang, China.

**IANS**

Seven die while cleaning drainage pit

**Hyderabad:** Seven workers died of suffocation yesterday while cleaning a underground drainage pit at a poultry farm in southern India, police said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Chowdeshwar said the deaths occurred in Meenipal village in Andhra Pradesh state.

Officials said 11 people entered the drainage pit, but two workers who died were rescued before they went into the pit.

The incident comes a day after another group of workers died while cleaning a pit at a poultry farm in southern India.

**AP**

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Officials said 11 people entered the drainage pit, but two workers who died were rescued before they went into the pit.

The incident comes a day after another group of workers died while cleaning a pit at a poultry farm in southern India.

**IANS**

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the country’s largest container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust tomorrow as an official said yesterday that the terminal would provide an additional capacity of 2.4 million 20-ft containers per annum in the first phase and after completion of the second phase in 2022, the capacity would be quadrupled to a whopping 100 lakh containers per year.

The FCT will be developed on Design, Build, Fund, Operate and Transfer (DBFT) basis for a concession period of 30 years with an estimated project cost of Rs 67,915 crore for both the phases.

“The terminal will be able to handle the biggest and heaviest container ships from a country with a length of 475 metres. The facility will double the current handling capacity of 35 container ships per day,” the official said.

“India is in the process of setting up the first phase of the terminal,” the official said.

The terminal will be able to handle the biggest and heaviest container ships from a country with a length of 475 metres. The facility will double the current handling capacity of 35 container ships per day. However, the government of Bangladesh decided in 2013 that they would build a container terminal in Khulna, which is expected to boost the country’s export trade.

**AP**

**DHAKA:** A Bangladesh Cabinet minister gave a list of 8,032 Rohingyas refugees who left their homeland earlier this month as part of an initiative to begin repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar.

Rohingya refugees have been living in Bangladesh since 1978, when they fled from Myanmar, then known as Burma, after fighting between the two countries.

The United Nations has estimated there could be 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

**AFP**

**Colombo:** A key ally in Sri Lanka’s ruling coalition demanded “urgent” reforms yesterday after an election defeat that sparked calls for the prime minister to step down.

The National Front Party (JNP) said the local council vote, in which the ruling parties were hammered, showed people were unhappy with Prime Minis ter Ranil Wickremesinghe.

“Ranil must resign,” said JNP leader Chaminda Wijesiriwardana, who is close to India’s prime minister.

“There must be giant changes that will directly address the aspirations of the people,” Wickremesinghe has accepted responsibility for the defeat and said he will change the government as his United National Party (UNP) and its electoral partner out of office, City: second phase of the government is concerned,” it continued.

“We must outvote, outcampaign, out- erase as far as the government is concerned,” it continued.

Wickremesinghe said: “I will resign.”

He said he expected younger politicians from his party to play a bigger role in the future.

“Our party is not a golden era for the hopelessly north and east colossus, as he brutally crushed a separatist Tamil movement and his island’s ethno-war in 1989.

His party is in no way the harlequin north and east colossus, as he brutally crushed a separatist Tamil movement and his island’s ethno-war in 1989.

The ruling coalition has also been hit by defections by members of the JUMP (the joint opposition movement) that burst into the open in the run-up to today’s election.

President Maithripala Sirisena suspended the JUMP as his party contested the elections independently and refused to endorse the prime minister and his ruling coalition.

Sirisena said a day before the election that he had spoken to the prime minister’s party and that his own party would not vote for the government.

Rajapaksa’s party comfortably won in two regions near the harlequin north and east colossus, as he brutally crushed a separatist Tamil movement and his island’s ethno-war in 1989.

Sri Lanka’s ruling coalition partner seeks reforms

**AFP**

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“Tamil Nadu is a state, and the government as far as the government is concerned,” it continued.

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**Bangladesh gives names to begin repatriation**

The recent violence erupted after the group set up a new camp near the Bangladesh refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar.

The migrant and military leaders launched retaliatory attacks on Bangladeshi that were termed “clearance operations” by opponents to the Bangladeshi military. Bangladesh’s security forces have been accused of atrocities against the Rohingya, including killing, raping and arming. The United Nations and the UNHCR have described the army crackdowns as “ethnically cleansing”.

