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## Al-Sulaiti meets French minister



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti met yesterday with French Minister of Economy, Finance, Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire. They discussed bilateral relations in various areas of transport and ways to develop and enhance co-operation to broaden horizons, particularly the use of digital technologies related to transport services. The meeting was attended by French ambassador to Qatar Jean-Baptiste Faivre and the delegation accompanying the French minister. (QNA)



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met yesterday in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties, and ways to develop them, especially in economic and trade exchange. The two sides also touched on regional and international developments, particularly the developments in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. (QNA)

## Qatari women's role in nation's development hailed

QNA  
Algiers

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti has underlined that Qatari women are contributing effectively to the country's development, and assuming major roles in the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030 and its strategies.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti, who participated in the 10th Conference of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians, which was held within the framework of the 17th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Conference (PUIC) in Algiers, emphasised the great attention paid by the wise leadership of Qatar to promote and advance the role of women to become a real partner in the comprehensive de-



HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti attends the 10th Conference of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians in Algiers.

velopment, noting that Qatari women have achieved a prominent presence in various fields, and have assumed administrative, executive and leadership positions in various sectors.

She highlighted Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser's contribution to promoting the role of women in the Qatari society and making them one of the pillars of development in the country.

She affirmed that Qatari women enjoy all their rights, and enjoy the care and attention of the State which has been keen on providing women with educational opportunities from primary stages to postgraduate levels, whether inside or outside the country.

HE the Deputy Speaker also praised the pivotal role of Palestinian women in resisting the occupation and their contributions in supporting the Palestinian cause, and stressed the need to provide support and protection for them in light of the injustice and persecution the Palestinian people have been facing.

## FM underlines need to strengthen security, de-escalation in region



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani has stressed the importance of strengthening regional security and de-escalation in the region, underlining that Qatar has always sought to create a suitable environment for holding additional negotiating rounds of the nuclear agreement.

In a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Tehran yesterday, HE Sheikh Mohamed noted the importance of strengthening economic and trade co-operation with Iran, pointing out that the two countries have several commonalities, most notably religion and culture.

He stressed that Qatar is always looking forward to strengthening its relations with all countries of the region. On the Russian-Ukrainian crisis,

HE Sheikh Mohamed called on all parties to exercise restraint, resolve the dispute through dialogue and diplomatic means, settle international disputes by peaceful means, and not take action that would lead to further escalation.

He also affirmed Qatar's position and keenness on the Charter of the United Nations and the established principles of international law, including obligations under the Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means, and commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states.

HE Sheikh Mohamed reiterated Qatar's condemnation of some countries' allowance to infringe on the Holy Qur'an under the pretext of freedom of expression, warning that these provocative acts reinforce hate speech, Islamophobia, and division, and stressed

that Islam encourages peaceful coexistence.

For his part, the Iranian foreign minister said that his country has received messages from the parties participating in the nuclear agreement through Qatar. He appreciated Qatar's positive role in bringing the parties back to the nuclear agreement and in reaching a fruitful agreement, noting that Qatar has made commendable efforts and is playing an effective role in the talks on Ukraine. The Iranian minister said dialogue is the best way to resolve differences in the region, stressing that Iran welcomes a regional dialogue.

He indicated that there is a great development in Iran's relations with its neighbours in the Gulf region. He denounced the Israeli violations that led to the death of a large number of Palestinians, praising in this context the role of the Palestinian resistance. (QNA)

## Shura Council deputy speaker meets Jordan, Moroccan and OIC officials

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti met separately yesterday with the Speaker of the Jordan Lower House Ahmad Safadi, and the Deputy Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Mohamed Ouzzine, on the sidelines of the 17th session of the Conference of Union of Councils of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) that is currently being held in Algiers.

During the two meetings, they reviewed the existing co-operation between the Shura Council and the

Jordanian and Moroccan Houses of Representatives and ways to promote them, in addition to a range of topics on the agenda of the session.

HE the Deputy Speaker also met with Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Mohamed Qureshi Nias, and discussed with him the existing co-operation between the Shura Council and the union, and ways to enhance them.

She underscored the importance of taking practical stances, and setting a mechanism to respond to the systematic campaigns of the European

Parliament that target the OIC member states. She also called for taking a firm stance towards the burning of copies of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden, Netherlands and Denmark with the approval and protection of the official authorities of those countries, under the pretext that such a criminal and outrageous act falls under freedom of expression.

HE the Deputy Speaker stressed the importance of paying more attention to the Palestinian cause and for it to be considered the highest priority, and as the central issue of the Islamic world. (QNA)

## Qatar to participate in WHO executive board meeting

Qatar will participate in the 152nd session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Executive Board to be held from Jan 30 to Feb 7 in Geneva. Qatar's delegation is headed by HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari.

