The festival is attracting hundreds of people to Souq Wakra and Souq Waqif. A troupe presents a festive procession on one of the streets at Souq Wakra as part of the Spring Festival.

The University of Tor Vergata, Molecular Anthropology from Professor Dr. Cristina Martinez-Core Research Labs and Proctories at University of Tor Vergata and Sidra Medicine have launched an advanced paleoanthropological programme led by Sidra Medicine for the prehistoric population of archaeological excavation. Medicine has launched an experimental period. Since then until April 2018, the Library welcomed 718,000 visitors, with more than one million books borrowed since its opening. The Library registered 119,504 new members. The Library’s collection includes one million books in English, Arabic, and other languages, including primary sources, early printed books, historical maps, globes, photographic and scientific instruments.

Hundreds of people took part in Qatar National Day activities at Qatar National Library. Over 89,000 Qatari visitors travel in Turkey in 11 months

The project is part of a National Priority Research Program led by Sidra Medicine and funded by the Qatar National Research Fund. The Qatar Museums team is in the process of excavating pre-biblical burial mounds in the Asali area west of Um Ram in order to recover skeletal remains. The remains will then be sent to the research laboratories at University of Tur Vergata and Sidra Medicine for advanced palaeoanthropological and molecular analyses, including the study of ancient genetic material. Based on the analyses, the team from the University of Tur Vergata will provide their expertise in understanding the reconstruction of migration and dietary habits.

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The emergency simulation is an annual commitment undertaken by the airline to ensure that its staff members are prepared to handle an aircraft emergency in the most effective manner. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, H E Akbar Al Baker said “This year’s emergency simulation aimed to challenge our employees to respond to an incident that might take place in a challenging location. Our staff responded with the upmost professionalism and sense of duty, reflecting our high standard of safety and security at Qatar Airways. I would like to thank all the various regulatory government agencies, stakeholders, partners, volunteers and our employees for their hard work and dedication.”  

In addition, it will also help with the reconstruction of the palette and of possible location lists that occurred during the lifetime of prehistoric inhabitants who once lived in the country. The Division of Cultural Heritage plays an essential role in preserving Qatar’s heritage and putting modern communities in touch with their past. Its various excavation projects, with local and international partners, have been vital in unearthing the remains of ancient settlements across Qatar, offering an insight to previous times.

Some of the world’s greatest wrestling legends are coming to Qatar to compete in the second edition of QPW, which is being held at the Doha Hamad International Airport on February 21 next year. QPW is bringing wrestling sports fans across the Middle East, North Africa and the region, including exclusive shows featuring wrestling superstars from the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria, and other countries. The event will include a variety of matches that will cater to all age groups, and will take place in a specially designed impact zone.

World’s greatest wrestling legends to compete in Qatar

 Qatar Pro Wrestling (QPW) is a professional wrestling promotion based in Qatar. It is one of the largest and most successful wrestling organizations in the region, and is known for its high-quality productions and talented wrestlers. The promotion has been active since 2016, and has since become a mainstay of the wrestling scene in the Gulf region. With its headquarters in Doha, Qatar, QPW is dedicated to providing fans with exciting and memorable matches, and is committed to promoting the sport of professional wrestling in the Middle East.

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies opens registration for Arabic language courses

The Language Center at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies announced that it has opened its doors to registration in Arabic language courses for non-native speakers for the second semester this year. The Language Center offers three levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Courses are tailored to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to communicate effectively in Arabic, with a focus on grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Qatar Pro Wrestling (QPW) is the first and only professional wrestling association in the Middle East. Founded in 2013 in Doha, Qatar, QPW brings Superstar Wrestlers from around the world to perform in incredible wrestling shows with large scale productions throughout the Arab World.

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Doha International Book Fair returns on January 9

The date will coincide with the launch of the Qatar–France Year of Culture 2020, which will give a greater chance for a significant presence of French participants in the fair. Under the patronage of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the 35th edition of Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) will be held from January 9 to 18, 2020.

The exhibition is considered one of the most important and largest international cultural events in the world. The new edition of DIBF will be held under the supervision of Qatar Hayward Event and Heritage Event Center. The center is keen to ensure the success of the upcoming edition of the fair. The date will coincide with the launch of the Qatar–France Year of Culture 2020, which will give a greater chance for a significant presence of French participants in the fair and its diverse cultural presence and also to promote mutual understanding, recognition and appreciation between both sovereign nations re-affirming the deep bonds that exist between Qatar and France.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports will be a conference next week to announce the details of the fair and the number of countries which will participate in the event. Foreign publishers, titles in Arabic and titles in other foreign languages, publishing houses and the number of booked stalls at the fair. The Ministry encouraged the various sectors of society, especially those interested in reading and obtaining knowledge, to visit the book fair which is also an annual forum for concerts, publishers and distributors, intellectuals, students and friends of books from all walks of life.

To give exhibitors a great opportunity to experience a distinct cultural experience, the fair will last for 10 days, which will also allow publishers to showcase their diverse publications. The previous edition of the Doha International Book Fair witnessed a large participation of Arab and foreign publishers, with 427 official publishers participating in the exhibition, and was held on an area spanning over 29,000 square meters. The participation number of publishing houses in last fair included 287 Arab books publishers, 68 for children’s books, 17 educational publishers, and the number of publishing houses participated in the event.

The Qataris backed up their preparations to host the next world finals is guaranteed to them, Qatar Airways is still taking part in the Asian qualifying competition for the tournament, as it also doubles up as the qualifiers for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. The Qataris backed up their preparations to host the next world finals and are in the knockout stage but acquitted themselves well. Trailing 2-0 in their opening match, against Paraguay, they fought back to claim a point, and far from disregarding themselves in going down to respective 1-0 and 2-0 defeats to Colombia and Argentina. Though it ended early for them, the tournament provided the Qataris with the perfect preparation for their next test back in Asia.

Over 1,068 tonnes of local vegetables sold at winter vegetable markets in December

Over 1,068 tonnes of local vegetables were sold out at winter vegetable markets in December.

The markets also helped sell 370 tonnes fruits, 14 tonnes fresh fish and 2,600 cartons eggs from local poultry farms. The winter vegetable markets run by the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MOEM) are operating in Al Shahaniya, Al Wakra, Al Khor, Al Zakhira, and Al Shamal from 7am to 3pm.

The markets offer farm-fresh local agricultural products directly to customers without middlemen at competitive prices. With the participation of 125 local farms, the winter vegetable markets opened on November 14 for the season 2019-20. According to MOEM, over 31 percent of total local agricultural produce was sold through the marketing platforms provided by the MOEM and winter vegetable markets shared 11 percent of the total sales.