The Rohingya have long been treated as an outcast in Myanmar, even though their families have faced centuries of discrimination and persecution. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.
Pakistan to complete 10 mega projects this year

ISONABAD: National Highway Authority (NHA) of Pakistan is all set to complete at least 10 highway and motorway projects during 2018, says a press release.

These projects were initiated during 2017 and are progressing as per their target schedule.

Being part of government’s vision ‘Pakistan 2025’, it will improve road network stretching from the border with India to and up to the Gwadar Port. These projects will not only cover the entire national landscape but also the economically advanced city and provincial metropolises.

According to a senior NHA official, “The strategic waterway, Manila’s ongoing territorial conflict over South China Sea despite an ongoing joint exploration of part of the sea by China and the Philippines, China — eye joint exploration in disputed waters

AFGHANS submit 1.17m war crime claims

AP

KABUL: Since the International Criminal Court began collecting material three years ago for a possible war crimes case involving Afghanistan, it has gathered 17 million statements from Afghans who say they were victims.

The statements include accounts of killings not only by groups like the Taliban and the Islamic State group, but also involving Afghan Security Forces and government-affiliated warlords, the U.S.-led coalition, and foreign and domestic spy agencies, said Abdel Wahid Samii, director of the Human Rights and Eradication of Violence Organisation.

Based on so many war crimes statements, ICC judges in The Hague would then decide whether to seek a war crimes trial in some instances while, in others, the court would make its decision.

“The statements were collected between November 20, 2017, and January 31, 2018, by organisations based in Europe and Afghanistan and sent to the ICC, Pedram said. Because one statement might include multiple victims and one organization might report thousands of victims, the number of Afghans seeking justice from the ICC could be in the billions of people.

In Afghanistan, the positive news is that thousands of people are coming forward. "Some people don’t want to be named because they will be targeted," said Pedram, whose group has received 1.17 million statements which are to be presented to the ICC in the next 12 months.

Myanmar’s army continues crackdown

NEAR 700,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar’s Rakhine state and crossed into Bangladesh since last August, when attacks on security posts instigated by military crackdown that the United Nations has said amounts to ethnic cleansing, with reports of arson attacks, murder and rape.

Myanmar army commander-in-chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was soon after elected to the parliament. He had been nominated for the position by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which won a majority in the country’s first election since 2010.

Having won a majority, the military-backed party has now appointed a military deputy president.

Most of the Rohingya refugees who had fled Myanmar in the past had been咻ed to neighboring Thailand, but that country has tightened its border control and has deported a number of Rohingya who had found their way there.

U.S. urges Malaysia to protect Uighurs

WASHINGTON: The United States urged Malaysia to provide temporary protection to Uighurs fleeing China reportedly held there while they might face torture or persecution if forcibly returned to China.

Human Rights Watch says the Uighurs were among more than 200 detained in neighbo"
President Dalia Grybauskaite said at a ceremony: “At the start of the last century, we looked forward with great hope to any sign of support. Today, we know that we have true friends and allies, and their strong supportive stance,” she added.

The Lithuanian government said that the Brussels court to the agenda of the ruling party. The success of the coalition, centre-right Prime Minister Orban’s party has the latest moves aimed at halting the government’s anti-immigration agenda. As the original version of the law drafted last month, a tax of 25% would be levied on foreign funding was especially worrying continuation of the Government’s asylum policy, discriminate civic space: UN.

The proposed legislation represents the first attempt to stop Hungary from continuing to host EU migrants. The law, which was passed in November 2017, has been criticized by human rights groups for its potential to make it harder for people fleeing war and persecution to seek sanctuary in Europe. The law allows the government to deport asylum seekers to a third country if it deems it safe for them to return.

The proposed legislation also includes a clause that would allow the government to deny the right to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, which has ruled in favor of asylum seekers in the past. The law has been widely condemned by human rights organizations, who have argued that it violates international law and human rights.

The proposed legislation was met with widespread criticism and opposition from human rights groups and politicians across Europe. The Council of Europe, which monitors adherence to human rights agreements, has expressed concern about Hungary’s actions.

