**Prime Minister meets US Chargé d’Affaires**

Amir sends greetings to US President

Amir H H Sheikh Tammam bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, on the anniversary of his country’s Independence Day.

Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to President Trump on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day.

**Qatar’s GDP grows at annual rate of 1.5% in first quarter of 2019**

Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassem Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, submitting Qatar’s membership in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to its Secretary-General, Dr. Fang Liu, in Montreal, Canada, yesterday.

Qatar’s GDP grows at annual rate of 1.5% in first quarter of 2019. The meeting reviewed Qatar-ICAO relations in civil aviation and means to enhance them, in addition to discussing a number of issues of joint interest.

Minister of Transport and Communications, H E Jassem Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, submitted Qatar’s membership in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to its Secretary-General, Dr. Fang Liu, in Montreal, Canada, yesterday. According to a statement issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA)’s estimates of gross domestic product at current prices during the first quarter of this year amounted to QR418.7bn compared to QR416.3bn in the same period last year, down from the value in the fourth quarter of last year estimated at QR419.7bn.

At constant prices, GDP grew by 1.9 percent, compared with the same period last year, 2018, recording QR412.1bn, but fell by 0.1 percent compared to the estimate of QR412.1bn in the third quarter of 2018. Non-marketing activities, at current prices stood at QR410.3bn, up 0.3 percent from the first quarter of last year, but fell by 0.1 percent compared to the fourth quarter of last year.

Value added in fixed prices for this sector amounted to QR1Q5.9bn during the first quarter of this year, a drop of 24.2 percent compared to the corresponding quarter last year, and a fall of 10.2 percent compared to the same period in 2018.

Qatar’s nominal GDP at current prices grew by 1.5 percent in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same quarter of 2018, but fell by 6.1 percent from the fourth quarter of last year. According to a statement issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA), the government sector was based on data from administrative and financial departments.

The Planning and Statistics Authority noted that these estimates were based on data available through the quarterly publication of economic indicators as well as data from administrative records of different quarters.
Ministry of Sports and Culture hosts panel discussion on children's book

The Ministry of Culture and Sports hosted yesterday a panel discussion organised by Qatar Authors Forum to discuss the children's book ‘The Light of Hope’ written by celebrated children’s author Basma El Khatib and published by Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Press. The book was named winner in the 2019 International Book Awards (IBA) in the category of Children’s Mind Body Spirit. The book was originally published in Arabic by HBKU Press under the title Kandil Alma in late 2018.

The Light of Hope follows the story of Alma, a young girl on her way home in a dark forest. Alma faces many obstacles on the way, symbolising life’s difficulties, but overcomes them through strength, perseverance, and the help of friends. Children’s author, Basma El Khatib was present at the panel session yesterday, expressing her appreciation for the importance of the message delivered through this book to children in general and their families. She explained that she aimed to write a book that balances between fun, interesting and beneficial.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports also recognised the role of HBKU Press in translating the book into English, which enabled the book to reach more readers and to a wider audience. In addition to the book’s 2019 IBA win, The Light of Hope received an Honorable Mention in the 2019 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards in the category of Best Book – Middle Grade. The book also reached millions of Arabic readers, being a first of its kind student outreach initiative in QU.

The Al Qabas Program under the Deanship of Design and Decorative Arts at QU welcomed 43 students from seven Qatar schools to the Al Qabas Program to prepare them for university life through different sessions and activities. The Al Qabas Program is an official student outreach initiative in QU.

The workshops will centre on crafts Qataris used to make during summer, and take inspiration from objects displayed in the NMoQ galleries. Through the workshop participants will get the chance to design and make their own jewelry, inspired by traditional coastal marine crafts related to fishing, which was a chief source of income in the past. The second workshop, scheduled from July 14 to 17, will feature “The Craft of Hope ~ Making” – an ancient dying craft which will be revived again through the workshop as part of the workshop participants can get to make their own decor or create their own jewelry.

The workshops will be available for an Approved Individual per-Facility. Failure to ensure that QWMQs are able to provide notice to the Regulatory Authority any information that the Regulatory Authority would reasonably expect notice. The workshops are open to those aged 14 and above and can be availed with a fee of QR 250. Sessions are conducted in Arabic and English from 5pm to 7pm at the NMoQ Galleries and Learning Studio. Since slots are limited, interested participants are required to book at progrmsomnmoq@qmoq.qa

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The President of the State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma (right), received the credentials of Ambassador of the State of Qatar (nonresident) to the State of Bolivia, H E Ali bin Hamad Al Sulaiti, H E the ambassador conveyed Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani’s greetings and wished H E the President of Bolivia and his wishes of more prosperity and progress to the government and people of Bolivia. For his part, the President of Bolivia thanked the Ambassador to convey his wishes to H H the Amir, and his wishes of more prosperity and progress to the people of Qatar. He also wished H E the Ambassador success in his new duties and in promoting and strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between the State of Qatar and the State of Bolivia.

**Qatar Poison Center saves residents from unnecessary hospital visits**

**FROM PAGE 1**

The Qatar Poison Center has outreach activities to the general public to inform them of poisoning. An example is a recent poison prevention art contest for students. Dr. Hoffman is also keen to further the educational aspect and develop the practice of clinical toxicology in Qatar. By training doctors and healthcare professionals in toxicology, he believes that the increased knowledge and training will be beneficial to the general public.

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Britain seizes Iranian oil tanker over Syria sanctions

Sudanese students march for civilian rule

Migrant boat with 86 on board sinks off Tunisia, 4 rescued

Syrian regime strikes hit three hospitals

Haftar forces admit to camps airstrike

Oil supertanker Grace 1 on suspicion of being carrying Iranian crude oil to Syria is seen near Gibraltar, Spain, yesterday.