The meetings will focus on the priorities of the four main pillars namely, universal health coverage, better protection from health emergencies and better health and well-being for 1bn more people, and WHO providing better support efficiently and effectively. The topics covered by the 152nd session will include universal health coverage, preparedness and response to public health emergencies, global strategy for infection prevention and control,

and polio eradication. HE Dr al-Kuwari will also participate in the Steering Committee meeting of the "Healthy FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 - Creating Legacy for Sport and Health" in Geneva alongside leaders from WHO, FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC).

The Ministry of Public Health signed a three-year partnership with WHO, FIFA and SC, so that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be a beacon for promoting physical and mental health and a model for ensuring that future mega sporting events are healthy and safe.

The Steering Committee meeting will review the achievements so far within the framework of the partnership and identify the main priorities for 2023-24. (QNA)

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# Nissan's all-new 2023 X-TRAIL launched in Middle East

As part of its strategy to solidify its SUV leadership in the region, Nissan launched the all-new 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL in the Middle East.

Developed as a premium urban crossover, the new model furthers the brand's commitment to introduce innovative mobility solutions, and offers customers class-leading versatility, elevated exterior and interior designs, advanced safety, and improved levels of capability, a statement said.

The two-day launch event, held at King Abdullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia, began with an official unveiling of the all-new X-TRAIL hosted by Thierry Sabbagh, president of Nissan and INFINITI in the Middle East, alongside Adib Takiédine, managing director of Nissan Saudi Arabia.

Reflecting the Nissan SUV's role to 'Defy Ordinary', the key themes echoed across the event were eXpand, eXpress, eXplore, and eXhale, pushing guests to eXist beyond the everyday. A segment-leader on several fronts, the all-new model features the latest Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies, including ProPILOT Assist for the very first time on the X-TRAIL line-up, and offers heightened connectivity with up to a collective 35.4-inches of cabin screens.

Sabbagh said: "For over twenty years, the X-TRAIL has been an integral part of our SUV line-up in the region and has continually catered to the needs of families and adventure enthusiasts across the Middle East. Brought about by a deep understanding of our customers, the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL, which is one of our most technologically advanced SUVs to date, addresses customer desires in the rapidly growing mid-size SUV segment and is in line with our global Nissan NEXT transformation plan."

Marking the brand's first regional launch to take place in Saudi Arabia, the event served as a testament of Nissan's commitment to Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East, a key region of opportunity for Nissan since 1956.

Nassim Mourani, general manager - Automotive Group, Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, Qatar, said: "The all-new 2023 X-TRAIL is an exciting addition to the Nissan SUV line-up. This vehicle has been a firm favourite for over two decades with adventure-seeking families. Qatar and the region will warmly welcome this updated re-designed model. This digitally savvy audience will be eager to ex-



Developed as a premium urban crossover, the new model furthers the brand's commitment to introduce innovative mobility solutions, and offers customers class-leading versatility.

plore its intelligent technology, enhanced infotainment, and boosted engine power."

The latest addition to Nissan's impressive SUV lineup, the 2023 X-TRAIL features a striking exterior design, with distinctive Nissan elements including a signature V-motion grille and floating roof design. Accentuating the X-TRAIL's appeal to families are its bigger-opening rear door apertures, that open up to 85 degrees for easier rear access and egress. The interior receives a premium upgrade, underlined by Nappa leather-accented seating with 3D diamond quilting available on the top-of-the-range SL grade.

The 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is powered by an all-new 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine that, compared to its predecessor, raises power output by 12hp to 181hp, and boosts torque by 11Nm to 244Nm, for more effortless acceleration and confident overtaking. Power is pushed through an advanced Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with paddle-shift controls on the steering wheel for manual over-ride of the new shift-by-wire transmission interface.

Making its debut in the 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is an Intelligent 4x4 system with direct coupling that reacts faster than ever before, allowing for the seamless transfer of power between axles for ultimate stability and traction. A twist-dial Drive

Mode Selector provides five driving modes to choose from: Off-Road, Snow, Auto, Eco and Sports, with the added benefit of Hill Descent Control for carefully modulated downhill off-road driving.

Nissan Intelligent Mobility suite of active safety features is provided with greater capability, making it the safest X-TRAIL ever, with Nissan Safety Shield 360 that includes Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning and High Beam Assist. Supporting this is the first-ever introduction of Nissan's semi-autonomous ProPILOT Assist on X-TRAIL, which can accelerate, brake, and cruise at a set speed within a single lane.

The all-new model is available in four grades, with 2WD or 4WD options. This is in addition to 15 different colour combinations including five dual-tone options and 5-seater or 7-seater configurations.

