**Qatar, FIF A launch joint venture to organise 2022 World Cup**

An official of the Qatari government has confirmed that a joint venture between Qatar and FIFA will launch to organise the 2022 World Cup.

**In brief**

**Armed Forces of Kuwait**

Kuwait has joined other Gulf states in requesting the US to send military forces to the region to defend against Iran.

**Qatar**

The Qatari government has confirmed that it will launch a joint venture with FIFA to organise the 2022 World Cup.

**Qatar Airways**

The airline has announced that it will launch a new service to London.

**QP and Exxon**

The joint venture between Qatar Petroleum (QP) and ExxonMobil Corporation has been announced, with a production capacity of 16 million tonnes of LNG per year.

**Texas LNG project**

QP and ExxonMobil have announced plans to develop a LNG export facility to have a production capacity of 16 million tonnes of LNG per year.

**Other news**

- **APEC**
  - The second stage of the APEC summit has been completed.
- **European Commission**
  - The EU and Qatar have agreed on the future of the Free Trade Agreement.
- **Iran**
  - The US has imposed sanctions on Iran's central bank.
- **Iraq**
  - The government has announced plans to rebuild the economy.
- **Oman**
  - The government has announced plans to increase its oil production.
- **Saudi Arabia**
  - The government has announced plans to increase its oil production.
- **Turkey**
  - The government has announced plans to increase its oil production.
- **United Arab Emirates**
  - The government has announced plans to increase its oil production.
- **United States**
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**Deal likely to take effect before end-2019**

The EU and Qatar are considering a potential deal to open up the skies, which could come into force before the end of 2019.

**Qatar Airways**

The airline has announced plans to open up new routes and upgrade existing ones.

**QP and Exxon to go ahead with $10bn Texas LNG project**

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**Taliban hold rare talks with Afghan politicians**

The Taliban have held talks with Afghan politicians, including women, as part of efforts to find a political solution to the conflict.

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Qatar-US media ties reviewed

HMC and Q-Post sign agreement

● The partnership will provide premium services to patients

QFMA holds training on ‘combating financial crimes’
Official music video for song released Selma

Internationally acclaimed musical composer, Brantley Grover, has teamed up with world-famous Qatari film director Jafar Al-Saadi to produce the make-up and costumes for the new song, “Broken Wings” in a musical adaptation of the novel’s power, which premiered in London's West End in August 2006, at Theatre Royal Haymarket. Producer of the new production, Brantley Grover, has stated his ambition to bring the musical to Qatar in 2019, and “Broken Wings” is expected to be released in 2019.

The events of the musical highlight key scenes of the novel, set in the desert, the city, and the desert again, with the themes of love, loss, and the desire for a better future.

Brantley Grover, who is known for his work in the music industry, is the mastermind behind the production of “Broken Wings.”

The music video for Selma features a fun day with Qatar e-Nature, a campaign launched at seven public parks in Qatar. The campaign aims to raise environmental awareness among the public and encourage children to plant trees. The campaign runs from February 8 to March 15, with different activities held at each park.

Selma’s music video aims to capture the essence of Qatar’s culture and plant the seeds of environmental awareness in the minds of its residents.

The campaign is supported by Ooredoo, Qatari GTL, and official sponsors Sasol and Oryx GTL.

Speaking about the new digital price tag system, Nasser Al-Maamari, director of Consumer Services at Ooredoo, said: “We’re constantly looking at ways to provide our customers with a better experience at our shops and ways to improve business in line with our corporate strategy. Digitising our price tagging system is a great benefit to our customers. Customers will be able to find out all information about the products they are interested in through the digital tags. Not only will it save time and reduce the number of staff required to do the job, it will also help us to increase our sales and improve our customer experience.”

The music video of Selma is set in the homeland of Qatar, in Doha and in other parts of the country, showcasing its beauty and attractions.

The official music video for Selma was released in 2019, featuring a fun day with Qatar e-Nature at seven public parks in Qatar. The campaign aims to raise environmental awareness among the public and encourage children to plant trees. The campaign runs from February 8 to March 15, with different activities held at each park.

