Patrons may soon be able to monitor restaurant kitchens

A proposal has been sent to the Minister’s Office which aims to obligate the restaurants of fixing cameras at their kitchen with display screens in dining halls for the customers so that they can see the preparation of food and we are waiting for the Minister’s approval in this regard,” the official added.

He said that the idea was conceived when the municipal officials noticed that the restaurants which had glass walls between eating areas and cooking stations committed lose violations and fewer complaints were lodged against them by the customers as compared to those eateries where dining halls and kitchens were completely separate.

Regarding inspection campaigns in Ramadan, he said that due to the rush, some outlets especially sweet shops and eateries, may not give proper attention to the health standards and requirements, so the focus will be more on them.

“Round-the-clock inspections will focus on outlets that receive more visitors during the fasting month. We have divided the inspection drives into three phases. In the first phase in the beginning of Ramadan, focus will remain on commercial complexes where family Ramsad items. The second phase will start with special monitoring of sweet and fried food shops who make brisk business in the run up to Garangako celebration during the middle of Ramadan while by the end of Ramadan the slaughter houses will remain prime focus of inspection and monitoring, he pointed out.

Regarding Ramadan tents for iftar, he said that there will be a special inspection of them to monitor food preparation, transportation and how it is served to people, because such tents needed special monitoring as they gather hundreds of people every day.

He stressed that the ignorance of the new employees hired at restaurants about health standards of food safety was the biggest challenge for the municipalities.

“We call for efforts to raise awareness of this category of workers, demanding food establishments to rehabilitate their workers and raise awareness among them about food safety.”

The Ministry official also urged the public to visit shops and supermarket which see more customers instead of the ones no one visits, and also avoid shopping while being hungry. He also stressed that people must check the product’s expiry date before buying and not to leave it for a longer time in the car.

Qatar wins five gold and a silver in ITEX Malaysia

Visually Impaired Students by Anna Al Muhammedi. Tallia Alwadi and Nada Al Fawzi also from Al Rayan Secondary school for Girls won gold medals.


Other devices were also presented by students including Device for Voice Recognition by Al Dana Al Dawarsi, Ahsa Al Kowar, haisan Al Adanyia and Najla Al Nuralldin from Al Bayan Secondary School, Al Maha Secondary and Al Noor Secondary School for Girls.


ITEX is one of the largest international competitions in the field of scientific inventions which is being held for the last 28 years.

This year more than 1000 inventions from 23 different countries participated in the exhibition’s various scientific and technical fields.

Qatar concerned by situation on Yemen’s Socotra after UAE move

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday expressed concern over the situation on Yemen’s Arabitic Sea island of Socotra after the Yemeni government said the United Arab Emirates deployed forces there without informing Sana’a’s first.

The Yemeni government said earlier this month the UAE had sent forces to Socotra, which has been spared the violence that has ravaged mainland Yemen, amid Saudi-led coalition attacks.

“A number of developments pose a new threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Yemen,” it added.

The UAE and its ally Saudi Arabia have backed the government of Hadi — which controls Sana’a — in its war against Houthis. But analyses say Abu Dhabi has recently taken its distance from Hadi, with the UAE backing separate talks to take control of the south from Hadi in January.

Al Duhail beat Al Sadd to enter Amir Cup final

Al Sadd’s Abdullah Al Eshra and Nada Al Fawzi also from Al Rayan Secondary school for Girls won gold medals.


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**Amir Cup trophy tour receiving rousing welcome**

**DOHA:** The Amir Cup trophy tour is continuing across the country with the Amir Cup trophy in popular football tournaments reaching the final stages.

In a recent episode of the highly successful Amir Cup trophy tour, a delegation from the Qatar Football Association (QFA) was received at the Establishments and Authorities Security Department headquarters. The Department of National Security in the Ministry of Interior laid out the plans for QFA confirming footproof arrangements for the Amir Cup Final to be played on May 18 at the Khalifa International Stadium.

The Amir Cup tour was recently announced as part of a project to benefit the people of Qatar in a show of solidarity with the state and the country’s most loved football competition. The QFA delegation was led by Khalid Mubarak Al Kuwari, Director of the Marketing and Communication. The delegation included representatives of the Marketing and Communication Department, Fadala Al Fadla, Hamed Al Jaber and Sulaf Al Qaud as well as other players from Al Rayyan Club.

The Amir Cup is Qatar’s most prestigious domestic football tournament. The QFA official added: “Security at top events is no less a serious matter. The QFA and the Ministry of Interior are on one page for this final.”

Al Kuwari said: “As the countdown to the Amir Cup finals approaches, we are pleased to invite all citizens and residents to come to the Khalifa International Stadium to support Qatar and the Amir Cup. It will be a special occasion for the fans and local and international football enthusiasts.”

**Qatar nurses encouraged to develop skills and knowledge**

FAZENAA SALEEM

The Peninsula

Nursing profession is critical in primary healthcare and the importance of its role has significantly changed during the recent times in the country’s healthcare system.

It is capacity and responsibility to influence the present and future of healthcare services vital, says Aisha Al Qahtani, a Qatari nurse at the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) Mesaimeer Health Centre. The PHCC has 1,160 nurses employed and about 1.5 percent of them are Qatari nurses.

“Nursing has a unique role in the healthcare system as we make direct contact with patients. Nurses not only provide services and help patients get well, but also ensure their health but they also improve the whole system. Unlike earlier days we have the facilities and an efficient and effective healthcare centers that can empower nurses,” she told The Peninsula.

“At several instances nurses can be the first point of contact for patients and at some hospitals and centers nurses play the role of doctors. We are also leading in many research initiatives and getting involved in many programmes in educating public,” said Aisha.

Asha is supporting its nurses to further enhance their qualification and skills by facilitating them to study at the University of Calgary in Qatar and providing wide training program together with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

PHCC is implementing the Qatar National Vision 2030 especially in human development. They especially encourage the nurses to continue education which will help us develop skills and knowledge. There are also many opportunities given to nurses such as to take part in training programmes together with the MoPH and HMC as well as in conferences. Nurses get the chance to take part in training workshops delivered by PHCC, said Aisha who will obtain her Master’s degree in Nursing from the UCQ tomorrow.