MOEM supports the markets to offer all agricultural products at the competitive prices to attract the customers. Local farms participating in the seasonal winter vegetable markets are offering fresh products in large quantity. The farmers with the support increased their products significantly.

The MOEM provided many marketing platforms for the local products within the system of government support and it provides inputs for the production of farmers. The farmers received seeds, fertilizers, boxes and labels for marketing free of charge, and other forms of support. The State provided integrating support to farmers during this year in terms of marketing and production inputs.
Doha Chapter of ICAI conducts interactive session for workers

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) conducted an interactive session for the benefit of the workers at the Labour City in support of Qatar Mondo. Around 200 plus workers who belonged to different nationalities participated in the session. The member Chartered Accountant explained them in their simple language as to how to safeguard their money. They were taught on how to bank safely and wisely.

The workers at Labour City attending the ‘Interactive session’ organised by the Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

The current membership of the Chapter is approximately 300. Apart from the three dozen of its members, local professionals and non-members, Doha Chapter of ICAI is the first professional membership body to be registered with Qatar Financial Centre.

Over 89,000 Qatars visited Turkey in II months

This number is expected to receive a boost from the expected influx in December, which signals the arrival of the winter crowds. Turkey has recently experienced a rise in holiday-makers visiting the winter months to capitalise on the country’s range of ski resorts, winter sports, hot springs and popular thermal centres. In addition to its signature attractions and historical sites.

"We have seen a considerable rise in the number of domestic and international visitors flocking to ski centres in the winter months over the last two years. Last year we received around six million tourists, including overseas visitors, to Turkey’s ski zones. This year we’re expecting even his number to climb, based on figures clocked in the previous years,” added the attaché.

Experience ultimate spa intelligence at Souq Al Wakrah Hotel

The Spa at Souq Al Wakrah Hotel is an invitation to relaxation and tranquility. The Spa at Souq Al Wakrah Hotel is an invitation to relaxation and tranquility. The Spa at Souq Al Wakrah Hotel.

The Signature Massage is a procedure combining the best of aromatherapy and reflexology, aimed at melting layers of tension and pain. It includes strokes to relax, revive and re-energise muscles, using lemongrass and lavender oils, leaving the body refreshed and energised.

After a day of exploring the Souq and other local areas, ease your aching muscles with the Volcanic Hot Stone Massage. With the use of volcanic hot stones, this regenerating incurs a radiating facial with a blend of essential oils, essential oils, for a soothing and anti-ageing effect.

The Spa offers a selection of scrubs and facials as perfect for stand-alone treatments or as part of a preparation for a massage. The salt and Oil Scrub is a body exfoliation with a blend of sea salts and essential oils, for a soothing and anti-ageing effect. Meanwhile, the Hydrating Facial combats dehydration, dryness and overall skin imperfections. The use of cold apparatus locks in rejuvenating moisture.

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Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on January 15, 2019, gave directions to allocate $50m in humanitarian assistance to support the Syrian refugees and displaced persons.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on February 28, 2019, inaugurated the QR11bn Umm Al Houl Power Plant, one of the largest desalination and power generation plants in the region, on March 25, 2019.

On February 13, Cabinet Decision No. 3 of 2019 in the validity of some provisions of Law No. 24 of 2002 regarding retirement and pensions of Qatari employees in some companies.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met with Sec.-Gen. of the United States of America, H E Mike Pompeo, and his accompanying delegation at Al Bahar Palace on January 55 on the occasion of his visit to the country to take part in the second Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on January 13 gave directions to establish a fund sponsored by the African Union, for covering the costs of evacuating irregular African immigrants in Libya to their countries and reintegrating them into their communities, and received promotions as a result of hazardous substances.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on January 15 discussed with the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H E Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, the strong bilateral relations between both countries and ways to boost and develop them in various fields.

During the talks held at the Amir Diwan, the developments in Somalia were reviewed and H H the Amir directed to support the Somali government budget for 2019 with QR73m.

H H the Amir attended the opening session of the 30th Summit of the Council of the Arab League, which was held in late March at the Conference Palace in Tunis, along with the leaders of Arab countries.

H H the Amir on March 25 inaugurated the QR8bn Umm Al Houl Power Plant, which is said to be one of the largest desalination and power generation plants in the region and the largest in Qatar.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on March 20 Decree No. 11 of 2019 approving Qatar’s membership to the Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IAA) as an international organisation.

On April 7, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attended the opening of the 140th Assembly of the States Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its accompanying meetings in Doha. The opening was attended by Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Their Excellencies Ministers, Shura Council members, and heads of diplomatic missions in the State.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, H E Rumen Radev, held official talks at the Amir Diwan on April 11. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost and develop them in all fields especially agriculture, infrastructure, technology, education and complementary medicine.

On April 7, Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Law No. 8 of 2019 on the regulation of road transport and Law No. 98 on the transportation and hazardous substances.

H H the Amir met on April 16 at the Amir Diwan with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, H E Edi Rama, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country. They reviewed bilateral relations and means of boosting them in various fields.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and H E President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda, held official talks at the Presidential Palace in Kigali on April 22.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who arrived on a state visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria on April 23, held official talks session with the President, H E Muhammadu Buhari, at the Aso Rock Presidential Villa in Abuja.

They discussed bilateral relations and the prospects for developing them in all fields especially in the economic, investment, energy, agriculture and infrastructure fields.

On April 29, H H the Amir issued the Amir Decree No. 19 of 2019 on the reconstitution of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
The year 2019 proved very eventful for Qatar in which the country under its wise leadership achieved many milestones, set new goals and hosted a number of important international events as well as launched new initiatives. Here, the Peninsula covers all major developments and news stories that emerged in the first four months of 2019 (January 2019 to April 2019).

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met on January 14 with Chairman of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in Brussels to discuss the latest developments in the region and the world, as well as the ways and means of enhancing cooperation between Qatar and the European Union (EU).

**Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, met with US Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Andrea Thompson.

**Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of Qatar National Bank (QNB) launched the first quarter results of the bank, which showed a profit of QR1.1bn (around $310mn).**

**January 17: The first batch of Apache-QA, during a ceremony held at the headquarters of Boeing Defence Systems in Arizona in the US, yesterday,...

**Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of Qatar National Bank (QNB) announced that it acquired many shares in Concordia Insurance Company (NHRC) recorded 745 violations committed by United Nations peacekeepers and the other non-state actors in the region.

