

NTC troops set for assault on Qadhafi bastion

AFP
SHISHAN

FIGHTERS advanced on one of Moamer Qadhafi's last remaining bastions on Sunday, as Libya's new leaders called for the ousted strongman to stand trial in his homeland when captured.

A commander of the fighters said talks aimed at securing the peaceful surrender of Qadhafi's forces in Bani Walid had been abandoned and an assault on the oasis town southeast of Tripoli was imminent.

"We are getting ready," said Mohamed al-Fassi, checkpoint commander in the village of Shishan, 70 kilometres north of Bani Walid.

"Negotiations between Qadhafi's men and our forces have ended. These people aren't serious. Twice they promised to surrender only to go back on their word," he said.

A local spokesman for the National Transitional Council (NTC) now governing Libya said the frontline stood 15 to 20 kilometres (10 to 12 miles) north of Bani Walid and that troops were poised for an advance.

"We are waiting for orders to go into the city," Mahmud Abdelaziz said.

"Last night the Qadhafi forces tried to move out. Our fighters responded and there were some clashes lasting a few minutes."

The new government's

interim interior minister Ahmed Darrat told AFP he was confident the town's capture was imminent. "We expect Bani Walid to be freed today or tomorrow," he said.

The deputy chief of the military council in the town of Tarhuna, north of Bani Walid, said a last round of negotiations would be held with tribal leaders to try to secure the peaceful entry of the new government's troops. "We are waiting for them," Abdulrazzak Naduri told AFP.

"Everything depends on the negotiations. If they refuse (to surrender), we will advance. If the negotiations go well, we will enter and hoist the flag without a fight. It's the last chance, we can't extend our ultimatum again."

On Saturday, Naduri said Qadhafi's son Saadi was still in Bani Walid, along with other senior figures of the fallen regime, while prominent son Seif al-Islam had fled the town.

Preparations for the offensive appeared to be well underway even though NTC chairman Mustafa Abdel Jalil said in Benghazi on Saturday that a truce declared until September 10 remained in force.

"We are in a position of strength to enter any city but we want to avoid any bloodshed, especially in sensitive areas such as tribal areas," he said, adding military deployments would continue during the ceasefire.

24 killed as ICRC chief visits Syria

AFP
DAMASCUS

AT least 24 people were killed in violence across Syria on Sunday, reports said as the visiting Red Cross chief sought access to those detained in more than five months of anti-regime protests.

As more bloodletting gripped the country, Arab League chief Nabil al Arabi said Syria has agreed to host him for a visit, to help push for a peaceful outcome to the crisis.

But Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned that the five-nation BRICS group of emerging powers, who have criticised Western sanctions on Syria, are determined not to allow a Libyan-style solution in that country.

Activists said security forces cracking down on democracy protesters killed 12 people on Sunday during operations in northwestern and central Syria, including a woman.

The state news agency SANA also gave a toll of 12 dead — including six troops — when an "armed terrorist group" ambushed a bus in central Syria.

Omar Idlibi, spokesman of the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) which groups anti-regime activists on the ground, said "four martyrs fell in Karnaz near the (central) town of Maharda."

He also reported eight others people killed in the northwestern Idlib province, including two people in the



Souvenir plates with portraits of Syrian President Bashar al Assad displayed at a shop, in Damascus, on Saturday. (AP)

town of Khan Sheikhwan.

On Friday, SANA reported that gunmen in Khan Sheikhwan had kidnapped a corporal with Syria's internal security services, Wael Ali.

According to the LCC, security forces backed by soldiers raided Khan Sheikhwan and encircled hospitals "to prevent the wounded from being brought in for treatment."

Last Sunday nine people were killed by heavy machine-gun fire in the town when three tanks and three security vehicles stormed it,

the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights advocacy group reported.

Meanwhile SANA quoted a military source saying six troops, including an officer, and three civilians were killed in Maharda on Sunday when gunmen fired on a bus "carrying soldiers and labourers going to work".

Three assailants were also killed in a shootout with troops, while 17 people were wounded in the attack, SANA said.

The protest hub of Homs

also witnessed violence Sunday as 15 people were wounded when troops and security forces raked gunfire in the central city as part of an operation launched Saturday night, the Observatory said.

The unrest came as International Committee of the Red Cross chief Jakob Kellenberger met Foreign Minister Walid Muallem for a briefing on Syria's efforts to "restore order" and introduce reforms, blaming "armed groups" for the unrest, SANA said.

Troops siege Sanaa to prevent anti-Saleh protests

AFP
SANAA

TROOPS loyal to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh deployed in force in Sanaa on Sunday after opposition groups called new mass demonstrations demanding his ouster, an AFP correspondent reported.

The security forces closed off all access to the capital from Saturday afternoon while armed civilians loyal to the president also took to the streets, the correspondent said.

Sanaa has been without electricity since Saturday afternoon, while most fuel stations in the capital shut their taps suddenly, causing chaos at the few outlets which were still serving motorists.

The massive deployment by Saleh loyalists came in response to an opposition call for an intensification of protests against his rule amid a deadlock in the political process in the face of the president's long absence abroad.

Saleh has been receiving medical treatment in neighbouring Saudi Arabia for wounds sustained in a June 3 bombing in his palace.

"We have called for intensifying the challenge in order to move towards a peaceful solution," said Huria Machhur, spokeswoman of the opposition National Council, an umbrella group of anti-Saleh forces.

"The political process has reached an impasse because of Saleh's refusal to sign the Gulf plan," she said, adding that popular protests which began in January should continue "until the fall of the regime."

The Gulf plan proposes that Saleh transfer power to the vice president within 30 days in exchange for a promise of immunity from prosecution.

Saleh vowed last month to return "soon" to his impoverished country. "We hope that forces loyal to Saleh do not use weapons to disperse the peaceful marches of young people," Machhur said, warning that army units which defected to the protest movement "are on alert to defend the protesters if they face acts of violence."

"We hope that there is no challenge... to avoid an armed confrontation with dangerous consequences," she said, urging the Gulf countries, the United States and the European Union "to increase pressure on the regime" to avoid a civil war. Meanwhile, armed tribesmen clashed with Saleh loyalists in the elite Republican Guards at dawn on Sunday both in the south and in Taiz, Yemen's second-largest city, residents said.

2 fugitive prisoners held, 4 found dead in Iraq

AFP
MOSUL

IRAQI police have arrested two fugitive prisoners and found four others drowned out of a group of 14 who escaped from jail in the city of Mosul using a tunnel, a security official said on Sunday.

Security forces on Sunday found two prisoners drowned in the Tigris river during their escape, said Abdulrahim al-Shammari, the Nineveh provincial council member responsible for defence and security.

Police on Saturday found another escaped detainee from the prison in the northern city of Mosul, capital of Nineveh, who had also drowned, Shammari said. And on Friday, security forces arrested two fugitives and found one drowned, leaving eight prisoners still at large, he said.

Colonel Mohammed al-Juburi of

Nineveh police said on Thursday that 35 prisoners charged with terrorism-related offences had tried to escape that day, 14 of whom were successful.

Police on Saturday found another escaped detainee from the prison in the northern city of Mosul.

"The prisoners dug an 80-metre (yard) tunnel to reach the bank of the (Tigris) river," Nineveh operations chief Lieutenant General Hassan Karim said, adding the escapees had "received help from inside and outside the prison."

Jailbreaks and prison unrest are not uncommon in Iraq.

Officials said on August 6 that four prisoners and a guard were killed in clashes at a prison in the central city of Hilla during which eight inmates escaped.

Larijani puts off China visit

AP
TEHRAN

IRAN'S parliament speaker has postponed a visit to North Korea and China, state media reported on Sunday.

The US has accused North Korea of providing Iran with advanced missiles capable of targeting European capitals.

The report by *Jam-e Jam* daily quoted Hossein Sobhaninia, a member of parliament, as saying a visit by Ali Larijani to Pyongyang and Beijing has been postponed. He did not elaborate.

But another member of parliament told The Associated Press that the postponement came after Larijani was not scheduled to meet with sufficiently high-ranking North Koreans. The lawmaker spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk about the case.

The visit to North Korea would have been the first visit by an



Iranian Parliament speaker Ali Larijani, in Tehran, recently. (REUTERS)

Iranian parliament speaker since 1980s, when Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Pyongyang.

Iranian and North Korean officials have said in the past that the two countries are in "one trench" in the fight against the US and the West.

Both Iran and North Korea are under UN Security Council sanctions the North for its nuclear and missile tests, and Iran primarily for refusing to stop nuclear enrichment despite concerns that it could turn the program toward making weapons.

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Merkel under pressure in home state vote

AFP
BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives were hoping to cling on to power in her home state on Sunday as voters went to the polls in a regional election dominated by the ongoing eurozone debt crisis.

Some 1.39 million voters were called to the ballot box in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the sixth regional election in 2011, a so-called "super election" year that has proved disastrous for Merkel's party.

In March, her Christian Democrats (CDU) suffered a humiliating defeat to a resurgent German Green party in the wealthy southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg that they had governed for nearly six decades.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, once part of former communist East Germany, polls show the CDU is likely to garner between 26 and 28 percent of the vote, behind the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which is expected to win around 35 percent.

If the surveys are correct, the most likely outcome is a continuation of the "grand coalition" of CDU and the centre-left SPD that has governed the region, bordered by the Baltic Sea to the north and Poland to the east, since 2006.

The far-left Linke party is seen winning around 17 percent of the vote, with the



The top candidate Helmut Holter of left-wing Die Linke party, in Schwerin, on Sunday. (REUTERS)

Greens at eight percent.

Depending on the exact result, the SPD could also choose to govern with the Linke or head a three-way coalition of the Linke and the Greens.

Nils Diederich, a political expert at Berlin's Free University, said the election, in one of Germany's most thinly populated states, would make few waves at national level, but was significant as it occurs in Merkel's own constituency.

"A defeat would have a symbolic importance because

it would show that the chancellor doesn't have a strong voice, even in her home region," he told AFP.

During campaigning in the region, which suffers from unemployment nearly twice the national average of seven percent, Merkel focused on the problems faced in faraway Greece, Italy and Spain.

"You shouldn't be worried. The euro is a stable currency," she told a campaign rally in Schwerin, the region's capital.

"The crisis that is going on in the eurozone is not a euro

crisis but a debt crisis."

Merkel cancelled a final rally on Saturday after her father died at the age of 85.

Profiting from the economic malaise in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the far-right NPD has historically done well in the state, entering the regional parliament in 2006 with 7.3 percent of the vote.

However, polls show the party could fail to clear the five-percent hurdle for representation this time around, scoring 4.5 percent in the most recent surveys.

Italy warns against purging of ex-Libya officials

AP
CERNOBBIO (ITALY)

THE West must not repeat the same mistake in Libya as it did in Iraq, Italy's foreign minister said on Sunday, warning against a full-scale purging of military officials and bureaucrats from Moamer Qadhafi's authoritarian regime.

"Why destroy all the structure, all the apparatus in Libya like we have done in Iraq, making a big mistake," Franco Frattini told reporters at an economics forum in the Lake Como resort town of Cernobbio. "We shouldn't multiply, we shouldn't double this mistake."

Frattini, whose country kept strong economic and diplomatic ties with Qadhafi's regime, suggested that lessons be learned from the period in Iraq after the US-led war drove Saddam Hussein from power. He was referring to the wide-scale purging of Iraqi soldiers and bureaucrats. Militant extremists quickly capitalised on the resulting discontent and power vacuum.

But Frattini also warned against possible infiltration by extremists in the future government of Libya, after rebels, aided by NATO's airstrikes, ended Qadhafi's 42 years of iron-fisted rule.

"A very important point is to eradicate any kind of infiltration of extremist organizations into the structure of government of the future Libya," said the minister.

Brown could not read meltdown correctly: Darling

AGENCIES
LONDON

FORMER British prime minister Gordon Brown thought the financial crisis would only last six months, according to a new book by the country's finance minister at the time.

Brown, who was prime minister from 2007 to 2010, spanning the height of the crisis, also ran a "fairly brutal regime", according to Alastair Darling, who was finance minister under him.

At the height of the crisis in 2008, Brown told Darling the crisis would only last six months, and that Darling was being "too cautious."

In an interview to promote the book on the BBC, Darling also said other Labour party politicians should have "done something" about Brown's leadership before he took the party to election defeat in 2010.

At the time Brown was credited with coordinating an early G20 response to the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the subprime mortgage crisis in the US, as it spread through the world economy.

Tony Blair, Brown's predecessor as prime minister, has also criticized his successor. In his autobiography last year, he described Brown - whose perceived lack of charisma with voters saw the party struggle in opinion polls - as having "zero emotional intelligence."

The Bank of England led by Mervyn King was also slow to grasp the nature of the finan-



Former British prime minister Gordon Brown

cial crisis in 2007, so much so that Darling wanted to force it to take action, he writes in the book.