While many Qatar girls, see nursing as a challenging profession, Aisha says the benefits and the opportunities are vast and encourages more Qatari girls to consider pursuing it as a career. “Nursing is a noble profession and its image in our society should change. I hope this will encourage more Qatari women to take up nursing as a profession. We have a very unique opportunity to provide care and services for our people in an environment that is caring, innovative and allows one to learn life and career skills every step of the way. If anyone looking to make a profession in healthcare should go for nursing,” she said.

Further, as the tireless efforts of nurses all over the world are celebrated every year on May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth in 1820, Aisha says nurses at the Mesaimeer Health Centre will be appreciated today for the role they play.

**Qatar participates in Global Healthcare & Medical Tourism Conference**

SEOL: The 7th Global Healthcare and Medical Tourism Conference (Medical Korea 2020) was held on Thursday in the Korean capital Seoul by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea. Dr Park Nungho, inaugurated the conference which was attended by representatives of health ministries’ subsidiaries from around the world for one day. The Conference of Medical Services of the Qatar Armed Forces Brig Gen Nasser Mohammed Al Kaabi participated in the conference.

On the sidelines of the conference, bilateral meetings were held between officials of the ministries of health and healthcare Industry Development Institute (HIDI) to discuss the promotion of joint cooperation. The delegation of the Qatar Armed Forces also discussed with HIDI the potential of holding educational seminars under the auspices of the Medical Services in October.

**Project Qatar concludes with big turnout from international visitors**

The Qatar Football Association (QFA) delegation led by Khalid Mubarak Al Kuwari (sitting second right), Director of Marketing and Communication, during the Amir Cup trophy tour.

**FAZENAA SALEEM**

The Peninsula

The 15th edition of Project Qatar, the international construction technology, building materials, equipment and building components exhibition, ran from April 15 to 18 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. The event attracted a big turnout after egional and global organizations flocked to capitalize on its numerous networking and learning opportunities.

Celebrating 15 years of growth in Qatar, the four-day exhibition gathered top-level delegations from China, Turkey, Iran, Germany, Pakistan and other parts of the world in an environment charged with optimism investor sentiment.

Projects Director at IPF Qatar Haidar Himmelsbach said: “Project Qatar has turned into the perfect venue to meet, direct, and foster business relationships backed by solid support from the national government, which seeks to turn the country into a world-class business hub in the region. Project Qatar 2020 was a major success as evidenced by the overwhelming participation from the regional and global industry stakeholders.”

He added: “Project Qatar 2020 played a key role in offering real opportunities for companies from around the world, enabling them to present their presence to the visitors. Participants, top engineering manufacturers and contractors, to cite a few, also engaged with local decision makers and their counterparts through Project Qatar and we are happy to note of positive outcomes in these fruitful interactions.”

The Fourth and last day of the 2018 Projects Qatar Conference highlighted the proratal role of tourism in Qatar’s socio-economic advancement, with emphasis on sustainability as a growth driver for the hospitality sector. The participants also took the opportunity of presenting a novel and integrated performance-driven approach for assessing, benchmarking, and improving tourism. Overall, the gotation Modelling (BMCM) proficiency of construction industry practitioners in the nation. Around 4500 pre-arranged business meetings between lead companies and visitors, who are predominantly professionals who get connected with the event’s organizers and explore state-of-the-art technologies that are reshaping the industry landscape. Many of the exhibitors are engaged in mutually beneficial business deals.
Turkey concerned by situation on Yemen's Socotra after UAE move

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The UAE foreign ministry blamed the Yemeni government for the deployment of the troops on a "long and prolonged series of attempts to disrupt the role of the UAE." But Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher said dozens of Emirati troops as well as tanks and aircraft had landed on the island on April 30. Yemen war has claimed nearly 10,000 lives since the conflict in March 2015,triggering what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"We think that Yemen cannot afford new problems and disputes," said the Turkish foreign ministry. It called on "all relevant actors" in the Yemeni government and "avoid steps that could end up aggravating the current conflict.""We hope that the UN can play a constructive role in ending the conflict," it added.

Shiban stated that, "We are in a conflict today not because there are people fighting but because the political transition that was supposed to happen was not implemented. There is no parallel political consultation happening right now that says we have an alternative plan for what is happening.

Iran minister to meet Europeans in Brussels on Tuesday

BRUSSELS: Iran’s foreign minister will meet his British, French and German counterparts in Brussels on Tuesday to discuss US President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Tehran, the EU said.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini will host the talks between the so-called E3 powers and Iranian minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a statement.

"We think that Yemen is... concerned by the world’s worst humanitarian crisis," he said. "We hope that the UN can play a constructive role in ending the conflict.""We hope that the UN can play a constructive role in ending the conflict," it added.

Mogherini said Iran’s foreign minister to meet Europeans in Brussels on Tuesday.

AFP

BAGHDAD: Iraq’s vote today in the first parliamentary election since the US declared victory over the Islamic State extremist group.

The balloting is expected to be a referendum on Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi’s tenure and his pledge to bring security to Iraq’s Sunni minority. But the election also highlights the influence of Iran and the fear of US forces being replaced by other issues that have dominated the run-up to the election.

Iraq has 900,000 seats at stake, with nearly 7 million candidates from almost 200 political alliances. Few fear a dramatic change in the result.

Still, there have been relatively high rates of voter participation, with turnout averaging more than 60 percent in previous elections despite security concerns. Security has been heightened across Iraq in the days before the election. Baghdad and other major cities have imposed curfews on election day, and travel between provinces has been restricted.

The government has promised to hold the elections on time, but critics say the process has been rushed and that the results will not be legitimate.

An electronic voting system is being used for the first time this year to try to curb fraud and speed up the counting process. Results will be released within 48 hours of Saturday’s polls.