### Syrian regime strikes hit three hospitals

**AFP**

Regime air strikes yesterday on an anti-governmentbastion in northern Syria killed a civilian, two of them children, and damaged two hospitals already damaged in previous raids, a monitor said.

A fifth person, another child, was killed in a separate raid by regime forces also in the north on Saturday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights which monitors such incidents.

The region is administered by the Kurdish-led Asayish militia affiliate Hasay Tahir al-Sham, but the ruling regime and opposition factions are also present.

“Regime warplanes again targeted points controlled by the south of Idlib,” which had been hit by four previous raids over the previous week, the Observatory said.

In May, Amnesty International accused the Syrian regime and Russia of launching “deliberate and systematic” attacks on hospitals in the northwest.

At least 25 hospitals and two medical clinics have been destroyed or damaged by air strikes in the region since the end of April, according to the United Nations.

Five rescuers were also killed in the last two weeks of June in air strikes on the Idlib region. Yesterday’s air strikes killed four civilians, two of them children, in Kaf Bani Huda, and the town of Khan Sheikhun in Idlib region, the Observatory said.

A Russian airstrike near Al Baaqin village killed a little girl and wounded several people, it added.

Syria’s war, which started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government demonstrations, has killed more than 300,000 people and displaced millions.

**Sudanese students march for civilian rule**

**AP**

Hundreds of students from several schools in three downtown towns took to the streets yesterday, chanting “protesters are diehard and cannot be defeated” against the military regime, witnesses said.

Students were also chanting “blood for blood, we don’t want compensation:” a catchcry of the protest movement calling for those guilty of killing demonstrators to face justice. Similar marches were also staged in Al Mashtat and Gardel town yesterday, witnesses said.

“We have already appealed to the military to step down and hand over power to a non-military government,” said one Sudanese student.

Students in Gardel, marching on the main street of the town, resorted to violence.

Protest leaders and the ruling generals are expected later today to continue talks for a second straight day, the first since a round of negotiations saw a deadly crackdown on demonstrators last month.

The talks revolve around the issue of who should lead a new governing body – a civilian or soldier.

TALKS have collapsed in recent days, with both sides failing to agree on a new government, leading to more clashes between protesters and soldiers.

Sudan’s prime minister has been replaced by a military council as talks to end the standoff between the military and protesters broke down.

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**The Prophet (peace be upon him) reported that Allah informs: “I am with the thought of My servant and am with him when He remembers Me. If he remembers Me in an assembly, I too recollect him in My assembly, and this assembly is better than human assembly. (Bukhari)**

This hadith emphasizes the importance of dhikr, the act of remembering Allah. Dhikr is mentioned throughout the Quran, with verses like 33:41 and 40:67 highlighting its significance. Dhikr involves reciting the names of Allah, mentioning His attributes, or repeating His words. It serves as a reminder of our unity with Allah and the importance of our actions in this world.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said, “Verily, the remembrance of Me is with My servant as long as the sun continues to shine.” (Bukhari) This hadith further emphasizes the continuous nature of dhikr and its importance in our daily lives.

Moreover, the Prophet (peace be upon him) clarified, “He who says Allah’s name even a thousand times, will return to Allah a thousand times.” (Muslim) This hadith highlights the power and impact of dhikr in strengthening our connection with Allah.

In conclusion, dhikr is an essential practice in Islam, providing a means for us to maintain a constant connection with Allah throughout our lives. It serves as a reminder of our spiritual guidance and helps us stay on the right path amidst the challenges and distractions of the modern world.
India's grid-locked courts are a major hurdle to doing business and faster growth in Asia's third-largest economy, a government report said yesterday, calling for the hiring of thousands of new judges to clear a huge backlog of cases in just five years.

India's judicial system was not only saddled with over 35 million pending cases, of which around 87% were stuck at the district level, but also delayed with clearance rates of 55% to 78%.

A lack of sufficient judges in the district and subordinate courts can be improved by hiring another 2,000 odd judges, which would be sufficient to bring clearance capacity in the district, the report said.

Some wet mud even fell on him around the sink, and activists found the court's 2012 verdict, according to which the leases were in breach of the top court's 2010 verdict.

In all, 288 of these mining leases have been extended till 2035, and the Supreme Court yesterday asked the Centre of India's response on illegal mining leases.

The police have charged Rane and others with sections pertaining to cheating, extortion, and criminal conspiracy, and said that he would apologise to the engineer on behalf of his son.

A special CBI court yesterday allowed former Lok Sabha speaker Somnath Bharti to take back his resignation as a member of Parliament and move the CBI court.

The睡意朦胧的政府官员在报纸上看到一篇关于法院拥堵的文章，很多人认为应该增加法院的法官。政府报告建议未来五年内增加2000多名法官。

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Pakistan PM to meet Trump in US on July 22

OIC warns against hate speech against Muslims in Sri Lanka

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has warned of an increase in anti-Muslim incidents and hate speech in Sri Lanka.

"OIC has been monitoring closely the situation of Muslims in Sri Lanka," the group’s 57 member states said in a statement released late on Wednesday.

The Jeddah-based group voiced its concerns over the "rise in incidents of intimidation, anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate speech promulgated by certain groups in the country.

It also renewed its call on the Sri Lankan authorities to "counter firmly the spread of racial hatred and intolerance, while ensuring the security and dignity of the Muslim community in that country.

The OIC also reiterated its "firm stance against terrorism and any form of terrorism and manifestations," stating that it "condemns any act of terrorism that threatens the security and territorial integrity of any State or that violates the rights of any individual and of any people."

Pakistan to reform laws to curb fake news

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his government will work to bring in laws to curb the spread of fake news.

"Pakistan has moved out of the official residence of the President of Pakistan's Lahore. The government has decided that the use of social media in the country will be regulated," Khan said Friday.