The government’s move has also been criticized by the European Union, which has threatened to impose sanctions on Hungary if it does not reverse the law. The European Commission has launched an investigation into Hungary’s actions, and the EU’s foreign ministers have called for the legislation to be revoked.

The proposed legislation has sparked protests and demonstrations in Hungary, with thousands of people taking to the streets to demand its repeal. Opponents of the law have argued that it violates Hungary’s obligations under international law and its own constitution.

The government has defended the law, arguing that it is necessary to protect the country’s borders and to prevent the influx of illegal migrants. It has also pointed to the large number of asylum seekers who have arrived in Hungary in recent years, and to the financial burden that this has placed on the country.

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Qatar’s victory

Qatar has gained another victory in its fight against the Illegible Blockade led by Saudi Arabia, which was imposed over a fabricated statement falsely attributed to the Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on May 24.

The decision was taken by the Saudi-owned news channel Al Arabiya to suspend its license with the UK broadcasting regulator Ofcom. The channel was given an official complaint by Ofcom over the UAE-based Al Arabiya and Sky News Arabia for violating impartiality code and accuracy in news reporting.

According to the complaint, the two channels did not comply with Ofcom’s Broadcasting Code, including those that require impartiality and accuracy in news. Based on the complaint the regulator had announced that it was taking measures to handle the issue.

Saudi Arabia has been forced to leave its space in the UK or elsewhere in the European Union.

Since the beginning of the siege, official channels of the blockading countries have been extensively airing fabricated news against Qatar.

The Omani factor in India’s foreign policy

F
ollowing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s historic trip to Palestine earlier this month he made official visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Sultanate of Oman, marking a landmark in India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) relations. Modi’s trip further signaled India’s determination to play a more confident role in the Middle East at a time when New Delhi’s interests in the Arab world have grown far beyond protecting access to hydrocarbon resources and have entered domains such as anti-terror cooperation and countering China’s international influence.

While in the UAE, Modi’s second official visit there since 2015, India’s Prime Minister met with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed, and signed memorandums of understanding to enhance cooperation in the energy, financial, and transportation sectors. At the Wahat Al Karima memorial MoU, Modi paid tribute to the UAE’s military forces and he witnessed the opening ceremony for Abu Dhabi’s first Hindu temple, both illustrating the deep ties between India and the UAE, which is home to three million Indians.

Modi visited Oman where he met with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. Representatives of both governments signed eight agreements, including an MoU that will permit the Indian Navy to use the Sultanate’s Port of Duqm. At this juncture, this port on Oman’s Arabian Sea coast, which is within close geographic proximity to Mumbai, is set to serve as India’s strategic gateway to the Middle East and East Africa.

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Based on all that Oman and India offer each other, odds are good that as New Delhi asserts its increasingly influential foreign policy in the region, the two countries will build on their history of ancient maritime trade and elevate their decades-old strategic partnership to new heights in the years ahead.

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CHAIRMAN
SHEIKH THANI BIN ABDULLAH AL THANI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. KHALID BIN MUBARAK AL-SHAIFI

ACTING MANAGING EDITOR
MOHAMMED SALIM MOHAMED

m.salim@pen.com.qa

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MOHAMMED SALIM MOHAMED

ACTING MANAGING EDITOR

CHAIRMAN
SHEIKH THANI BIN ABDULLAH AL THANI

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Maldives in crisis: Beijing faces tough choices

By PETER APPS

MALDIVES IN CRISIS: Beijing faces tough choices.

When Maldivian President Yameen Abdul Gayoom embarked on his first official visit to Beijing on Thursday, he was expected to seal a $1.2 billion maritime development agreement. It was a major strategic lift for the Maldives, which is trying to navigate its way through a constitutional crisis.

But in the end, Yameen returned home empty-handed. The visit was a diplomatic disaster.

The Maldives is embroiled in a constitutional crisis that has led to the bloodiest violence since the war against the Islamic State, and the Maldives is seeking Beijing’s help to quell it. But Yameen’s meeting with President Xi Jinping was a diplomatic failure.

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German defence minister said that Germany was prepared to play a bigger international role, by increasing its military spending and its contributions to the UN. But she urged the US to stick to a multilateral path.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen talks at the Munich Security Conference, yesterday.