**The Public Parks Department at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment launched a new website for the Public Parks and Gardens."..."}

**On February 20, Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani launched Qatar National Action Plan (QNAP) for the year 2019 to promote peace, harmony and social cohesion in the community.**

**On March 14, the State of Qatar announced this morning its participation in Murcia 2019, the International Human Rights Forum, which kicks off today in the Spanish city of Murcia.**

**President Donald Trump arrived in Qatar ahead of his visit to the US Central Command (CENTCOM) and Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) and Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command (USNFC), Admiral Michael Rogers.

Ashghal started on April 17 the construction of the first Cable-Stayed Bridge in Qatar and the conversion of Haloul Roundabout into a two-level interchange on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project.

A year full of achievements

Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, at the headquarters of Boeing Defence Systems in Arizona, US, the presence of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of Qatar National Bank (QNB) launched the first Apache-QA, during a ceremony held at the headquarters of Boeing Defence Systems in Arizona, US. The first Apache-QA is designed to help Qatar’s Air Force train its pilots and to increase its combat readiness. The Apache-QA has been delivered to the Qatar Air Force in a ceremony held at the headquarters of Boeing Defence Systems in Arizona, US.

Ashghal started on April 17 the construction of the first Cable-Stayed Bridge in Qatar and the conversion of Haloul Roundabout into a two-level interchange on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project. The Ministry of Municipality and Environment launched the first quarter results of the bank, which showed a profit of QR1.1bn (around $310mn). **Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) unveiled its aggressive 2022 strategic roadmap aims to enable it to emerge as a major financial hub in Mena and South Asia.**

Ashghal announced it would increase the number of its flights operating on time, reflecting the positive outlook of the Qatari airline industry. Qatar Airways, the national carrier, announced its 250th aircraft from Airbus A350-900 from Toufic bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, a new business class, and Darren Woods, Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil Corporation, exchanged documents after the agreement to enhance the state efforts to ensure food security and reflect the positive outlook of the Qatari airline industry. The Ministry of Municipality and Environment launched the first quarter results of the bank, which showed a profit of QR1.1bn (around $310mn). Qatar being ranked fifth in the world for best healthcare by the Legatum Institute, a London-based think tank, and reflects the positive outlook of the Qatari airline industry.
Transforming public transport

There was a time when living in Doha without a car was like living in a rural town in India—tiresque, inconvenient and expensive. It is altogether an old story, as more and more people now prefer to live without a car, thanks to the wise Qatari leadership for providing the residents with the most advanced and highly connected public transport system.

Qatar’s efforts to transform the transport system, which was skewed in favour of private car usage, have been extremely fruitful as the residents of Qatar now have the most affordable, easier and luxurious transport system in this part of the world. Doha Metro and the extensive bus network of Karwa.

Qatar has fully made use of its impressive bus network by linking it with Doha Metro. After its impressive bus network by Vision 2030, it is committed to delivering its public transport users to use a single ticket for all means of transportation now covers the nook and corner of Doha and its suburbs free of cost from different places to metro stations.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications to make the public transport system popular deserve huge round of applause. The Qatar Public Transport Programme is one among the several initiatives by the Ministry in this regard. The programme is being implemented by the Technical Affairs Department and is committed to delivering an overhaul of current bus services and will fully integrate it with other multimodal transport systems planned for Qatar, thus supporting national economic, social and environmental development and providing seamless travel experience and in turn national Vision 2030.

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Qatar holds the FIFA World Cup in 2022; the advanced public transport system will definitely enthral the millions of tourists and the world will definitely appreciate Qatar’s growing public transport system as well.

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Defense dispatch to Middle East needs thorough plan to operate properly

Every year, several thousand Japan-related vessels pass through the surrounding waters. It is reasonable for Japan to play an active role in stabilizing the region.

In recent years, the dangerous return of far-right politics has called into question how far Germany has come in reckoning with its past. The once Euroskeptic, now far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) has made electoral gains that would have been unthinkable for Germany party (AfD) has made electoral gains that would have been unthinkable for Germany’s particular responsibility to remember? The memorial eventually assumed a central place in Berlin’s rebuilt core, which opened the door to related memorials for gays and lesbians and Roma and Sinti.

The memorial emerged as a central place in Berlin’s rebuilt core, even if such vessels are attacked, the mission will start in late March, and its use of arms. SDF members bear a deep sense of their mission appropriately by working out measures. If the SDF is attacked, it is likely to respond. The CPB sees itself as engaged in a war against forgetting, with the artists performing as an "assault team" united in the struggle for "moral beauty" through the lessons of history. They aim to use such acts of remembrance, attention-grabbing action to shift public discussion around the legacy of National Socialism and to push the German government and its citizens that the memorial strongly underlines the return of far-right politics has called into question how far Germany has come in reckoning with its past. The once Euroskeptic, now far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) has made electoral gains that would have been unthinkable for Germany’s particular responsibility to remember? The memorial eventually assumed a central place in Berlin’s rebuilt core, which opened the door to related memorials for gays and lesbians and Roma and Sinti.

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Turkey will definitely stay at its observation posts monitoring a casus belli in northern Syria, and its soldiers have orders to respond to any acts of hostility, said Turkey’s defence chief yesterday. “In no way will we evacuate our observation posts but will continue our mission to ensure the cease-fire we have not yet left,” Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told a press conference in Istanbul yesterday. Akar said the troops at three observation posts in Idlib province have been ordered to respond without hesitation if they are attacked or harassed.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said it had ordered a further build-up of forces in the picture region. The official said the decision on further deployment was taken after Israeli warplanes carried out an air strike over Syria overnight.

The Syrian government has said it is ready to protect Turkish citizens and the Turkish military base in Syria if they are attacked. The government has also reiterated its commitment to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria.

Settlers storm Al Aqsa Mosque

194 settlers stormed the court- yard of the Al Aqsa Mosque on Saturday. The protesters entered the mosque with heavy guard from the Israeli occupation police.

The Israeli Authority for Homeland Security and WIFIYU have reported that settlers were seen storming Al Aqsa Mosque for the second time in two weeks. The protesters shouted racist slogans and barricaded themselves inside the mosque.

University students gather during ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad, yesterday.

Syrian refugee camp

An aerial photograph of tents sheltering Syrians who fled oncoming battles in the southern and eastern countryside of the Idlib province, surrounded by mud caused by heavy rain, is a camp for displaced people near Sarmada near the border with Turkey in the northern part of the province, yesterday.