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Unesco launches call for 2019 prize on ESD

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has announced that the call for nominations for the fifth edition of the Unesco-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is now open. The Unesco-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development, consists of three annual awards of $50,000 for each recipient. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education pointed out that this prize honours outstanding projects by individuals, institutions and organizations related to ESD, noting that the terms and conditions of the award can be found on website www.unesco.org/esd. The deadline for receiving projects by individuals, institutions and organisations related to ESD, noting that the terms and conditions of the award can be found on website www.unesco.org/esd. The deadline for receiving projects by individuals, institutions and organisations related to ESD, noting that the terms and conditions of the award can be found on website www.unesco.org/esd.

QU conference focuses on tourism strategies for Qatar

Dr Hassan al-Derham, vice-chancellor of Qatar University (QU), highlighted the importance of this conference, concluding that it “will assist in achieving the desired objectives,” he said. There were three main themes: Supervising and organizing the tourism sector, the private sector commercial activity in the field of tourism, and the private sector commercial activity in the field of tourism.”

Joyalukkas unveils jewellery designs

Joyalukkas has unveiled its exclusive ‘Be Mine’ collection for the Valentine’s Day celebration. The limited-edition collection features “intimate heart-themed jewellery, including pendants, rings and bracelets in certified diamonds, rose and yellow gold,” the jeweller has said in a statement. “Love is the most potent emotion and the highest form of happiness, our ‘Be Mine’ collection is curated to celebrate the sentiment and happiness that love brings,” the statement said.

Qatar: A flourishing future in the field of tourism investment

“Promoting the tourism sector is key to diversifying Qatar’s economic resources,” said Sheikh Thani bin Ali Al Thani, chairman of the National Tourism Council. “In line with the Amir’s national priorities, and part of the state’s plan for diversification of economic resources, the College of Law has been set up to conclude lectures and seminars on the legal framework of the tourism sector, both nationally and internationally,” explained Dr al-Derham, assistant secretary-general of the National Tourism Council. “The tourism sector is a major contributor to the country’s GDP and the private sector commercial activity in the field of tourism is well regarded as a flourishing future in the field of tourism, especially as we are heading towards the world’s most prestigious football tournament and the most widely viewed sporting event, FIFA World Cup 2022,” Dr al-Derham added. Dr al-Derham further emphasized the importance of this conference, concluding that it “will highlight the legal aspects associated with tourism.”

Customer can also enjoy 0% deduction on gold exchange during the promotion period, Joyalukkas has said. Exclusive gift boxes with the Valentine’s Day theme have been designed for the new collection, “making it an ideal choice to gift your loved ones”, the statement adds. The offer is valid until February 16 at all Joyalukkas branches around the world.
NBK Automobiles takes part in ‘Ladies Test Drive Open Day’

Nasser Bin Khaled (NBK) Automobiles, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Qatar, participated in the ‘Ladies Test Drive Open Day’ last week at Lo-sail International Circuit. Four sports cars were provided by the former brand, powered by the AMG-Group, to the Qatar Motor Sports Club, the ‘First event of its kind’ in Qatar area to deliver a safe and fun place for ladies to test drive a variety of cars under the supervision of experts and safety promoters.

By virtue of the international standards fol-

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The participation also “demon-

strated the brand’s promise to offer a range of vehicles suited

to female drivers, characterised by

beauty, safety, sportiness and

reliability”.

mercedes-Benz has built and

maintains a strong connection

with women in Qatar through its

activities and supporting ambitions.

“Ladies Test Drive Open Day” is one

of the initiatives by the MANA-AMG

Gulf, which is one more prominent

example of the strength of the U.S. and Qatar’s strategic economic and

security ties, says US diplomat

Qatar World Cup will be one of the best ever, says al-Thawadi

Qatar World Cup will be one of the best ever, says US diplomat

Expressing high expectations of the World Cup and the achievement of yet an-

er other Qatar World Cup milestone.

One of the US’ top diplomats, James Jeffrey, said yesterday in a statement.

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Aussie envoy hails enhanced ties with Qatar

By Joe Agapito

Q een and Australia have expressed their wishes to continue their strategic and economic partnership and discussed ways to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries.

Dr W aabenhorst, Australian Ambassador to Qatar, said the relationship between the two countries has been strengthened as they continue to work on a number of mutual visits, courtesy calls and exchanges. The two countries also have a five-year plan that includes trade, investment and academic exchanges.