The All-New Nissan X-TRAIL 2023, which is the fourth SUV model to sport the brand's latest design language and insignia, following the Patrol, Pathfinder, and KICKS, is available at Nissan's partner in Qatar, Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co., in its showrooms in Salwa Road, Al Sadd, Bin Omran, and Al Khor. More information or test drive is available at one of the showrooms (call 800 0505).

# Safari's latest 10, 20, 30 promotion starts today



Safari, a leading hypermarket chain in Doha, is launching the latest 10, 20, 30 promotion today.

Thousands of products spanning sections such as fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, bakery, hot food and other kinds of food, cosmetics, household, readymade garments, footwear, electronics, computer accessories, daily-use items, foodgrains and textiles are being offered for QR10, QR20 and QR30 at Safari outlets as part of the initiative, according to a press statement.

For instance, 1,400gm Sadia Chicken Griller for QR10, 5kg Parliament Basmati Rice for QR20, 2.8litre Tide Gel for QR30, 2 pieces of Infant T-Shirt for QR10, Santro Blender for QR30, and ALM Heavy Dry Iron for QR30 are some of the attractions.

Apart from these, the Safari Bakery and Hot Food section has prepared a variety of mouth-watering dishes. Dishes from Western, South Indian, North Indian, Arabic, Chinese and other kinds of cuisines are also available with "excellent combo offers" in addition to chicken dum biryani, chicken majboos and donuts, among others.

In the deli section of Fresh Food, fresh jams and other cheese items

such as butter block, fresh paneer, feta cheese, beef mortadella, lemon pickle, etc, are available in the 10, 20, 30 promotion.

Various types of juices, drinking water, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, various types of ice-cream, milk and milk products, and various other food products are on offer in the frozen section for QR10, QR20 and QR30.

The grocery section offers a wide range of snacks and other food products.

Similarly, along with a variety of multi-purpose products in the Household category, there are leading branded products in the cosmetics section, which include perfume, body spray, make-up sets, various soaps, facewash and body lotion, in addition to various health and beauty care products for Safari customers.

The Stationery section has various school and office stationery items and brands such as Faber Castell, Maped school kit and various other kinds of sets. Items are also available for QR10, QR20 and QR30 in the Toys and Sports section, offering a wide range.

In the Garments and Readymade category, a large collection of quality products is available covering

menswear, ladies' churidar, churidar materials, ladies' denim jacket, kids' wear, footwear, ladies' bags and clothes for newborns for QR10, QR20 and QR30.

Safari's Garments section also has a large collection of winter jackets, sweaters, winter T-shirts, winter hats and many other products.

In the Electronics category, the 10, 20, 30 promotion is offering customers a huge price reduction on devices such as emergency lights, trimmers, torches, calculators, headsets, smartwatches, etc, the statement added.

The 10, 20, 30 promotion is available at all Safari outlets in Qatar.

Safari is also giving customers an opportunity to win five Nissan Patrol 2022 model SUVs through its mega promotion, the 'Safari Win 5 Nissan Patrol Car Promotion'. Anyone can participate in this mega promotion by purchasing items worth QR50, and it is running at Safari Mall - Abu Hamour, Safari Hypermarket - Salwa Road, Safari Hypermarket - Al Khor and the newly opened Safari Hypermarket - Barwa Village.

Further, Safari customers also stand a chance to win cash prizes up to QR100,000 and prizes such as a laptop, LED TV and mobile phone.

## Costa Toscana docks at Doha Port



Italian cruise ship *Costa Toscana*, one of the largest cruise ships in the world, made another call at Doha Port yesterday (January 29), Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani Qatar) has announced. The *Costa Toscana* ship, which is 337m long, 42m wide, and has a draft of 8.6m, can accommodate more than 6,500 passengers. *Toscana* arrived on its third call in the 2022/23 cruise season with 3,426 tourists and 1,428 crew members on board. Sailing under the Italian flag, *Costa Toscana* is one of the most innovative and environmentally advanced cruise ships. It features its own waterpark, 13 swimming pools and hot tubs, 13 restaurants and 19 entertainment lounges. **PICTURES:** Mwani Qatar



## Cold conditions to continue today: Met Dept

Cold conditions are expected to continue in the country today, the weather forecast has revealed. The Qatar Met department has said in its report that it will be hazy to misty in some places in the early hours of the day, with the conditions becoming "relatively cold to cold". Some clouds are also expected. A minimum temperature of 10C is expected today in Mesaieed, Al Khor and Abu Samra. In Doha, the temperature will range from 13-23C. Yesterday, a minimum of 9C was recorded in Turayna, followed by 10C in Mesaieed, 11C in Sheehaniya, Abu Samra, Al Khor, Mukaynis, Ghuwayriyah and Karana, while the low in Doha (airport area) was 14C. Pictured are people in Doha on a wintry Sunday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam



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# Katara to host conference on public diplomacy

Katara - the Cultural Village, represented by the Katara Centre for Public Diplomacy, will host an international conference on February 19-20. Titled 'Public Diplomacy in the Arab Gulf States: Policies and Practices', the conference will be held in co-operation with the Gulf Studies Centre (GSC) at Qatar University.