The independent body overseeing the elections, the Iraqi High Election Commission, has said that more than 50,000 Filipinos in Iraq have been registered to vote.

Candidate Zeinab Al Akawi attends the election campaign with her supporters, ahead of the parliamentary election in Najaf, yesterday.

The students who graduated from Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), with Centre for Indian Community (CIC) President, E. Abdul Lathif (right) and Al Jamia Al Islamia Qatar Alumni office-bearers.

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1 Gazan dead, 49 injured by Israeli fire in border protest

GAZA CITY: Israeli troops fired live bullets and tear gas yesterday across a border fence in Gaza, where Palestinian protesters three streams, burned tires and set fires with burning rag-attached. One protester was killed and 49 were wounded by Israeli fire. Gaza health officials said.

The search and rescue operations, involving emergency response teams, efforts to rescue and evacuate injured and wounded cases. The medical health services are the main issue, as several injured were in serious condition.

The protests, driven by a wide range of groups, including workers, farmers, and students, aim to raise awareness about the ongoing Israeli occupation and the need for a just peace process.

Since the Hamas-led marches began in late March, 41 Palestinian protesters have been killed by Israeli fire, including a 40-year-old man shot dead yesterday, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. More than 1,700 Palestinians have been shot and wounded, including 49 injured yesterday. Seventeen of the injured were in serious condition, among them a 16-year-old boy with a shot to the head. The Israeli says it has a right to defend its border and has called on the international community to support its actions.

The protests are expected to continue, with planned demonstrations planned for Friday and Saturday.

GAZA CITY: Several thousand people held a protest in Jordan yesterday to mark the 70th anniversary of what Palestinians call their “nakba,” which they say allowed Israel to seize control of the region, including much of the West Bank. Pale-stinian Arabs, including who is now Israeli, but has been said it is ready for a long-term peace settlement. An agreement between Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank would be a key step towards a future Palestinian capital.

Palestinian demonstrators gather to protest against excavation works by Israel Historical Monuments Authority, around the cemetery at the Golden Gate, located on the eastern side of Jerusalem's old city wall, yesterday.

Lebanese politician calls for forming govt fast

BEIRUT: A senior Lebanese politician is urging his colleagues to form a new government quickly, following general elections held last week. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said Lebanon cannot tolerate any delays because of growing regional tensions and a struggling economy.

The powerful Shia politician has held the post for more than 25 years, and is expected to be re-elected for the upcoming term. The elections were marked by widespread protests and street clashes.

Meanwhile, several thousand protesters gathered in Beirut to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the formation of a new government that includes all political parties.

Lebanon's caretaker cabinet is expected to convene later this month.

South Africa probes ‘extremism’ element in mosque attack

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa’s elite police unit said yesterday it was investigating an “element of extremism” in a mosque attack in which a person died and dozens of others were injured.

“We see elements of hatred and a certain religion” in the Thursday’s attacks in the mosque’s worship space, senior officer of the unit said.

The attack was confirmed by the mosque’s committee, which said it had been targeted because of alleged anti-apartheid activities.

Several thousand people were reportedly killed in the attack, which was also reported to have targeted a protest against the election of a new president.

The mosque is one of several attacked in recent weeks, with authorities warning of growing extremism.

Court nullifies suspension of Nigerian senator

LAGOS: A Nigerian court has lifted the suspension of a senator from the country’s parliament, saying the suspension was unlawful.

The court’s decision came after it ruled that the suspension was made without following the proper process.

The senator has been accused of corruption and is facing several charges.

184 soldiers held over suspected FETO links

ISTANBUL: A total of 184 soldiers were arrested in Turkey yesterday over suspected links to the Fethullah Gülen movement (FETO), the government said.

The soldiers were detained over allegations of supporting Gülen’s movement, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.

The government has been investigating a series of cases related to FETO over recent years, including cases involving military personnel and politicians.
Andhra Pradesh High Courts that resend its January 10 “unan-
the top court.

NEW DELHI:

an investigation if it was being
boat belonged to a private
passengers managed to escape but
of mind, the driver wheeled the
gas stove. The gas leak appar-
tourists became unconscious
when the tourists were on a

VIJAYAWADA:

Narrow escape
between our two countries.”
strong people-to-people ties
received you the way you wel-
s. The bus service “would increase people to people
connectivity.” Modi then attended a civic
reception organised by Mayor Lal
He was felicitated with a
garland weighing 121kg during
the event attended by thou-
s. A key to Janakpur city
tourists.

Indra's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Khadga Prasad Shuma Oil, inspect a

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S. Thirtha Bose, Justice
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Clouds herald the advent of monsoon
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Pakistan imposes travel restrictions on US diplomats

ANATOMIA

KARACHI: Pakistan yesterday slapped reciprocal travel restrictions on US diplomats stationed in Pakistani cities, a tit-for-tat move that is likely to put further strain already by relations between the two former allies in the so-called war on terror, officials and local media reports yesterday.

The move came hours after the US had imposed a ban on the movement of Pakistani diplomats stationed in the US, forcing them to stay within 40km of the cities where they are posted.

Under the new protocol, which came into effect yesterday, Pakistani diplomats must seek permission from the State Department five days in advance if they plan to visit another city.

According to a Foreign Ministry notification, US diplomats will now face similar travel restrictions in Pakistan, and they will no longer enjoy special treatment at the airport or in general. Apart from that, the diplomats will be unable to use tinted glass on their official vehicles or use registration plates on their private vehicles.

According to diplomats who were straight checked at the airports, and US diplomats were unable to use biometrically unverified diplomatic cards, according to the notification. Moreover, US diplomats will need a non-objection certificate from the Interior Ministry before renting any property. Local media reported. The US Embassy has been informed about the travel restrictions, a Foreign Ministry official said.

US diplomats are already prohibited from visiting highly secure areas like the restive northwestern tribal belt along the Afghan border.