Unlike King's counterparts at other central banks, the Bank's governor was at first reluctant to respond when markets seized up in August 2007. Some critics blamed the delay for the run on Northern Rock, Britain's first in more than a century, which led to the lender's nationalisation.

"The Bank was slow to recognise the nature of the crisis," Darling writes in his memoir of the financial crisis, according to an excerpt published in the *Sunday Times* newspaper.

He says he wanted the Bank to pump more money into markets to unfreeze lending between banks but King disagreed, arguing that such an intervention would let the banks off the hook for their failure to hold enough capital and so create "moral hazard."

Strauss-Kahn back in France

AFP
PARIS

DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN returned to Paris on Sunday for the first time since a New York hotel maid accused him of attempted rape in a sensational sex scandal that torpedoed his shot at the French presidency.

The former IMF chief and his journalist wife Anne Sinclair arrived at dawn at Charles de Gaulle airport on an Air France flight and were whisked off in a black Peugeot to their apartment in the chic Place des Vosges.

They smiled and waved but said nothing to the horde of journalists and handful of supporters awaiting

their arrival at the airport and again declined to comment when mobbed by media as they got to their home in the Marais area.

Strauss-Kahn, dressed in a dark suit and white shirt, boarded the flight at New York's JFK airport late Saturday, less than two weeks after sexual assault charges against him were dropped.

Three and a half months ago police hauled the Socialist politician off a plane that was about to leave for Paris from the same airport and charged him with the sexual assault and attempted rape of the hotel maid Nafissatou Diallo.

The 62-year-old spent nearly a week in jail and was then put under house arrest for six weeks and

barred from leaving the United States. He was also forced to resign as the International Monetary Fund's managing director.

But late last month he walked free when a judge dismissed charges against him after prosecutors said they could not pursue the case because the accuser's lies had made it impossible to prove her accusations beyond a reasonable doubt.

DNA evidence indicated that a sexual encounter did occur between the two in the Sofitel hotel in Manhattan, but Strauss-Kahn's defence team insists that it was consensual.

Strauss-Kahn's legal travails are however far from over.

Diallo is pursuing a civil suit against him, seeking unspecified damages, while in France, 32-year-old novelist Tristane Banon has filed a complaint alleging he tried to rape her after luring her to a Paris flat in 2003.

He has said he will sue Banon for defamation, alleging she invented the story to help publicise her writing.

Banon's mother, Anne Mansouret said on Sunday that the media storm surrounding Strauss-Kahn's homecoming was "indecent".

"Let's hope he won't leave for Morocco to escape police interrogation" in the case involving her daughter, Mansouret, a Socialist party official, told BFM television.

Chantal Brunel, the head of France's national watchdog on sexual equality, said Strauss-Kahn would remain "an indelible stain on the Socialist party" and that the dropping of charges against him was a step backwards in the fight to stop violence against women.

But Jack Lang, a former Socialist minister and a neighbour of Strauss-Kahn on the Place des Vosges, welcomed his return, and said he hoped his great political and economic talent would soon be put to use again.

"I'm eager to return to my country," Strauss-Kahn had told reporters outside his home in Lower Manhattan on August 23 after the charges against him were dropped, calling the legal saga a "terrible and unjust ordeal".



Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn (centre) and his wife Anne Sinclair (left) arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport, in Roissy, near Paris, on Sunday. (EPA)

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Modi eyes bigger national role, WikiLeaks reveals

IAN S
NEW DELHI

GUJARAT Chief Minister Narendra Modi is eyeing a bigger national leadership role and is positioning himself for a power struggle in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), say US diplomatic cables made public by online whistleblower Wikileaks.

“Modi is using his strong base in Gujarat to position himself for the BJP power struggle and to crow about Gujarat’s investment-friendly (but certainly not minority-friendly) record,” says one of the cables which were uploaded earlier this week by Wikileaks.

The cables sent by US diplomats in New Delhi focus on Modi’s rising stature in the BJP and claim that “Modi has his eyes on bigger things”.

In an assessment going back to 2005, the cables suggest Modi could be the most popular BJP leader and a potential PM candidate. “Anecdotal evidence suggests Modi could be the most popular leader in the BJP and there is increasing momentum to

make him the party figure-head and next choice of PM,” says a cable sent after Modi was denied a US visa in 2005.

The cable also claims that the BJP’s move to make Modi the prime ministerial candidate would unite the secular parties.

“In a BJP beset by internal struggle, Modi’s revival sets him up nicely to influence the kingmaking when the time comes. Having recovered from the crisis invoked by our visa revocation and his tyrannical management style, Modi is positioning himself as a national leader by reminding people that Gujarat has done a fine job of economic governance, notwithstanding the black stain the (2002) riots left,” a cable says.

“At present, Modi appears stronger than at any time,” a cable says.

Modi was a star campaigner for the BJP in the 2009 elections which the Congress and its allies won.

Alluding to the cancellation of the visa application, the cables say Modi bears permanent resentment against the US for the “humiliation”.

DRIVING IN THE RAIN

Commuters wade through a flooded road after heavy rains, in Ahmedabad, on Sunday. India receives the annual monsoon rains from June to September. (AP)



Legislators to decide party stand on Afzal: Omar

IAN S
SRINAGAR

JAMMU and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said lawmakers of the ruling National Conference (NC) would decide on the party’s stand if a resolution seeking clemency for Afzal Guru, on death row for the 2001 parliament attack, is put to vote in the state assembly.

“The speaker shall decide whether the same should be put to vote or not,” Omar said.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of a function in Srinagar, the chief minister also said that the assembly speaker has the powers to decide whether the resolution, submitted by an independent lawmaker, should be put to vote.

“If put to vote, the NC legislature party headed by party patron Farooq Abdullah would decide what course the party should take on the resolution,” Omar Abdullah said.

“The speaker shall decide whether the same should be



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (right) meets people, in Srinagar, recently. (PTI)

put to vote or not,” he added.

Omar defended his tweets on the Tamil Nadu assembly resolution seeking clemency for the three men on death row in the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

“The BJP cannot silence me on this issue. It is the people of my state who have the right to silence me if they so choose.” The Bharatiya

Janata Party has criticised Omar Abdullah for his tweet in which he said if the state assembly passed a resolution seeking clemency for Afzal Guru as the Tamil Nadu assembly had done by seeking clemency for the Rajiv Gandhi killers, the reaction would not have been as muted. Independent MLA Engineer Rashid has submitted a resolution to the speak-

er seeking clemency for Guru, who belongs to the Valley.

Assembly Speaker Muhammad Akbar Lone has said he finds nothing constitutionally wrong in allowing the resolution to be put to vote. The state legislature has been convened here by Governor N N Vohra on September 26 for a short routine autumn session.

Cong expects early polls in Gujarat

PTI
AHMEDABAD

THE Congress has started making preparations for the Assembly polls in Gujarat, expecting that the elections scheduled to be held by December next year could be advanced by six months.

The party has decided to focus on the issue of corruption in the state as its campaign agenda.

“The Assembly elections in Gujarat could be held six months earlier than the schedule, so we have begun making preparations. This would ensure that our home work is done well in time,” chairman of Gujarat Congress Election Campaign Committee 2012 Shankersingh Vaghela said.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had recently approved Vaghela’s name as the chairman of the election campaign committee of Gujarat for the upcoming Assembly polls.

“My apprehension is that Assembly polls could be held in June 2012, once the state government opts for dissolu-

tion of the Assembly, like it did in 2002,” he said.

“In the wake of corruption charges against them (BJP), they fear that if they continue to remain in power more allegations will rise, therefore, for saving their face, the cabinet can demand early polls,” said Vaghela.

The Congress has proposed to launch its poll campaign in Gujarat from Kutch district on September 28.

“We shall begin the campaign by organising a maharally at Bhuj in Kutch, because the region has emerged as the epicentre of corruption of BJP-led government in Gujarat,” Vaghela said. On September 30, I will address a maharally at Palanpur in Banaskantha,” Vaghela said.

“In the garb of development, grazing (gouchar) land for animals in Kutch have been given to industrialists,” he alleged. He also released a booklet on the occasion, titled ‘Ghotala Hi Ghotala’, describing the alleged corruption in Gujarat by chief minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet.

Mamata not to accompany PM to Dhaka

IAN S
KOLKATA

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday decided not to accompany Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his two-day trip to Dhaka beginning on Tuesday in protest against the purported final draft of the Teesta river water sharing agreement.

“No, she is not going,” said a senior state government official. Banerjee’s decision to opt out of the trip has been conveyed to the Prime Minister’s Office by Chief Secretary Samar Ghosh, the official said. Banerjee’s unhappiness stemmed from the amount of water sharing of the river Teesta in the final draft.

“There was difference between the initial draft of the agreement and the final version,” the source said.

Don’t send a wrong message: Anna

PTI
RALEGAN SIDDHI



Anna Hazare (left) waves a tricolour during a meeting, in Ralegan Siddhi village, in Maharashtra, recently. (PTI)

CAUTIONING the government against sending a ‘wrong message’ after privilege and income tax notices were slapped on members of his team, Anna Hazare said undue harassment of civil society members may cause unrest in the country.

Asking the government to give up its “vindictive” attitude, the Gandhian said it “must try to create trust and bridge the gap in the hearts after the nation-wide agitation for Jan Lokpal Bill instead of sending out a wrong message.”

Hazare, 74, was speaking to reporters after coming out of his room at Padmavati temple at his village here.

The notice to his aide

Arvind Kejariwal “for so called non payment of income tax was given after

He warned that “attempts to harass other civil society members will raise questions about the intention and spirit of the government.

he left the civil services and initiated people’s movement.... The nation knows the reason of this notice,” Hazare said.

He warned that “attempts to harass other civil society members will raise questions about the intention and spirit of the government.

“This would create unrest in society... I request the

government to leave the vindictive attitude and unite Indians for making India a super power”

After Kiran Bedi, two more Team Anna members lawyer Prashant Bhushan and activist Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday received breach of privilege notices for their remarks against Parliam-entarians.

Kejriwal was also issued notices on August 5 by the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT) Delhi for clearance of his dues of Rs 9.27 lakh. The dues had accumulated over the alleged violation of bond clauses under which Kejriwal, an Indian Revenue Service officer, had gone abroad on study leave for two years between November 2000 and 2002.

Mumbai airport’s main runway not yet functional

IAN S
MUMBAI

MUMBAI airport’s main runway is yet to reopen as the authorities on Sunday continued the massive effort of retrieving a Turkish Airlines aircraft that skidded off on Friday, officials said.

The officials added that no timeline can be given as to when the aircraft will be retrieved off the main runway of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) as heavy rains made recovery operations difficult.

“The aircraft recovery is under progress. A safe timeline will be informed to all. Most flights are running on time and no flight diversions have happened since morning. However, a Singapore Airlines flight has been cancelled,” an official of the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) said.

The aircraft skidded off the runway and got stuck in the soft mud on Friday following heavy rains. All 104 passengers, including 11 crew members, were safely evacuated.

“MIAL has deployed all resources and completed construction of the pavement to remove the aircraft from the site. The next steps are subject to an assessment of suitability of ground and weather conditions,” the official added.

Normal operations at CSIA were severely hampered on Sunday morning. Earlier on Sunday, airport officials said the main runway would be functional by 12 noon. But strong winds and heavy rain hampered the recovery operations. According to an airport official, there were about 45 and 55 minutes of delay in the arrival and departure of flights respectively.

All normal flight operations have been shifted to the secondary runway.

Moro rebels slam splinter group for anti-US threats

AP
MANILA

THE Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group criticised a breakaway commander on Sunday for threatening US troops in the country's volatile south.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front information officer Khaled Musa said radical commander Ameril Umbra Kato, who recently broke off with about 200 fighters from the rebel group, could face trouble for issuing such threats.

Philippine officials have expressed deep concern that the rebel infighting could affect ongoing peace talks.

Kato maintains his base in part of his former rebel

group's vast mountainous strongholds in southern Maguindanao province. He has warned he would target his former comrades, Philippine troops and US military personnel if they attack his jungle encampment.

US troops have been providing training, weapons and intelligence to Filipino soldiers battling Al Qaeda-linked militants in the southern Philippines since 2002. But they are barred from actual combat.

US military officials have not issued any reaction to Kato's threats. US special forces and Philippine troops began two weeks of joint military training in Maguindanao, a violent area about 590 miles (950 kilometers) southeast of

Manila, on August 29.

"Whoever dares a superpower will make news headlines," Musa said in a statement posted in the main rebel

Philippine officials have expressed deep concern that the rebel infighting could affect ongoing peace talks.

group's website. He said Kato could get in trouble "when that superpower starts to use its vast power against him."

"He loves limelight and the flare of cameras," Musa said, adding that Kato talks "without using his head."

Kato split from his former group to protest its talks with

the government which he said have gone nowhere. He also accused rebel leaders of involvement in kidnappings and drug trafficking.