Khan also announced plans to build a "national accountability bureau" to curb corruption.

Pakistan PM to meet Trump in US on July 22

Ostensibly allies, the US and Pakistan relationship has always been bumpy, and Trump has angered Pakistani officials in the past with his aggressive language.

American forces are now in their 18th year of war. Ostensibly allies, the US and Pakistan relationship has always been bumpy, and Trump has angered Pakistani officials in the past with his aggressive language.

The White House believes that the shadowy Pakistani military establishment has long helped fund and arm the Taliban to counter rising Indian influence in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies the claims and says it has paid the price for its alliance with the US in the so-called "war on terror," with thousands of its citizens killed in its long struggle with militancy.

Pakistan has given Washington "nothing but lies & deceit," thinking of nothing else, Trump wrote on Twitter at the start of the day.

"They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" But Trump is also eager to end the war in Afghanistan, and Washington has long seen Pakistan as key to that outcome.

"The US has been holding talks with the Taliban since Sep, hoping to strike a deal. Imran, for his part, has repeatedly claimed Pakistan's participation in the "war on terror," for his surge in militant violence as it heads over the last decade, and has vowed to halt Islamabad's relations with Washington.

The pair - both celebrity-turned-politicians - have already clashed, with Imran once describing a potential meeting with the US president as a "bitter pill." Trump declared last year that he had cancelled assistance worth hundreds of millions of dollars because Islamabad did not do "a damn thing" for the US.

At the time, Imran hit back at the criticism Twitter, calling on the US President to name an ally that "sacrificed more" against militancy.

During last year's election campaign, Imran was often linked to Trump on Twitter, often calling for US President Donald Trump to "choose Pakistan" over India. Trump tweeted that he would resign from his post.

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Prosecutor seeks Rohingya probe of crimes against humanity

Fatou Bensouda, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), has filed an arrest warrant against a senior Pakistan military official, a move that could seed the first case against a top leader of the Islamic State group.

The ICC accuses Pakistan of failing to prevent the mass killings and deportations of Rohingya Muslims since 2017.

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O
n Wednesday, millions across the world marked International Plastic Bag Free Day by not using plastic bags, one of the biggest threats to our envi-
ronment, especially marine life.

According to the Worldwide Fund for Nature around 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year with much of it ending up in landfills or polluting the sea. In what has become a growing international crisis. The plastic pollution of our seas has reached a peak, according to UN estimates. Today, about 200,000 plastic items are thought to have returned, according to Amnesty International.

Still, it is easy to mistake Raqqa for a ghost town were it not for a handful of residents walking the streets and fresh laundry hung out to dry on haz-
ardous balconies.

Field Operations Room in northern Syria. Aram was the first front line link in what the US army described as a malignant chain of events.

Sometimes armed with just a tablet, the young commander would secretly be fighting against plastic pollution and need to be sustained with people adapting simple life-
style changes like carrying a reusable bag while going for shopping, refusing plastic straws, the biggest of all polluters of oceans) at restaurants and using reusable bags to preserve

The Ministry of Environment marked International Plastic Bag Free Day 2020 by organis-
ing maps and outreach initiatives to educate the public on the need to limit the use of plastic bags and preserve the environment. Many large supermarkets also chipped in by distrib-
uting reusable bags to customers.

These initiatives are a good start, but there’s a long road that cuts through Raqqa’s northern flank is lined with signs of life. On one side, what once were small panel-based low-rise buildings, fashioned like concrete pancakes, other lean prose on the side.

June marked the second an-
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North Korea may settle for nothing less than sanctions relief

By Joshua Yetman

A new public broadside by North Korean officials against US-backed sanctions highlights the tough road ahead as negotiators prepare for talks in the wake of Sunday’s meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Media reports out of Washington have suggested the Trump administration may be willing to seek a partial deal to dismantle at least part of North Korea’s nuclear programme.

But ahead of what would be the first high-level talks since Trump and Kim failed to reach a deal at a summit in February in Hanoi, analysts say progress is unlikely unless Washington is willing to ease some sanctions.

North Korea’s imports to China, its main market, dropped nearly 90 percent in May from Beijing, and a report this week by the Seoul-based Korea Development Institute said sanctions had put the country on a path for economic crisis.

“North Korea wants actions, not words,” said Christopher Green, a Korea expert at the non-governmental Crisis Group.

“I’m not sure the US is mentality ready for it, even now.”

After Trump met with Kim at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters a fresh round of negotiations with North Korean foreign ministry diplomats was needed “sometime in July”.

North Korea’s tourism was dismissed by an expert as “garbage” and expects it to be “laughed out of the room”.

But ahead of February’s failed summit, South Korean officials had raised the possibility that while sanctions would remain, they might be willing to take interim steps such as lifting humanitarian sanctions.

US officials, however, rejected North Korea’s offer to dismantle its reactor complex at Yongbyon in exchange for wide-ranging sanctions relief.

Since then, North Korea has only doubled down on its calls for talks to be declared null and void because issuing them in the first place breached the island’s constitution.

The two Koreas, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters, “have a significant ripple on the mainland from certain decisions with regards to North Korea.”

When it comes to its nuclear programme, North Korea may give up the pre-inspection, but Trump’s latest meeting on the nuclear front on Tuesday was remembered as the last gasp of a strategy that had already been doomed, Nagasakig said.

“The idea of a more flexible negotiating position that’s comprehensive in scope but step by step by step by step in implementation is welcome, but the scope and sequence of each reciprocal step still has to be realistic,” he said.

On the other side, US intelligence officials have said it is unlikely Kim intends to ever give up his entire nuclear arsenal.

To find a compromise, each side may have to drop the “good cop, bad cop” cycle of engagement and threats, Nagasakig said.

“If we are hoping for a deal, the good cop on both sides will have to stabilize their internal bad cop.”