Diplomatic relations between the two have hit a low ebb since President Donald Trump took office last January. In August 2017, Trump accused Pakistan of providing safe havens to militants fighting US forces in Afghanistan.

The US has said a chapel had already been set up as part of the election process.

Family of 7 shot dead in Australia

AP

CANEBOB: A family of seven including four children who were shot dead with gunshot wounds yesterday at a rural property in southwest Australia in what could be the country’s worst mass shooting in 22 years, police and news media reports.

The children died with their mother and grandparents. The three generations had moved to the rural property in the distant southwestern town of Margaret River, to grow fruit and media reports.

The children were shot dead and three others were wounded. Police said there were no information that would rise concerns about wider public safety, saying a shooter is not at large. Police are currently responding to what is being described as a horrific incident.

This devastating tragedy will no doubt have a lasting impact on the families concerned, the said.

The dead were all residents of the local community and, in particular, the local communities in our southwest, he added.

Police were attempting to make contact with the victims' relatives. Dawson said. He declined to release the names or ages of the dead.

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Ministry confirmed in a statement yesterday that it was the first time China’s Su-35 fighters were seen over the Balochistan Channel, the ministry said, while the two aircraft in the district in the northern Pakistan of Rajghat defence ministry portfolio as part of its tenure that he was to be brought back into the fold, and has not ruled out reassessment by force.

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Mahathir said the king indicated he was willing to pardon Anwar immediately. A full pardon by the king would allow Anwar to return to active politics.

The court said the king administration to ousr are a threat to democracy saying that led to yesterday’s vote violation the constitution which stipulates that top officials like her can only be removed by impeachment. The court also ordered Sereno to explain in 10 days why she should not be sanctioned for the complaints against her in public and ‘for causing speculations and misinformation to the members of the Supreme Court.’

The court said the As-Serono is facing a separate impeachment bid in the House of Representatives, which is domintated by Anwar’s allies. The court has ordered that efforts by the moment of kingship audit the personnel of the government would look into measures to stabilize the ringgit, and talk to departments on what could be done.

Mahathir said the country’s attorney general was wrong to clear Najib in the 1MDB probe in 2016. He said in a statement.

He, in fact, has hidden evidence of wrongdoing, and that 1MDB probe in 2016.

The court said the king administration to ousr are a threat to democracy saying that led to yesterday’s vote violation the constitution which stipulates that top officials like her can only be removed by impeachment. The court also ordered Sereno to explain in 10 days why she should not be sanctioned for the complaints against her in public and ‘for causing speculations and misinformation to the members of the Supreme Court.’

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**LONDON:** One of the main Brexit-backing groups was fined $95,000 yesterday by the electoral commission for breaking rules during the EU referendum and police officers have launched a criminal investigation.

The commission said it had found evidence that Leave.UK had failed to include at least $105,000 in its spending return and thus exceeded a spending limit.

The commission said it would not yet take any further action against Leave.UK.

**ATHENS:** The European Union warned Montenegro on Thursday to probe a shooting attack in July that left an EU official wounded.

A 33-year-old journalist was shot outside a conference on EU enlargement in Podgorica.

*Outside the building was a motionless body of a woman with an apparent bullet wound in her chest.*

**BRITAIN:** Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is expected to give an address to MPs on the second day of the state visit of US President Donald Trump.

The queen will say that the two nations are “on a journey” together.

**BELGRADE:** Montenegro urged to probe attack on journalist.

The EU has called on Montenegro to investigate a shooting attack on a journalist last month.

The attack on a reporter in the capital Podgorica was the latest in a series of attacks on journalists in the country.

**BUDAPEST:** Hungary has won a preliminary ruling from the EU’s highest court that it can continue to block EU funds from reaching asylum-seekers.

The case involves an asylum seeker who was granted a one-year residence permit.

**SABA:** A staff member of a popular bakery in Saba, an island of the Netherlands, was attacked by a customer who threw a cake at her.

The bakery owner said he would not press charges.

**BELGRADE:** Montenegro urged to probe attack on journalist.

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Catalan parliament to vote for new leader

Barcelona: Catalonia’s parliament will be holding a confidence vote today on whether or not to appoint interim leader Quim Torra as regional president. The previous leader, Carles Puigdemont, stepped aside under France’s request for his extradition.

Torra is likely to face tough questions from his ESPA (YES) party, which has 70 seats, to secure a majority. With just 93 seats between the two parties, it would be the first time the region has had a single-party government, and the Communist backing to guarantee a parliamentary majority will be crucial.

The region’s coalition deal, announced in October, is set to meet Putin during a trip to Moscow next Friday, and Macron when they visit Russia this month.

The departure of Tero Varjoranta, a Finn, had been anticipated by Russia, as France and Germany will help drive forward their projects to close their stark differences over the war in Syria and the Ukrainian crisis.

When points of view conflict, it is not only that the countries edge a bit further apart, but Russia today is a lot more confident than it was,” said Varjoranta. After Varjoranta’s resignation, he added: “Today, Russia is trying to keep it from falling apart.

“We are working with Iran to encourage it not to make any ill-considered steps and not to exit,” said Ushakov. He added that Putin is set to meet with the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, tomorrow to discuss the situation.

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He also said that Russia and its six other allies will sign a previously negotiated free trade pact with Iran next week. It will involve Iran, Russia, and a number of the regions of Moscow – Tatarstan, Russia, Kazan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

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Varjoranta, a Finn, had been a deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency and head of its Department of Safeguards, which verifies countries’ compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, since 2013. He will be replaced in an acting capacity by the head of the department’s Iran team, the Vienna-based IAEA said.

“Tero Varjoranta has recently left after May 18, and an IAEA spokesperson said.

If they decide to abstain, he will be replaced in an acting capacity by the head of the department’s Iran team, the Vienna-based IAEA said.

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Andreas Strömholm, acting director, Office for Verification in Iran, as acting deputy director general and head of the Department of Safeguards, effective immediately.