The announcement was made at a press conference attended by Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti and Global Public Diplomacy Network secretary-general engineer Darwish Ahmed al-Shaibani and GSC director Dr Mahjoub al-Zweiri.

Prof al-Sulaiti said the conference will be held during Katara's hosting of the 8th general assembly meeting of the International Public Diplomacy Network. "The conference will have wide scientific participation by diplomats, researchers, academics and experts from Qatar and 34 countries. They will present 35 papers distributed on various aspects of the conference while contributing to the advancement of public diplomacy in GCC and enhancing its role and practice in bringing societies together. Also, the sessions will contribute to



Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti is flanked by Dr Mahjoub al-Zweiri and Darwish Ahmed al-Shaibani at the press conference.

demics and experts from Qatar and 34 countries. They will present 35 papers distributed on various aspects of the conference while contributing to the advancement of public diplomacy in GCC and enhancing its role and practice in bringing societies together. Also, the sessions will contribute to

development, achieving aspirations and meeting the interests of peoples," he said.

The Katara general manager stated that the conference is being held at a time when the Katara Centre for Public Diplomacy is achieving continuous success in spreading the culture and awareness of the importance

of public diplomacy and building national capabilities in the field through lectures, meetings and training courses. He said the conference will open new horizons in the field of public diplomacy in the Gulf countries both in terms of ideas and visions, or application and practice.

Al-Shaibani said the conference would contribute to enhancing knowledge exchange and arriving at the best policies and practices in the field of public diplomacy in the Arab Gulf states. He noted that the conference would constitute an ideal platform for reviewing the latest theories and ideas in public diplomacy, bringing together a group of diplomats, researchers and academics from Qatar and various countries.

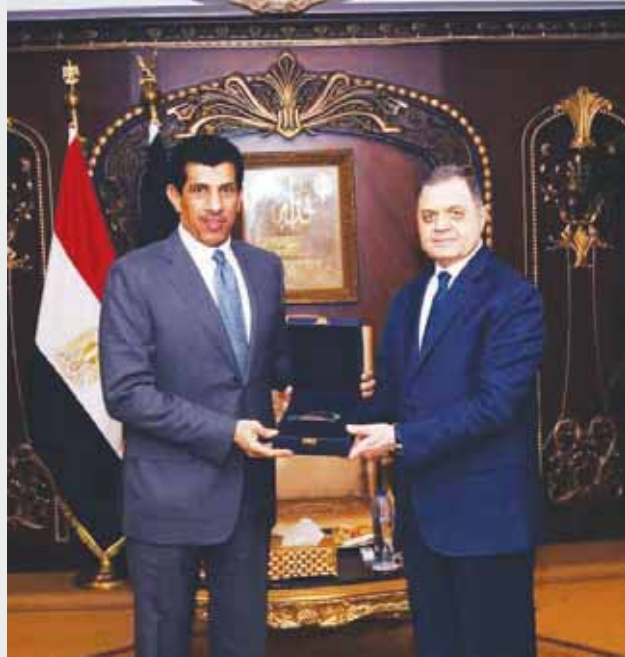
"This is with the aim of benefiting from contemporary international experiences and exploring new horizons for public diplomacy in light of the rapid international challenges and changes," he added.

Dr al-Zweiri said the conference will focus on the policies of the Arab Gulf states and their role in the field of public diplomacy, including Qatar, which has achieved a world-renowned position in public diplomacy in its various fields.

## Amir congratulates Czech president-elect

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Petr Pavel on his victory in the presidential elections in the Czech Republic, wishing him success, and bilateral relations further development and growth. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Pavel on his victory in the presidential elections. **(QNA)**

## PM sends written message to Egyptian minister



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani sent a written message to Egyptian Interior Minister Maj Gen Mahmoud Tawfik, pertaining to bilateral relations and means to bolster and develop them. Qatar's ambassador in Cairo Salem bin Mubarak al-Shafi delivered the message during a meeting with the Egyptian minister. **(QNA)**

## Bulgarian official meets ambassador in Sofia



Foreign Policy Secretary of the Bulgaria President Roussi Ivanov met with Qatar's ambassador in Sofia Fahd bin Ibrahim al-Mushiri. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations. **(QNA)**