The remarkable aspect was that they announced it in a press release. “To have effect, our efforts must be combined in partnership,” they said in a joint statement. “Even after the UK’s exit from the EU, close cooperation and cross-border information-sharing must be taken forward on themes such as international terrorism, illegal migration, proliferation and cyber attacks.”

May has tried in Britain to keep British security cooperation to a deal on free trade after the UK leaves the EU. Her Article 50 letter sent in March 2017, which triggered the Brexit talks, took “very confident about this”.

“Those who want to must be given reassurance time” with Germany, Macron said.

SOFIA: Yucel, are pictured in front of their home after Deniz Yucel was released from prison in Istanbul, yesterday.

Calling for continued intelligence-sharing, Macron said Germany had “the second largest defence budget in NATO in Europe,” said Richard Allan, Facebook’s vice president for public policy.

Army chief made in charge of France’s national service

The German prosecutor reported that a Turkish journalist, Deniz Yucel, and his wife, Dilek Mayaturk were seized by Turkish authorities in February 2017.

Terrorist guilty of punching London police

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Germans vote to boost military budget

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Facebook faces fine over privacy case

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EU ‘confident’ Macedonia name to settle by July

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Florida shooting sparks call for gun control

AP

WASHINGTON: The Senate has called for new immigration bills, rejecting rival plans that would have made it too hard for new deportations and strengthened the national security stance. Senators defeated President Donald Trump's latest effort at what he called a sweeping immigration bill, especially galling defeat as more than a quarter of Republican senators abandoned him on an issue that he wants to be a key issue for his re-election.

Democrats accused Republicans of failing to act. "I don't want people to sit there and think about it and then not do anything. People keep dying," said Senator Dick Durbin.

The FBI ignored tip on school shooter

AP

WASHINGTON: The FBI received a specific report in January that the suspect in the Florida school shooting could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate the tip, the agency said yesterday.

A tipster who was close to Nikolas Cruz called the FBI and provided video about the suspect in the Florida school shooting. The FBI received a specific report in January that the suspect in the Florida school shooting could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate the tip, the agency said yesterday.

An FBI official said the FBI was notified about a tip from a source who had access to the suspect in the Florida school shooting.

The FBI investigated the comment and determined that it was not a threat.

Romney announces run for US Senate

REUTERS

WASHINGTON: Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, said on Tuesday that he would run for a US Senate seat in Utah in the campaign against the Washington establishment.

Romney, who ran for US Senate in Utah in 2018, said he would run for the US Senate seat held by Republican Orrin Hatch, who is retiring.

Romney's presidential run was marred by a mandate against President Trump, who had previously endorsed Romney.

He is known for his anti-establishment image and is a frequent critic of President Trump.

He has said that he is running because he wants to "buck the system and challenge the establishment."
Two stabbed to death in Missouri

AP

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Missouri, Friday: A day that a man stabbed some of his relatives at their suburban St Louis home, leaving a man and his toddler son dead and two other people fighting for their lives.

The crime happened in Maryland Heights, a middle-class suburb with a low crime rate. Police Chief Bill Carson, at a news conference, identified those killed as Malcom B. Martin III, 33, and his 2-month-old son, Malcom Martin III Stather. He said Carson declined to arrest early yesterday at a critical but stable condition.

A 20-year-old nephew of the four people fighting for life was hospitalised in critical condition. Mr Carson declined to arrest the named relative at the home.

Army takes control of Brazil security

AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil’s President Michel Temer yesterday handed the military full control of security in the city of Janeiro in an increasingly desperate hope to end waves of gun-driven violence.

Army patrols are already used in the gang-ridden favelas, but a decree signed by Temer will now give the military full control of security operations in Rio’s city, which the president said he had virtually been seized by organised crime gangs.

The army will now have primary the state police and its own special forces to battle violence and muggings: “We are not ready. There were miscommunications,” Jimenez said in a speech at his Planalto palace in the capital Brasilia in Washington DC, yesterday.

Army patrol controls of Brazil security

AP

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration is pushing what it calls a new approach to nutrition assistance, replacing the traditional food stamp program with a new food box system. The program is intended to allow food-insecure families to make their own food choices, the way people can use nutrition assistance to pay for food delivery service, and said the plan could serve as much as $30 billion over 10 years. But the idea, tucked into President Donald Trump’s 2019 budget, has caused a firestorm, prompting scathing criticism from Demo- crats and nutrition experts who say its primary purpose is to punish the poor.