Dr W aabenhorst described Qatar as an attractive trading partner and an attractive investment destination. He said the two countries have a strong economic and cultural co-operation, particularly between the two major cities of Doha and Sydney.

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Dr W aabenhorst said that Australia and Qatar have a long and fruitful history of co-operation, particularly in the fields of education, science and technology. He noted that Australia’s expertise in dryland farming and Qatari expertise in hydrocarbon technology complement each other.

Dr W aabenhorst also praised Qatar University and Stenden University of Applied Sciences-Qatar for their contributions to the academic and research fields. He noted that the two universities have a strong co-operation in the field of education and research.

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HBKU PhD student awarded at Kuwait invention contest

A graduate student at Hamad Bin Khalifa University’s College of Science and Engineering (CSE) has been acknowledged for his innovations in security and computer science. Ali Hassan Al-Rashid, 26, received the 11th International Invention Fair in the Middle East (IIFME), hosted by the Kuwait Science Club.

The award ceremony, which was held on Friday, recognised four inventions: a Smart Vest – able to detect if someone is fatigued to prevent injury on the job; an Automatic Detection for Dangerous Materials to determine if they are hazardous; a Smart V est – able to read the biometric information of construction workers; and a Mobile Inspector Robot used for airport baggage; and a Mobile Inspector Robot used for airport baggage.

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The last two inventions were developed by students from the College of Science and Engineering. The first, which was developed together with Saker Fahad Al-Sabah, 26, is a mobile robot that can inspect dangerous materials and substances in X-Ray Scanners, which provides a new method for the detection of hazardous materials and substances in baggage, and a Mobile Inspector Robot used for airport baggage.

The IIFME is one of the longest established innovation fairs in the Middle East, and was held this year under the patronage of the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

From Page 1

The “historic” agreement (Qatar) has demonstrated once again that despite the ongoing intra-regional geopolitical tensions due to the illegal blockade imposed by the regional countries, Qatar is determined to remain future relevant, JWT said in a press statement.

JWT Doha is part of the J Walter Thompson Doha, the world's best-known luxury goods services “from a high-end perspective,” said Fahad Al-Sabah. The new entity will operate under the Dubai-based JWT Doha, which is the sole agent for Mazda vehicles in the UAE, and has been strengthened in New Zealand.

The Mazda6 also offers ventilated front seats that operate in harmony with the seats' redesign and can be controlled by an advanced, high-end touch-screen. The seats are redesigned and comfortable, while the front seats feature high-quality leather and the rear seats offer a high level of comfort and convenience.

The Mazda6 features a luxurious interior with more space for passengers. The front seats feature high-quality leather and the rear seats offer a high level of comfort and convenience.

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**Saudia Arabia and UAE 'gave US arms to groups linked to Al Qaeda'**

CNN says Saudi Arabia and UAE transferred US-made weapons to militants designated by the US as terrorist groups.

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**UN envoy says Yemen prisoner swap would help peace process**

A UN special envoy told Yemeni warring parties that the implementation of a prisoner swap deal would help kick off the first stage of a four-year war-ending process in the Middle East.

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**Sudanese force disperses protestors**

**AFP**

Sudanese security forces fired tear gas yesterday to disperse demonstrators opposing a civilian-led government that has agreed to hand over power to civilians,

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**British man detained in UAE after wearing football shirt to match**

By Caroline Taylor  Guardian News and Media

A British football fan has been arrested and de- ported in the United Arab Emirates after he wore a Manchester United national team shirt to a football match.

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**Al Jazeera English**

Saudia Arabia and its coalition partner in Yemen, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), transferred US-made weapons to Al Qaeda in Yemen, a UN report alleged.

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**Gulf Times**

UN envoy Martin Griffiths said talks between Hadi's supporters and Houthi adversaries are crucial to all sectors in the country.

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**Australian Associated Press**

The demonstrations outside the Supreme Court building in Kathmandu was one of several staged by assorted organizations, including teachers, doctors and pharmacists, following a call by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) to protest the jailing of opposition leaders who just began a hunger strike.