The 11,000-strong main rebel group officially ousted Kato after failing to woo him and his men back. In an August 19 letter Kato said he has formed a new group called the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Movement to fight for Muslim self-rule.

The main Moro group has said it remains open to Kato's return but warned him to stop accusations that undermine the rebel organisation.

Kato, who is in his 60s, has been sought by Philippine troops for allegedly launching attacks on Christian communities in 2008.



Moro Islamic Liberation Front rogue commander Ustadz Ameril Umbra Kato at a Muslim rebel camp, in Maguindanao province, Philippines, recently. (REUTERS)

Myanmar govt pledges fair payments for railroad land

DPA
YANGON

MYANMAR'S government has pledged to adequately compensate landowners along a 800-kilometre route for a rail link from China to the Bay of Bengal, reports said on Sunday.

Minister for Railways Aung Min said the government was determined to ensure that citizens "are not cheated" by the 20-billion-dollar project. The railroad would link a deep seaport in Rakhine State on the Bay of Bengal with Muse on the Chinese border, the *Myanmar Times* reported.

Construction of the Kyaukpyu-Muse railroad is expected to take five years to complete under a build, operate and transfer contract.

"We are negotiating in detail with the Chinese side on all issues, including compensation for the land needed to construct the line," Aung Min said last week. "We are doing everything to protect our people so they are not cheated."

Human rights groups have raised concerns about the rail link, noting that mega-projects in Myanmar have led to land expropriation, forced labour and other abuses in the past.

"If the land is privately owned, we will evaluate the value with the local authorities and the Chinese company will pay that price to the

owners," Aung Min said.

He said the government was negotiating a contract with state-owned China Railways Engineering Corporation. Construction could begin in December.

Aung Min is a member of the cabinet that started work on April 1, following the November 7 general election.

Construction of the Kyaukpyu-Muse railroad is expected to take five years to complete under a build, operate and transfer contract.

"It will cost about 20 billion dollars," Aung Min said. "We might give China Railways Engineering Corporation the right to operate the line for 50 years."

The single-track line would operate with electric trains capable of travelling at about 200 kilometres per hour, with a capacity for 4,000 tons of cargo plus passengers.

The railroad will follow the same route as oil and natural gas pipelines from the Bay of Bengal to the Myanmar-China border, which is being built by another state-owned Chinese company. Both projects are designed to cut transportation costs for China.

"With this railroad China can get access to the sea and transport their goods without having to pass through the Malacca Strait," Aung Min said.

The government is also considering a plan to build a railroad linking Dawei on the Bay of Martaban to Kanchanaburi in Thailand.

in seizures are mind-boggling. No species can survive this level of extraction for long," said Kanitha Krishnasamy from the wildlife trade watchdog Traffic.

"Unfortunately, this scaly animal does not invoke as much attention from the public, and by extension from the authorities, as pangolins are considered to be less sexy than their larger mammalian counterparts," she added.

Tigers are also killed for their body parts, mostly for use in traditional Asian medicines, and major internation-

AP
BANGKOK

THE man responsible for pushing through an anti-terrorism measure in Thailand at the behest of the United States was later charged under the very same law.

Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, under pressure from the Bush administration after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, adopted the Southeast Asian nation's first counterterrorism legislation by executive decree in 2003.

After being ousted in a bloodless military coup in 2006, the former telecommunications billionaire fled overseas to escape a two-year prison sentence for graft, after having been charged with corruption, abuse of power and disrespect to Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

A sharp split between Thaksin's rural "Red Shirt" supporters and his "Yellow Shirt" opponents left Thailand in political turmoil. The Yellow Shirts seized the prime minister's office for months and closed Bangkok's two airports for nearly a week in 2008 to help bring down a Thaksin-friendly government. Monthslong Red Shirt demonstrations last year in Bangkok then culminated in violence that left 91 people dead and more than 1,800 injured.

Leaders of the demonstrators are now facing terrorism charges. Thaksin was charged in absentia with inciting the demonstrations via videos shown on large screens before a sea of Red Shirt supporters.

Fifty-four people have been charged with terrorism and could face from three years to life in prison, according to figures obtained by The Associated Press through Thailand's Official



One of anti-government protesters fires a slingshot towards Thai soldiers during a demonstration, in Bangkok, Thailand, recently. (AP)

Information Act of 1997. Thirty-nine suspects are pro-Thaksin and 15 are Yellow Shirts, dedicated to preserving the monarchy's power.

Yet in southern Thailand, where more than 4,700 people have been killed since an Islamist insurgency flared in 2004, no one has been charged with terrorism. This has led human rights activists to declare the law has been used to thwart political dissent, not actual terrorism in the mostly Muslim south.

Karom Poltaklang, the

defense lawyer for pro-Thaksin leaders charged with terrorism, says the law is purely political, declaring, "Political demonstrators cannot be terrorists."

Thailand has been a Washington ally in the war on terror, allegedly allowing the CIA to use waterboarding techniques on Al Qaeda suspect Abu Zubaydah at a secret prison in its territory in 2002. CIA contractors also waterboarded USS Cole bombing plotter Abd al-Nashiri twice in Thailand, according to for-

mer intelligence officials.

Thai security forces and the CIA worked together to catch terror suspect Hambali in August 2003 in the ancient Thai city of Ayutthaya, 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Bangkok. He is now being held in the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Hambali, an Indonesian whose real name is Riduan Isamuddin, was allegedly operations chief of the Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiyah, accused of carrying out the deadly Bali

bombings that killed 202 people in 2002.

Thaksin now resides in Dubai. In a reversal of fortunes, his sister Yingluck Shinawatra was elected Thailand's first female prime minister and took office in August. She has repeatedly said that reconciliation in the politically divided country is a priority for her government, including an amnesty for all demonstrators charged with terrorism. Her ultimate goal is believed to be Thaksin's return to Thailand.

Apprehensions for Asia's endangered anteaters rise

AFP
BANGKOK

TIGER poaching gets the press but wildlife groups in Asia are increasingly fearful for the future of a smaller, scallier and "less sexy" creature: the pangolin.

So prized are the meat and supposed medicinal properties of this reclusive anteater that it is now thought to be the most heavily trafficked mammal in the region, rapidly being driven towards extinction.

"The volumes we are seeing

al campaigns have been launched to save them from extinction.

Trading in pangolins is banned under international law, yet Traffic's Asian surveys show they are frequently poached from the wild, mainly in Indonesia and Malaysia, exacerbating the threat from rapid deforestation.

They are transported through Southeast Asia, mostly ending up in China and Vietnam, where pangolin flesh is a delicacy and its scales — it is the only mammal known to have them —

Tigers are also killed for their body parts, mostly for use in traditional Asian medicines, and major international campaigns have been launched to save them from extinction.

are ground into a powder for medicinal purposes.

Historically, this ingredient was used in Chinese medicine to try to cure a range of ills,

from children's hysterical crying to eyelashes curling inwards, according to researcher and pangolin expert Dan Challender.

Today, reports suggest the scales are used in an attempt to reduce swellings, cure asthma and even in some cases cancer, but a lack of solid analysis means "all uses seem unfounded to date", he said.

Challender, at Britain's University of Kent, added that the supposed health benefits of eating the meat include nourishing the kidneys, but these are also probably

unfounded.

"Unless efforts are taken to address both the demand for, and supply of pangolins, they will go extinct in Asia in the short term future," he told AFP.

Of four species found in Asia, two are "endangered" and two "near threatened", according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which says it is unknown how many of the secretive, nocturnal animals are left.

Two of four species found in Africa are also "near threatened", and all have decreasing populations, while Challender

said seizures of scales bound for Asia from Africa suggested a developing trade.

Likened in appearance to a globe artichoke, the pangolin curls up hedgehog-like into a ball when under threat, making them easy for humans to catch.

Steve Galster, director of the anti-trafficking Freeland foundation, said the shy creatures were the "unknown problem" of Asia's illegal wildlife trade, sometimes fetching more than 1,000 US dollars each on the black market.

Qatar Tribune

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Westside

Israel Must Apologise To Turkey

Ankara & Tel Aviv should have used UN report to improve their ties

UNITED Nations report on Israel's attack last year on a Gaza-bound aid ship should have been a chance to ease fraught relations between Israel and Turkey. Instead, both sides dug in their heels. The United Nations has long pumelled Israel, and Israeli leaders initially resisted an independent investigation into the raid that killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American. The report issued on Friday seemed evenhanded. It said that Israel's naval blockade of Gaza is legal and that Israeli commandos boarding the vessel had to defend themselves against "organised and violent resistance." But it said that the force used by the Israelis was "excessive and unreasonable." Most of those killed were shot multiple times.

The flotilla, which sailed from a Turkish port with the acquiescence of the Turkish government, was faulted for acting "recklessly" in running the blockade. The report also said that "more could have been done" by Turkey to persuade organisers to avoid a clash with Israeli forces. Turkey rejected the findings, expelled



Israel's ambassador and announced that it was freezing military ties until Israel apologised for the deaths and compensated the victims' families. It has also been demanding that Israel end the blockade and that the United Nations shelve the report. Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu warned that Ankara "will take every precaution it deems necessary" to protect its shipping in the eastern Mediterranean. He didn't explain, but it is irresponsible to even hint that Turkey, a NATO ally, might look for opportunities to confront Israel militarily. Israel accepted the findings by the United Nations and said that it hoped to mend ties with Turkey, but it reiterated that it would not apologise. Two weeks ago, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to apologise to Turkey. US officials are going to have to keep trying with both sides. We don't blame Israel for wondering if Turkey is keeping this conflict going to burnish its standing in the Arab world.

Eastside

The Hidden Brazilian River

It's a twin-river system flowing at different levels of the earth's crust

THE world's largest underground 'ocean' — a water-body about the size of the Arctic Ocean and located 700 to 1,400 km below the ground and extending from Indonesia to the northern tip of Russia — has found its match. Scientists have discovered in Brazil the longest underground river — running for a length of 6,000 km at a depth of nearly 4 km. It flows all the way from the Andean foothills to the Atlantic coast in a nearly west-to-east direction like the mighty Amazon River.

The discovery was made public at a recent meeting of the Brazilian Geophysical Society in Rio de Janeiro. The river 'Hamza,' named after the discoverer, an Indian-born scientist Valiya Mannathal Hamza who is working with the National Observatory at Rio, makes it the first and geologically unusual instance of a twin-river system flowing at different levels of

(The NYT / The Hindu)

the earth's crust in Brazil. If the slowing down of certain seismic waves caused by the damp spot helped uncover the underground ocean, the unusual temperature variation with depth measured in inactive oil wells helped locate the subterranean river. Except for the flow direction, the Amazon and the Hamza have very different characteristics. The most obvious ones are their width and flow speed. While the former is 1 km to 100 km wide, the latter is 200 km to 400 km in width. But the flow speed is five metres per second in the Amazon and less than a millimetre per second speed in the Hamza. Several geological factors have played a vital role in the formation of these subterranean water bodies. The underground ocean has been formed when the plate carrying the Pacific Ocean bottom gets dragged and ends up under the continental plate.

Space Debris a Growing Concern

We need reliable technologies to clear the fragments, else they will pose danger to future satellites

JONATHAN AMOS | BBC-NYT SYNDICATE

THE US National Research Council's report on space debris is not the first of its kind. A wide range of space agencies and inter-governmental organisations has taken a bite out of this issue down the years. The opinion expressed is always the same: The problem is inescapable, and it's getting worse. It's also true the tone of concern is being ratcheted up. There is now a wild jungle of debris overhead — everything from old rocket stages that continue to loop around the Earth decades after they were launched, to the flecks of paint that have lifted off once-shiny space vehicles and floated off into the distance.

It is the legacy of more than half a century of space activity. Today, it is said there are more than 22,000 pieces of debris actively being tracked. These are just the big, easy-to-see items, however. Moving around unseen are an estimated 500,000 particles ranging in size between 1 to 10 centimetres across, and perhaps tens of millions of other particles smaller than 1 centimetre.

All of this stuff is travelling at several kilometres per second — sufficient velocity for even the smallest fragment to become a damaging projectile if it strikes an operational space mission. Gravity ensures that everything that goes up will eventually come back down, but the bath is currently being filled faster than the plug hole and the overflow pipe can empty it.

Man and nature are also conspiring in unexpected ways to make the situation worse. The extra carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere down the years has cooled some of its highest reaches — the thermosphere. This, combined with low levels of solar activity, have shrunk the atmosphere, limiting the amount of drag on orbital objects that ordinarily helps to pull debris from the sky. In other words, the junk is also staying up longer. Leaving aside the growth in debris from collisions for a moment, the number of satellites being sent into space is also increasing rapidly. The satellite industry launched an average of 76 satellites per year over the past 10 years. In the coming decade, this activity is expected to grow by 50 percent.