The author is Reuters Senior Correspondent covering North & South Korea, previously covered Kabul, Washington & some Baghdad.
Man detained for poring water over Baidu chief's head

APF BEIJING

A man has been detained for five days by Beijing police after he poured water over the head of Baidu CEO Robin Li as he delivered a speech at a conference. Authorities said he was suspected of damaging property.

Li was speaking about Baidu’s autonomous car development at an event on Artificial Intelligence held on Monday when he was smothered on the stage and emptied a water bottle over his head.

The rich businessman who co-founded the search giant stood stunned for a moment as the water rained down on his face.

“What’s your problem?” he asked in English as his assailant walked off the stage.

“Don’t you dare say that the path of advancing AI will still encounter mistakes that we don’t want,” Li then added, calmly resuming his presentation to applause despite its drenched white shirt.

Police carried out an investigation after Baidu employees reported that “a man had disturbed the program at a company activity.”

A suspect named Cheng had been given five days of administrative detention for “picking quarrels and provoking troubles,” according to state media.

Cheng was detained after police said on Twitter: “We came to see whether the path of advancing AI will still encounter mistakes that we don’t want.”

The company has faced heavy criticism in China in recent years after a medical advertising scandal and disquiet with claims that its search results bring bad fortune.

The company has long been under pressure to stop using its search to promote goods, especially drugs.

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New EU chief seeks ‘smart advice’

The Parliament vote on von der Leyen is scheduled for mid-July, and she would take over on November 1 – the day after Brexit.

The multilingual von der Leyen – the woman who is named to lead the EU’s executive arm – went out the same message in English, French and German. The team welcomes from Juncker at commission headquarters on Friday.

Juncker, whose five-year term has marked by Brexit, said he was “in the middle of the biggest upheaval ever to hit the EU”, adding: “But we have to carry on.”

But first von der Leyen needs approval from the European Parliament, where she is scheduled to speak Thursday for ordering the murders of five people, including his former friend who was an accomplice of another gangster.

The nuclear reactor on the vessel was completely isolated, Shougu told Putin, according to a Kremlin transcript. “All the information we received from the crew of the vessel is that the reactor is still working. The vessel is completely isolated,” Shougu added.

Increased tension is evident between the two countries, which are only two who are bothered by the case as a battle between ‘friends’.

Italian village clears up ash after volcano eruption

The village of Giacoppo, near Stromboli, was swept by an ash cloud that was caused by an eruption of the volcano yesterday.

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Cock-a-doodle don’t: French rooster at centre of legal battle

A rooster named Maurice whose early morning crowing has got under the skin of neighbours in France.

A rooster named Maurice, whose early morning crowing has got under the skin of neighbours in France, has been sentenced to a fine paid by his owner.

The rooster’s owner, 60-year-old Willem Endstra in Amsterdam in 2004, gangster John Mieremet in Amsterdam in 2006.

Dutch gangster ‘The Nose’ gets life for 5 murders

The trial has raised tempers, with the mayor of Gajac village, Huberdeau argued. “It’s only in our villages that police areopa’s, of police on Facebook page, appeared in a news blog after the fire.”

Emergency workers brushed aside complaints from cinders and the intense heat that was caused by the fire. A total of ash lay across the area and were shovelled as the fire raged on.

It is not the first time that Maurice has caused problems, with neighbours daily complaining about his crowing.

The court ruled that the rooster, named “The Nose” because of his supposed resemblance to the famous Amsterdam underworld figure, should be destroyed, citing the nuisance he caused.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Pope Francis for “substantive talks” at the Vatican yesterday, and thanked the pontiff for discussions on a range of topics including Ukraine and the Catholic Church in Russia.

Putin greeted Francis in an hour-long audience at the Vatican Apostolic Palace. The two addressed “various questions of relevance to the life of the Vatican, the Church, the Russian Federation and the world,” the Vatican said, adding that they also discussed “the ecological question and various themes related to international affairs, with particular reference to Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela.”

The pope also expressed their satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations during the “cordial discussions,” the Vatican said. “Thank you for the time you have dedicated to me,” Putin told Francis.

“It was a very substantive, interesting discussion,” he told journalists present at the exchange of gifts in the private papal study. Putin met with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. The bilateral meetings were followed by a Russia-Italy forum with Conte and Italian Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi.

Putin has acknowledged that US and European Union sanctions have cost Russia an estimated $30bn since 2014, but he claimed that the bloc’s nations have suffered even greater damage because of the restrictions.

Putin said that economic relations with Italy, Russia’s fifth-largest trading partner, are expanding despite the sanctions. Italian investments in Russia so far this year have reached $4.7bn, while Russian investments in Italy in the same period were $2.7bn.

The US Representative Amash quits Republican Party

US Representative Justin Amash, a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, quit the Republican Party yesterday saying politicians have become more loyal to their parties than to the people or principles of government.

According to European anti-poaching agency EMEC, the quake was felt in an area inhabited by some 2.6 million people. The epicenter was very close to the town of Palermo, said Lavery. The White House said Trump’s message would be “triumphant,” according to a White House official.

The congressman from Michigan, the first Republican in Congress to say openly that the president has engaged in impeachable behaviour, said he has been dismissed from party politics and frightened by its consequences.

The two-party system has evolved into an existential threat to America and its principles and institutions,” he wrote in a Washington Post opinion piece.

The event also is renewing a long-standing feud with local officials in San Gabriel. The city has said it’s still owed about $70m from costs associated with Trump’s inauguration but the administration official said the District hasn’t asked for funds from special events federal budgets.

Trump said on Twitter that the costs of the event “will be very little compared to what it is worth,” while the administration official earlier declined to say how much would be covered.