Iraqi protesters lock down oilfield, call strike

Iraqi anti-government protesters blocked an oilfield and sacked offices in southern cities yesterday while political factions remained polarised in their attempts to form a new government.

Several hundred protesters demanding job opportunities and access to state offices and schools across southern Iraq for Arabs have since wrangled over finding a successor — so far without success.

The protesters are seeking to have the government dissolved and new elections called, which they say would see their community given greater representation in a country that doles out state jobs according to ethnic lines.

Demonstrators have vented their fury at the government in a series of sit-in protests that have shut down state offices and schools across southern Iraq for the past 16 days.

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Iran terms statement over jailed academic ‘interference’

Tehran accused Paris yesterday of ‘interference’ in the case of an Iranian-French academic held in Iran, saying she is considered an Iranian national and faces security charges.

France summoned Iran’s ambassador to protest the imprisonment of Fariba Adelkhah, an academic of Persian origin, and Marcelle Marchand, a French academic, saying their detention was ‘irreversible’.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: “The individual in question (Adelkhah) is an Iranian national and an act of interference. Iran does not recognise dual nationality and has repeatedly rebuffed calls from foreign governments for consular access to those it has detained during legal proceedings.

The French foreign ministry reaffirmed that Adelkhah is an Iranian national and has repeatedly rebuffed calls from foreign governments for consular access to those it has detained during legal proceedings.

Iran and China conclude naval drills

The Iranian army announced on Saturday the completion of the first phase of the joint naval manoeuvres between Iran, Russia, and China after shutting down the operational targets by the marine vessels of the three countries.

The public relations of the Iranian army stated that the maritime vessels belonging to Iran, Russia, and China left on Saturday, the second day of the trilateral drills, the Chahbahar Port Southern Iran towards the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman after closing down the first phase of the exercise. It pointed out that Iranian, Russian, and Chinese naval vessels shot at three predetermined targets using 20 mm artillery. In the post-training phase yesterday, the units involved in the exercises were organised offensively. In line with the current threats in the region.

The Iranian army’s public relations confirmed that all stages of the exercises are carried out under the supervision and air monitoring of helicopters of the Iranian army. The joint naval exercise between Iran, Russia, and China began on Friday in the Indian Ocean region and the Sea of Oman and will continue for four days.

Iraq steps up security at key military base

An Iraqi general said yesterday that security has been boosted up around the Al Asad airbase, a sprawling complex in the western Anbar desert that hosts US and UK forces in the wake of attacks by the Assad regime and its allies which have sent some 47,000 regime and its allies which have sent some 47,000 people fleeing Idlib.

For nearly two weeks, the Islamic State group has been attacking or harassing regime and its allies which have sent some 47,000 people fleeing Idlib. This is the first time that the group has been attacking or harassing regime and its allies which have sent some 47,000 people fleeing Idlib.

Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said Turkish 
troops at the observation points in northwestern Syria have been ordered to respond without hesitation if they are attacked or harassed.
Guinea-Bissau voters in presidential run-off to end turmoil

Incumbent Jose Mario Vaz crashed out of the race in the first round in November – but the country’s first elected president in 25 years to reach the end of his mandate without being ousted or dying in office, in a country where the military has longed in politics.

“This is the most important day that nothing has ever been,” said Domingue Zake, a spoken and father of six, as he said at a polling station near the capital Bissau, where voters started lining up before dawn on Sunday. A 31-year-old economics student said he had voted for the next president “will have the mission to make the country work.” “We must vote to change GM,” he said.

Electoral commission head Feliberto Vaz Moura said that turnout was healthy. “Voting is going well across the country with no incidents reported,” Moura said.

Near 70 percent of Bissau’s 1.8 million people five days after the 28-year-old country ranked 178th out of 189 on the UN Human Development Index.

A day after the latest coup in 2012, the West African region’s ECOWAS block erected a nearly 700-member force to try to stabilise the military government.

But observers have expressed deep concern that the military would not disrupt the electoral process time. “Everywhere we have been there is evidence of fraud,” said the head of the ECOWAS observer mission, Mahamoumou Moctar.

Saturday’s blast was at a busy checkpoint during each hour in Mogadishu, which was the deadliest in war-torn Somalia in more years than two.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, although authorities blamed Al Qaeda-linked militants blamed from Somalia and the year is ending.

The dead included many students from a university in the capital, the university said.

The shooting also added to a trend of violence in the Horn of Africa, where more than 11,300 migrants are believed to have been killed in the troubled region.

The current epidemic is the 11th overall and the second deadliest on record since a 2008-2016 outbreak in West Africa. It has also been reported in at least 18 other countries in the continent.

Two hundred or more civilians have been killed in the troubled region in the past year. Between July and November in clashes blamed on the Allied Demo-

The UN has condemned the deaths of civilians in Western Libya, as two civilians were killed, and eight others injured with public and private property destroyed in an air strike on December 31, 2020.

UN spokesman Farhan Haq earlier said the attack was part of the continuing conflict.

Ivory Coast former rebel pledges ‘political resistance’ from abroad

Former rebel leader and would-be Ivory Coast presiden
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Soro’s planned return has fire up and grow”.

Erdogan added. A Turkish military cargo plane crashed out of the race in the first round in November — becoming the next president “will have the mission to make the country work.” “We must vote to change GM,” he said.

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Tourists stay away as protests over citizenship law flare

REUTERS

India’s tourism industry has been hit by a wave of violent anti-government protests against a new citizenship law that has rocked several cities this month, with at least seven countries issuing travel warnings.

At least 11 people have been killed in clashes between police and protesters, and demonstrations are due to continue.

Officials estimate about 200,000 domestic and international tourists cancelled or postponed their trip to the Taj Mahal in the past two weeks, one of the world’s most popular tourist attractions.

“The past two weeks have been the quietest I have seen since 2017,” said Divya Kumar, a police inspector overseeing a special tourist police station near the Taj Mahal who has access to visitor data.

He said the number of tourists had dropped sharply since protests broke out in late December.

“Of course, the Taj Mahal was closed for a few days after the violence, but even after it reopened, the numbers have been very low,” Kumar said.

President Ram Nath Kovind yesterday presented Amitabh Bachchan with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for outstanding contribution to the film industry.

Tourist wintric picks up

As weather gets colder in the northern part of the country, the sale of winter clothes picks up. Customers browse through winter clothes at a roadside stall in Amritsar, yesterday.

Punjabi, Haryana and Chandigarh see coldest night

Chandigarh yesterday saw the season’s coldest morning with a dip of 18 degrees Celsius across the Punjab and Haryana were cited at the coldest point of the season.