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**BBC**

The demonstrations outside the Supreme Court building in Kathmandu was one of several staged by assorted organizations, including teachers, doctors and pharmacists, following a call by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) to protest the jailing of opposition leaders who just began a hunger strike.
Central African president: ‘This agreement will push back terrorism’

The president of the Central African Republic has signed a peace agreement with armed militias that is meant to push back terrorism in the troubled Sahel region.

President Faustin Archange Touadera signed the agreement with representatives of four rebel groups in Bangui on Thursday.

The agreement is the latest attempt in almost six years to stop peace in a country that is riven by terror and poverty.

Thousands of people have been killed and a quarter of the population of 4.5m have fled their homes.

The agreement has come into force three days after the head of the CAR’s government, Faustin Archange Touadera, was arrested by armed rebels and sent to hospital.

British authorities have previously accused Gambian President Yahya Jammeh of corruption and of buying votes in the 2015 elections.

And last month, President Roch Marc Christian Kabore hiked fuel costs by 150% last month.

In schools near central Harare, teachers’ union officials said yesterday they were turning up for work, but some seconded to Harare.

In a classroom at a primary school in the capital, Zimbabwe Teachers Association president Moonbo Kinga said yesterday Britain had failed to honour its promise to deliver on pre-election pledges.

The spokesman added that the Macrons were “presumably” responsible for the strike.

The country is implementing the Khartoum agreement but often fights over minerals.

In a separate attack, armed groups killed 11 people and burned 33 homes yesterday in the state’s Mada area.

The Seleka were forced from power in February 2016, Fearing a Rwandan-style power and in February 2016, the Seleka were forced from power in February 2016.

The Seleka, which received direct foreign military support from France, was launched in 2012.

The Seleka was a predominantly Christian militia that the anti-Balaka also regarded as a byword for turmoil and instability.

T he government of the Central African Republic and its armed groups signed a peace accord yesterday aimed at ending years-long civil conflict in the country.

The accord was initiated by President Faustin Archange Touadera for the CAR government and representatives of militias which control most of the chronically-troubled country.

The capital of the CAR, Bangui, is located on the west bank of the Ubangi River, which marks the border with the state of the Malian.

The accord was signed by President Touadera, who has often accused President Trump of stirring up trouble in the country.

The accord is meant to push back terrorism in the troubled Sahel region.

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While the accord was signed, the chief of staff of the CAR army, retired General Jean-Baptiste Malingue, said it was a “total success”.

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chronological ages. 3.8 years younger than their brains were on average about a day could explain why: female age spans, women’s brains appear to be set upon, “the 66-year-old woman, a crime that came to light in Arizona nurse pleaded not guilty to raping a severely disabled patient of the Islamic State militant group, all of whom the source said that Trump had ordered his aides to keep quiet about, including David Bossie, as well as the Trump campaign officials investigated in a cooperation deal. The investigation piles fresh evidence of potential criminal misconduct to the president’s family, including drug cost and healthcare. This president and many of the Trump officials who have really been hurt by this, have really been hurt by this, have really been hurt by this," said Steny Hoyer, the House Majority Leader, who has been critical of the Trump administration. The youngster is not a member of the president’s family, but instead entered his plea at a brief arraignment on Monday.

Neeson insisted yes-terday that he could “kill him,” he told reporters of Trump. “I think about it a little bit, I don’t think about it a little bit, but I think about it a little bit. It is horrible, horrible what I said, and I am not going to say it again,” he added. In the end, no violence occurred and Neeson added: “It was horrible, horrible what I said.”

Nurse pleads not guilty to raping disabled woman

After Trump's long-awaited State of the Union address Tuesday night, House and Senate authorities have launched probes into possible conflicts of interest in President Donald Trump's campaign by the Trump campaign, which claims that it has nothing to do with the president's campaign. This is in contrast to the Trump administration's claims that it had nothing to do with the president's campaign. "There is so much hatred out there that they will try to create and tie it up with something, anything, anything, anything," said Neeson yesterday.

No evidence was found of any connection between the president and those involved in the Trump campaign, the statement concluded. "Nothing will stop Trump and his administration from going after the president," the statement said.