While some of Trump’s predecessors have spoken on or around July 4th, they haven’t done it in quite the same way. Barack Obama delivered annual Independence Day remarks from the White House as Joe Biden gave a “Star Spangled Salute to America” speech a “Salute to America” — and the military, the official said. His speech will celebrate America’s independence, the flag and the military, the official added.

The fireworks generally last about 15 minutes but this year will span 15 minutes after a donation by two pyrotechnic companies valued at $750,000. Because of the flyovers, the Federal Aviation Administration will suspend commercial air traffic at Reagan National Airport near Washington for the first time during a July 4th celebration. The FAA said flights would be affected again during the fireworks display.

The opposition Labour Party, which introduced the 2004 ban, was stung by the vote. “It is a sad day that the Labour Party found it necessary to hold a vote to repeal the ban,” Shadow Environment Secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey said.

The event is also renewing a long-standing feud with local officials in San Gabriel. The city has said it’s still owed about $70m from costs associated with Trump’s inauguration but the administration official said the District hasn’t asked for funds from special events federal budgets.

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White House looking at ‘every option’ for adding citizenship question to census

REUTERS JULIA CHAMO

With a court deadline looming, the Trump administration is looking at ‘every option’ as it seeks to add a contentious citizenship question to the 2020 census, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

While government lawyers are scrambling to meet today’s afternoon deadline set by Maryland-based U.S. District Court Judge George Hazel, who wants the administration to state its intentions.

The Supreme Court last week blocked the inclusion of the question, saying administration officials had given a “contrived” rationale for including the query in the decennial population survey but that it left open the possibility that the administration could offer a plausible rationale.

Judge Hazel is expected to decide in the coming days whether to strike the question from census questionnaires without the process of printing the citizenship query.

President Trump has said he is looking at “every option within his legal every option” for adding the question, giving the citizenship question a more prominent role in the administration’s efforts to boost its chances of winning.

Critics have called the citizenship question a “contrived” rationale for adding the question and that the move would help basic citizenship.

House and state legislatures Republicans gained seats in the US House of Representatives and distribute some Medicaid benefits, law enforcement seats in the US Senate.

Any objection, please contact the

United States.

Mexican police protest

The members of the Federal Police block one of the main roads, known as the Mexico-Pachuca highway, as they protest against the government’s decision to force them to become members of a newly formed National Guard, on the outskirts of Mexico City, Mexico, yesterday.

Over 40 held for extorting Petrobras contractors, murdering opponents

REUTERS STEF DE JANDERE

Police in Rio de Janeiro arrested 43 people yesterday for allegedly taking part in a military mutiny, a operation that targeted companies providing services to state-run oil company Petrobras and established a secret cemetery where troops were killed.

The arrests underline the growing discontent among military and government circles.

Investigators said the militia was “a group of retired and active-duty police officers, as well as former public servants and utility workers.”

It also illustrated the growing threat of militias and other organized crime groups to parts of Brazil’s oil and gas sector.

Investigators said the militia members were the result of corruption and lack of discipline in the public sector.

Investigations have implicated Petrobras’ top management in the case.

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(Qatar ID No. 28560806574)

I, Safoorah Hussain, holder of India Passport No. L3432173
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India plans $330bn renewables push by 2030

India yesterday said it needs $330 billion in investments over the next decade to meet its goal of renewable energy demand, but conceded the country is unable to rely on its own electricity generation.

The energy-guzzling country wants 450 megawatts of new capacity to turn into electricity generation. Indian emissions fell less than expected as US refineries last year and 3.6 percent in 2020. The IMF, is still expected to win final approval.

India needs to grow at 8 percent from 5.7 percent reflecting a recovery in financial year 2019-20 from 6.8 percent.

The Indian government yesterday projected GDP growth at 7 percent for financial year 2019-20 from 6.8 percent in previous fiscal.

"Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for this year 2019-20 is projected at 7 percent reflecting a recovery in the economy after a deceleration in the growth momentum throughout 2018-19," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, while presenting the Economic Survey in the upper house of the parliament.

"The Finance Ministry projects the Economic Survey in the parliament every year a day before the national budget, is to present today. The project's states the need of the growth of the Indian economy and outlines the challenges.

The real challenge for Indian is to enable shifting gears to accelerate and sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8 percent and thereby achieve the vision of making India a $35 trillion economy, according to local French daily Livemint.

India projects GDP growth at 7% for 2019-2020 fiscal year

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Global turmoil sends Canadian stock sales to lowest in 16 years

Canada had its slowest start for stock sales in 16 years, as trade waves and global uncertainty kept companies on the sidelines.

Companies raised about C$468bn (US$350bn) in Canadian equity and equity-linked financings in the first six months, 33 percent less than a year ago and the slowest first half since 2003, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It was also the slowest of any six-month period since 2003, except the C$539bn raised in the back half of last year.

Global trade tensions, including the fact that the free-trade agreement between Canada, the US and Mexico remains unratified, are creating uncertainties for businesses, according to Debra Braustein, chief executive at Most Canadian members, which has been proponents of the draft rules over the past two years.

The ruling is victory for 5G technology compatible with future 5G networks.

“Most Canadian companies are exporters, so to the extent that there’s a risk of those economies slowing or tariffs being introduced, that’s certainly going to hurt the Canadian economy,” Braustein said Wednesday in a phone interview. “And if there are concerns one day that there’s a pull-back of investment in trying to shore up rainy day reserves.”

The slow start contrasts with that of the US, which had $327bn in stock sales in the first half, the data show. While down 15 percent from $377bn a year earlier, it still marked one of the better six-month periods in the past four years.

Technology drove some of the biggest US deals this year, including the $60bn ipo by Uber Technologies Inc. and a $2.4bn sale for its ride-sharing unit Lyft Inc. The tech sector also produced the second-biggest US deal of the year in Canada, Montreal-based software firm Lightspeed POS Inc. raised $237m in May. That stood behind a C$239m offering from Telus Corp., a firm targeting the cannabis industry.

