



2 Saudi Crown Prince receives Kuwait's top lawmaker



11 AUB AGM approves cash dividend of 15 fils per share



24 Erdogan moots renaming Hagia Sophia a mosque



28 Djokovic downs Delbonis, Halep battles into Miami fourth round



Trump signs US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Golan

Israel launches Gaza strikes after rare rocket attack near Tel Aviv

Amir fetes PAAET graduates



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah cuts the ceremonial cake along with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other officials during a ceremony to honor outstanding students of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) for the academic year 2017/2018 yesterday. — Amiri Diwan (See Page 3)

WASHINGTON/GAZA:

US President Donald Trump yesterday recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli territory in an election boost for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as his chief political rival sought to appear as a better alternative to lead Israel. During a White House visit by Netanyahu, Trump signed a proclamation officially granting US recognition of the Golan Heights as Israeli territory, in a dramatic shift from decades of US policy. Israel seized the strategic land from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war. The recognition, which Trump had announced in a tweet last Thursday, appeared to be the most overt gesture by the Republican president to help Netanyahu, who had been pressing Trump for the move.

Meanwhile, Israel launched strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza hours after a rocket from the Palestinian enclave hit a house near Tel Aviv and wounded seven people, leading to fears of a severe escalation. Israel began its retaliatory strikes around the same time as Netanyahu met Trump. The Israeli prime minister, who faces an election on April 9, earlier yesterday



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump holds up a signed proclamation on the Golan Heights alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House yesterday. — AFP

cut short his US visit after the rocket attack. He arrived in Washington on Sunday, originally for a four-day trip. In comments from the White House, Netanyahu said "Israel is responding forcefully to this wanton aggression."

Signing the document as Netanyahu looked over his shoulder,

Trump said: "This was a long time in the making." He handed the pen that he used for his signature to Netanyahu, and said: "Give this to the people of Israel." Netanyahu welcomed Trump's move and said Israel has never had a better friend.

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

Uber to buy Mideast rival Careem

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber is set to buy its Middle Eastern rival Careem for \$3.1 billion, financial news agency Bloomberg reported Sunday. The deal, expected to be announced today, will see Uber pay \$1.4 billion in cash and the rest in notes convertible to Uber shares, Bloomberg reported. Dubai-based Careem boasts more than a million drivers and 30 million users across 90 cities. — AFP

Flight ends up in wrong city

LONDON: A British Airways plane flew by mistake from London to Edinburgh instead of Dusseldorf in Germany yesterday. Passengers only found out about the mishap when the pilot said the plane was coming in to land in Edinburgh, which is around 800 km from Dusseldorf. After the crew realized the mistake, the plane was refueled and flown to Dusseldorf, landing in Germany with a delay of more than three and a half hours. — AFP

19 dead as floods sweep Iran

TEHRAN: Major floods across much of Iran have left 19 people dead and more than 90 injured, blocking roads and triggering landslides with warnings of more heavy rain to come, emergency services said yesterday. Seventeen people were killed and 94 injured in the southern city of Shiraz, one person died in the western province of Kermanshah and another in Lorestan, also in the west, rescue services said. — AFP

10 Afghan kids killed in US strike

KABUL: Ten children, part of the same extended family, were killed by a US air strike in Afghanistan, along with three adult civilians, the United Nations said yesterday. The air strike early on Saturday was part of a battle between the Taliban and combined Afghan and US forces that lasted about 30 hours in Kunduz. Sgt Debra Richardson, spokeswoman for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, confirmed on Sunday that US forces carried out the air strike. — Reuters

8 face 'terrorism' trial in UAE

BEIRUT: Eight Lebanese citizens have been charged with "terrorism" in the UAE and denied legal representation, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. Families of the eight men say they were charged with terrorism, according to New York-based HRW. UAE media reported that they are linked to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. All of the men under trial have lived and worked in UAE for more than 15 years, seven of them for Dubai-owned Emirates Airlines, HRW said. — AFP

Hayef targets interior minister; Damkhi questions release of Tarazi

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Mohammad Hayef, who last week threatened a "heavyweight" grilling of the interior minister, appears to have started the procedures towards the grilling. He asked Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah about the measures adopted by the ministry to safeguard security and eliminate what he called negative practices in Ardiya industrial area. The

Qatar's desert rose museum finally blooms

DOHA: Almost a decade in the making, three years late and at an estimated cost of \$434 million, Qatar's vast national museum, built in the shape of a desert rose, opens this week. A glittering ceremony, expected to include Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, takes place tomorrow, with the doors opening to the public the next day.