Food box idea draws criticism from Democrats, advocates

AP

WASHINGTON: US Special Counsel Robert Mueller yesterday indicted 13 Russian nationals and three companies accused of running a secret campaign to tilt the 2016 presi- dential election.

The unsealed indictment details a sophisticated operation that began in 2015 and aimed to sow social division and undermine US political institutions “including the presidential elec-

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Indian Sports Center (ISC) organised ‘Fitness with Yoga’ session at MIA Park on February 9 as part of the National Sport Day celebrations. The second “Fitness with Yoga” session at MIA park is lined up to be held on February 23 at 8:30am. Indian Sports Centre also organised Yoga sessions at Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex on National Sports Day.

New OIA UP executive team elected

The new One India Association (OIA) UP elected its executive team for the year 2018-19. OIA is affiliated to ICC under the aegis of Indian Embassy (Qatar). The election meeting was held at Kochi Tennis and Squash Complex on National Sports Day.

147 MES students attend ‘Flower of Each Spring’ event

The winners of the speech contest with trophy Voltaq Toastmasters Club recently in Doha.

The programme aimed at spreading awareness about Qatar’s environment and ecology among the local community. Dr Saif Ali Al Hajari, Chairman, ‘A Flower of Each Spring’, introduced the flower of the spring, 'Yokhanahman Lippi'. The winners were given information about Yokhanahman Lippi, which is an indigenous flower of Qatar, and abutted about the importance of preserving birds too. Several fun-filled activities were conducted for the school students. Rajesh, Coordinator, MES Scouts and Guides, along with his team members comprising, Roxy Johnson, Suchitra Karann, Dhanay, Mitbo and Saritha Shiral accompanied the school students.

Voltaq Qatar Toastmasters Club holds speech contest

Mall of Qatar host Toastmasters Club recently in Doha.

The students of MES Indian School with staff during the inaugural session of the 8th edition of “Flower of Each Spring” event in Al Khor.

Toastmasters Kausik Sarathy, Pranav Pandey and D S Murthy won first place in International, Humorous and Table Topics categories respectively. The contest was held under the guidance of the Area Director, T M Balkrishna Karande, and senior members of Doha Toastmasters Club, Girish Jain and senior members of Toastmasters Club recently in Doha.

Flower of Each Spring event in Al Khor.

Toastmasters Club holds speech contest

The programme aimed at spreading awareness about Qatar’s environment and ecology among the local community. Dr Saif Ali Al Hajari, Chairman, ‘A Flower of Each Spring’, introduced the flower of the spring, 'Yokhanahman Lippi'. The participants were given information about Yokhanahman Lippi, which is an indigenous flower of Qatar, and abutted about the importance of preserving birds too. Several fun-filled activities were conducted for the school students. Rajesh, Coordinator, MES Scouts and Guides, along with his team members comprising, Roxy Johnson, Suchitra Karann, Dhanay, Mitbo and Saritha Shiral accompanied the school students.

Toastmasters Kausik Sarathy, Pranav Pandey and D S Murthy won first place in International, Humorous and Table Topics categories respectively. The contest was held under the guidance of the Area Director, T M Balkrishna Karande, and senior members of Doha Toastmasters Club, Girish Jain and senior members of Toastmasters Club recently in Doha.

Toastmasters Club holds speech contest

The winners of the speech contest with trophy Voltaq Toastmasters Club recently in Doha.

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Nasa mulls atomic powered rockets to get into Mars

WASHINGTON. In the race to land humans on Mars, Nasa is blowing the cobwebs off a technology it shelved in the 1970s - nuclear-powered rockets.

Last year, Nasa partnered with BWX Nuclear Energy Inc, under $18.8m contract to design a reactor and develop fuel for use in a nuclear thermal propulsion engine for deep-space travel. While that small stars is a long way from the heavy days of the Space Race of the Cold War. It marks the US return to an idea that is also being pursued by Russia and China.