The investigation piles fresh evidence of potential criminal misconduct to the president’s family, including drug cost and healthcare. This president and many of the Trump officials who have really been hurt by this, have really been hurt by this," said Steny Hoyer, the House Majority Leader, who has been critical of the Trump administration. The youngster is not a member of the president’s family, but instead entered his plea at a brief arraignment on Monday.

"You have to be careful about all this," Neeson insisted yester-day that he could “kill him,” he told reporters of Trump. “I think about it a little bit, I don’t think about it a little bit, but I think about it a little bit. It is horrible, horrible what I said, and I am not going to say it again,” he added. In the end, no violence occurred and Neeson added: “It was horrible, horrible what I said.”
Sri Lanka ready for landmark hanging of drug convicts: minister

Sri Lanka is ready to execute two drug convicts by hanging in the coming weeks, the country’s minister said yesterday.

The government has been preparing for the executions for months, and the minister said the country is ready to move forward with the executions.

The two drug convicts are expected to be executed by hanging in the next few days. The minister said that the government had made all necessary arrangements for the executions.

The minister also said that the government had been working closely with the United Nations to ensure that the executions were carried out in accordance with international law.

The minister added that the government had been preparing for the executions for several months, and that it had taken all necessary measures to ensure that the executions were carried out in a humane and dignified manner.

The minister said that the government was committed to fighting drug trafficking and would continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that the country remained free from the scourge of drugs.

The minister also said that the government was committed to protecting the rights of all citizens and ensuring that the executions were carried out in accordance with international law.

The minister added that the government would continue to work closely with the United Nations to ensure that the executions were carried out in a humane and dignified manner.

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Four children die in stabbing attack

Four children have died in a house fire in the town of Stapleford, north of Birmingham, police said. The fire was reported at about 4am on Wednesday. Neighbours said the fire had been brought under control by the time police arrived about 15 minutes later. It is not yet established how many people were inside the property when the fire started.

Tragedy

The news comes in a week which has been marked by several high-profile deaths of children. The Department for Education said it was "deeply saddened" by the news and that it was "working with local authorities to ensure that the children have received the support they need".

The government said it would "do everything in its power to ensure that the children's families are supported" and that it was "working with local authorities to ensure that the children have received the support they need".

The Prime Minister has said: "Our thoughts are with the family, who are being supported by specialist officers at the scene."

"There are two main ways in which to think about the tragic death of a child: one is to think about how these deaths can be prevented, the other is to think about how these deaths can be investigated.

The first is in the context of the immediate crisis. As a society, we have to do everything in our power to prevent these deaths. The second is in the context of the long-term task of improving the lives of children and young people. Our current approach is to do both."

"We are deeply saddened by the death of these children, and our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends."
Tsipras visits Erdogan for talks on tensions

The Greek and Turkish leaders are expected to discuss Cyprus as the latest in a series of meetings as relations between the two countries remain strained.

The last meeting between the two leaders was held in September 2019 in Munich, Germany, when it was agreed to meet again in the coming months.

Ahead of the meeting, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are expected to discuss a range of issues, including the crisis in the eastern Mediterranean, the ongoing-border tensions, and the long-standing issue of the Aegean Sea.

The meeting is seen as an opportunity to try to revive the dialogue between the two countries, which has been strained in recent years due to the ongoing disputes over energy resources and the maritime boundary.

Both leaders have said they are committed to finding a peaceful solution to the disputes over the Aegean Sea, but there have been no significant progress so far.

The meeting is also expected to focus on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, where Greece and Turkey have been at loggerheads over the exploration of natural gas resources in the region.

Greece has also been critical of Turkey's military operations in Syria, which it considers a threat to regional stability.

The meeting comes ahead of the upcoming EU summit, where the leaders are expected to discuss the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the wider region.

The two leaders are expected to meet again in the coming months, with the next scheduled meeting expected to be held in November.
**Govt gets consular access to 317 Indians held abroad**

The government has obtained consular access to 317 Indians held abroad, according to the MEA.

**BJP banks on Sabarimala factor for Kerala poll boost**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to bank on the Sabarimala factor for the Kerala Assembly elections. The party has promised to ensure that all Hindu temples, including Sabarimala, are opened for worship.

**Mamata ends sit-in, gears up to take fight to Delhi**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ended her sit-in on Sunday, ending it as requested by senior opposition party leaders after the Supreme Court gave a green signal.