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Rift deepens as Europe seeks Trump alternatives

The Europeans now face a “critical and historic choice” over how to react to the Iran deal in particular, said Ellie Geranmayeh, expert at Euracademy on European Relations.

“The Europeans now need to essentially have a very hard and aggressive negotiating posture with the US,” Geranmayeh said.

“The accommodation and compromise attitude by the EU over the past few months to reach a deal with the US has basically failed,” she said, referring to Britain, France and Germany, the three EU signatories to the Iran deal.

That could increasingly see Iran propelling closer to Russia in particular, in spite of deep tensions over the Ukraine conflict, Syria, and the recent poisoning of a Russian ex-spy in Britain.

The US withdrawal from the deal would boost Russia’s Moscow-based geopolitical expert Alexey Malashenko said: “Russia could go on by getting closer to the EU and saying ‘look, we are still in agreement on some issues we agree on this subject, against the United States.’

Many in Europe see the Trump rift as a chance to finally leave America’s orbit and increase EU cooperation on defense and the economy.

The EU is known to boost integration as it reboots itself after the US withdrawal, and we are at the stage where we have to replace the US,” Geranmayeh said.

“Washington no longer wants to cooperate with the rest of the world and we are at the stage where we have to replace the US,” Geranmayeh said.

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Nigeria’s difficult path to long-lasting peace with Boko Haram

“W

hat will make you a solider of Allah?” a soldier declared.

Mohammed Yusuf, a “divine possessed of every form of unbelief”. Among the founder of Boko Haram’s brouthers stood democracy and the Constitution. It was 2009. The agitation for an Islamic state in the northeast of Nigeria had begun.

Then, the prospect seemed implausible. Yet by the time President Muhammadu Buhari was inaugurated in 2015, the group had occupied an area three times the size of Lebanon.

For a “God’s state”, once again remote Boko Haram, and its extension the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), has been rooted in Nigeria since 2011. In recent years, it has spread in the vast Punjab province, long a stronghold of the group, to the northeast and to Katsina and Zaria in Nigeria they used to administer. Boko Haram’s goal, DRAZEN JORGIC

is to create a theocratic state. The Nigerian army has responded with repressive tactics that have left civilians vulnerable. In recent years, the group has spread into the north, and by extension, the Islamic State of Somalia.

LAI MOHAMMED

In the past year, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party has seen a prime minister - its founder Nawaz Sharif - and foreign minister both ousted by the courts, their party has been damaged and life has returned to normal.

The new government has a chance to occupy the empty space that has been created in the wake of Boko Haram’s decline in West Africa. For one part, the government professed to appreciate the efforts of the military, but also in the humanitarian crisis the insurgency has caused. In finding confidence to press forward, we must remember from where we have come. Under Boko Haram, the illegal black flag of violence was raised. The government is trying to return the turn around the globe has taught us. We cannot change what has happened, only what is yet to come. Present-day Borno state, the former bastion of the group, speaks to this purpose. Despite Boko Haram’s failure to protect any local government areas, its leaders are trying to emerge from hideouts deep in the forest of Lake Chad to strike. Intermittent Muslims, Christians and schoolchildren are often the targets of these acts of vandalism and derision. Liberation of territory and degradation of the caliphate are not enough. We must stop every single attack.

However, nowhere in the world can the call for peace be indefinitely prevented, unless the group expands elsewhere to strike anywhere. Sadly, the streets of London, Paris and New York, nations whose security capacities outstrip that of my nation, bear testimony to this truth. In Nigeria, we remain vigilant to intercept and prevent the next attack. A final guarantor of peace will be Boko Haram’s formal surrender of violence in both speech and deed.

The road ahead is long. However, the seeds of peace are being planted on which justice, freedom and prosperity can grow. Opposition must remain open to bring about the total cessation of hostilities. For only then can we win the hearts of those hereafter.

The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera’s editorial stance.

The writer is Nigeria’s Minister of Information and Culture and chief government spokesman.
Trump unveils plan to reduce drug prices

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump today unveiled a long-awaited plan to bring down drug prices, promising to “spare the pharmaceutical industry” by previously accused of “getting away with murder” and instead focusing on increasing competition and requiring more openness about costs.

In Rose Garden remarks at the White House, Trump called his plan the “most sweeping action in history to lower the price of prescription drugs for the American people.”

Instead, the administration will pursue measures that have not been requested by the pharmaceutical industry, or not included in his campaign pledge to use the massive buying power of the government’s Medicare programme to directly negotiate lower prices for seniors.

Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, listens as US President Donald Trump delivers a speech unveiling prescription drug prices from the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, US.

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That idea has long been sup- posed to be a non-starter for drugmakers and most Republicans in Congress.

Top Trump aide: Immigrants need path to citizenship

WASHINGTON. Immigrants from El Salvador and other countries who have been living in the United States should have a path to citizenship, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly told National Public Radio yesterday.

Kelly said many of those with temporary protected status, or TPS, resulting from natural dis- asters or conflict have lived in the United States for many years.

The proposals also include making the provide protected status for the American people.” But it does not include his campaign pledge to use the massive buying power of the government’s Medicare programme to directly negotiate lower prices for seniors.

that patients see at the pharmacy counter it’s not going to be seen as responsive.” A majority of Americans say passing legislation against the pharmaceutical industry is a good idea, but a minority has shifted away from major reforms and staffed his administration with apologists who have deep ties to the industry. That includes Azar, the top executive at Eli Lilly and Azar and other Trump officials have pushed forward drug pricing in stark terms and promised bold action.

California student detained after shooting classmate

CALIFORNIA. A 14-year-old student at a California high school shot and wounded a fellow student yesterday morning before being detained by police, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said.

The victim, a 14-year-old, was hit in the arm and was in stable condition at a hospital.

The initial reports of a possible shooting came immediately from attention to the mass shootings and to the TV networks it underscored the nation’s deep concern and gun rights that was reignited by the mass shootings of 17 students and two teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Brazilian dictator personally approved killings in ’70s: Report

RIO DE JANEIRO.Brazilian dictator personally approved killings in ’70s: Report

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Brazilian dictator personally approved killings in ’70s: Report

RIO DE JANEIRO. The Brazilian dictator personally approved killings in the 1970s, a declassified CIA document published yesterday in the Brazilian media.