The most recent Euroconsult analysis suggested some 1,145 satellites would be built for launch between 2011 and 2020. A good part of this will be the deployment of communications constellations — broadband relays and sat phone systems. These constellations, in the case of the second-generation Iridium network, can number more than 60 spacecraft. By and large, everyone operating in orbit now follows international mitigation guidelines. Or tries to. These include ensuring there is enough propellant at the end of a satellite's life so that it can be pushed into a graveyard orbit and the venting of fuel tanks on spent rocket stages so that they cannot explode (a major source of the debris now up there).

The goal is to make sure all low-orbiting material is removed within 25 years of launch. I say "by and large" because there has been some crass behaviour in the recent past. What the Chinese were thinking when they deliberately destroyed one of their polar orbiting satellites in 2007 with a missile is anyone's guess. It certainly defied all logic for a nation that professes to have major ambitions in space. The destruction cre-

ated more than 3,000 trackable objects and an estimated 150,000 debris particles larger than 1 centimetre. It was without question the biggest single debris-generating event in the space age. It was estimated to have increased the known existing orbital debris population at that time by more than 15 percent.

A couple of years later, of course, we saw the accidental collision of the Cosmos 2251 and Iridium 33 satellites. Taken together, the two events essentially negated all the mitigation gains that had been made over the previous 20 years to reduce junk production from spent rocket explosions. There are lots of ideas out there to clean up space. Many of them, I have to say, look far-fetched and utterly impractical.

Ideas such as deploying large nets to catch debris or firing harpoons into old satellites to drag them back to Earth are nonstarters. If nothing else, some of these devices risk creating more debris than they would remove.

It has been calculated that just taking away a few key spent rocket stages or broken satellites would substantially reduce the potential for collision and cap-

the growth in space debris over coming decades. And in the next few years we're likely to see a number of robotic spacecraft demonstrate the rendezvous and capture technologies that would be needed in these selective culls. The German space agency, for example, is working on such a mission called DEOS that is likely to fly in 2015.

These approaches are quite complex, however, and therefore expensive. Reliable low-tech solutions will also be needed. There is a lot of research currently going into deployable sails. These large-area structures would be carried by satellites and rocket stages and unfurled at the end of their missions. The sails would increase the drag on the spacecraft, pulling them out of the sky faster. Somehow attaching these sails to objects already in space is one solution that is sure to be tried.

"There are a number of technologies being talked about to address the debris issue — both from past space activity and from future missions," says Dr. Hugh Lewis, a lecturer in aerospace engineering at Southampton University in the UK.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE OPINION AND ANALYSIS PAGES ARE THE AUTHORS' OWN. QATAR TRIBUNE BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY

War For Oil?

The dust in Libya has not yet settled, but the UK & French firms are fighting to share the spoils

TERRY MACALISTER | GUARDIAN NEWS SERVICE



THE Libyan conflict has been a war about oil if not "for" oil. The country's economy is almost totally dependent on hydrocarbons and a key objective for the transitional government will be to get the wells up and running again as soon as possible.

The British and French, meanwhile, are worried about future energy supplies. They are already pushing and shoving over who should get what of the energy proceeds before the political dust has even settled in Tripoli (just as BP and Shell are once again sitting pretty in Iraq following western military intervention there).

The UK government has been working hand in glove with parts of the oil industry to bring about regime change in Libya. London crude trader, Vitol, held meetings with Britain's international development minister Alan Duncan (a former consultant to the firm) and played a key role in keeping the rebels well-supplied with petrol while others tried to starve Moamer Qadhafi's troops of fuel. Was this a practical operation to undermine Qadhafi's military logistics or a potent symbol that western politics and oil are so closely intermeshed that the agendas of both are indistinguishable?

Certainly the French blew the gaff on Thursday. Foreign minister Alain Juppe was trying to bury a story run in *Liberation* that suggested that Paris had tied up an agreement to be given 35 percent of all the country's oil in future in return for military help. He said it was "fair and logical" to him that Libya's new interim government, the National Transitional Council would turn to France in the reconstruction of Libya.

The British have not been so public about their expectations but we know that BP has already held talks with the new opposition leaders and are

preparing to re-enter the country. Clearly, the role of Vitol, never mind the RAF jets, will require some recognition in the new Libya that emerges - at least in the eyes of the UK political and oil establishment.

Western independent oil companies have the most modern technology, easy access to capital market money and a can-do spirit, but they are also on the defensive because they are being gradually muscled out globally by state-owned national oil companies in places such as Venezuela, Brazil and Russia.

And the prospects look good. An executive from the rebel oil company, Agoco, has already said the interests of Britain, France and Italy will all be treated favourably compared with those who equivocated, such as Russia and China.

But won't the NTC want to reorganise its oil industry differently, and perhaps do without the West completely? Qadhafi originally kicked out western oil firms but then invited it back in after UN sanctions over the Lockerbie bombing were lifted. The problem for the NTC is that oil provides virtually all of the country's income. Even if nationalisation was their preferred option, getting production back up and running as quickly as possible is the imperative. Libya used to produce 1.6m barrels of oil a day - worth an almighty \$1.3bn a week at today's crude prices, and money

the NTC desperately needs, even if it means sharing the spoils.

Whatever deal is reached, it is unlikely to be all or nothing: nationalisation or capitulation. What the new government will certainly want to do is exact much tougher terms for western oil company involvement. The idea that a third of Libya's oil would be simply turned over to the French, as the Liberation story suggested, is surely nonsense. It would be political suicide for the NTC.

What happened in Iraq is instructive. Although BP and others have been given access to reserves in Iraq, they are not on the terms they would ideally have chosen. The auctions there have resulted in "technical service agreements", where the likes of BP act as contractors and get \$2 on each barrel of oil produced but do not "own" the reserves in the way they do in the North Sea - or did in Iraq before they were removed by Saddam Hussein.

Western independent oil companies have the most modern technology, easy access to capital market money and a can-do spirit, but they are also on the defensive because they are being gradually muscled out globally by state-owned national oil companies in places such as Venezuela, Brazil and Russia.

The desperate - and now failed - recent attempt by BP to tie up a share-swap deal with Russian state-owned Rosneft, despite all the problems it has had in that country, was just another sign of this.

With the North Sea and other mature basins fast running out of oil and a failure to fully invest in lower carbon alternatives, western ministers are also desperately worried about future crude supplies.

It was a war around oil in Libya - but the new interim government in Tripoli could yet win that, too.

(Terry Macalister is the Guardian's energy editor.)

Health is Wealth

ANAHAD O'CONNOR | NYT SYNDICATE

Hypertension Linked To Lack of Deep Sleep

MEN who get the least deep sleep each night have a higher risk of hypertension, new research shows.

Earlier studies have tied chronic sleep disorders and low levels of sleep to greater risks of heart disease and obesity, and even reduced life span. But the new study, published in the journal *Hypertension*, is one of the first to find that it's not just how much you sleep, but the quality of your nightly slumber that can affect your risk for high blood pressure.

The goal of the study, carried out by researchers at Harvard Medical School and elsewhere, was to look specifically at the slow-wave stages of sleep, which make up about 90 minutes to two hours of a normal night's rest and represent the deepest hours of sleep. To study the effect of deep sleep on health, the scientists followed 784 healthy men who were part of an ongoing sleep study and did not have signs of high blood pressure at the start of the research. During the three-and-a-half year study, the men had their blood pressure checked at various times, and their levels of slow-wave sleep were monitored at home by a machine.

After controlling for a number of variables, the researchers found that the men who spent the least time in slow-wave or deep sleep were the most likely to develop high blood pressure. Although a night of normal sleep should consist of about 25 percent slow-wave sleep, the men in the study who were at highest risk for hypertension managed to enjoy deep sleep for no more than 4 percent of their total sleep each night.

The researchers found that the men with the least deep sleep were more likely to have sleep apnea and tended to sleep less over all.

"But those conditions did not completely explain their lack of slow-wave sleep," said Dr. Susan Redline, an author of the study and a professor of sleep medicine at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's hospital.

Redline said that although the study followed only men, she believes the results would also apply to women who fail to get enough deep sleep.

During slow-wave sleep, the brain's electrical activity slows down, as do a person's heart rate, adrenaline levels and blood pressure. The average person's blood pressure falls about 10 millimetres of mercury during slumber, a dip that largely occurs when deep sleep sets in.

This nightly fall in blood pressure is a "good thing," said Redline. When blood pressure doesn't fall at night, the condition is called "nondipping," and it's a risk factor for heart disease. "Not having that nightly dip might directly influence daytime blood pressure," said Redline.

It's also known that the areas of the brain that regulate sleep patterns have "a lot of cross talk with areas of the brain that release hormones and other mediators that influence blood pressure," Redline said. When those areas of the brain are not entering slow-wave sleep, she added, it may interfere with various brain signals that influence blood pressure.



RICHARD BRANSON | NYT NEWS SERVICE

Innovation is about change – and when your plans to introduce a new product or service don't work out, sometimes you have to adapt to changing circumstances instead of forcing your competitors to play catch up.

THE BOSS IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT

People look for leaders to make informed decisions, not to be infallible

I AM not always right. I can admit this without embarrassment, because it is true of all other business leaders and entrepreneurs. It can be a difficult thing for an executive or manager to acknowledge to employees – never mind put in print – but it is something that anyone who accepts a leadership position should keep in mind.

As a leader, your decisions will be carried out, but that doesn't mean they will always be the best ones – or that changing circumstances won't turn a good call into a bad one overnight.

My management team says 2003 wasn't exactly a vintage year for our group. Around the time Apple introduced its iPod personal music player in 2001, a couple of very bright people from Palm sold me on their own funky version of the MP3 player and a range of accessories. Virgin's management team strongly argued the financial analysis did not stack up and that that we would have to sell a very high number of units to make it work. I insisted we push on and launch our very own MP3 player, Virgin Pulse! I felt the product fit well with our brand, our music business and our heritage.

We spent \$20 million designing our MP3 player and bringing it to market. Though that product and its successors were critically acclaimed in the United States, the Virgin Pulse bombed, and we had to write off our investment.

Why didn't our product work? Because Apple had an unbeatable strategy.

For Apple, 2003 was notable because it launched its iTunes store that year – as the company simultaneously pushed down iPod prices very quickly. If a company drives down the retail price of an innovative new product fast enough when it is still the dominant player in the new market, no one else can catch up because they can't make enough money from their new products. When Apple introduced the cheaper, smaller iPod nano, it slammed the door on

anyone else trying to build a significant market share in the digital music business. And yes, I did freely admit that I was wrong; that helped us to exit the market within two years, before we lost even more money.

It can be very hard to own up to your mistakes when a big investment is not salvageable – especially when it is a cause you alone have championed. This fear of embarrassment prevents many chairmen and bosses from doing their jobs properly and addressing the situation when it is most urgent. If the business is disappearing, you must face your team and start looking into what is going on – and the

It can be very hard to own up to your mistakes when a big investment is not salvageable – especially when it is a cause you alone have championed. This fear of embarrassment prevents many chairmen and bosses from doing their jobs properly and addressing the situation when it is most urgent. If the business is disappearing, you must face your team and start looking into what is going on – and the sooner, the better.

When you have uncovered the

problem, get the right people working on fixing it. In this situation, honesty is the only policy. If you speak openly and bluntly about why you had hoped a strategy would work, why this proved to be wrong, and how you and your team arrived at the solution you want to put in place, then your people will be better able to implement it. This is not the time to hold back information or pass the blame. This may be one of the more difficult moments of your career, but you will not lose people's trust and respect by taking responsibility for the problem and admitting to your mistakes. People look for leaders to make informed decisions, not to be infallible.

If you discover that the problem was in the implementation of a service or product, do not make the beginner's mistake of firing those responsible. Blame and recriminations may offer a spiteful sort of short-term comfort, but they will be toxic to your company and will stunt your recovery or the launch of future enterprises.

It's unlikely that you will even need to talk to those employees about where they went wrong; if you provide all the information necessary, they will know what they did and be very eager to prove that they can get it right. If you keep your team together, you will close the door on rivals who might benefit from your mistakes by hiring the very people who have just learned the lesson the hard way.

Innovation is about change – and when your plans to introduce a new product or service don't work out, sometimes you have to adapt to changing circumstances instead of forcing your competitors to play catch up. As I've written before: Move on. If that means taking a hit, then take it on the chin. Don't even think about it again. Just move forward.

(Richard Branson is the founder of the Virgin Group and companies such as Virgin Atlantic, Virgin America, Virgin Mobile and Virgin Active.)

Bloggers' Borough

RAGHIDA DERGHAM | HUFFINGTON POST

Indecision On Syria May Prove Costly For Barack Obama

THE campaign waged by major leaders of the Republican Party against the foreign policy pursued by Democratic President Barack Obama may be marred by excessive one-upmanship. But ignoring it or treating it with condescendence, motivated by the achievements in Libya, would cost Obama dearly, especially if he fails to take decisive action in Syria or provides Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon – as well as the regime in Damascus – with a way out.