"Architecture to give a voice to heritage whilst celebrating (the) future,"

Trump jubilant after Mueller finds no collusion

WASHINGTON: The White House was jubilant yesterday after the massive Russian collusion probe cleared President Donald Trump, freeing him to campaign for reelection - and tell Americans that he was right all along. "It's a great day for America," Trump's spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told CNN. Trump has been under the cloud of potentially historic scandal for two years while special prosecutor Robert Mueller delved into allegations that his 2016 election campaign colluded with Russian agents trying to tilt the polls in his favor.

lawmaker asked the minister about the number of crimes committed in the area since 2012. Hayef warned he will grill the minister next week over security issues and an undisclosed issue if he does not take the necessary procedures to deal with the issues he raised.

Another Islamist opposition MP Adel Al-Damkhi yesterday asked the ministers of interior and finance about the arrest and release of Syrian businessman Mazen Al-Tarazi, who is close to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. Damkhi said Tarazi was reportedly arrested on state security and money laundering accusations, but was released four days later. He asked if he was indeed arrested for such accusations and why was he released and under which legal pretext.

The lawmaker inquired if the ministry of interior came under any internal or external pressure to release the Syrian businessman, and asked for the nature of such pressures. Damkhi asked for the names of those who interrogated Tarazi and inquired if he was on US and European blacklists.

tweeted the museum's renowned French architect Jean Nouvel, also responsible for the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The pale, futuristic 52,000-sq-m structure located on Doha's waterfront corniche will be the first notable building visitors to Qatar see as they make their way from the airport to the city center. Even in a country which is being built, rebuilt and utterly transformed for the 2022 football World Cup, the national museum could be the single most eye-catching design of all Qatar's new buildings.

The entrance includes 114 fountain sculptures in a 900-metre long lagoon and the museum's multi-curved roof, which resembles a giant jigsaw puzzle, is made up of 76,000 panels in 3,600 different shapes and sizes. Inside, there is more than 1,500 m of gallery space. Among the exhibits is a 19th century

Continued on Page 24



DOHA: This handout picture shows a general view of the National Museum of Qatar building designed by French architect Jean Nouvel. — AFP

On Sunday, Attorney General William Barr said in a brief summary of the just-finished report that Mueller had found "no collusion with Russia". Mueller pointedly said that he could not determine whether Trump had committed the crime of obstruction of justice through his highly public opposition to the Russia probe, which he railed against as a "witch hunt". "While this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Barr cited Mueller as saying.

But that was only a wrinkle on an otherwise clear horizon as seen from the White House ahead of 2020 presidential elections. Democrats, who for two years have seen the Mueller report as fuel for potential impeachment, insist they will continue to use powerful congressional committees to probe further into Trump's business and political dealings with Russia. Trump advisor Kellyanne Conway told journalists she had two words for the president's foes. "Move on," she said in the spring sunshine outside the White House.

Trump has been relatively restrained so far, but addressed reporters while greeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House. Trump said Mueller acted honorably, but also threatened retaliation against his foes. "Yes he did," Trump said after Mueller - whom he often bitterly criticized during the investigation - declared there was no evidence of collusion by Trump or his campaign. Trump, who feels vindicated by the dropping of collusion allegations, said he would favor publication of the wider Mueller report. So far, only a short summary has been released.

"Up to the attorney general. Wouldn't bother me at all," he said at the White House. But Trump blasted the investigation as "a false narrative, it was a terrible thing." "We can never let this happen to another president again," he said. "Very few people I know could have handled it. We can never, ever let this happen to another president again."

Continued on Page 24