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Qatar still defiant

Says Arab demands 'made to be rejected' as deadline to resolve Gulf rift nears

AFP, Doha

A deadline was approaching yesterday for Qatar to accept a series of demands made by several Arab states to lift a de facto blockade, with no indications Doha was ready to comply.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said Saturday that the 13 demands from Saudi Arabia and several of its allies were designed to be spurned.

"The list of demands is made to be rejected," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"Everyone is aware that these demands are meant to infringe the sovereignty of the state of Qatar," he said at a news conference in Rome after meeting his Italian counterpart.

"The state of Qatar... is rejecting it as a principle," he said, adding: "We are willing to engage in providing the proper conditions for further dialogue."

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt announced on June 5 they were severing ties with their Gulf neighbour, sparking the worst diplomatic crisis to hit the region in decades.

They accused Doha of supporting extremism and of being too close to regional arch-rival Iran, which Qatar has strongly denied.

The crisis has raised concerns of growing instability in the region, home to some of the world's largest energy producers and several key Western allies hosting US military facilities.

On June 22 the Arab states presented a list of demands

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GRAFT SUSPECTS
26 appeals
still await
disposal

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has disposed of only one of the 27 appeals filed by graft suspects against their convictions during the past caretaker government although the Appellate Division had ordered the HC around two years ago to expeditiously settle the pleas through rehearing.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court came up with the orders after scrapping the verdicts delivered by the HC acquitting the accused of graft charges.

The HC cleared around 35 people, including Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and former BNP minister Nazmul Huda, in 27 cases.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

18 killed as blast hits Syria capital

Cornered suicide bomber blows himself up after car chase, two more bids foiled; no claim of responsibility so far

AFP, Damascus

A suicide car bomber pursued by security forces blew himself up in eastern Damascus yesterday, with a monitor reporting 18 killed in the deadliest attack to hit the Syrian capital in months.

Syrian state media and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said security forces intercepted three car bombers on their way into the city early in the morning.

State television said two of the vehicles were blown up on the outskirts of the city.

A third managed to reach the eastern Tahrir Square district, where the driver was surrounded but able to detonate a bomb.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but previous deadly attacks in Damascus have been claimed by the Islamic State group and rival jihadist factions.

The Britain-based Observatory said 18 people were killed in the bombing, including at least seven members of pro-regime security forces and two

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Syrian security members stand next to charred vehicles as they inspect the damage at the site of a suicide bomb attack in the capital's eastern Tahrir Square district yesterday.

PHOTO:
AFP

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

MIGRANT WORKERS
Malaysia
detains 515
Bangladeshis

THESTAR.COM.MY

The first day of the crackdown against illegal immigrants in Malaysia saw 1,035 foreigners, including 515 Bangladeshis and 16 employers, being detained.

Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said as at 1:00pm yesterday, enforcement officers inspected 155 premises around the country, screening 3,393 people.

Of those rounded up, he said the majority were from Bangladesh.

Among the other detained nationals are 135 Indonesian, 102 Myanmarese, 50 Philippines, five Thais and two Vietnamese.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Nasa plans to deflect asteroid



CNN ONLINE

Humanity could face one less doomsday scenario if Nasa has its way.

On Friday, the space agency announced plans to redirect the course of a small asteroid approaching Earth, as part of the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), according to a Nasa press release.

The release notes that asteroids hit Earth nearly every day, but most are small enough to burn up in the atmosphere.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Man murders
10-year-old
after failing
to rape her

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

A youth hacked a schoolgirl to death in Bogadubi village of Kishoreganj Sadar upazila yesterday after failing to rape her, police said.

The victim is Fahima Akter, 10, daughter of rickshaw puller Nazrul Islam of the village. She was a class-IV student at Bogadubi Government Primary School.

Quoting the victim's family and neighbours, Murshed Zaman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station, said Bazlu Mia, 22,

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চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি ২০১৭-২০১৯ সাল
মেয়াদের জন্য পুন: নির্বাচিত সভাপতি এবং সহ-সভাপতি মন্তব্যীর প্রতি

শ্রেষ্ঠেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



খনিলুর রহমান
সভাপতি
(কেডিএস লজিস্টিক্স লিঃ)



শঙ্কুক আলী চৌধুরী
১ম সহ-সভাপতি
(নামরোল এন্টারপ্রিজ লিঃ) (এস. আলী ফিফাইন্ড সুলান ইন্ডঃ লিঃ) (আরায়ালত ফ্যাশন গেমল্টস লিঃ)



সাঈফুল আলম মাসুদ
সহ-সভাপতি
(মীর পার্স এন্ড প্রেস ইন্ডঃ লিঃ) (মীরায়িত প্রেস ইন্ডঃ লিঃ)



গো. মাহবুব চৌধুরী
সহ-সভাপতি
(আরায়ালত ফ্যাশন গেমল্টস লিঃ)



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JULY 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Lightning kills 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Five people were killed and three others injured by a lightning strike in Atigram-Dhalsha village of Kushtia's Mirpur upazila yesterday.

The dead are Mosharraf Hossain, 55, of Poyari village, Abul Kashem, 43, and Shaheen, 42, of Atigram village, and Abdus Sattar, 40, and Yaar Ali, 12, of Kushabaria village.

Rakibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said the thunderbolt struck them when they were working

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