True, Europe is the United States' current partner in the new alliance alarming Iran today, which includes effective Arab countries such as those in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), alongside Turkey the NATO member-state. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of disparity between the American and European stances, because their interests diverge, and also because the dynamics of Europe's relationship with the countries of the region differ from those of their American counterpart.

If Barack Obama is not to fall into a pitfall here or a trap there, he must pay the utmost attention to the American-European relationship with Iran, and immediately start figuring out what's required in terms of dealing with Lebanon at the present stage, until the regime in Damascus collapses, through regime change, radical defeat or a coup d'état.

Second, Obama must try to fully comprehend the nature and geography of Iran's inevitable revenge for the defeat it would have suffered as a result of the downfall of its ally in Damascus, which was otherwise central to the ambitions of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Clearly, Lebanon was, until recently, barely on the administration's radar. Today, however, in the wake of the popular uprising in Syria, it has once again come under its microscope. The reason for this is not just the relationship with the tripartite alliance among Bashar al Assad's regime in Damascus, the regime of the mullahs in Tehran and Hezbollah's regime in Lebanon. Nor is it Israel, which represents a major element of American policy, locally, regionally and internationally. But rather, the reason is the geopolitics that makes Lebanon, with the kind of government it has today, an artificial lung for both Iran and the regime in Damascus to breathe through.

The Obama administration has finally acknowledged that regardless of whatever bilateral or multilateral UN sanctions it imposes against major figures of the regime in Damascus and in Tehran, they will remain of little use as long as the Syrian and Iranian regimes can still find air to breathe through Lebanon. The administration consequently recognised that Lebanon was the decisive element for completing the task – the task of shutting off the life support system sustaining Damascus and Tehran. This will require sanctions that are not restricted to Syria and Iran, but which also include leaders in the government of Lebanon.

The sanctions currently explores far from the spotlight are not restricted to the banking sector, clamping down on money laundering, drug trafficking and their links to terrorism. Nor do they only affect individuals involved in partnerships and corporations inside and outside Lebanon, in particular with the major figures of the regime in Syria. The sanctions the Americans and the Europeans are considering at present seek to strike a blow against the very infrastructure of Damascus and Tehran's artificial lung, starting with Lebanon's airport which is under Hezbollah's control.

Barack Obama does not want to repeat the Libyan scenario in Syria, with air-strikes carried out by NATO; he even fears an indirect role for NATO in ground operations. The last thing Obama wants is "American boots" on the ground, especially during an electoral cycle.

Therefore, shutting off the Lebanese lifeline to the Syrian and Iranian regimes is very tempting, especially as it would achieve two other things in the process, namely stepping up the siege on Hezbollah and providing Lebanon with an opportunity to breathe normally.

If Lebanon's airport is indeed a launching pad for unlawful operations at various levels, then blocking it with cumulative sanctions would shackle the tripartite alliance among the regimes in Damascus and Tehran and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

There are many means of achieving this, be they exclusively American or joint American-European sanctions, and they do not require international resolutions. They are effective means that would shackle irregular free trade through the airport and other crossings, which would pull the rug from under the feet of the tripartite alliance without the need for military operations.

(To be concluded)

Have your say

Is there an issue you feel strongly about, or an article you want to comment on? QT will carry your voice to the public and to places where it matters. Write to us at

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Well done, QT!

APROPOS the front-page story "Arab Spring gives an opportunity to innovate and grow" published on Saturday. My heartiest congratulations to *Qatar Tribune* on its fifth birth anniversary. Just like the Al Jazeera English channel, this paper has been giving wide coverage to the Arab Spring. I appreciate the editor's effort in changing the editorial priorities and making M-E pages the first two pages of the edition.

The QT spotlight pages in the Nation section also gave wide coverage to the expatriates' views on the Arab democracy movement. The move to enlist readers' opinion on the Arab unrest, is a way of empowering them and getting their views on the news. All these efforts have boosted the Arab youth's quest for democracy. Chained for years under the regime of autocratic rulers, they are not ready to bear the insult any more. And QT has done the right thing by highlighting their grievances.

P SURESH
DOHA



Flood in Pakistan

REFER to the edit-page report "Flood threat to Pakistan" published on Saturday.

I am concerned that several parts of Pakistan have been already hit by heavy downpours and flooding.

And if the torrential rain continues for a few more days, the situation is bound to worsen.

Though it is difficult to say that the damage will be as great as witnessed last year, when huge floods had swept across the country.

But the biggest problem is that people are already suffering in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh on account of flash floods and canal breaches. But the need of the hour is to take immediate measures to provide succour to the flood-hit and initiate anti-flood measures.

The government must learn from its past mistakes and should not repeat the apathy it demonstrated last year. It must realise that the affected people must not be denied official support.

RAMAZAN SIDDIQI
DOHA



"Europe has done the right thing by slapping an oil embargo on Syria."

SOHEB ALAM

DOHA



"Well done to the South Africa 4x400 relay team, they got a silver. Was really hard watching knowing I deserved to be part of it. Off to my bed, nyt all."

SPRINTER OSCAR PISTORIUS

10:00 am Fox Sports: CONFERENCE USA FOOTBALL UCLA AT HOUSTON

	BBC WORLD	CNN INTERNATIONAL	NIJRTUON NETWORK	DISNEY JUNIOR	DISCOVERY HD SHOWCASE	DISCOVERY SCIENCE	E!	FOOD NETWORK	EXTREME SPORTS	FOX SPORTS
7:00 PM	THE HUB WITH NIK GOWING	PRISM	GENERATOR REX	ANIMATED STORIES			THE DANCE SCENE	GOOD EATS- SPECIAL	CARPOCALYPSE	CONFERENCE USA FOOTBALL UCLA AT HOUSTON [10:00]
7:30 PM			FANTASTIC FOUR: WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES	MICKEY MOUSE CLUBHOUSE	CHASING CLASSIC CARS	KINGS OF CONSTRUCTION				
8:00 PM	WORLD BUSINESS REPORT			JAKE & THE NEVERLAND PIRATES			CHELSEA LATELY	FOOD NETWORK CHALLENGE	FINAL FU	
8:30 PM	SPORT TODAY	INTERNATIONAL DESK	HERO 108	THE HIVE		SMASH LAB				
9:00 PM	WORLD NEWS TODAY WITH ZEINAB BADAWI	AFRICAN VOICES	BAKUGAN: NEW VESTROIA	TIMMY TIME			KOURTNEY & KIM TAKE NEW YORK	PAULA'S PARTY		
9:30 PM	WORLD BUSINESS REPORT		TOTAL DRAMA ISLAND	LITTLE EINSTEINS		THE GADGET SHOW			UNTRACKED	
10:00 PM	SPORT TODAY	QUEST MEANS BUSINESS	ADVENTURE TIME	MICKEY MOUSE CLUBHOUSE				CHEF VS BRITAIN		BIG 12 FOOTBALL TULSA AT OKLAHOMA [13:00]
10:30 PM	BBC WORLD NEWS AMERICA	PIERS MORGAN TONIGHT	GRIM ADVENTURES OF BILLY & MANDY	LITTLE EINSTEINS	ALASKA: SURVIVING THE LAST FRONTIER	mighty ships		LIDIA'S ITALY	WORLD COMBAT LEAGUE	
11:00 PM			BEN 10	THE HIVE	BUILDING THE FUTURE		FASHION POLICE	BOY MEETS GRILL	KICK ASS MIRACLES	
11:30 PM	HARDTALK	CONNECT THE WORLD	BAKUGAN BATTLE BRAWLERS	TIMMY TIME	EXTREME ENGINEERING	KINGS OF CONSTRUCTION	CHELSEA LATELY			
			THE SECRET SATURDAYS	JUNGLE JUNCTION						
			SAMURAI JACK	MICKEY MOUSE CLUBHOUSE	INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH JOSH BERNSTEIN	THE GADGET SHOW	KEEPING UP WITH THE KARDASHIANS			PGA TOUR: DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RD [19:00]
			MEGAS XLR	JUNGLE JUNCTION				WORLD CAFE ASIA	FINAL FU	
	NEWS CHANNELS		KIDS CHANNELS		DOCUMENTARY CHANNELS		LIFESTYLE CHANNELS		SPORTS CHANNEL	

INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

00:30	Deadly Women
01:20	Disappeared
02:10	Couples Who Kill
02:10	True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
03:50	CSU
04:45	Crime Scene Psychics
05:13	Murder Shift
06:10	Mystery Diagnosis
07:00	Undercover
07:50	Forensic Detectives
08:40	Street Patrol
09:05	Real Emergency Calls
09:30	Mystery Diagnosis
10:20	CSU
11:10	FBI Files
12:00	True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:50	Disappeared
13:40	Mystery Diagnosis
14:30	Street Patrol
14:55	Real Emergency Calls

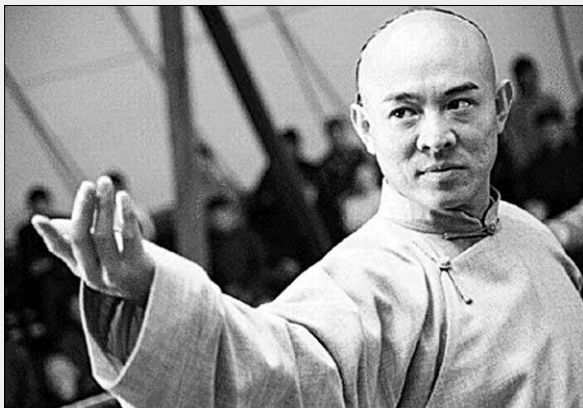
BEST ON TV TONIGHT



8:00 pm Star Movies HD: DOUBT



10:00 pm OSN Comedy: TRACY MORGAN: BLACK AND BLUE



5:30 pm MBC Action: FEARLESS



7:00 pm The History Channel: ICE ROAD TRUCKERS

TV PRIME TIME GUIDE

	STAR MOVIES HD	OSN MOVIES COMEDY	OSN FIRST HD	OSN COMEDY	MBC ACTION	MBC 4	TRACE	VH1	NAT GEO ADVENTURE	THE HISTORY CHANNEL
7:00 PM	THE PACIFIER [18:25]	THE ALLNIGHTER [17:45]	COLD CASE	COUGAR TOWN	FEARLESS [17:30]	THE DOCTORS	PLAYLIST [18:45]	GUESS THE YEAR [19:00]	DON'T TELL MY MOTHER	ICE ROAD TRUCKERS
7:30 PM				TRAFFIC LIGHT						
8:00 PM				THE CLOSER						
8:30 PM	DOUBT	TOMCATS [20:00]	CSI MIAMI	SEINFELD	NINJA WARRIOR [19:00]	WHITE POPPY CEREN	HIT US [20:00]	MUSIC FOR THE MASSES [20:00]	MARKET VALUES	AX MEN
9:00 PM				THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART						
9:30 PM				THE COLBERT REPORT						
10:00 PM	MIAMI BLUES	CRIMINAL MINDS		TRACY MORGAN: BLACK AND BLUE		ADAM	PLAYLIST [20:50]		WHICH WAY TO	IRT: DEADLIEST ROADS
10:30 PM				THE RICKY GERVAIS SHOW						
11:00 PM										
11:30 PM	PEARL HARBOR	WOKE UP DEAD [22:00]	BOARDWALK EMPIRE	SEINFELD	WWE RAW [20:00]	PRETTY LITTLE LIAR	PLAYLIST [22:17]	FINAL COUNTDOWN [21:00]	MARKET VALUES	AX MEN
MOVIES CHANNELS			GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CHANNELS		MBC CHANNELS		MUSIC CHANNEL		FACTUAL CHANNELS	

TELEVISION LISTING

15:20 CSU
16:10 FBI Files
17:00 Forensic Detectives
17:50 Undercover
18:40 Real Emergency Calls
19:05 Mystery Diagnosis
19:55 Street Patrol
20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:10 Disappeared
22:00 Stalked: Someone's Watching
22:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:50 Street Patrol
23:15 Real Emergency Calls
23:40 Dr G: Medical Examiner



MBC ACTION
00:00 The Vampire Diaries
01:00 Terminator- Series
02:00 Fearless
03:30 Rome
06:40 JAG
06:45 Rome
07:30 La Femme Nikita
08:15 Ninja Warrior
09:00 JAG
09:45 Terminator- Series
10:30 La Femme Nikita
11:15 Most Daring
12:00 Knockout Sportsworld
13:00 Ninja Warrior
14:00 JAG
15:00 Terminator- Series
15:45 The Vampire Diaries
16:30 Knockout Sportsworld
17:30 Fearless
19:00 Ninja Warrior
20:00 WWE RAW



MBC 2
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available
00:00 Not Available