**The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:**

**Important Notice:**  
Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via e-Registration system and are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website. Effective 1st February 2016, payment of Tender Fee by Cash and Manual collection of Tender Document is discontinued.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Sale Period		Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
		Start Date	End Date					
1.	GT23100900	29.01.2023	02.02.2023	19.02.2023	250,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: <b>PROVISION OF WORKBOAT TO SUPPORT SUBSEA ASSET INTEGRITY REMEDIAL WORK AND CONSTRUCTION AT PS1</b>								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								
2.	LT22MT0047	30.01.2023	05.02.2023	20.02.2023	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: <b>SALE &amp; REMOVAL OF MAINTENANCE &amp; FACILITIES ITEMS</b>								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								

\* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.

\* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website ([www.qatarenergy.qa](http://www.qatarenergy.qa)) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders

\* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website only.

\* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website

\* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.

\* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy e-Registration system on urgent basis.

\* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.

**For more information about QatarEnergy and its Tenders. Please visit our website: <http://www.qatarenergy.qa>**

# QDB launches third batch of 'Go Global' Export Accelerator

**QNA**  
Doha

Applications are now open until Feb 7 for the third batch of the 'Go Global' Export Accelerator, a programme designed by the Qatar Export Development and Promotion Agency (TASDEER), the export arm of Qatar Development Bank (QDB), to further qualify and train entrepreneurs to export their products to regional and international markets.

Held in partnership with QDB partners at Singapore Management University, this batch aims to qualify small and medium-sized companies wishing to export for the first time, and exporters wishing to expand their export activity, with a focus on service and manufacturing companies based on their exporting capabilities.

The programme aims to accelerate the exporters' capabilities, in line with their aspirations to access international markets, in addition to addressing the challenges related to planning or organisation aspects to access new markets.

Export Development Manager at QDB Hala Ali al-Misnad said the third

batch would achieve the programme's objectives of qualifying Qatari exporters and the QDB's strategy of developing and boosting the capabilities of entrepreneurs and fostering their access to international markets, voicing hopes the third batch would be as successful as the previous ones.

The participating entrepreneurs will receive integrated training that includes developing export strategies, identifying and analysing target markets, developing marketing plans, identifying available resources and necessary logistical services, and how to co-ordinate meetings with buyers.

The programme's first and second batches saw the successful training of 30 exporters.

The 2022 batch qualified and trained 15 exporters, including four first-time exporters, with all of them having been involved in bilateral meetings that resulted in 40 new exporting opportunities at a value of QR216mn by the end of 2022.

The QDB called on all male and female entrepreneurs wishing to join the program to post their applications as soon as possible on TASDEER platform, available on the banks website, for all the required details.

**ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender**

Tender No.	Subject	Fees QR.	Tender Bond QR.	Closing Date
ARPM/117-2023/TEN/DOH	Provision of Housekeeping Services to Al Bidda Park for 2 Years	2,000	50,000	01.03.2023

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email [l.cabral@arpm.com.qa](mailto:l.cabral@arpm.com.qa) during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)

2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:

- Beneficiary Name:** Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
- Account No.** 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)

And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.

3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. **The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.**

4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.

5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.

6. Copies of valid **Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter** must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.

7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 30 days after contract expiry.

8. Offers should be valid for 90 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).

9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.

10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.

11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.

12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

**CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE**  
TEL: 40341804


**Envoy in Panama meeting**

**Counter-terrorism co-ordination meeting for parliamentary assemblies to begin in Doha today**

The 3rd Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Meeting, organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and UN Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism (based in Doha), will be held today in Doha, in co-operation with the Shura Council.

The meeting, in which representatives of regional and international parliamentary associations and unions participate, seeks to review the relevant activities and initiatives implemented and launched by parliamentary councils, including co-operation with UNOCT, as well as discussing areas of priority and geographical focus for potential future initiatives of the parliamentary assemblies on issues related to combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on border security and cross-border co-operation in the context of counter-terrorism – which seeks to acquire a better understanding of the international legal framework on border security and co-operate to prevent and combat terrorism, will also be held. **(QNA)**



**QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY**

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER**

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-369328	SERVICE OF CONVEYOR BELT MAINTENANCE & REPAIR ACTIVITIES	500/- (Non-refundable)	540,000/- (Five Hundred Forty Thousand Only)	30.01.2023 31.01.2023 01.02.2023 02.02.2023 05.02.2023 06.02.2023 07.02.2023	23.02.2023

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 – 1100 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".





Snapshots from the Marmi 2023 ceremony, which was attended by HE Sheikh Joaan, various dignitaries, heads of diplomatic missions and others.