Weather officials said that the coldest night was 2.9 degrees Celsius, a drastic fall from Saturday’s 5.1 degrees, an official at the India Meteorological Department said.

The long ongoing cold wave conditions are likely to continue for the next 5-6 days, said an official of the Met department.

The prevailing minimum temperatures of 0.2 degrees and 1.3 degrees Celsius respectively in Chandigarh and Amritsar international airports with several flights delayed, officials said. Likewise, several trains were running much behind schedule.

The minimum temperatures in most places were between 0.2 to 0.6 degrees.

In Punjab, the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and industrial hub Ludhiana saw a low of 4.6 degrees and 4.8 degrees respectively.

The fishermen ventured into the sea on December 27, he said.

In a tweet. PM Modi said, “The Indian fishermen are formidable and steps should be taken to secure their release and their boats.”

Ramadoss, Vaiko seek release of Indian fishermen

IANS/CHENNAI

Political leaders S Ramadoss and Vaiko of MDMK yesterday urged the union government to secure the release of the 21 Indian fishermen who were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan navy.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vaiko said 13 fishermen from Pamban, Karimathurai and Ammaikkalur were arrested by the navy.

The fishermen ventured into the sea on December 27, he said.

In a tweet. PM Modi said, “The Indian fishermen are formidable and steps should be taken to secure their release and their boats.”

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Twitterati hail as Amitabh gets Dadasaheb Phalke Award

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**Pakistan govt takes back ordinance to curb accountability bureau's powers**

The ordinance issued on NAB on Friday from taking up cases involving corruption or corrupt practices below an amount of Rs500 million as well as from issuing public statements at the stage of inquiry of a complaint was done in good faith.

Surprisingly, the text does not contain a number of clauses which were widely reported by the media on Friday, quoting from the text that had unofficially been provided to reporters by the official quarters, including NAB.

Interestingly, the law ministry has released the text with the subject “Revised Updated NAB Ordinance”, thus causing further confusion.

The text messages sent to the media persons by the official spokesperson on the last minute stated “This is the one approved by the president. It will be notified later.”

The government from moving forward with the plan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan constituted a high-powered committee on Friday to deliberate upon the fixed-tax regime with representatives of ABAD.

Advisor to PM on Finance and Revenue Abdul Hafeez Shaikh is the chairman of the committee. He is scheduled to chair a meeting in this regard today.

The ordinance issued to the Accountability Bureau has released the text with the condition that no person is left out without explanation of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media, but were familiar with the ongoing investigations.

**Pakistan's most breathtaking natural wonders'**

In a tweet yesterday, he mentioned the two provinces must take care of the business community, especially labourers, are the elderly people, are prone to especially children and bureaucrats as well as public servants. Because they lack the weather because they lack the cold weather, they lack clothes and many others, especially children and those who have severe respiratory diseases (asthma).

The weather office said the cold snap, accompanied by chilly winds and dense fog, was likely to continue for few more days.

**50 die due to severe cold in Bangladesh**

At least 50 people have died in Bangladesh as cold weather continues to sweep across the country, officials said.

The country’s lowest temperature this year was recorded at 4.5 degrees Celsius (40.1° Fahrenheit) yesterday in Tetulia, a border town in Bangladesh’s north, the weather office said.

At least 17 people died of thick fog forced authorities to close several roads, including NAB.

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**Pakistan land of beauty and unattended tourism potential: PM**

In another tweet, Prime Minster Imran Khan said Pakistan is a land of unimaginated beauty, hidden natural wonders and unattended tourism potential.

“I am in Karachi, Pakistan a land of beauty and unattended tourism potential: PM,” he tweeted.

**Taliban attack kills 17 militiamen in Afghanistan's Takhar province**

A Taliban attack in northern Afghanistan killed at least 17 local militiamen, an Afghan official said yesterday.

The attack appeared targeted at local militia commanders who escaped unharmed, said Zainab, a spokesman for the governor of Takhar province, where the attack took place late Sunday.

Local Afghan militiam commanders operate in remote areas, and are under the command of the defence or interior ministers.

A local Afghan spokesman Zainab Mahjub claimed responsibility for the attack.

The attack came even as Taliban officials said that a temporary nationwide ceasefire may be in the works. The Taliban have previously refused all offers of a ceasefire by the Afghan government, except for a three-day truce in June 2018 over the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

In the current ceasefire proposal, would last a week to 10 days. Fitr holiday.

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**Typhoon death toll at 41 in Philippines; thousands homeless**

Over 1.6 million people were affected by the typhoon, which damaged or destroyed over 260,000 houses and forced almost a hundred thousand people to flee to emergency shelters.

Catholic nation celebrated Christmas in evacuation centres, many of which have to stay until the New Year given the lack of electricity.

The government estimated that the typhoon had caused damage to agriculture and infrastructures worth $500 million.

Power lines and Internet connections remain down in some areas after Phantone's powerful wind gusts of up to 250 kilometres (154 miles) per hour toppled electric poles and trees.

Phantone, locally called Okwida, is in the 28th cyclone to hit the storm-prone Philippines, which is the first major landmass facing the Pacific typhoon belt.

Many of the storms are deadly and they typically wipe out houses, homes and infrastructures, keeping millions of people permanently poor.

**North Korea's Kim holds party meet ahead of US deadline**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has convened a key meeting of top ruling party officials, state media said yesterday, ahead of a year-end deadline for Washington to stall its stance on stalled nuclear talks.

The plenary session, which opened on Saturday, follows widespread speculation that Pyongyang is preparing to test an intercontinental ballistic missile as a threatened “Christmas gift” for the American president.

Kim presided over the meeting which was described as “transparent, anti-imperialist, independent-minded,” the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The ruling Workers’ Party of Korea will also “discuss important measures arising from the building of the state and national defence,” KCNA added.

Talks on denuclearising the Korean peninsula have been largely deadlock since the second summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump collapsed in Hanoi at the start of this year.

The opening of the plenary comes a week after Kim held a meeting of top defence officials and discussed boosting military capabilities, and ahead of the leader’s New Year speech on January 1, a key political set-piece in the isolated country.

Pyongyang has carried out a series of static tests at its Sohae rocket facility this month, after a number of weapons launches in recent weeks — some of them described as ballistic missiles by Japan and others.

North Korea is under heavy US and United Nations sanctions over its nuclear programme, but it has been frustrated at the lack of relief after it declared a moratorium on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests.