MBC 4
00:00 White Poppy Ceren
00:45 Gönülçelen
01:30 Adam
02:15 Pretty Little Liar
03:00 Entertainment Tonight and Insider
03:45 Late Show with David Letterman
04:30 Medium
05:30 The Doctors
06:30 It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia
07:00 Dr Oz
07:45 Entertainment Tonight and Insider
08:15 Late Show with David Letterman
09:00 The Talk
09:30 Medium
10:15 Days Of Our Lives
11:00 Dr Oz
12:00 Home Shopping
13:00 White Poppy Ceren
13:45 Gönülçelen
14:30 The Doctors
15:15 Adam
16:00 Medium
17:00 Dr Oz
18:00 90210
19:00 The Doctors
20:00 White Poppy Ceren
21:00 Gönülçelen
22:00 Adam
23:00 Pretty Little Liar



MBC MAX
01:00 Chasing Liberty
03:00 Agent Cody Banks
04:00 Agent Cody Banks
06:00 Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist
07:30 Pete's Meteor

09:00 Running Mates
10:30 The Curse Of The Jade Scorpion
12:00 Chasing Liberty
15:00 The Crew
17:00 Griffin & Phoenix
19:00 Before Sunset
21:00 The Other End of the Line
23:00 Click



MGM
00:00 From Noon Till Three
01:40 Posse
03:30 Peter's Friends
05:10 Number One Fan
06:40 Love Is All There Is
08:25 Irma La Douce
10:45 Mystery Date
12:20 Impasse
14:00 Lawman
15:40 They Call Me Mister Tibbs!
17:25 Another Pretty Face
18:55 War Stories
20:20 One Summer Love
22:00 Blood Games
23:30 MGM's Big Screen
23:45 Thieves Like Us



NAT GEO ADVENTURE
00:00 Travel Madness
01:00 Cruise Ship Diaries
02:00 Exploring The Vine
03:00 Food School
04:00 Banged Up Abroad
05:30 Finding Genghis
06:00 Travel Madness
07:00 Exploring The Vine
08:00 Food School
09:30 Banged Up Abroad
11:30 Finding Genghis
12:00 Travel Madness
13:00 Don't Tell My Mother
14:00 Word Travels
14:30 Market Values
15:00 The Best Job In The World
15:30 Madventures
16:00 Which Way To
17:00 Word Travels
17:30 Market Values
18:00 Lonely Planet: Roads Less Travelled
19:00 Don't Tell My Mother
20:00 Word Travels
20:30 Market Values
21:00 The Best Job In The World
21:30 Madventures
22:00 Which Way To
23:00 Word Travels
23:30 Market Values



NAT GEO WILD HD
00:00 How Big Can It Get
01:00 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
01:55 The Lion Ranger
02:50 Hooked
03:45 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
05:35 Strike Force
06:30 The Living Edens
07:25 Python Hunters
08:20 Built For The Kill
09:15 The Lion Ranger
10:10 Hooked
11:05 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
12:00 Dragon Chronicles
13:00 California's Wild Coast
14:00 Python Hunters
15:00 Built For The Kill
16:00 I, Predator
17:00 Hooked
18:00 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
19:00 California's Wild Coast
20:00 Python Hunters
21:00 Built For The Kill
22:00 I, Predator
23:00 Hooked



OSN ACTION HD
00:00 The Collector
02:00 From Paris With Love

04:00 You Got Served
06:00 The Librarian: The Curse Of Judas Chalice
08:00 Ballistica
09:45 Lost In Space
12:00 The Bodyguard 2
14:00 Ballistica
16:00 Fast Lane
18:00 The Bodyguard 2
20:00 The Spirit
22:00 The Final



OSN CINEMA
01:00 The Gray Man
03:00 It's A Wonderful Afterlife
05:00 Flying By
07:00 Parlez-Moi De LA Pluie
09:00 Secretariat
11:15 Shrek Forever After
13:00 Emotional Arithmetic
15:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
16:45 Flash Of Genius
19:00 The Spy Next Door
21:00 Agora
23:15 Jonah Hex



OSN COMEDY
00:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm
00:30 The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
01:00 The Colbert Report
01:30 The Ricky Gervais Show
02:00 Saturday Night Live
03:00 Just Shoot Me
04:00 Dharma And Greg
05:30 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
06:00 Will And Grace
06:00 Coach
06:30 The Drew Carey Show
07:00 Late Night With Jimmy Fallon
08:00 Dharma And Greg
08:30 Just Shoot Me
09:00 Will And Grace
09:30 30 Rock
10:30 Coach
11:00 The Drew Carey Show
12:30 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
13:30 Dharma And Greg
13:30 Just Shoot Me
13:30 Will And Grace
14:00 Coach
14:30 30 Rock
15:30 The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
16:00 The Colbert Report
16:30 The Drew Carey Show
17:00 Late Night With Jimmy Fallon
18:00 Just Shoot Me
19:00 Cougar Town
19:30 Traffic Light
20:00 Seinfeld
21:00 The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
21:30 The Colbert Report
22:00 Tracy Morgan: Black And Blue
23:00 The Ricky Gervais Show
23:30 Seinfeld



OSN FIRST
00:00 Law & Order
01:00 Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior
02:00 Desperate Housewives
03:00 Law & Order: Los Angeles
04:00 Boston Public
05:00 Kojak
06:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Lie To Me
08:00 Emmerdale
08:30 Coronation Street
09:00 Eat Yourself Sexy
09:30 Huey's Cooking Adventure
10:00 The Martha Stewart Show
11:00 The View
12:30 Law & Order
13:00 Law & Order: Los Angeles
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Boston Public
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Emmerdale
18:30 Coronation Street
19:00 Cold Case
20:00 The Closer
21:00 CSI Miami
22:00 Desperate Housewives
23:00 Lie To Me



OSN FIRST HD
00:00 Downtown Abbey
01:05 Criminal Minds
02:00 Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior
03:00 Law & Order
04:00 Law & Order: Los Angeles
05:00 Covert Affairs
06:00 Downtown Abbey
07:05 Happy Endings
07:35 Coronation Street
08:05 Huge
09:00 Covert Affairs
10:00 Law & Order
11:00 Law & Order: Los Angeles
12:00 Happy Endings
12:30 Coronation Street
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Huge
15:00 The Event
16:00 Happy Endings
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Huge
19:00 You Got Served
20:00 Cold Case
21:00 The Closer
22:00 CSI Miami
23:00 Criminal Minds
23:00 Boardwalk Empire



OSN MOVIES ACTION
01:00 Case 39
03:00 You Got Served
05:00 Blood River
07:00 Timeline
09:00 Changing Lanes
11:00 The Bannen Way
13:00 Shinjuku Incident
15:00 Changing Lanes
17:00 No Escape
19:00 Juice
21:00 Friday The 13th
23:00 Altitude



OSN MOVIES COMEDY
00:00 From Justin To Kelly
01:45 French Kiss
04:00 Straight Talk
06:00 Happy Ever Afters
08:00 12 Men Of Christmas
10:00 Dr Dolittle
12:00 Dr Dolittle 2
14:00 Malibu's Most Wanted
16:00 From Justin To Kelly
17:45 The Allnighter
20:00 Tomcats
22:00 Woke Up Dead



OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL
01:00 Don't Look Back
03:00 Shampoo
05:00 An Education
07:00 Enid
09:00 In God's Hands
11:15 Jesse Stone: No Remorse
13:15 Delgo
15:15 Spartacus
19:00 Not Since You
21:00 L'armee Du Crime
23:15 Taking Woodstock



OSN MOVIES HD
01:30 Ghost
04:00 Made In Dagenham
06:00 Don't Fade Away
07:30 Revenge Of The Bridesmaids
09:00 Ponyo On The Cliff By The Sea
10:45 2012
13:30 Ghosts Of Girlfriends Past
15:15 Catch That Kid
17:00 Ponyo On The Cliff By The Sea
19:00 Eat Pray Love
21:15 She's Out Of My League
23:00 Tomcats



OSN MOVIES KIDS
00:00 A Christmas Carol
02:00 Legend Of Sleeping Beauty
04:00 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective Jr
06:00 Wild Records!
08:00 Casper Haunted Christmas
10:00 Free Willy: Escape From Pirate's Cove
12:00 A Christmas Carol
14:00 Queen Of The Swallows
16:00 Dennis The Menace: Cruise Control
18:00 Free Willy: Escape From Pirate's Cove
20:00 Furry Vengeance
22:00 Casper Haunted Christmas



OSN NEWS
00:00 Live NBC Meet The Press
01:00 Live ABC World News With David Muir
01:30 NBC Nightly News (Sat-Sun)
02:00 Live ABC World News With David Muir
02:30 NBC Nightly News (Sat-Sun)
03:00 NBC Sunday Today Show
04:00 ABC This Week W/ Christiane Amanpour
05:00 NBC Meet The Press
06:00 ABC World News With David Muir
06:30 NBC Nightly News (Sat-Sun)
07:00 ABC World News With David Muir
07:30 NBC Nightly News (Sat-Sun)
08:00 ABC This Week W/ Christiane Amanpour
09:00 ABC World News With David Muir
09:30 NBC Nightly News (Sat-Sun)
10:00 Live ABC World News Now
11:00 Live NBC Early Today
11:30 Live ABC America This Morning
12:00 Live ABC America This Morning
13:30 MSNBC First Look
14:00 Live NBC Today Show
18:00 Live MSNBC News
20:00 Live MSNBC Andrea Mitchell Reports
21:00 Live MSNBC News
23:00 Live MSNBC The Dylan Ratigan Show



OSN PREMIERE
00:00 Piranha
01:45 Phoebe In Wonderland
03:45 The People Speak
06:00 Africa United
08:00 Stomp The Yard 2: Homecoming
10:00 Daddy Day Care
12:00 Phoebe In Wonderland
14:00 A Dance For Bathany
16:00 Stomp The Yard 2: Homecoming
18:00 My Bollywood Bride
20:00 Iron Man 2
22:15 All Good Things



OSN SPORT 1 HD
00:30 WWE Tough Enough
01:30 WWE SmackDown
03:30 WWE Bottomline
04:30 NRL Premiership
06:30 Le Mans Series
07:00 European PGA Tour
09:00 European PGA Tour
11:30 NRL Full Time
12:00 Live NRL Premiership
14:00 The Open Championship Official Film
15:00 Super League
17:00 NRL Premiership
19:00 Trans World Sport
20:00 Speedway FIM World Championship
21:00 WWE SmackDown
23:00 WWE Tough Enough



OUTDOOR CHANNEL HD
00:05 Sci Expedition Safari
00:30 Western Extreme
01:45 The Wingshooter
02:10 Pheasants Forever
03:25 Sci Expedition Safari
04:15 Western Extreme
05:30 The Wingshooter

05:55 Pheasants Forever
07:00 Off Road Overhaul
08:15 Ultimate Match Fishing Pro
09:30 Off Road Overhaul
10:45 Cast & Blast
11:35 Hot Rods & Reels
12:00 Trout Unlimited On The Rise
13:15 Adventure Guides- Fishing Edition
14:30 Cast & Blast
15:20 Hot Rods & Reels
15:45 Trout Unlimited On The Rise
17:00 Adventure Guides- Fishing Edition
18:15 Cast & Blast
19:05 Hot Rods & Reels
19:30 Trout Unlimited On The Rise
20:45 Adventure Guides- Fishing Edition
21:10 Adventure Guides- Fishing Edition
22:00 Off Road Overhaul
23:15 Ultimate Match Fishing Pro



STAR MOVIES HD
00:35 Blue State
02:05 Toy Soldiers
03:55 Bonneville
05:30 Misery
07:15 Blue State
08:45 Goblin
10:15 Toy Soldiers
12:05 Bonneville
13:40 Surrogates
15:10 Goblin
16:40 Misery
18:25 The Pacifier
20:00 Doubt
21:45 Miami Blues
23:20 Pearl Harbor



TCM
01:35 Pat Garrett And Billy The Kid
03:30 The Year Of Living Dangerously
05:25 Spinout
07:00 36 Hours
08:55 The Champ
11:00 An American In Paris
12:50 Seven Women
14:15 Anna Christie
15:45 Royal Wedding
17:15 Manpower
18:55 Julie
20:35 Viva Las Vegas
22:00 Kelly's Heroes



THE HISTORY CHANNEL

00:00 The Universe
01:00 American Pickers
02:00 Pawn Stars
03:00 UFO Hunters
04:00 Ancient Aliens
05:00 Ancient Aliens
06:00 The Universe
07:00 American Pickers
08:00 Pawn Stars
09:00 UFO Hunters
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 The Universe
13:00 American Pickers
14:00 Pawn Stars
15:00 UFO Hunters
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 The Universe
19:00 Ice Road Truckers
20:00 Ax Men
21:00 Lock N' Load With R. Lee Ermey
22:00 IRT: Deadliest Roads
23:00 Ax Men



THE STYLE NETWORK
00:00 Top 10
01:00 Videofashion News
01:55 Big Boutique
02:25 How Do I Look?
03:20 Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?
04:15 Married Away
05:10 Homes With Style
05:35 Area

06:05 Clean House
07:00 Big Boutique
08:00 Videofashion News
09:00 Fashion Avenue
09:55 How Do I Look?
10:50 Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?
11:50 Clean House: Search For The Messiest
12:50 Clean House
13:45 Videofashion News
14:45 How Do I Look?
15:40 Ruby
16:35 Jerseylicious
17:30 How Do I Look?
18:25 Ruby
19:25 Open House
19:50 Fashion Avenue
20:20 Clean House
21:15 Top 10
22:10 Ruby
23:05 How Do I Look?