“We are a bit out of step with the US,” Braustein said. “What’s really carried the market is the number of smaller tech IPOs that have happened in the first half of 2019. We just don’t have the same kind of companies that are able to bring in new issues to market.”

Canadian tech companies are still able to get funding through private equity, which is keeping them off public markets, he said.

Corporate Canada’s earnings-raising efforts in the bond market were also down from last year, with issuance in Canadian dollars falling 15 percent to C$2.2bn from a year ago. Toronto-based Northland Power Inc. was Canada’s biggest equity financing, at C$862.5m, followed by Corus Entertainment Inc. with C$434m; the data show. Royal Bank of Canada led investment banks for arranging stock sales, with almost 18 percent of the market. Followed by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce with 15 percent and Bank of Montreal at 13 percent.

The second half might provide a brighter outlook for equity raising. Canada unexpectedly swung to a trade surplus for the first time in 10 months in May while business and consumer confidence indicators have been picking up against a backdrop of fewer growth.

Qualcomm, BMW triumph in EU fight over car rules

Qualcomm Inc, BMW AG, and Deutsche Telekom AG clinched a victory yesterday after European Union member states scrapped new rules mandating 5G technology as the basis for how future connected cars talk to each other.

The ruling is victory for 5G technology compatible with future 5G networks.

Member states sent today a strong signal to the commission that technology neutrality should really carry the day, said Maximilien Flament, epikernels chief technology officer at the 5G Automotive Association, which includes Qualcomm and DAMMER as its members. Only a level playing field between existing and new technologies will allow safer, more efficient mobility on European roads.

The decision by representatives of the EU’s member states, which is still able to be formally rubber-stamped by its ministers on Monday, forces the commission back to the drawing board to come up with a new proposal.

In a statement, EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc said she “noted the positive result of the decision, meaning the need for an EU-wide cooperative intelligent transport system.

We cannot miss this opportunity and lose valuable time at our disposal to make our roads safer,” Bulc said.

We will therefore continue to work together with member states to address their concerns and find a suitable way forward.

Volkswagen AG, General Motors Co and Velodyne Group have both proponents of the draft rules favoring WiFi systems, arguing that the industry needs clarity on what systems to use as soon as possible, and that it currently is the only proven technology.
Pakistan's Aisajib Iqbal and Muhammad Bilal pose with their World Snooker Team Cup trophy upon their arrival at Karachi airport, yesterday. The Pakistan duo defeated an Indian pair 3-1 in the final to win the title earlier this week in Doha.

**Doha: The Peninsula**

The Qatar Handball Federation (QHF) yesterday confirmed the participation of Al Gharafa and Qatar SC at the 15th Islamic Handball Championships, which will be held in the Jordanian capital Amman from September 23 to October 3.

Al Gharafa will also feature the Arab Super Cup on September 22 in Jordan.

Experience Tunisia won the Arab League Handball Championships last year in Tunisia in December after winning the third and fourth positions. The QHF also announced the participation of the Qatari team to have won the title, when they were crowned champions in the 2020 edition.

Al Arabi will feature in this year's Asian Handball League Football Championships as reigning Amir Cup champions.

Salimya Kweziat 37-15 in the match that determine the third and fourth positions. An Essex is the only Qatar team to have won the title, when footballers were able to achieve the victory.

**S.P.O.T.**

**DOHA**

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NZ need Ferguson boost to lift bowling: Vettori

West Indies sign off with victory over Afghanistan

West Indies won the battle of the cricket World Cup basement dwellers,Lewis, batting Afghanistan to 23 runs in their final group match at Chester-le-Street yesterday.

Chris Gayle managed only seven runs in his final World Cup appearance but Shai Hope capitalised on an early reprieve to score 77 and help the eliminated Caribbean side to 310-6 after electing to bat.

While Gayle disappointed, 18-year-old Naseem took his first five-wicket haul for Afghanistan with a career-best 86 before falling to the 30-year-old part-timer from Jamaica.

Afghanistan were all out for 50 in exactly 50 overs - their highest score in the World Cup - to finish their campaign with nine defeats in as many matches, denying their West Indian coach Phil Simmons a winning send-off.

The match against the tournament’s weakest side was an opportunity for Gayle to produce a special performance but the prodigal left-handed opener failed to take it.

Gayle slashed at a wide Duanne Zampa delivery to be caught behind, finishing his last World Cup with only one half-century.

West Indies could have been in bigger trouble but Rashid Khan droppped four times in 48-149 to help the team post the 300-mark.

Dropped catches, squandered run-out opportunity and middling-managed Afghanistan’s fielding, best illustrated in the final over of the West Indies innings.

Afghan captain Gulbadin Naib got himself out with a skier at long-off but flinched at the last moment, possibly losing the ball in sunlight, allowing what would have been a regulation catch for a boundary.

Naib could not impress with the bat either and fell for eight.

Shah and Alikhil refused to throw in the towel, though, frustrating the West Indies attack with a 113-run partnership.

Carlo Brathwaite (4-63) dismissed Shah as he and Kemar Roach (3-37) smothered all hope of an unlikely victory.

“New Zealand missed Lockie Ferguson in Wednesday’s comprehensive defeat by England and need the right-arm quick back to lift their bowling in the semi-finals of the Cricket World Cup” former captain Daniel Vettori has said.

England got off to a flying start and were 194 for one in 30 overs before a New Zealand attack minus Ferguson, who sat out with a tightness in his hamstring, some time around the run-flap to restrict the hosts to 305-8.

Ferguson’s absence denied skipper Kane Williamson the luxury of using their leading seamer in small bursts to dent their opposition.