According to the CIA doc- ument — dug up by the Matias Spelor, Head of the Interna- tional Relations Department at the Getulio Vargas Foundation think tank — Geisel gave clear instructions to the head of the national intelligence agency that such killings should continue.

The CIA report was issued on April 11, 1974 by then director William Colby and sent to the secretary of state, Henry Kissinger. The Memory of the 1964-1985 military dictatorship has failed for many Brazilians but not dissap-...
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DOHA: Given the more challenging landscape, with a stronger US dollar and rising US rates, the Institute of Interna-
tional Finance (IIF) has cut its forecasts for non-resident por-
tfolio flows to Emerging Markets (EMs): Banking and FI
dflows are expected to be reduced.
IIF has cut its forecasts for 2018 EM non-resident capital inflo
s from $43bn to $1 trillion, from $230bn to $350bn, and cut its 2019 forecast slightly to $1.35trillion.
Non-resident capital flows to emerging markets

The IIF has cut its forecasts for 2018 EM non-resident capital inflo
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Both FI and banking flows—non-resident FI inflows should come in at $230bn this year, highest since 2015, while the pickup in global trade volumes has prompted a notable increase in cross-border banking flows to EM. Looking ahead, while the rising differential between EM and mature market growth remains supportive, the IIF noted in its latest report. It anticipates a second consecutive year of EM reserve accumulation—some $220bn, mainly in China. The IIF is more sanguine on exports from a rise in trade bar-
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The impact of US tax reform on FDI flows is likely to be limited, and there is scope for higher EM resident outflows as growing middle class populations seek portfolio diversifi-
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The IIF has cut its forecasts for 2018 EM non-resident capital inflo
s from $43bn to $1 trillion, from $230bn to $350bn, and cut its 2019 forecast slightly to $1.35trillion.

Despite the reforms effort, the country once again finds itself facing a falling currency, high debt and soaring inflation.

Lagarde says ready to assist Argentina

Lagarde says that other members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will raise output to counter the Iran disruption.

That is up 27 percent since mid-2016 and means that US oil output is creeping ever closer to that of top producer Russia, which pumps about 11 million bpd.

The rig count data from GE’s Baker Hughes division is expected at 5 p.m. yesterday. The rig count is a forward-looking indicator on production.
Mazda taps Marumoto as new CEO & President

TOKYO: Mazda Motor Corp has named a leader of its Americas operations as its next president and CEO in what is current chief step down in June, as Japan’s fifth-largest automaker seeks to boost profitability in North America, its biggest market.

The company said yesterday that Masamichi Kogai will step down and be replaced by current vice president Akira Marumoto who now oversees operations in the Americas.

The changes are effective June 26 after Mazda’s annual shareholders’ meeting.

Mazda, which has global annual sales of around 1.6 million vehicles, has enjoyed a run of rising vehicle sales, expanding in markets particularly in North America, its biggest market which accounts for nearly 30 percent of total sales. But that has seen smaller automakers and a tiny global player in fact growing competition in the United States, where market growth has slowed, and where the company’s strategies have suggested due to higher discounting and localization for sales.

The maker of the MX-5 Miata roadster and the reputed Skyactiv gasoline engines also slowed, and where the company’s brand image as an innovative car maker.

He said that growing sales and improving profitability in the North America market would be his biggest priority, along with expanding the company’s brand image as an innovative car maker.

“Given the rapid changes occurring in the auto industry at the moment it’s often asked whether a small company like us will be OK. Marumoto told reporters in a briefing in Tokyo: ‘But before we even consider this we need to show our strengths, and make so different if we want to grow our brand. Kogai, who became Mazda’s president and CEO in 2013, will be following the footsteps of his two immediate predecessors who also held the top job for five years each. He will still be with the automaker and become its chairman, the company said.

Earlier this year, Mazda announced that it would invest in a new $1.6 billion plant in the US state of Alabama as a joint venture with Toyota Motor Corp.

Mazda and Toyota are jointly developing affordable electric vehicles, pooling resources to better compete in the race for new car technologies. As part of this partnership announced last year, Toyota has taken a 5 percent stake in its smaller rival.

Last month Mazda forecast a 28 percent drop in full-year operating profit, hurt by a stronger yen as well as higher finances startup Clarity Money.

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Al Duhail edge 10-man Al Sadd 1-0 to reach final

CHINTHANA WASALA
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Duhail rode on a brilliant goal byAlmost Ali against 10-man Al Sadd to make it to the final of the Amir Cup.

In a thrilling semi-final which took place at the Al Sadd Stadium yesterday, Ali scored the winner in the 68th minute when he beat Al Sadd goalkeeper Saad Abdulla Al Dosari from close range inside the box.

Al Duhail won the match 1-0, with the support of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) and the appeal was denied.

The referee showed the red card to Al Sadd’s Abdureman Hassan (right) during the Amir Cup semi-final played at the Al Sadd Stadium yesterday, RIGHT. Al Duhail’s Almost Ali in action. Pictures: Mohamed Fares

Ambitious Al Gharafa eye Amir Cup final

ARMSTRONG WAS
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Al Gharafa want to end the Amir Cup final drought when they take on Al Rayyan in the semi-final of the prestigious championship here at Al Sadd Stadium today.

Coach Bulent Uygun’s side finished fourth in the QNB Stars League and the Turkish tactician is looking forward to a fierce and competitive semi-final match.

We seek to qualify for our first Amir Cup final in 10 years. We are fully focused. The players are ready to play well and attain the goal of qualifying for the final: Al Gharafa coach Bulent Uygun

The referee shows the red card to Al Sadd’s Abdureman Hassan (right) during the Amir Cup semi-final played at the Al Sadd Stadium yesterday. RIGHT: Al Duhail’s Almost Ali in action. Pictures: Mohamed Fares

Four uncapped players in Sri Lankan squad for Windies tour

REUTERS

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka opening batsman Mahela Udawatte has been ruled out into a 17-man test squad for next month’s tour to West Indies, along with three other uncapped players, Kasun Rajitha, Jeffrey Vandersay and Asitha Fernando.