## Marmi 2023 concludes

The 14th edition of the Qatar International Falcons and Hunting Festival (Marmi 2023) concluded with a ceremony at Katara – the Cultural Village on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by VIP guests, heads of diplomatic missions, dignitaries, and the board of directors of Al Qannas Qatari Society, alongside falconers from Qatar and other GCC countries as well as other officials and guests.

Accordingly, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, patron of the Marmi 2023 festival, crowned the winners of the falcon beauty

(Mazayen) contest, which saw the participation of 101 falcons across various types and categories.

The first place winner in the category of wild falcon breeds won a prize of QR700,000, the second QR500,000, and the third QR300,000.

In the category of farm-bred falcons, the first prize amounted to QR200,000, the second QR150,000 and the third QR100,000, while in the category of spotted kestrel falcons, the first prize stood at QR200,000, the second QR150,000, and the third QR100,000.

Saleh Mohamed al-Kuwari, an observer of

the falcon beauty contest at the festival, said that the competition this year was strong due to the high level of the participating falcons.

He stressed it was hard for the jury members to decide the top three winners in each category.

Marmi 2023 was organised by Al Qannas Qatari Society at Sabkhat Marmi in the Seeline area, under the patronage of HE Sheikh Joaan.

It drew local, regional and international attention as one of the major festivals in its category, pioneered by Qatar to maintain and develop the heritage sport.

## Civil Service and Government Development Bureau holds first meeting of 2023

The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau has organised the first government development meeting of 2023 with the participation of 150 representatives from 34 government agencies.

The meeting is aimed at emphasising the importance of co-operation among government agencies to implement joint plans.

Bureau President HE Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa stressed the importance of partnership and co-operation to spread the culture of development in all government institutions.

He pointed to the need to hold periodic meetings to develop future visions and ideal solutions to achieve the highest levels of development for human resources in government agencies, while setting the necessary standards to facilitate their development.

Al-Khalifa highlighted the important role of the planning, quality and innovation departments.

The Government Development Team at the bureau shed light on the government development projects, most notably the government services strategy.



The meeting was attended by 150 representatives from 34 government agencies.

The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau indicated that the government services strategy includes axes such as evaluating the current situation, identifying priority services, identifying targeted services through standard measurement in delivery and service excellence models, identifying targeted services for change in Qatar, and developing a transition strategy by identifying the main gaps between the future state to be reached and the current state, the executive action plan by formulating an implementation plan

for the transition strategy to update government service standards, and re-engineering five priority customer journeys through a detailed assessment of the current situation.

The meeting shed light on launching a guide for defining and documenting government services and their procedures on the website of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau.

The meeting touched on the "Sharek" project in the unified platform for customer experience management with the aim of improving services based on the experience of customers, through



all communication channels and by knowing the opinions and evaluation of the community for services.

Under the project, a customer experience team will work to improve the customer experience by analysing the reasons for complaints, developing solutions to them, and translating them into reports and recommendations.

The meeting also discussed the Secret Shopper initiative, which was launched in September 2022.

A total of 130 secret shoppers of different nationalities, groups and ages participated in the initiative to contribute to improving the experience of customers and raising the quality of services and the percentage of satisfaction.

The attendees were briefed about the Government Excellence Programme, which is an integrated programme that encourages excellence in the provision of government services by setting standards for quality of government performance and evaluating institutions based on these standards.

A programme for training and empowering government employees in the field of innovation was also discussed during the meeting. - QNA



## Children's ward at hospital in Poland opens with Qatar's support

Qatar's ambassador to Poland Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Fakhroo participated in the opening of the children's ward at Garwolin City Hospital, which was renovated with the support of Qatar.

This opening had a positive impact on the residents of the city, who expressed their happiness about the renovation, and praised the support provided by Qatar.

The city's health officials have confirmed that thanks to the generous donation from Qatar, the children's stay in the hospital will be more comfortable.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of officials from the Polish government and senate, and the Qatar embassy's diplomatic staff. - QNA



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## Qatar Charity distributes much-needed school supplies to orphans in Sudan