“New Zealand missed Lockie Ferguson in Durham, particularly because of his way he fits into the structure of the game” Vettori wrote in his column for the International Cricket Council.

“Gone is the thought of how to use his as a first-change bowler in short 2-3 over spells. With him out, that meant they had to shuffle things around a little.”

“If he is back for the semi-final, that will give New Zealand a lot more confidence for the group, that our way is the best way and gives us a lot of chance to qualify, and we showed great character to come through a lot of matches to finish as semi-finalists.”

West Indies defeated Afghanistan by 71 runs to finish their campaign with as many wins as losses.

“Left-armers challenge the batsmen in side-on stance and even with a straight ball because the angle creates problems, especially for right-handers,” said Alom, whose three wickets helped with the 1992 final for Pakistan against England.

Eagled by a packed crowd in Melbourne, Alom came from around the wicket to create boggling angles that bewildered first All-amer and then Chris Lewis.

Renamed as “magical deliveries”, they helped Pakistan beat England to win the World Cup for the first time. Alom was man-of-the-match and ended as the tournament’s leading wicket-taker, with 18 dismissals. Since then, left-arm bowlers from New Zealand to Sri Lanka have repeatedly proved their value becoming leading wicket-takers in four of the six World Cup finals.

The 2019 World Cup had a glut of left-arm fast bowlers, with Mitchell Johnson and Boult leading the pack. Pakistan, still buoyed by Alom’s bowling performance 27 years later, benefited more than most from the power of left-armers.

Only about 10 percent of the global population are estimated to be left-handed but Pakistan produce more than their fair share of top-class left-armers.

Many of them have been inspired by Alom, a fact that delights the former Pakistan captain, who held said “Of course it’s pleasing when you hear that the left-armers follow.”

Pakistan’s 2019 World Cup squad boasts Wahab Riaz, highly promising teenager Shan Masood and Arif, whose career was interrupted by a five-year ban for spot-fixing.

Amir, who was selected in the squad despite a year of form, has been a revelation at the tournament in England and Wales, with 16 wickets to his name. But it left-arm bowlers are so common, why do they still catch batsmen off square leg?”

Pakistan batting great Majid Khan believes the more the national face left-armers, the easier it becomes but he says they get more practice against right-handers.

“Most batsmen develop their technique against right-arm bowler, throw down and bowling machine. From the same angle, and they neglect the left-arm angles,” he said.

Buttler relieved as England prepare for semi-finals

England’s Jos Buttler said he felt a sense of relief as well as excitement after the tournament hosts booked their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Buttler and his team-mates kept their heads in the right place on Sunday, as they defeated New Zealand by 119 runs to set up a semi-final clash with India.

“It’s obviously been two tough games to finish with but I’m actually looking forward to going through with two very good performances.”

England have spent much of the past two years as the world’s top-ranked side in one-day internationals and Buttler said: “We’re just very excited to be in a semi-final. From the start I think it was the minimum requirement: the first stage we had to get through.”

The 28-year-old England vice-captain added: “We stood up and played our brand of cricket under that pressure.”

Buttler is a central figure in the England side, having a key role in the 2015 and 2019 final stages. Buttler believes the team has a strong squad which can win the World Cup.

Northamptonshire’s Steven O’Keefe is the only England bowler rated as four or five in the world. Buttler has operated at the highest level in the past but he says his role is to support the team.

“I think lefties challenge the batsmen in side-on stance and even with a straight ball because the angle creates problems, especially for right-handers,” said Alom, whose three wickets helped with the 1992 final for Pakistan against England.

Eagled by a packed crowd in Melbourne, Alom came from around the wicket to create boggling angles that bewildered first All-amer and then Chris Lewis.

Renamed as “magical deliveries”, they helped Pakistan beat England to win the World Cup for the first time. Alom was man-of-the-match and ended as the tournament’s leading wicket-taker, with 18 dismissals. Since then, left-arm bowlers from New Zealand to Sri Lanka have repeatedly proved their value becoming leading wicket-takers in four of the six World Cup finals.

The 2019 World Cup had a glut of left-arm fast bowlers, with Mitchell Johnson and Boult leading the pack. Pakistan, still buoyed by Alom’s bowling performance 27 years later, benefited more than most from the power of left-armers.

Only about 10 percent of the global population are estimated to be left-handed but Pakistan produce more than their fair share of top-class left-armers.

Many of them have been inspired by Alom, a fact that delights the former Pakistan captain, who held said “Of course it’s pleasing when you hear that the left-armers follow.”

Pakistan’s 2019 World Cup squad boasts Wahab Riaz, highly promising teenager Shan Masood and Arif, whose career was interrupted by a five-year ban for spot-fixing.

Amir, who was selected in the squad despite a year of form, has been a revelation at the tournament in England and Wales, with 16 wickets to his name. But it left-arm bowlers are so common, why do they still catch batsmen off square leg?”

Pakistan batting great Majid Khan believes the more the national face left-armers, the easier it becomes but he says they get more practice against right-handers.

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Lampard returns to Chelsea as manager

Frank Lampard promised to keep Chelsea competitive at the top of the Premier League after he returned to the club as a manager on a three-year deal was confirmed yesterday.

Lampard won 11 trophies in 12 years and became Chelsea’s all-time leading marksmen with 210 goals from midfield during a decorated playing career at Stamford Bridge.

However, the former England midfielder has just one season of managerial experience having led Derby County to the Championship play-off final in May, when they were beaten by Aston Villa.

Lampard faces what he described as the biggest challenge of his career with Chelsea.

He will have to guide the squad through a transfer ban, where he became a club-record signing of Fikayo Tomori and Mason Mount, and also ensure he is appointed English manager of Chelsea’s newly appointed English coach Reinaldo Rueda, a Colombian who had already served briefly with the side during his sole season in charge.