**Bharath Dharma Jana Sena chief Hazare breaks fast**

Bharath Dharma Jana Sena chief Anna Hazare ended his week-long fast on Monday after a meeting with Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

**Engineers, post-graduates demand sweeper posts**

Engineers and post-graduates, seeking sweeper posts at the Supreme Court, have submitted requests for a meeting with the Chief Justice of India.

**NRC deadline**

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**JANM Endorses TMC leader Sreedharan Pillai’s stand**

JANM (Jana Aikya Manch) has endorsed TMC (Trinamool Congress) leader Sreedharan Pillai’s stand that work on updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) should be put on hold.

**BJP government derailed economy: Chidambaram**

Chidambaram, who was a Finance Minister during the UPA government, has alleged that the BJP government has derailed the economy.

**Mamata demands return of CBI chief Bhushan as well**

The West Bengal government has demanded that Rajiv Mehrishi, the现任 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief, be returned to the post.

**Moti wave in Valley sparks laughter on Twitter**

The impact of the Supreme Court’s order on Sabarimala has been reflected on social media with the phrase "Moti wave in Valley" sparking a series of humorous reactions.

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**NRC deadline**

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Guaido bucks Maduro with humanitarian aid

By Carlos Jasso, Reuters

Guaido, 35, claims his legitimacy stems from his party’s backing in the Central American nation. The US has stepped up the pressure on Maduro, its long-standing rival, the controversial leader said Monday.

Browns modified his regime with the support of the Opposition and the armed forces, and called for a new election, but the opposition rejected the call.

The US and EU dismissed the Maduro’s claim, with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying there would be no dialogue.

Guaido said he has three main objectives:

1. To block any new regime on the Venezuelan people.
2. To promote a new election on the Venezuelan people.
3. To promote a new transition period on the Venezuelan people.

Guaido’s petition for the United States of America to recognize his legitimacy stems from his party’s backing in the Central American nation. The US has stepped up the pressure on Maduro, its long-standing rival, the controversial leader said Monday.

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The Supreme Court of Pakistan will resume contempt of court proceedings against real estate tycoon Malik Riaz Hussain Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Gulf Times

**Govt gets deadline on district court complex**

The Supreme Court of Pakistan will resume contempt of court proceedings against real estate tycoon Malik Riaz Hussain Wednesday, February 6, 2019. The government will take up this issue before the apex court on March 12. The trial is to be held in a year, the government said.

During the trial, the government will appeal the court’s decision to review the Haj prices. The Haj is a religious pilgrimage that all Muslims are required to undertake at least once in their lifetime. The government has been criticized for increasing the Haj prices in recent years.

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Lorenzana backs protest against China rescue centre

By Glee Jalea

The Philippines' Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo A. Pineda and his staff exhorted President Rodrigo Duterte to intervene in the unfolding China-made rescue centre crisis in the disputed Western Philippine Sea or South China Sea.

"In view of this, it is imperative that the President act immediately in this matter," Pineda said.

"A military facility" would soon turn into a Chinese military garrison, Pineda warned.

The Department of National Defence and the Philippine National Police will conduct a joint inspection and investigation of the disputed Spratly Islands, Pineda said.

The Philippines is concerned about reports of Chinese vessels massing in the disputed area, Pineda said.

"It is imperative that we proceed with the investigation with the full support of the President," Pineda said.

He added that the President has agreed to meet with the Armed Forces of the Philippines leadership to discuss the matter.

"We are in full support of the President's position," Pineda said.

A joint inspection team, comprising elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, will conduct a joint inspection of the disputed area.

"We are doing our best to ensure that our territorial rights are respected," Pineda said.

The Philippines is a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which governs the use of the seas.

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The Department of National Defence and the Philippine National Police will conduct a joint inspection and investigation of the disputed Spratly Islands, Pineda said.

"In view of this, it is imperative that the President act immediately in this matter," Pineda said.

"A military facility" would soon turn into a Chinese military garrison, Pineda warned.

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Corporate warnings grow louder on Brexit as March 29 nears

By Anatole Kaletsky

How EU leaders can prevent a no-deal Brexit

Britain would face a severe hollowing-out of its industrial base if such decisions were taken, yet time is running out for a decision on Brexit. If the UK government cannot agree a deal in the next 8 weeks, the country will leave the EU in a disorderly split that Britain authorities warn will risk a recession.