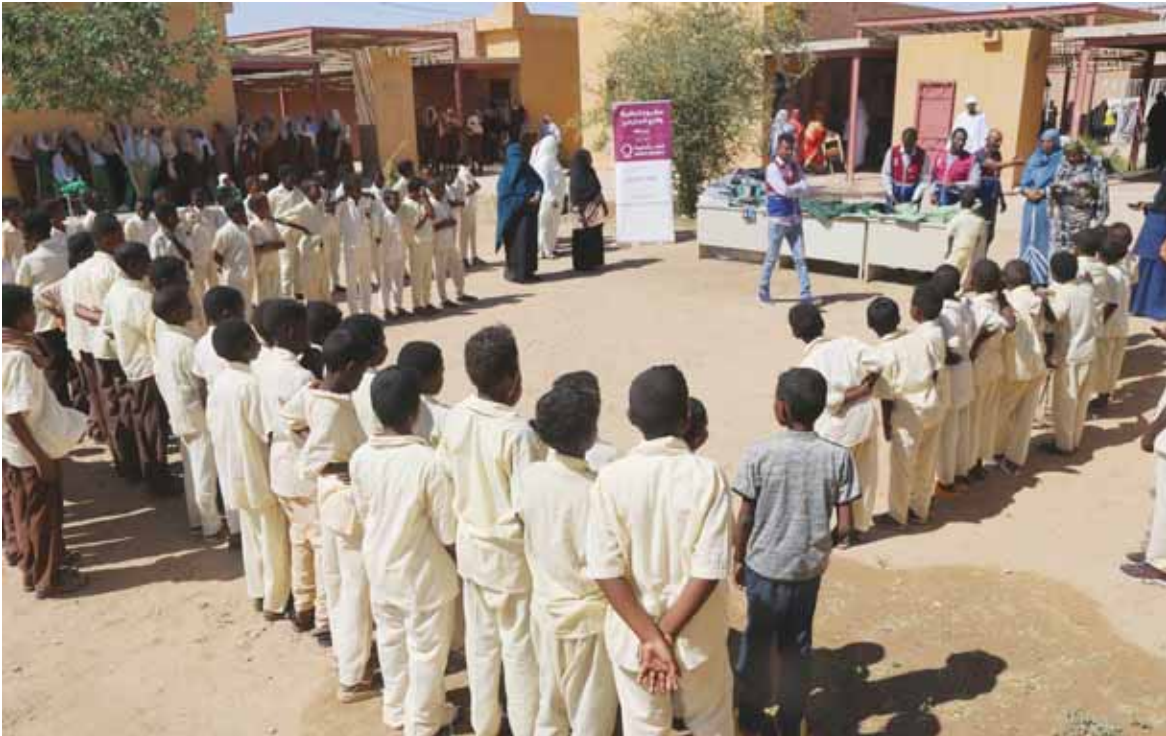
Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed school uniforms and bags among orphaned students in the Sheikhha Aisha Bint Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Attiyah Model Orphans City in Sudan's River Nile State. The distribution initiative came as part of the QC's orphan care efforts, supported by the benefactors of Qatar,



The Qatar Charity initiative is aimed at supporting the orphans and provide a suitable environment for them.

a press statement noted. The project is aimed at supporting the orphans and provide a suitable

environment for them, in addition to reducing the burden on their families in terms of educational requirements. The generosity of the people of Qatar created an atmosphere of joy and happiness for the orphans, said Youssef Abdullah, the director of Social Affairs and representative of the executive director of Ad Damer district, where the Sheikhha Aisha Bint Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Attiyah Model Orphans City is located. The official appreciated Qatar Charity's continuous humanitarian and development support in the region. He indicated that the uniforms, bags and school supplies were distributed to the orphans at a time when



they were most in need. The mothers of the beneficiary orphans expressed happiness at receiving school bags and uniforms provided for their children, thanking the benefactors in Qatar and QC for this humanitarian initiative. Rehab Othman, a mother of two orphans, said her daughters were happy

to get the bags and uniforms, as well as other school supplies. Umm Salama, a mother of three orphans, said many families and mothers of orphans could not afford school bags, supplies and new uniforms for their children. She said that the uniforms provided by the QC helps to alleviate the suffer-

ing of many mothers of the orphans. Qatar Charity pays great attention to orphans by implementing various programmes and projects, as part of its social welfare efforts for those sponsored in Sudan. The number of those sponsored in Sudan is currently 13,291, the statement adds.

# 20 papers presented on Day 2 of the Annual Palestine Forum

## Palestinian Memory Project launched at annual forum

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Twenty papers were presented and two workshops were held during the second day of the 2023 Annual Palestine Forum yesterday. The highlights included the launch of the Palestinian Memory Project, as well as the inauguration of the Ostour Symposium. Eleven papers were presented at the first session, which covered three main themes: the sociology of Palestinian identity, development discourse in Palestine and colonial violence, and Palestine in a historical perspective. In his paper *Trans-Territorial Sumud: Refugee Responses to Multiple Systems of Oppression in Bourj el-Barajneh Camp*, Rami Rmeileh offered an alternative conceptual framework to understanding the concept of Sumud (steadfast perseverance). Nour Bader, in a paper titled *Spatial and Temporal Sociology of Camp Identity: Al-Wehdat - New Amman as a Model*, deconstructed the spatio-temporal identity of the Wehdat Camp. In their paper *Settler Colonialism and the Birth of New Prisoners: Migration from the Gaza Strip*, Ahmed Mamoun and Zahraa Shabana discussed how Israel attempts to depopulate the Gaza Strip through its blockade. In her paper *Between Ruins and Remnants: Religious Renewal among Christians in West Bank Palestine*, Elizabeth Marteinj examined Palestinian Christian thought and practice in