The 31-year-old Udawatte will hope to get his first opportunity in the longest format, more than 10 years after his one-day international debut in West Indies.

Regular opener Dimuth Karunaratne remains on the sidelines with a fractured finger, and fast bowlers Dushmantha Chameera and Nuwan Pradeep are out with back and hamstring issues respectively.

The national selectors have also included some players Angola Mathews and Suranga Lakmal but their participation in the tour is subject to fitness.

“Mathews and Lakmal are not fit as such,” Sri Lanka’s chief selector Graeme Labrooy told ESPNCricinfo.

In fact they are fit, but we wanted to see if they were match fit. The team is at a training camp in Pallekele, so we will then make a final decision on those two players.”

The first of three tests begins on June 6 at Queen’s Park Oval. Port of Spain.

Full squad:


IPL: Buttrler leads Rajasthan to thrilling win

AGENCIES

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Royals rode a heroic batting effort by Jos Buttler to edge out Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by four wickets in a nail-biting Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium yesterday.

Buttler helped through the innings to help Rajasthan overhaul a stiff 177-run target with just one ball to go. Having opened the Rajasthan innings with England star Ben Stokes, Buttler continued to defy the CSK bowlers even as wickets fell at the other end. He remained unbeaten on 95 runs off just 60 balls, hitting 11 boundaries and a couple of sixes along the way.

Despite the defeat, CSK continue to hold on to the second spot with 10 points from 11 matches. They trail league leaders Mumbai Indians by four points. Rajasthan are eighth in the 10-team table with 10 points from 11 matches.

Earlier, a decent batting effort helped Chennai post a fighting total of 176/4 against Rajasthan Royals, but it was not enough to prevent Rajasthan from winning.

Brief Scores:

Chennai Super Kings: 176/4 (Stuart Binny 52, Shane Watson 38, Josh Archer 2/42)

Rajasthan Royals: 177/6 in 19.5 overs (Jos Buttler 95 not out, Stuart Binny 22)
**Olympic champ McLeod vows to do Shanghai hurdle hero Liu proud**

**AFP**

SHANGHAI: World and Olympic hurdles champion Omar McLeod (pinched leg) wants to put on a blistering display in Shanghai today in homage to the Chinese city’s athletics hero Liu Xiang.

Liu is retired but the Shanghai native retains a Chinese sports icon because his 2004 Olympic hurdles gold medal was the country’s first in a man’s track and field.

Liu, now 34, was also a 2007 world champion, though his brilliant career petered out because of persisting injury and he retired in 2015.

But Chinese spectators may see shades of Liu in McLeod during Saturday’s Diamond League meeting.

McLeod, who was chasing a third successive 100m hurdles title in Shanghai, said yesterday: “They show a good appreciation for hurdles here and I want to go out there and show my appreciation for their appreciation of hurdles as well.

“Liu Xiang was one of the reasons why I got into running in the streets and race hurdles. He was just an inspiration and I’ve heard that I hurdle just like him, so I draw a lot from him.”

The 24-year-old McLeod joined Liu in the province of Anhui in 2002 and at the age of 20, Liu won the 110m hurdles at the Athens Olympics.

There will meanwhile be home hopes in the men’s 100m in the form of cogeinng Shanghai champion Su Bingtian, the world indoor 60m silver medallist and China’s fastest man, and Xie Zhenye.

But they will have to upstage current world champion Justin Gatlin of the United States.

Also in a strong field is the Canadian specialist Brandon Hayward, who is working his way back from a nine-month hamstring injury that ruled him out of last year’s world championships.

He could only finish sixth in the 200m in Doha last weekend at the opening Diamond League meet of the season.

**Brazilian Alves out of World Cup after knee injury**

**AP**

SAO PAULO: Brazil right back Dani Alves will miss the World Cup, leaving the five-time World Cup champions without one of their main leaders and question marks about his replacement.

Alves injured his right knee on Tuesday in the French Cup final win with Paris Saint-Germain. PSG said his anterior cruciate ligament was detached. The Brazilian Football Confederation said in a statement yesterday he needs surgery, and there won’t be enough time for him to recover for the World Cup.

Brazil’s first game against Russia will be on June 17 against Switzerland.

Alves was examined by Dr. Rodrigo Lasmar, who said there was no alternative to surgery.

“Alves is ruled out as it is impossible to call him for the period of preparation, friendlies and, consequently, the World Cup,” the CBF said.

Lasmar and CBF coordinator Edil Gaspar were expected to talk about the decision later Friday in Paris. Alves played for Brazil in the last two World Cup competitions. LASMAR.

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**Brazilians miss 2 late calls in Celtics win**

**AP**

NEW YORK: Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid was ruled out of Tuesday night’s 112-109 win over the Boston Celtics, the NBA opponents screened for injuries.

In the NBA’s last two games, Boston guard Marcus Smart was ruled out with a knee injury the day before against the Brooklyn Nets and Philadelphia’s Simmons was ruled out for concussion against the Boston Celtics.

In women’s sprinting, two-time world champion Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands will be strong favourite in the 200m in the absence of the injured Jamaican star Elaine Thompson as an early hurdl e.

In men’s sprinting, two-time world champion Justin Gatlin of the United States has been ruled out for surgery.

But he was full of respect for his French foe, saying: ‘It’s always very special when I get to answer a question about Gatlin.”

**Volleyball: Al Ahli aim surprise win over Al Rayyan in Amir Cup final**

**The Peninsula**

The players, coaches and captains of Al Rayyan and Al Ahli pose for a picture on the eve of the Amir Cup Volleyball final at the Qatar Volleyball Association Indoor Hall today at 7 pm.