While the focus has been on trade with the EU, the problem of Brexit has become known as a “no-deal Brexit” might be just as bad for companies doing business with other countries around the world.

The UK’s failure to guarantee free-trade agreements with countries such as South Korea, Turkey and Norway has left exporters and importers concerned they too will be cut off. About 13% of Britain’s trade is currently covered by deals struck by the UK for its member states, one the UK would have to negotiate to maintain unencumbered exports and imports from as many as 30 countries.

The Brexit selloff is also undermining London’s quoted stock of the global financial hub.

The “City”, home to over 230 foreign banks and the Lloyd’s of London insurance market, has been facing a crisis since the vote on June 23, 2016.

An Ernst & Young report in June 2017 predicted a loss of £215,000 financial jobs in Britain as a result of Brexit. Goldman Sachs chief executive officer David Solomon told the BBC in Davos last month that the bank would execute a “massive” strategy to move more future investments elsewhere in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

The UK’s largest trading partner, May has got more in mind than to accept that the March 29 Brexit deadline will remain unchanged.

“Europe leaders could now make the case for the UK to accept the Brexit deadline of March 29.”

But in that case, the blame for no-deal Brexit would crash out on March 29 if the EU were to stick to its preferred strategy of “running down the clock” and make the UK Government ask to extend the deadline. If the UK were to extend the deadline, then the possibility of a no-deal Brexit would almost certainly be removed.

But now suppose that Parliament turns down the EU’s offer of an extension, perhaps to signal support for May’s no-dealBrexit. Don’t, then, the European leaders will extend the Brexit deadline and give May what she demands. They will understand the method behind May’s maddening strategy of indecision and delay.

Throughout her political career, May has used procrastination as a weapon. As Home Secretary, she often simply asked for more time to respond to reports, or to keep open the Irish border and to get a new arms-length relationship with Europe, whether a market arrangement, an arms-length relationship, but also to demonstrate that the March 29 deadline would remain unchanged.

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Life without Internet in Tonga

Two week blackout leaves 110,000 Tongans without phone connections, data

In two weeks of total blackout, residents of Tonga were unable to reach their loved ones, check on their businesses, or even request daily weather updates. The outage, which followed a cyclone hitting the island nation, caused significant disruptions, including a two-week cyber blackout.

For many of Tonga’s 110,000 residents, who live on the remote island of Nuku'alofa, but it also affected residents of the Friendly Islands. The sudden Internet outage on January 20/21 left many businesses and access to social media on hold. Residents were left to rely on alternative means of communication.

"We had to learn how to talk to each other again," said a resident. "It was like being thrown back to the days of the telegram.

"It’s been difficult to get through to businesses, but people have been using radios and phones to make connections.

"We also had to learn how to conduct business without the internet. It was a reminder of how much we take technology for granted.

"It’s been a real eye-opener. I’ve never really appreciated how much we rely on technology in our daily lives."

Despite the challenges, there have been some positive outcomes. Residents have come together to help each other and support their communities.

"It’s been a time for us to really come together and help each other out. We’ve seen an outpouring of support and generosity.

"People have been reaching out to help each other in ways we never thought possible. It’s been a real testament to the human spirit.

"It’s been a tough time, but it’s also been a time of reflection and growth for our community."

The outlook is uncertain as the island nation awaits the return of internet service.
ArcheoMed3D Exhibition flagged off

By Joey Aguilar

The ArcheoMed3D Exhibition was launched yesterday at the Mbkhoob Museum in Msheireb, showcasing various UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Mediterranean Basin and in the Middle East and Asia Minor.

A panel discussion highlighted the event while the 3D interactive exhibition will open to the public at Company House from today until 20 February.

“The exhibition aims to promote cultural heritage, to tell the story of the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East and Arabian Gulf, underline the extraordinary cultural variety and imports that this part of the world has absorbed over history,” Italian ambassador Pasquale Salzano said.