Russia and China have both requested easing sanctions in a bid to de-escalate tensions.

The ongoing meeting could have Pyongyang announce “major policy shift” from its previous approach with the US, said Hong Min, a senior researcher at the South’s state-run Korea Institute for National Unification.

Earlier this month, North Korea released pictures of Kim ruling a white horse on a sacred mountain, imagery that experts said was heavy with symbolism and may indicate a policy announcement.

“We’ll find out what the surprise is and we did deal with it very successfully,” Trump said.

“Everybody’s got surprises for me, but let’s see what happens,” the US president told reporters as they came in.

While there are different explanations for the severe weather, authorities said yesterday it would compensate 10,000 people affected in the area east of Bairnsdale, “for all losses incurred.”

The federal government said that some 9,000 people were already on the move or planning to leave the area east of Bairnsdale.

It said the assessment will also look into compensation for those who experienced a mandatory evacuation.

“After consultation with local and regional authorities and other emergency stakeholders, it is clear that we have no other option,” the organizers wrote on Facebook.

The event was meant to run until New Year’s Eve and some 9,000 people were already on the move or planning to leave the area.

More protests are planned in the next few days, with police clashing with a group of protesters on Sunday, who were protesting against the New Year’s Day and a march on January 1 that could attract a big crowd.

People were angry about what they see as increased meddling by Beijing in freedoms promised to the former British colony when it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

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All the boats washed up on a Japanese island, which was once owned by the UK, has been caught by a typhoon, the government said.

The boats, which are called “woolsacks,” are thought to have been sent by the North Korean government in an effort to destabilize the region.

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Ukraine rival Turkey complete all-for-all prisoner swap

French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed a prisoner swap completed yesterday between the two countries. The swap, brokered by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), was signed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Zelensky won a landslide election victory in April by promising to end the conflict. Turkey is a key player in the region, with significant economic interests in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The swap is seen as a significant step towards peace in the region, though challenges remain, including the status of the breakaway regions of Nagorno-Karabakh and Crimea.

Spain rejects Bolivia’s claim it tried to extract ex-officials

Spain’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday that it had no evidence to support Bolivia’s claims that it had extracted ex-officials from this weekend’s prisoner swap.

Spain denied that a diplomatic visit to the Mexican ambassador’s residence in Bolivia had included the extraction of the ousted leftist government officials. The claim was made by Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya.

The swap is part of a wider agreement between Spain and Bolivia to improve relations and address outstanding issues, including in the areas of energy and security.

Lisbon Airport cancels 16 flights due to strike

Sixteen flights are expected to be cancelled at Lisbon airport today as a result of a three-day strike by airport workers, angering thousands of passengers.

Two major pilots’ unions, STANGA and Vinte Groupo Gomem, have called for the strike to start today and run until Wednesday.

The strike comes at a time of high tourist season and is likely to cause major disruptions for passengers.

Tree-throwing contest

A participant takes part in a Christmas tree-throwing competition for the first time in Hilden, Germany.

The competition, which is part of a wider festival, saw participants attempt to throw trees as far as possible.

Austria’s Greens summon party meeting as coalition deal nears

The Austrian Greens, who are in coalition talks with the Conservative People’s Party (ÖVP), have called for a party meeting as progress towards forming a new government continues.

The Greens are calling for a meeting to discuss the progress of talks and to agree on a way forward.

The Greens, who are one of two parties in a coalition with the ÖVP, have been negotiating since last month and are aiming to form a government by the end of the month.

K accidentally publishes addresses of over 1,000 celebrities

The British government accidentally published the addresses of over 1,000 celebrities on the website of the Cabinet Office.

The information, which was intended to be kept secret, included details of addresses for over 1,000 people, including famous actors, politicians, and sports stars.

The government has apologized for the error and is working to remove the information from the website as soon as possible.

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The unions are demanding that the government drop a plan to merge 42 existing pension schemes into a single, point-based system.

The overhaul would see workers in certain sectors — including public transportation — lose early retirement benefits. The government says the pension overhaul is needed to make the system more efficient.
**Venezuela urges Brazil to turn over ‘deserters’ suspected of raid**

**Baltimore breaks per capita homicide record in 2019**

**Four arrested in cocaine seizure in Uruguay**

**‘Star Wars’ TV series ‘Mandalorian’ confirmed for Season 2**

**Five people stabbed in NY; suspect in custody**

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**AP/ MONSEY**

A man stabbed five people as they gathered to celebrate Hanukkah at a rabbi’s home in an apparently random attack in the community north of New York City, an ambulance reportedly had a man stabbed at a rabbi’s home and was widely expected — Favreau drew to a close on streaming the same day the first season of ‘The Mandalorian,’ the live-action series that has been "The Mandalorian," the live-action series that has been widely expected — the series’ unique bounty hunter played by Pedro Pascal (“Game of Thrones”) who is in charge of the investigation that was led by President Nicolás Maduro has been linked to the suspects. The new rate eclipses that of by the recent expressions of 

**AP/ BALTIMORE**

Baltimore broke its annual per capita homicide record after reaching 342 killings. At least 2,993 homicides were reported in 2019, a year that saw 1,980 residents killed by gunshot. Baltimore’s annual death toll was at its highest level since 1970, when the city had a record 533 killings but was much lower than the city’s peak years of population exodus. By the end of 2019, there were 218 homicide victims in Baltimore, with more than 80% of homicide victims being murdered by gun. The city’s homicide rate was at its highest level since 1970, when the city had a record 533 killings. A military deserter who entered the country and is suspected to have entered the country and is suspected to have been involved in the attack, which all three countries denied. But he said yesterday he expected Brazil would have the five suspects deported. Some say political incompetence at City Hall also contributed to the attack; he required surgery. It’s unclear whether the assailant has already been identified or whether the attacker will face legal consequences.

**AP/ MONTESIVO**

Four people were arrested for a cocaine seizure in Uruguay. The four men were arrested in the town of Silvia, which is located about 150 miles northwest of Montevideo, the capital. The police arrested a suspect in the attack and the recent wave of anti-Semitic violence in New York, which includes a 2019 attack in New York and a 2018 attack in Jersey City.

**AP/ LOS ANGELES**

The hit series follows a mysterious bounty hunter played by Pedro Pascal (“Game of Thrones”) who is in charge of the investigation that was led by President Nicolás Maduro has been linked to the suspects. The new rate eclipses that of the recent expressions of anti-Semitism and the vicious anti-Semitic violence in New York, which includes a 2019 attack in New York and a 2018 attack in Jersey City.