TRACE URBAN

00:17 Playlist
01:00 Africa 10
01:45 Playlist
02:00 Urban Hit
02:45 Playlist
15:17 Playlist
16:00 Hip Hop 10
17:17 Playlist
18:00 Urban Hit
18:45 Playlist
20:00 Hit US
20:50 Playlist
22:17 Playlist



TRAVEL CHANNEL

00:00 Chef Abroad
00:30 Gutton For Punishment
01:00 Planet Food
02:00 Globe Trekker
03:00 American Civil War Trail
04:00 Globe Trekker
07:00 Globe Trekker
08:00 Cruising The South China Sea
09:00 Globe Trekker
10:00 Planet Food
11:00 Dream Destinations
12:00 Globe Trekker
13:00 Flavours Of Peru
14:00 Intrepid Journeys
15:00 Cruising The Spirit of Adventure
16:00 Globe Trekker Special
17:00 Dream Destinations
18:00 Flavours Of Peru
19:00 Globe Trekker
20:00 Essential Specials
21:00 Travel Today
21:30 Essential
22:00 Tall Ship Explorers
23:00 Globe Trekker Special



VH1

00:00 Music For The Masses
01:00 VH1 Music
07:00 Aerobic
10:00 VH1 Hits
11:00 Music For The Masses
12:00 Top 10
13:00 Music For The Masses
14:00 VH1 Pop Chart
15:00 VH1 Hits
17:00 Wild 80s
18:00 VH1 Loves
19:00 Guess The Year
20:00 Music For The Masses
21:00 Final Countdown



ZEE AFLAM
01:00 Aflaton
03:30 Prem
06:00 Krantiveer
08:00 Aflaton
10:30 Ek Vivah Aisa Bhi
13:00 Hijack
16:00 Khiladi
19:00 Karzzzz
22:00 Heroes

Pakistan seeks Karzai’s help for release of abducted boys

DPA
ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN’S Interior Minister on Sunday asked Afghan President Hamid Karzai to help in the release of at least 20 Pakistani boys kidnapped by the Taliban from the restive north-western tribal region.

The boys, aged 10 to 18, were kidnapped on Thursday when they were visiting the Ghaki Pass area, a scenic hill resort, in Bajaur on the bor-

der during the Eid al Fitr holiday and mistakenly crossed into Afghanistan border province of Kunar.

“I request Afghan president Hamid Karzai and my counterpart there to help the release of Pakistanis held in Afghanistan by Taliban,” Rehman Malik said.

The minister said that he was not concerned at this point whether they were abducted by Pakistan militants or Afghan militants, as their safe release was of

prime importance.

Ehsanullah Ehsan, a spokesman of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella organisation of more than a dozen militant outfits, on Saturday took responsibility of the kidnapping.

“The parents of these children have allied themselves with the government and they are fighting Taliban,” said Ehsan. The group were from the Mamoon tribe, which set up a private militia

The boys, aged 10 to 18, were kidnapped on Thursday when they were visiting the Ghaki Pass area, a scenic hill resort.

at the behest of the government to fight the militants in their area.

The Mahmood tribesmen are also using their tribal connections for the release of their offspring and had already sent a *jirga*, a group

of tribal elders, to negotiate with the militants.

They have also approached the tribal elders from Kunar for help.

A intelligence official said that Pakistan had increased the security on the border along Kunar after the incident of the kidnapping.

Pakistani security officials believe that the boys were being held in Kunar, where the Taliban have several strongholds and from where they have also launched

attacks on Pakistan border security posts in recent months.

Bajaur was controlled by Taliban before Pakistan launched a major offensives in 2009 and 2010, forcing hundreds of militants led by local TTP commander, Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, to flee to Afghan border area to find refuge in the territory under control of Afghan Taliban.

They were joined by hundreds more Taliban fighters

who fled a similar operation by Pakistan army in Swat district.

These militants regrouped and have conducted several attacks on security posts and pro-government tribesmen. Last week, hundreds of Taliban from the Afghan province of Nuristan attacked seven Pakistani border posts in the Chitral district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, killing 36 Pakistani soldiers and policemen.

Party blocks Nepal PM’s peace bid

IANIS
KATHMANDU

A WEEK after coming into power on the crest of high hopes and best wishes from people at home and abroad, Nepal’s Maoist Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai now faces a thorny, uphill road with his own party blocking his bid to push the obstructed peace process forward.

The scholar from India’s prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, who unveiled an ambitious 45-day peace plan to rehabilitate his party’s guerrilla army with its nearly 20,000 combatants, is now facing stiff resistance from the hardliners in his own party.

Last week, Bhattarai had announced that the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), barracked in 28 cantonments across Nepal, would hand over the keys to the containers in which their weapons have been locked up since the Maoists signed a peace accord in 2006.

Though it was largely a symbolic gesture, it has still met with fierce resistance from the hardliners’ faction within the party, who called it a “suicidal bid.”

Mohan Baidya, one of the three deputy chiefs of the party who has been blowing hot and cold towards Bhattarai, heads the faction that is demanding that the gesture be revoked.

Baidya’s supporters have already staged public protests in the capital last week, forcing the party to resume fresh discussions among its leaders on Sunday.

But the meeting failed to iron out wrinkles and now, the party has called a second round of talks on September 18.

The differences over the keys handover gave the largest opposition party, the Nepali Congress, a handle to raise fresh doubts about the new PM and his party’s commitment to peace.

Citing a feeling of insecurity, Nepali Congress chief Sushil Koirala demanded at a public programme in the capital on Sunday that given the dissent within the Maoists, not just the keys but the entire PLA arsenal should be handed over to the government.

EKING OUT A LIVING

A girl child carries mud while working with her family in a brick factory on the outskirts of Islamabad, on Sunday. Child labour is one of the biggest problems facing the country due to lack of educational institutes and poor attendance level. (AFP)



NATO kills ex-Gitmo detainee in Afghanistan

AP
KABUL

NATO AND Afghan forces have killed a former Guantanamo detainee who returned to Afghanistan to become a key Al Qaeda ally, international officials said on Saturday.

The militant’s death was a reminder of the risks of trying to end a controversial detention system without letting loose people who will launch attacks on Americans.

Sabar Lal Melma, who was released from Guantanamo in 2007, had been organising attacks in eastern Kunar province and funding insurgent operations, NATO spokesman Capt Justin Brockhoff said.

Another former detainee who joined the Al Qaeda franchise in Yemen was killed in a recent US airstrike there.

A NATO statement described Melma as a “key affiliate of the Al Qaeda network” who was in contact with senior Al Qaeda members in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Another former detainee who joined the Al Qaeda franchise in Yemen was killed in a recent US airstrike there.

Troops surrounded Melma’s house in Jalalabad city on Friday night and shot him dead when he emerged from the building holding an AK-47 assault rifle. Several other people were detained, NATO said.

A guard at the house, Mohammad Gul, said a group of American soldiers scaled the walls of the compound around 11 pm and stormed the house, shooting Melma in the assault. Three others were detained, Gul said. Melma joined a long list of detainees believed to have reconnected with Al Qaeda.

In 2009, the Pentagon said 61, approximately 11 percent, of the detainees released from Guantanamo had rejoined the fight. Experts have questioned the validity of that number. About 520 Guantanamo detainees have been released from custody or transferred to prisons elsewhere in the world.

Afghan Taliban free four Turkish engineers

AFP
GHAZNI

FOUR Turkish engineers kidnapped by Afghanistan’s Taliban more than eight months ago were freed on Saturday night after intervention by tribal elders.

The men, taken captive in December in eastern Paktia province, were handed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the neighbouring province of Ghazni, an AFP reporter in the area said.

“We were kidnapped by the Taliban eight-and-a-half months ago. We’re released on the occasion of Eid by Ameer ul Momineen Mullah Mohammad Omar,” one of the captives told AFP, referring to the Taliban leader.

The Turk, who gave his

name only as Imam, said no ransom was paid and “we were not tortured” while in captivity, before being rushed to Ghazni city.

Authorities refused to give details but Haji Zahir, a Ghazni province tribal elder who facilitated the release, told AFP that the Taliban freed the four “only on the occasion of Eid.”

Eid al Fitr is a major Muslim festival which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The release of prisoners at this time is an Afghan tradition.

“Yes, we freed the four Turkish engineers on the occasion of Eid,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed told AFP.

Turkey has hundreds of troops operating under the US-led NATO force in



Turkish engineers after they were released by their Taliban captors, in Ghazni province, on Saturday. (AFP)

Afghanistan, in a deadly decade-long conflict.

Kidnapping of foreign nationals is part of the Taliban insurgency. The rebels often seek the release of their jailed comrades from

Afghan prisons before freeing hostages. Most the hostages are, however, released only after a ransom is paid. Two French reporters were abducted by Taliban in Kapisa province,

north of Kabul, in December 2009 and freed in July.

One of the two, Herve Ghesquiere, recently told the BBC that he suspected a ransom was paid for his freedom.

Bangladesh for framework pact on transit with India

PTI
DHAKA

AHEAD of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s September 6-7 visit, Bangladesh on Sunday said it preferred a framework agreement on transit between the two sides instead of a revised Indian proposal for inking a protocol on using this country’s two seaports.

“Bangladesh has prepared a

draft on a framework agreement on transit which is likely to be presented for discussion during the meeting of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and India’s Manmohan Singh,” a senior official familiar with the process told PTI preferring anonymity.

He said that the agreement could be signed if the two Prime Ministers agreed to it.

His comments came a day after the unscheduled visit of

National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon here, his second such trip in five days, to review the last-minute preparations ahead of Singh’s September 6-7 tour.

Mass circulated *Prothom Alo* newspaper reported Sunday quoting a “responsible source” that New Delhi last week sent a revised draft of a protocol seeking to use Bangladesh’s southeastern Chittagong and southwestern

Mongla ports.

The source said Dhaka was unwilling to sign the protocol as the issues of transit routes and fees were yet to be settled while the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Communication and the Tariff Commission and Revenue Board earlier opposed the idea due to lack of preparedness.

“Due to practical reasons we need to sign a broad frame-

work agreement first ahead of protocols detailing the nitty-gritty issues,” Tariff Commission Chairman Mojibur Rahman, who was tasked to lead a committee to suggest transit fees, earlier told newsmen.

The transit issue has raised fresh debates among experts and independent think tanks as the government here said the arrangements for the bilateral connectivity was

outlined in a 1972 treaty between the two countries.

Bangladesh and India had a 25-year Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace signed on March 19, 1972, but the two governments declined to renegotiate or renew the treaty when it approached expiry in 1997. Transit through Bangladesh, for India in particular, remained a contentious issue.

FAUCHON
PARIS

OPENING SOON - ROYAL PLAZA - AL SADD STREET - DOHA - QATAR
SALWA ROAD - SOUQ NAJD - PO BOX 2044 - DOHA - QATAR

Storm Lee hits Louisiana coast

REUTERS
NEW ORLEANS

TROPICAL Storm Lee crawled onto southern Louisiana's coast on Sunday as New Orleans prepared for one of the biggest tests of its flood defenses since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in 2005.

The National Hurricane Center said Lee's center was about 125 miles west-southwest of New Orleans, with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph at around 11 am EDT, and tropical storm-force winds extending 275 miles.

Winds were expected to weaken gradually in the next couple of days and up to 20 inches of rain was expected to fall on southeast Louisiana, the Miami-based center said.

In New Orleans, the storm recalled Hurricane Katrina, which flooded 80 percent of the city, killed 1,500 people and caused more than \$80 billion in damage to the popular tourist destination. Lee has dropped nearly 11 inches of rain on New Orleans since it developed late last week.

Half the city lies below

sea level and is protected by a system of levees and flood gates.

The levees can process about 1 inch of rainfall per hour and the storm's slow-moving nature remained a worry, officials said. There were isolated reports of flooding in roads and homes. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

New Orleans officials were cautiously optimistic that the pump system would stay ahead of the rainfall, as residents awoke on Sunday to the arrival of a heavy band of rain.

"There's not a whole lot of flooding anywhere, so things are OK," said Jerry Sneed, deputy mayor of public safety. "We're ready for the next round."

Low-lying parishes around New Orleans did not fare as well, as Lee's winds drove a tidal surge over levees and onto roads.