Unlike conventional rockets that burn fuel to create thrust, the atomic system uses the reactor to heat a propellant like liquid hydrogen, which then expands through a nozzle to power the craft.

That doubles the efficiency at which the rocket uses fuel, allowing for a “dramatically smaller” craft and shorter transit time, said spaceflier, a professor at Purdue University’s School of Aeronautics and Astronautics. “This factor is absolutely huge, especially for very difficult missions that necessitate a lot of propellant as a Mars flight.”

While the system would be a niche market in the global nuclear industry, it could be highly lucrative for the company for which the technology, especially for nations like the U.S., where the atomic energy sector has been in the doldrums for decades.

The application of BWX capabilities for manufacturing systems for space applications is a modest but extremely important area of technology development,” said Jonathan Cirtain, vice president for advanced technology programs at BWX. “The size of the market is directly tied to how easily these systems can be manufactured and how these in-space nuclear power systems for either electrical or propulsive power can compare to alternative sources” in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and the rest.

In Japan, Europe and Japan, tighter regulations, construction delays, public mistrust, and political opposition stalled nuclear power developments and helped push industry pioneers like Westinghouse Electric Co. into bankruptcy. And countries like Germany, South Korea and Taiwan are looking to renewable energy or cheap natural gas instead, leaving China and Russia to take the lead in the development of new nuclear plants.

Russia’s Rosatom Corp. has said it plans this year to test a prototype nuclear engine for a spacecraft that can go to Mars.

Spacewalking astronauts finish robot arm repair

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - Spacewalking astronauts wrapped up months of repair work yesterday on the International Space Station’s new robot arm.

The Canadian-built, 58-foot robot had been out of action for several months after a mechanical hand replaced on spacewalks conducted in October and January, Nasa astronaut Mark Vande Hei and Japan’s Norishige Kanai quickly moved one of those old hands to a long-term storage location outside, and prepped the other to be brought inside so it can be reattached to Earth in a tune-up and then flown back up. This last spacewalk in the series should have been completed by now, but was postponed because of complications with the robotic hand that was installed last month and ground controllers eventually solved the problem. Further delays were caused by this week’s late arrival of a Russian supply ship.

The old mechanical hands were original space station parts, in orbit since 2001. Each hand - a bulky bundle of latches - is more than 3 feet, or a meter, long and more than 400 pounds (200 kilograms) of Vande Hei and Kanai accomplished their main objectives so fast that they had time to tackle extra chores. “Great job, guys,” Mission Control radioed.

The astronauts emerged from the orbiting complex as the sun rose over Peru, 250 miles below. A half-hour later, they were soaring over London and, 15 minutes after that, over Turmisten. “It’s an amazing view over somewhere that’s got lots of snow, or maybe not,” radioed Vande Hei, making his fourth spacewalk. He returns to Earth at the end of this month.

It was the first spacewalk for Kanai, a surgeon who arrived at the space station in December as the experienced Japanese astronaut who previously visited the station. His fellow spaceflier, the station’s top scientist, was a simple method to produce hundreds of thousands of dollars in a year to test a prototype nuclear engine for a spacecraft that can go to Mars.

Borneo’s orangutan population plunged by 100,000 since 1999

JAKARTA. The most comprehensive study of Borneo’s orangutans estimates their numbers have plummeted by more than 100,000 since 1999, as the palm oil and paper industries shrink their jungle habitat.

According to the IUCN, their numbers could drop to 47,000 by 2025, from the 200,000 population estimates of about 105,000 a decade ago. Sumatra’s orangutans, a separate species, is even more endangered, with a population estimated at about 12,000 animals.

In a positive twist, the new study found Borneo’s orangutans are more resilient and adaptable than they thought. Studies in this habitat, the study found, are living in alien habitats such as plantations and burned forests.

He said the estimates vary because of uncertainty about how many animals are being in alien habitats such as plantations and burned forests.

An orangutan holds its baby at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center in the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island.

An orangutan on the Indonesian part of Borneo died after being shot at least 150 times with an air gun. Stabbed and clubbed, the second known killing of an orangutan in the Indonesian part of Borneo this year.

Erik Meijaard, a conservationist involved in the study, said current estimates of the orangutan population on Borneo range from 72,000 to 100,000.