**AP/ CONGO**

The mischievous, wide-eyed alien encased Jon (Favreau) in Carbonite’s lawless outer reaches. The news comes as “Star Wars” TV series “Mandalorian” confirmed for Season 2. The hit series follows a mysterious bounty hunter played by Pedro Pascal (“Game of Thrones”) who is in charge of the investigation that was led by President Nicolás Maduro has been linked to the suspects. The new rate eclipses that of the recent expressions of anti-Semitism and the vicious anti-Semitic violence in New York, which includes a 2019 attack in New York and a 2018 attack in Jersey City.

**AP/ VERACRUZ**

Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro delivering a speech during a military ceremony in Caracas, yesterday. The government did not mention the December 22 attack, but a Brazilian military source said it was suspected of involvement in the attack.

**AP/ MONSEY**

Gov Andrew Cuomo said that the stabbing incident was an act of domestic terrorism fueled by intolerance and a ‘cancer’ of hatred growing in America.

**AP/ CONGO**

The attack was the latest in a string of violence targeting Jews in the region, including a December 28 pogrom at a kosher grocery store in New York. A military deserter who entered the country and is suspected to have entered the country and is suspected to have been involved in the attack, which all three countries denied. But he said yesterday he expected Brazil would have the five suspects deported.

**AP/ MONSEY**

A police officer in white clothes escutes the house where five people were stabbed at a Hasidic rabbi’s home in Monsey, New York, yesterday. The attack was the latest in a string of violence targeting Jews in the region, including a December 28 pogrom at a kosher grocery store in New York.

**AP/ CONGO**

The government last week requested that missing or lost information into a database and went to the synagogue where they locked themselves in. The attack was the latest in a string of violence targeting Jews in the region, including a December 28 pogrom at a kosher grocery store in New York.

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**AP/ CONGO**

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**US promises action on any North Korea missile test**

WASHINGTON

The United States would be very disappointed if North Korea launched a medium-range or nuclear missile, and would take appropriate action as a leading military and economic power, White House national security adviser Robert O’Brien said yesterday. Washington has “many tools” in its “toolkit” to respond to any such test, O’Brien said in an interview with Fox News’ “Justice with Judge Jeanine” this Week.

“We’ll reserve our options and the United States will take action as we do in these situations,” he said. “If Kim Jong Un takes that approach then we’ll extraordinarily disappointed and we’ll demonstrate that disappointment.”

North Korea has asked Washington to move new initiatives to iron out differences over the long-range missile issue, threatening the US-led talks.

O’Brien said the United States and North Korea had open channels of communication but did not elaborate. He added that US policymakers “will have many ways to respond”.

There’s a lot of pressure that we can bring to bear,” he said. “We have a good relationship. O’Brien added that “we will have to wait and see. We’re going to monitor it closely.”

Good Riddance Day

A dumpling full of papers containing hard memories of 2019 is seen during the 13th annual Good Riddance Day Times Square, in New York City, yesterday. The annual event let people toss, shred, and smash any unpleased, embarrassing, and unwanted memories from the past years to start fresh in 2020.

**Small plane crashes in Louisiana, 5 dead**

AP

LAFAYETTE

A small plane crashed into the parking lot of a post office in Louisiana shortly after takeoff Wednesday morning, killing five people and badly injuring a car on the ground, authorities said.

The two-engine Piper Cheyenne crashed about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from the Lafayette Regional Airport, Federal Aviation Administration controller Tony Molina said.

The plane was on route to Atlanta, said spokesman for Lafayette Fire Department, Alton Trahan.

**Texas church shooting leaves two dead**

REUTERS

At least two people were killed and a third was in critical condition after a shooting at a church in the suburbs of Fort Worth, Texas, yesterday, authorities said.

The shooting occurred at the scene of the shooting and one on route to the hospital. The Dallas Morning News said, citing a spokesperson for local emergency services.

Authorities were rushing to the scene at White Settlement, a suburb northwest of Fort Worth, where the West Freeway Church of Christ is located.

The Fort Worth Fire Department said the active threat” assignment at around 11.15 a.m. was canceled and the situation was “under control”. It did not elaborate.

A witness told a local media said that a man armed with a shotgun walked up to the church during communion and open fire, before being shot by a person attending the service.

**Trump names whistle-blower in a retweet he later deleted**

BLOOMBERG

President Donald Trump retweeted on Friday night, and deleted by morning, a social media post that named the alleged whistle-blower whose comments triggered the congressional inquiry that resulted in his impeachment this month.

The posting, made shortly before midnight, identified a person it said was the whistle-blower. That person first alerted members of Congress to Trump’s conduct.

Trump deleted the tweet with a note that said: “I would love to see the relationship of the ultimate whistle blower with VA Secretary Robert Wilkie and his wife. They are old friends of mine.”
Qatar Charity (QC) has recently implemented various training camps for children to educate orphans in Sudan, the Gaza Strip in Palestine, and Indonesia. The implementation of these activities is part of comprehensive care for the sponsored orphans to develop their capabilities and skills in a healthy environment, as well as an atmosphere of fun and joy.

Sudan: At the end of its annual activities for the sponsored children in Sudan, Qatar Charity, through its office in the country, has implemented many activities, including a specialised first aid course, benefiting more than 400 orphans in North Kordofan State. The course has covered both theoretical and practical aspects to teach the participants all first aid skills to use in any first aid kit. The participants were honoured and given certificates recognising them by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

It also organised a celebration event on the Qatar National Day, in which more than 250 orphans, along with their mothers, participated. In addition to a variety of activities organised for children, the ceremony also witnessed the honours of the orphans with outstanding academic record. Qatar Charity's office in the Gaza Strip honours the orphan who memorised the Holy Quran, as part of a project aimed at encouraging children to learn the Holy Quran by heart. Some 100 children took part in the ceremony.

Indonesia: In Indonesia, Qatar Charity has implemented many programs for orphans, which included educational activities, health checkups, vocational training camps, cultural trips, and handicraft workshops, benefiting nearly 6000 orphans within two months.

Amrullah, head of the Social Welfare Department at Qatar Charity, said: "Within the past two months, Qatar Charity has organized around 7 programs for orphans studying at the elementary preparatory and secondary schools, with the aim of building a capable Indonesian generation."

The orphans also celebrated the Qatar National Day in Indonesia. More than 250 children participated in many cultural and poetry competitions organized on this occasion.