"For a while we got some false hope that we might be out of the woods, but we realized overnight we would get more rain," Lafourche Parish spokesman Brennan Matherne said. "We're getting call after call about street flooding."



Emirati women walk past election banners at a registration centre, in Dubai, on Sunday. (AFP)

UAE poll campaign begins

AFP
DUBAI

CANDIDATES in the United Arab Emirates began campaigning on Sunday for the second-ever elections to choose half the members of the purely consultative Federal National Council.

A total of 468 candidates, including 85 women, are running in the polls on September 24, the second

since the UAE federation was established upon its independence from Britain in 1971.

Candidates had already tapped into social networking websites such as Twitter and Facebook, which they used to introduce themselves to the electorate.

Only 129,000 people named by the rulers of the seven emirates are allowed to vote, compared with only

6,000 in the first elections in 2006. Candidates also should come from this chosen electoral college.

Only half of the seats in the National Council are elected, while the rest are appointed by the rulers.

The Council has no legislative powers and acts merely as an advisory board to the Federal Supreme Council, the country's highest governing body made up of the fed-

eration's seven rulers.

The National Council cannot overturn or block laws or decrees issued and ratified by the Supreme Council.

Campaigning is bound by a set of rules and regulations dictated by the National Election Council and include campaign finance restrictions that limit candidate expenditures to a maximum of two million dirhams (\$545,000).

Arab League chief may visit Syria

REUTERS
CAIRO

ARAB LEAGUE chief Nabil al Araby said on Sunday he may visit Syria this week to voice Arab worries about violence there after Damascus sent troops and tanks to crush protests against President Bashar al Assad's rule.

"The Syrian government told me that it welcomes the visit of the secretary-general at any time, and it will probably be this week," al Araby told a news conference at the league's headquarters in Cairo.

"I did not ask for guarantees and will communicate the Arab worries about the incidents in Syria and listen to the opinion of the Syrian authorities," he said.

The Syrian government has sent in troops and tanks to crush over five months of street protests demanding Assad steps down, killing at least 2,200 protesters according to the United Nations.

On August 28, Arab foreign ministers agreed to send al Araby to Damascus to push for political and economic reforms and asked Syria to end months of bloodshed "before it's too late".

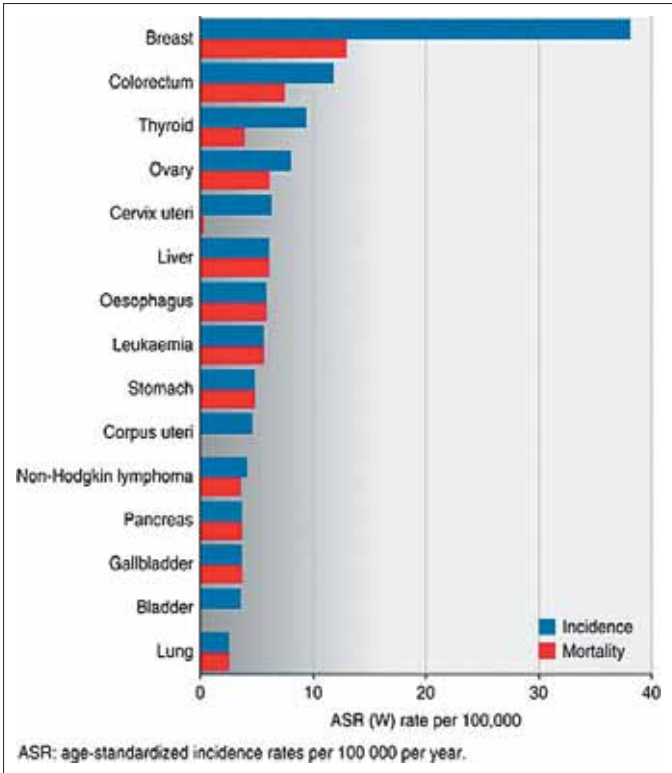
The EU governments agreed on Friday to ban imports of Syrian oil in a move to put economic pressure on Assad government.

Breast cancer major killer of Arab women in Qatar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

living in Arab countries and a leading cause of death among women. She added, "Although the incidence of breast cancer is still relatively low in Qatar as compared with some Western countries, it is steadily rising. Furthermore, Arab women in Qatar are often diagnosed at an advanced stage of the disease and, consequently, the mortality rate in Qatar is proportionally higher. Early detection and treatment of breast cancer can significantly reduce morbidity and mortality. However, the participation rate in breast cancer screening by Arab women in Qatar has been found to be alarmingly low." She suggested that the low rate of screening suggests that Arab women are at higher risk of getting the disease and dying for lack of detection and treatment of breast cancer in early stages.

According to Prof Donnelly, data was collected from 1063 Arab women living in Qatar. She said, "Data analysis is currently under progress. We



hope to have the survey findings by September. In October, we will start data collection for our study from a sample survey of Arab women, men and healthcare providers." Data collection for phase-one study

was started in March 2011 following approval by both Hamad Medical Corporation Research Committee and the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board—Canada, she added.

The project is scheduled to be completed by November 2013.

Besides Donnelly, a professor in the Calgary University in Qatar (CU-Q), the other members of the team are Dr al Hareth al Khater, chairman of Hamad Medical Corporation's Medical Research Centre, Dr Mohamed al Kuwari of the Supreme Council of Health, Dr Nabila al Meer, executive director of HMC's Department of Nursing, Dr Salha Bujassum, senior consultant of haematology/oncology at Al Amal Hospital, Dr Maryam Abdul Malik, director, Primary Health Care at Supreme Council of Health, Dr Rajvir Singh, senior consultant at HMC's Medical Research Center, Floor Christie-de Jong, research associate at the University of Calgary-Qatar, and a team of research assistants.

Donnelly said that there would be two more phases of the research. "During second phase of the research, data from both the quantitative and qualitative studies will be used to develop culturally appropriate

and effective intervention strategies and services to meet the breast cancer care needs of Arab women living in Qatar with a view to bringing down the rate of occurrence as well as mortality from breast cancer among them.

Phase three will aim to evaluate, facilitate and sustain the participation of Arab women in breast cancer screening in the country."

Donnelly urged the people afflicted with cancer to have a positive attitude and do not give up easily.

She said, "One must keep fighting the disease, make one's life as meaningful as possible, reach out/give support to other cancer patients." She also suggested to the cancer patients to seek support from their family, friends, and community members. She also pointed out that a healthy lifestyle would be helpful in preventing cancer as well as fighting it. She also suggested everyone to be environment conscious and try to create a healthy environment for everyone to live in.

Prayer beads getting popular among youth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

however, beads are made mainly of amber.

Beads may have acquired the trappings of a fashion item among the youth in recent times but it remains primarily part of a religious ritual that is more widespread during Ramadan in the Muslim world. No wonder, the demand for the *sibah* in Qatar, as also in other Gulf countries, increases during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Beads' trade in the Gulf countries exceeds \$1 billion during Ramadan, and this year was no exception.

Mahmoud Issa, owner of a beads' shop at Souq Waqif said: "In the absence of an exclusive market for the sibah, Souq Waqif draws large numbers of people looking for different varieties — traditional as well as designer — in Ramadan as counting prayers on the sibah is an important ritual during the holy month."

For more than two centuries, Souq Waqif was the first destination for those wanting to buy the prayers beads.

Besides Muslims, prayer beads are also used by Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and followers of the Bahai faith to count the repetition of prayers or chants like *dhikr* (chanting of the Allah's different names by the Muslims).

They are also used for meditation, protection from negative energy or for relaxation. Talking to *Qatar Tribune* Hussein Abdulaheem noted that the Holy Month of Ramadan is the real season for selling the prayer beads. "I purchase the amber stones for making beads 90 days before the start of Ramadan to avoid disappointment as the demand of the stone goes up globally in days before the arrival of Ramadan," Abdulaheem said.

He pointed out that manufacturers preferred using the transparent amber because of its ease in cutting.

► Now showing

GRAND CINE CENTRE

TAK TAK BOOM (ARABIC): 12.15 PM, 2.45 PM, 5.15 PM, 7.45 PM, 10.15 PM, 12.45 PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (ACTION):12.30 PM, 3.15 PM, 6 PM, 8.45 PM, 11.30 PM (3D): 10.45 AM, 1.30 PM, 4.15 PM, 7 PM, 9.45 PM, 12.30 MN

THE SMURFS (COMEDY): 12.15 PM, 2.30 PM, 4.45 PM, 7 PM, 9.15 PM, 11.30 PM(3D): 11 AM, 1.15 PM, 3.30 PM, 5.45 PM, 8 PM, 10.15 PM, 12.30 MN

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (ACTION): 10.30 AM, 12.45 PM, 3 PM, 5.15 PM, 7.30 PM, 9.45 PM, 12 MN (3D): 11.30 AM, 1.45 PM, 4 PM, 6.15 PM, 8.30 PM, 10.45 PM, 1 AM

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE (COMEDY): 11.45 AM, 2.15 PM, 4.45 PM, 7.15 PM, 9.45 PM, 12.15 MN

BODYGUARD (HINDI): 12 NOON, 2.30 PM, 5 PM, 7.30 PM, 10 PM, 12.30 AM

MANKATHA (TAMIL): 11.30 AM, 2.30 PM, 5.30 PM, 8.30 PM, 11.30 PM

ARTHUR 3 (ACTION): 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM

ZOOKEEPER (COMEDY): 11 AM, 3 PM, 7 PM, 11 PM, 1 AM

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS (COMEDY): 1 PM, 5 PM, 9 PM, 1 AM

MALL CINEMA

TAK TAK BOOM (ARABIC): 10 AM, 12.15 PM, 4.45 PM, 7 PM, 9.15 PM, 11.30 PM

THE SMURFS (COMEDY): 10.15 AM, 7 PM (3D): 12.45 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (ACTION): 2.30 PM, 4.45 PM, 9 PM (3D): 10.30 AM, 11.30 PM

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE (COMEDY): 12.15 PM, 2.30 PM, 11.15 PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (ACTION)(3D): 7 PM, 9.15 PM

LANDMARK CINEMA

TAKTAKBOOM (ARABIC): 10 AM, 4.45 PM, 7 PM, 9.15 PM, 11.30 PM

THESMURFS (COMEDY)(3D): 12.30 PM, 2.30 PM, 4.30 PM, 6.30 PM

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (ACTION): 12.15 PM, 2.30 PM, 5.15 PM, 7.30 PM, 9.45 PM (3D): 10.15 AM, 11 PM

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE (COMEDY): 12.15 PM, 2.30 PM, 11.15 PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (ACTION): 10 AM, 12.15 PM, 2.45 PM, 12 MN (3D): 8.30 PM

ROYAL PLAZA

THE SMURFS (COMEDY)(3D): 10 AM, 12 NOON, 2 PM, 4 PM

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (ACTION)(3D): 8.30 AM, 11 PM

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE (COMEDY): 4.30 PM, 7 PM, 9.15 PM, 11.30 PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (ACTION): 10.15 AM, 12.30 PM, 2.45 PM, 9 PM, 11.30 PM (3D): 6 PM

ARTHUR 3 (ACTION): 10.15 AM, 12.30 PM, 2.30 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM

GULF CINEMA

BODYGUARD (HINDI): 10 AM, 12.45 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.15 PM, 9.30 PM, 11.45 PM

TEJA BHAI & FAMILY (MALAYALAM): 10 AM, 6.15 PM, 9.30 PM, 11.45 PM

MANKATHA (TAMIL): 12.45 PM, 3.30 PM

VILLAGGIO MALL

TAK TAK BOOM (ARABIC): 11.30 AM, 12.30 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4.30 PM, 5.30 PM, 7 PM, 8 PM, 9.30 PM, 10.30 PM, 12 MN, 1 AM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (ACTION):12.45 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.15 PM, 9 PM, 11.45 PM (3D): 11 AM, 1.45 PM, 4.30 PM, 7.15 PM, 10 PM, 12.45 MN

THE SMURFS (COMEDY): 10.30 AM, 12.45 PM, 3 PM, 5.15 PM, 7.30 PM, 9.45 PM, 12 MN (3D): 1.45 PM, 6.15 PM, 10.45 PM

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (ACTION): 10.30 AM, 12.45 PM, 3 PM, 5.15 PM, 7.30 PM, 9.45 PM, 12 MN (3D): 11.30 AM, 4 PM, 8.30 PM, 1 AM

CRAZY, STUPID, LOVE (COMEDY): 11.45 AM, 2.15 PM, 4.45 PM, 7.15 PM, 9.45 PM, 12.15 MN

BODYGUARD (HINDI): 12 NOON, 2.30 PM, 5 PM, 7.30 PM, 10 PM, 12.30 AM

ARTHUR 3 (ACTION): 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM

HARRYPOTTER 7(PART-2)(ACTION)3D: 1 PM, 3.45 PM, 6.30 PM, 9.15 PM, 12 MN

HORRIBLE BOSSES (COMEDY): 1 AM