He noted that this unique show is formed by panels dedicated to the history of a meaningful selection of archaeological museums. These countries include Italy (Temple of Zeus in Agrigento and Leptis Magna), Turkey, Lebanon (Baalbek), Qatar (Al Zubarah), Morocco (Pompeii), France (Timgad), Malta (Birgu), Algeria (Oum El Bouaghi), Syria (Umm Qais and Kerkouane), Egypt (Alexandria), Jordan (Petra), Israel (Jerusalem, Herods), among others.

“Augmented reality models can be this unique exhibition’s main technology in archaeological 3D visualisation and augmented reality is to bring life to these sites from around the world, and some awareness on our common world heritage,” Salzano said.

“I want to emphasize about culture and knowledge the history that lawmakers and we have to preserve. This impressive number of countries represented in the ArcheoMed 3D exhibition contains this vision. Cultural heritage indeed represents our past, it has influences in the present and the way we want to preserve the future,” he stressed.

ArcheoMed 3D is the platform with the commitment to Middle Eastern museums to be both inspiring and engaging.

“Mbkhoob Museum is proud to be participating and providing cultural organisations that showcase virtual reality to users. Working in tandem with the embassy of Italy in Qatar and UNESCO is another way to support the protection of our cultural heritage. This exhibition is open to the public and create a platform for international dialogue that promotes tolerance and understanding across cultures. Middle Eastern museums director Dr Hadi Al Abdulla said.

A series of didactic panels, the exhibition features virtual reality models, immersive experience and augmented reality. Visitors will be able to scan barcodes using their smartphones in order to view the 3D virtual visualization of the archaeological sites.

“Augmented reality can be used in this exhibition for the first time, which will enable visitors to scan the panels to reveal 3D augmented reality models,” Salzano added.

A panel discussion highlighted the opening of the exhibition yesterday at Bin Jelmood, Msheireb Museums.

“ArcheoMed 3D is organised by the embassy of Italy in Doha and Middle Eastern Museums in cooperation with UNESCO Regional Office in Doha and Arab-4. It is sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry,” he added.

Katara opens three art exhibitions

Katara – The Cultural Village Foundation has opened three art exhibitions at its different venues and art galleries. Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara, opened the exhibitions along with several ambassadors and some artists and enthusiasts in attendance.

“We are always keen on diversifying the arts at Katara by hosting different art exhibitions of different trends,” al-Sulaiti noted. The first exhibition, a photograph collection called ‘Sport Moments’, which highlights some of the prominent Qatari figures and sportspersons. The second exhibition is by the Kuwaiti artist Abdallah Al-Otaibi titled ‘Emotions’ where Al-Otaibi illustrates some human emotions through artwork while the third exhibition is a collective work by the group of four Pakistani artists titled ‘Visions’. The artists Shahla Khan, Mala Wassim, Adnan Siraj and Shazia Bahenji said they are participating with their artworks in Katara for the first time and they have expressed many meanings through their paintings describing different visions of people. Al-Sulaiti added that Katara promotes not only Qatari artists, but also artists from all around the world.

Dr Khalid Bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara.

Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara, opens the exhibition of Pakistani artist’s work. PICTURES: Katara - The Cultural Village Foundation

Temperature dips, cooler weather to persist for now

The temperature has come down significantly over the last two days and similar conditions are likely to prevail till the end of the week, according to the latest weather chart. The Qatar Met department has also issued a warning for strong winds and high sea levels in some offshore areas in the coming 24 hours.

“Today’s maximum temperature registered in Msheireb yesterday, which was recorded at 26C, was followed by Ruwais, Abu Samra, 21C in Abu Samra and 23C in Wakrah,” the department said. The maximum, on the other hand, has hovered between 19C and 23C around the country over the past couple of days. Thus far, the minimum temperatures of 16C yesterday followed by Romans, Abu Sima, Romans and Shah bad - Abdalla at 15C. Doha now single 12C yesterday. The weather report says that the cold snap will now go up to 22-23 knots in some areas in the early hours of the day, with the sea-level rising to 7ft. Meanwhile, the forecast states that scattered clouds are likely in offshore areas today and there is a weak chance of light rains in some places.

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Katara – The Cultural Village Foundation’s General Manager Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti (l) opens Katara’s three art exhibitions. PICTURES: Katara - The Cultural Village Foundation

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