

Man eats

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in 1916 -- Chestnut wold down 70 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes to win the title.

His personal record -- and the world record -- is 73.5 dogs and buns in 10 minutes, but that came during a qualifying round rather than an actual contest.

After Tuesday's victory, organizer George Sheeza praised Chestnut as if he were a warrior returning from a distant battlefield.

"He is an American hero. He stands as a representative of freedom, of the American ideal," said Sheeza to the 30,000 people who turned out to watch the competition.

Chestnut spoke of himself in more measured language.

"I am just a goofy dude who likes to eat. I am a lucky guy, to travel around the world and eat and make people smile," he told reporters.

And Chestnut -- who began eating competitively in 2005 in an asparagus-munching contest -- does in fact want to get better for next year.

"I need to work on my condition so I don't sweat as much, because it slowed me down. I'll figure it out. I'll make my body work better. I have to figure out my body so I can push it to the absolute limit," said Chestnut.

America is famous for how obesity affected some one in three adults. So the hot dog contest is perhaps not a great example of healthy habits.

It is easy to watch.

The rules allow the 18 competitors to soak their hot dogs and buns in water to make them easier to choke them down. Using their fingers, they slammed the frankfurters back into their mouths and leaned their heads back to help the food ooze its way south.

Besides the 30,000 on hand to watch the event, many more took in the spectacle on TV. Sports network ESPN carried it live for the 11th straight year.

The event is overseen by a federation called Major League Eating, which holds about 80 such competitions each year in a season that runs from February to September. There are separate bouts for men and women.

Many victim

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have written to the higher authorities for rehabilitation of the victims. But we have not received any response yet. We want the victims to get their homes back as soon as possible."

On June 1, the body of local Juba League leader Nurul Islam Nayyan was found four miles away from Kharaghchari Sadar on Dighinalana-Kharaghchari road.

The next day, Bangalees, carrying the body, brought out a procession from Battiya Para. Later, some rowdy men vented and set fire to over 200 homes in three villages of Longuda, alleging that Nayyan was murdered by some indigenous men there.

Another girl

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not see any sign of a birthday party. I got scared and wanted to go back home but he did not let me go," she said.

The complainant further said Ivan then made her have dinner and some "drugs." When she tried to resist, he assured her that the drugs wouldn't harm her.

"Around 1:30am, he raped me in my room... when I started screaming, he drove me out of his house but kept my handbag.

"The accused had also raped me earlier, making promises of marriage," the girl added.

Ali Akbar, sub-inspector of Banani Police Station, said the accused was absconding. Police were trying to arrest him.

Earlier on March 28, two university students were allegedly raped after they attended a birthday party at a Banani hotel. Police have pressed charge against five accused in the case.

Iraq PM fetes 'victory' in Mosul

AFP, Baghdad

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi congratulated the Iraqi people and security forces on winning a "major victory" over jihadis in Mosul, but fighting in the city continued yesterday.

More than eight months since the start of the operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group, the jihadis have gone from fully controlling the city to holding a limited area on its western side.

Security forces have faced tough resistance, with sporadic suicide

bombings in recent days.

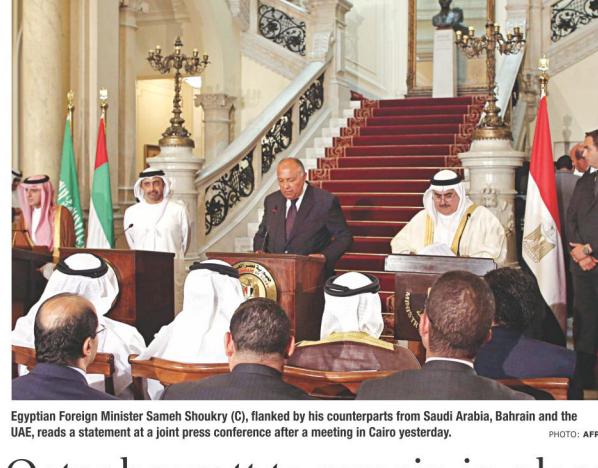
Abadi congratulated the country's security forces and the Shia religious leadership "on the achievement of this major victory in Mosul" in remarks broadcast Tuesday night.

But in Mosul's Old City, automatic weapons fire, shelling and air strikes yesterday made clear that the final stage of the battle for the city was not yet over.

The junior officers of Rabi and the police were trying to take the credit.

Later, I told them that credit goes to both forces as we worked hard," the DDCI told The Daily Star yesterday.

Farhad was taken to Adabor Police



Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry (C), flanked by his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE, reads a statement at a joint press conference after a meeting in Cairo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Qatar boycott to remain in place

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outlook to negative over the crisis.

The countries issued the 13-point

list of demands on June 22, giving Qatar 10 days to respond. The deadline was extended by 48 hours on Sunday at the request of Kuwait, which is mediating in the crisis, and Qatar handed in the response on Monday.

The contents of the response have not been disclosed, but Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said on Tuesday that the list of demands "is unrealistic and is not actionable".

Qatar has denied any support for extremism and accused the countries of seeking to infringe on its sovereignty.

Other demands include Qatar downgrading ties with Iran -- Saudi Arabia's regional arch-rival -- and shutting down a Turkish military base in the emirate.

In his phone call to Sisi, Trump "reiterated the need for all countries to follow through on their commitments at the Riyadh summit (in May) to stop terrorist financing and discredit extremist ideology," the White House said.

Qatar has said repeatedly it is ready for talks on the crisis, and Sheikh Mohammed reiterated that yesterday. "We welcome any serious efforts to

resolve our differences with our neighbours," he said at the Chatham House think-tank in London.

He accused Saudi Arabia and its regional allies of "demanding that we must surrender our sovereignty as the price for ending the siege".

Riyadh and its supporters have severed air, sea and ground links with Qatar, cutting off vital routes for imports including food.

They also ordered Qatari citizens to leave their territories and took various steps against Qataris firms and financial institutions.

The crisis has raised concerns of growing instability in the region, home to some of the world's largest energy exporters and key Western allies who host US military bases.

Energy-rich Qatar has been defiant throughout the crisis, insisting it can weather attacks against it.

On Tuesday, it even announced a major deal to export natural gas supplies with Qatar Petroleum, saying it to negative production to 100 million tonnes a year by 2024, up 30 percent from current levels.

Qatar is the world's leading producer of liquefied natural gas.

Its energy riches have transformed Qatar into one of the world's wealthiest countries, a major international investor and a regional player that will

host the 2022 football World Cup.

Concern has been growing, however, that a drawn-out crisis could have an economic impact.

Moody's said it was changing its credit rating outlook for Qatar to negative from stable, citing "the economic and financial risks arising from the ongoing dispute".

"The likelihood of a prolonged

period of uncertainty extending into 2018 has increased and a quick resolution of the dispute is unlikely over the next few months," the agency said.

Some critics of Qatar have accused it of links to extremist organisations including the Islamic State group, Al-Qaeda and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement.

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