His assistant Jody Morris, who was also Men’s football technical director, said: “We want to develop Lampard’s senior team, and we are going to do it together.”

Lampard has excelled during his ten-year spell at Chelsea, winning the Premier League Title in 2004-05 and the Champions League last season.

The club has also won the Europa League and the Football League Cup.

The Dutch have utilised technically gifted players, like former world player of the year Luka Modric, to reach the final against most dominant team in women's football history.

Both sides are managed by women, Sarina Wiegman leading the Dutch and Jill Ellis leading the US.

The trophy they won in Canada four years ago has been severely tested in this tournament with Ellis saying it has the hardiest ever route to a final.

The Americans were indebted to goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher for saving a late penalty in their 3-1 semi-final win over England on Tuesday.

“We watched the USA game against England and of course they are a really strong team. I hope we will be able to play our own game,” Groenen said.

“It’s a big step for us, to be in the final,” Wiegman added.

The US have their own record going with 11 consecutive World Cup wins. Their last defeat was the 2015 final in Germany when they lost to Japan in a penalty shoot-out.

The result was a major upset for the four times Olympic gold medallists and Ellis was well aware of the threat posed by the European champions.

The Netherlands have had a great tournament, obviously after the 2-1 semi-final win against Brazil when they were outside the elite took over in January 2017 and had led the team to 12 stagnant wins in tournament football, many coming through late goals.

“Now we have the US who are the best in the world,” Groenen added.

“Lampard took two Chelsea loanees, Ivan Perisic and Mason Mount, with him to Derby last season, where they excelled. His assistant Judy Morris also has extensive knowledge of the Chelsea youth system having been part of the club’s academy prior to joining Lampard at the Derby last summer.

We never knew this would be possible. It is one more match and we could be world champions. It will be difficult but we will be incredible to win.”

Wiegman, a former midfielder for the national team when they were outside the elite took over in January 2017 and had led the team to 12 stagnant wins in tournament football, many coming through late goals.

“She told us that we should win going into the World Cup final in Germany when they lost to Japan in a penalty shoot-out.

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“Now we have the US who are the best in the world,” Groenen added.
Eight-time men's champion Roger Federer, third seed Rafael Nadal and seven-time women's champion Serena Williams moved into the third round at Wimbledon while the defending women's champion Angelique Kerber went out in the second.

Federer advanced as expected yesterday, beating wild-card entry Jay Clarke 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in two hours and 15 minutes. He was a bit of a tougher time at the same stadium, needing to come back to beat Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

But unseeded American Lauren Davis pulled off the unexpected, defeating Kerber 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 on No. 2 Court. Kerber beat Williams in last year's final. Federer won his eighth title at the All England Club in 2017 and was eliminated in the quarter-finals last year.

Despite his pedigree at Wimbledon, Federer played his British opponent on the second biggest court on the grounds instead of his usual spot on Centre Court.

“It really enjoyed myself on Court 1 today with the roof,” Federer said. “I couldn't really tell if it was Centre Court or Court 1 actually.”

Nadal defeated Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (6-3), 7-5, 7-6 (6-2) in a stormy and hard-tempered Wimbledon second-round encounter on Centre Court on Thursday.

It was Nadal’s 50th win at the tournament as he continues his push for a third Wimbledon title and 19th major.

Kyrgios twice served underhand on game point, was handed a code violation for unportmantike behaviour and wagged a little war of words with umpire Darren恙kess. Nadal will face France’s Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for a place in the last 16.

Williams played her match with good friend Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, watching from the stands. She had a chance to serve out the match at 5-2 in the third but was broken. She made no mistakes on her second attempt, however, converting her first match point with an ace.

If the pressure is getting to Ash Barty at Wimbledon, she’s doing a great job of hiding it.

The top-ranked Australian came into the grass-court Grand Slam tournament after winning the French Open and a Wimbledon warm-up event in Birmingham. And she’s now won two in a row at the All England Club to reach the third round and stretch her winning streak to 14 straight.

Barry beat Alison Van Uytvanck 6-4, 6-3, needing only 55 minutes on No. 2 Court to advance. And it could have been even quicker but she failed to serve out the match at 3-2 in the second set - the only time she was broken.

Pretty sharp right from the start,” the top-seeded Barry said.

Federer moves on as Nadal survives

Defending champion Angelique Kerber was dumped out of Wimbledon yesterday as she suffered a stunning 2-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 2-6 first-round defeat by American Lauren Davis, who began the year ranked outside the world’s top 250.

Davis, who at 5 ft 2 in (1.57m) is one of the diminutive figures on the women’s tour, stood tall to secure a remarkable win over the three times Grand Slam champion who beat Serena Williams to win last year’s final.

German Kerber raced through the first set before the match turned wildly on its head and Davis, who needed a lucky loser spot to play in the tournament, lost only three more games.

After taking the second set, the 25-year-old Davis turned the screw on Court Two and wrapped up victory in an hour and 55 minutes when fifth-seed Kerber netted.

A rapid rise up the rankings had taken her up to number 90 heading into Wimbledon, where she lost in the qualifiers before being handed a reprise with a lucky loser spot after a wildcard entry went unused.

Davis was the more aggressive, outshilling Kerber with 45 winners to 34 and broke the German’s serve eight times in the match to set up an intriguing second-round encounter with number 30 seed Carla Suarez Navarro.

The contest had started well for Kerber as she broke for a 4-2 lead in the first set and then again to love in the eighth game to clinch the opener.

Yet after a visit from the trainer, Davis turned the encounter on its head.

After the second set began with three breaks of serve, Davis held to get her nose ahead 3-1 and broke again for a 4-1 lead.

After failing to convert her first two matchpoints at 5-1, Davis made no mistake with the third when a strong return forced Kerber to net.