The Amir Cup has become one of the most important events in the volleyball calendar.

The much-anticipated second leg of Al Rayyan against Al Ahli will be played tomorrow at the Al Rayyan Indoor Hall with the home side narrowly winning the first leg.

In the Amir Cup, Al Rayyan and Al Ahli had qualified for the semi-finals after defeating Al Arabi and Al bubbles in the quarter-finals.

The team has not been the same in the league this season, but the team is ready and hungry to take the title.

In the Amir Cup, Al Rayyan have won all their matches and are ready for the final.

Al Rayyan aim surprise win over Al Rayyan in Amir Cup final.
Mercedes sets the pace in Barcelona

BARCELONA: Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton completed his triple-qualifying brace Sunday with a new fastest lap on the Circuit de Catalunya for a 1 min 42.279 seconds on the soft tires. A luckier Vettel, who has claimed his best qualifying position on Saturday, was fourth and Hamilton’s team mate Valtteri Bottas third. Vettel’s team mate Kimi Raikkonen is seventh.

Johnson off to strong start and shares lead at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, UNITED STATES: Dustin Johnson got off to a strong start, but still has work to do to hang on to his world number one status. Six players shared the lead on Thursday at The Players Championship. Johnson headlined the leading pack with a near par 65 – his lowest opening round PGA Tour score in 11 months. Joining Johnson atop the leaderboard at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, were fellow US Open winner Webb Simpson, Canada’s Harris English, Matt Kuchar, Patrick Cantlay and in-form Sweden Alex Noren.

This is ‘just the start’, says Salah

Mohamed Salah has seized Liverpool fans’ attention with his stunning first season in the Premier League. The Egyptian collected awash of praise in Liverpool after Thursday’s match, as the club progressed to the Champions League final. Salah is currently leading the Premier League in goals scored, with 25 goals in 27 appearances. He has been a key player for Liverpool this season and has helped the team to secure a place in the final of the tournament.

Rain wipes out first day of Ireland’s Test debut

DUBLIN: Ireland had a wet welcome to test cricket yesterday, with the eventuality of yesterday’s play being called off with no play possible, due to a heavy rain shower. The day was characterized by a heavy downpour and light rain, which made it impossible to play for the entire day. The match was suspended at 10:00 on the first day due to the weather conditions.

Bangladesh disappointed at cancelled Australia tour

DHAKA: Bangladesh cricket authorities yesterday delayed their departure for Australia after calling off a scheduled tour of the country. The tour was scheduled to take place in January but was called off due to financial reasons. The team was due to leave for Australia on January 1, but the departure was postponed due to the financial crisis.

Ireland’s Test status confirmed

The International Cricket Council awarded Ireland Test status in June last year. Only 11 Irishmen have played Test cricket, one for Australia in the very first Test in 1882. Fast bowler Boyd Rankin, who achieved his Test ambition for England and returned to Ireland in 2016, is part of a new generation of Irish cricketers who have been rewarded with places in the first Test squad. They include 39-year-old Ed Joyce and 27-year-old O’Brien, Gary Wilson and a 14-year-old Porter. Pakistan’s team includes leg-spinner Shadab Khan, who took 10 wickets in a warm-up which over Northern Hemisphere conditions.

Ireland’s first Test against Pakistan will take place in March 2019. Although this is only Ireland’s third Test match, it will be a significant event in the history of cricket in Ireland, as it will mark the beginning of a new era in the sport in the country.
New Star Wars film gets kudos after premiere

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood played host yesterday to a few more scoundrels than usual for the world premiere of “Solo: A Star Wars Story.”

The film tells the story of the early years of smuggler Han Solo, who was played by Harrison Ford in seven movies in the “Star Wars” franchise. The film stars Alden Ehrenreich as Solo and Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian, both actors playing younger versions of the characters made famous by the original “Star Wars” trilogy.

“Solo” also features fan favourites Chewbacca and the Millennium Falcon — in its earlier and spiffier days before being introduced as a grubby, albeit fast, bank of junk in the original “Star Wars” film.

Solo is one of the franchise’s most popular characters. Ford’s portrayal of the gruff smuggler in the original “Star Wars” catapulted him to stardom and has become one of the characters most closely associated with the actor. Initial reactions online after the premiere were positive, praising Ehrenreich and Glover and the film’s space hurt action scenes. Full reviews won’t be released until Tuesday.

For the premiere, Disney built a giant replica of the Falcon on Hollywood Boulevard. Glover was seen posing underneath the giant prop. “Solo” will be released May 25. The film is the second stand-alone film set in the “Star Wars” universe. “Rogue One” released in 2016, told the story of the theft of plans for the super-weapon the Death Star, which was destroyed at the end of the 1977 film that made Star Wars into a global sensation.

Disney has become known for its standalone prequels to its “Star Wars” films. It placed an X-Wing replica on Hollywood Boulevard for “Rogue One” and a simultaneous debut at several Hollywood theaters for 2015’s “The Force Awakens,” which was the return of Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill to the franchise after a 30-year hiatus.

“Solo” is the biggest role yet for Ehrenreich, who starred in the Coen Brothers film “Hail, Caesar!”

While many other characters have made cameos in “Star Wars” films that tell stories before the original trilogy, the franchise has stayed away from showing Solo as a younger man. The new film also features Glover stepping into a role closely associated with another actor Billy Dee Williams played Calrissian in “The Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi.”

SpaceX delays Falcon 9 rocket launch

NEW YORK: SpaceX has removed R. Kelly’s music from its playlists, citing its new policy on hate content and hateful conduct.

A spokesperson said that Kelly’s music is no longer available on the streaming service’s owned and operated playlists and algorithmic recommendations. His music will still be available, but Spotify will not promote it.

R. Kelly’s management decried the move in a statement. “Mr. Kelly for 30 years has sung songs about his love and passion for women. He is innocent of the false and hurtful accusations in the ongoing smear campaign and passion for women. He is innocent of the false and hurtful accusations in the ongoing smear campaign.

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