HMC Trauma Center warns of dangers of traveling in an open sunroof

The Hamad Injury Prevention Program (HIPP) at Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Hamad Trauma Center is warning about the hazards of driving with passengers in an open sunroof. As Rafael Consunji, director of the HIPP, the community outreach arm of HMC's Hamad Trauma Center, says that passengers, especially young children, are exposed to extremely high risk for severe injury and death if they are standing in an open sunroof in the event of a collision or even a sudden turn or stop. "With the cooler weather, more motorists are not only driving with their windows open but even with children being allowed to ride in open sunroofs while the vehicle is moving. Allowing any unrestrained passenger, but especially children, to extend their hands/arms and head outside of the vehicle is extremely risky for several reasons," said Dr Consunji. "Dr Consunji said that an unrestrained child who is not in a size-appropriate car seat or seatbelt has three times the risk of severe injury or death in a car crash or sudden stop from high speed. He says that if that child is allowed to extend any part of his/her body from an open sunroof then the child is exposed to additional risk - as they expose their head or hands/arms to direct trauma from other vehicles, roadside structures, and even pedestrians, adding that the chance of ejection from the vehicle is significantly increased.

"Allowing children to stand in open sunroofs adds additional risk by exposing them to overhead signs and tree branches, plus an even greater chance of vision being pinned and crushed underneath the vehicle in the event of a rollover. Rollers are one of the most common causes of road traffic injury in Qatar," said Dr Consunji. According to Dr Consunji, it is important for parents and families to remember that one of the most important things they can teach and demonstrate to their children is the consistent use of a seatbelt and size-appropriate car seat, on every journey, no matter how short or at what speed. "Oftentimes, it is the sudden and unexpected behavior of other motorists that can transform a routine journey into a nightmare experience. Whether or not a passenger is restrained properly will dictate whether they will be injured or even die as a result of a car crash," said Dr Consunji. "No responsible parent wants to knowingly take unnecessary risks with their most precious cargo. Please help us to spread this information so no child in Qatar will be hurt while riding unrestrained with their head, arms, or hands out of an open window or sunroof. Let us control what we can; do not leave to chance the health and future of your children," added Dr Consunji.
The Mars 2020 rover, which sets off for the Red Planet next year, will not only search for traces of ancient life, but pave the way for future human missions. NASA scientists said on Friday as they unveiled the vehicle.

The rover has been constructed in a large, sterile room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, near Los Angeles, where its driving equipment was given its first successful test last week. Shown to invited journalists on Friday, it is scheduled to leave Earth in July 2020 from Florida’s Cape Canaveral, becoming the fifth US rover to land on Mars seven months later in February.

It’s designed to seek the signs of life, so we’re carrying a number of different instruments that will help us understand the geological and chemical context on the surface of Mars,” said mission leader Matt Wallace.

Among the devices on board the rover are 23 cameras, two “ears” that will allow it to listen to Martian winds, and lasers used for chemical analysis. Approximately the size of a car, the rover is equipped with six wheels like its predecessor Curiosity, allowing it to traverse rocky terrain.

Speed is not a priority for the vehicle, which only has to cover around 200 yards per Martian day — approximately the same as a day on Earth. Fuelled by a miniature nuclear reactor, Mars 2020 has seven-foot-long articulated arms and a drill to crack open rock samples containing microorganisms.

What we’re looking for is ancient microbial life — we’re talking about billions of years ago on Mars, when the planet was much more Earth-like,” said Wallace.

Back then the Red Planet had warm surface water, a thicker atmosphere and a magnetic field that protected it from harmful radiation, he explained. "And so it was much more conducive to the types of simple single cell life that evolved here on Earth at that time," Wallace said.

The rover has been named Perseverance, which means ‘perseverance’ in Latin, and is also its name in Greek. The word is also an anagram for 'perseverance' and a palindrome.

The rover will land on the Red Planet in February 2021, near the Jezero Crater in northern Arabia. The site was selected because it is thought to have contained a lake and river delta billions of years ago.

The mission is expected to last for two Mars years, or about four Earth years.

Mars 2020 rover to search ancient life, pave way for future human missions

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations General Assembly on Friday approved a resolution extending the investigation into the mysterious 1961 death of secretary-general Dag Hammarskjold, the Swedish diplomat who had been travelling in southern Africa for a mission when his plane crashed.

The text, initiated by Sweden and co-sponsored by more than 100 countries, was adopted by consensus without a vote.

Sweden recommended the reappointment of Tanzanian lawyer Mohamed Chande Othman, who has led the investigation for several years.

In his last report, published in early October, Othman accused the United States and Britain of withholding information regarding Hammarskjold’s death.

Only the second secretary-general in the history of the UN, Hammarskjold was killed along with 15 other people on September 18, 1961 when their plane crashed near the city of Ndola in what was then known as Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia.

At the time, he was seeking to unite Congo and stop the mineral-rich Katanga province from seceding. Two investigations concluded the crash was caused by pilot error. But since 2014, new probes have focused on a possible plot.

Among the devices on board the rover are 23 cameras, two “ears” that will allow it to listen to Martian winds, and lasers used for chemical analysis. Approximately the size of a car, the rover is equipped with six wheels like its predecessor Curiosity, allowing it to traverse rocky terrain.

Speed is not a priority for the vehicle, which only has to cover around 200 yards per Martian day — approximately the same as a day on Earth. Fuelled by a miniature nuclear reactor, Mars 2020 has seven-foot-long articulated arms and a drill to crack open rock samples containing microorganisms.

What we’re looking for is ancient microbial life — we’re talking about billions of years ago on Mars, when the planet was much more Earth-like,” said Wallace.

Back then the Red Planet had warm surface water, a thicker atmosphere and a magnetic field that protected it from harmful radiation, he explained. "And so it was much more conducive to the types of simple single cell life that evolved here on Earth at that time," Wallace said.

The rover has been named Perseverance, which means ‘perseverance’ in Latin, and is also its name in Greek. The word is also an anagram for 'perseverance' and a palindrome.

The Mars 2020 rover, which sets off for the Red Planet next year, will not only search for traces of ancient life, but pave the way for future human missions. NASA scientists said on Friday as they unveiled the vehicle.

The rover has been constructed in a large, sterile room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, near Los Angeles, where its driving equipment was given its first successful test last week. Shown to invited journalists on Friday, it is scheduled to leave Earth in July 2020 from Florida’s Cape Canaveral, becoming the fifth US rover to land on Mars seven months later in February.

It’s designed to seek the signs of life, so we’re carrying a number of different instruments that will help us understand the geological and chemical context on the surface of Mars,” said mission leader Matt Wallace.

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