relation to the changing political and social context of the West Bank. Four papers looked at colonial violence in development discourse on Palestine. Hasan Ayoub and Eleyan Sawafta's paper - *Development and Settler Colonialism: Perpetuating Neo-Colonial Domination and Apartheid* - discussed the relationship between the conceptual framing of Israel in the Palestinian territories and development practices. Ashraf Bader's paper, titled *A Critical Reading of the Neoliberalism of the Palestinian Authority under Zionist Settler Colonialism*, looked at the neo-liberalisation of the Palestinian political economy. Abdelrahman Murad focused on the proliferation of a counter-discourse on development from Palestinian civil society in response to the neoliberal policies ostensibly put in place for the development of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) in his paper *The Construction of a Counter-Hegemonic Discourse on Economic Development: A Critical Analysis of Palestinian Policy*. Marta Parigi presented her paper on *The Effect of Israeli Settlement-Related Structural Violence on Palestinian Food Security*, which discussed how structural violence entrenched in settlements hinders the Palestinians' ability to access healthy, nutritious food items. Three papers discussed Palestine in a historical perspective. Presenting his paper on *Transformation of Collective Identity from Ottomanism to Arabism*, Adel Manna analysed the life and works of Ah-

mad Helmi Pasha (1882-1963). In *The Palestinian Cultural Scene during the British Mandate: Al-Karmel and Filastin Newspapers as Examples*, Johnny Mansour analysed cultural advertisements in newspapers to better understand the Palestinians cultural scene during the British Mandate in the cities of Haifa, Jaffa, and Jerusalem. Ali T As'ad provided a historical overview of Palestinian exhibition-making through his paper, *Palestine and the National Sensorium: Exhibition-Making in the Twentieth Century*. The second session of the Palestine forum focused on three themes: Palestinian economy, demography, and memory. Three papers were presented on the economy. Raja Khalidi and Islam Rabee presented their paper *Prospects for Palestinian Economic Cooperation and Complementarity across the Green Line*. They gave an in-depth examination of the economic relations that connect Palestinians in the territories occupied in 1967 with those in Israel. Rabeh Morrar and Rand Jibril presented their paper *Promoting the Development of the Startup Ecosystem in Palestine and its Potential Effects on Public Finance*, which focused on the effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority's policies in encouraging the development of a startup culture and economy. Areen Hawari and Sami Mahajna's paper - *Split in Two Parts: The Dynamics of the Commercial Relationship between the Palestinians from within the Green Line and Jenin* - focused on the impact of the daily economic interactions of Palestinians across the Green Line on Pal-



A panel discussion in progress at the forum yesterday. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

stinian society, its social fabric, and its national unity. Three papers were presented on demographic research in Palestine. Youssef Courbage and Hala Naufal's paper - *Demography of the Palestinians* - was an overview of the growth of the Palestinian population globally and its political weight. Mohammed Duraidi presented a paper on *The Palestinian Population in the Palestinian Territories and the Palestinians within the Green Line: Demographic Status and Population Projections*, where he argued that there are unique patterns of population components among residents of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Palestinians within the Green Line. Thayer Hastings's paper *On the Crisis of Demographic Balance and Majority in Jerusalem* proposed to identify demography as an institutional location from which to examine the conditions and contradictions of a colonial biopolitics. Three papers were presented on Palestinian memory of the Nakba and of refugees in different camps. Azadeh Sobout's paper on *War-Memoryscapes and the Grassroots Agency for Justice: Re-Searching the Truth-Memory Practices of Palestinians in Nahr el Bared* provided an exploration of the narratives, stories, and memories

that focus on destruction, siege, the postponed home, the need for return, memorialisation, and reconstruction. Reham Amro's paper *The Moment of the Nakba: The Erasure of the Palestinian People, the Keys to Stolen Doors, and the Duality of the Intellectual and the Peasant* meanwhile analysed the personal testimonies of Palestinian peasants (fallahin). Rola Sirhan focused on how Arab regimes have manipulated the memory of the 1967 defeat in her paper *Memory of Defeat and Palestinian Social and Political Imaginaries: Dominance without Hegemony*. The two workshops yesterday were held in the afternoon. The first hosted four speakers - Osama Abuirshaid, Ahmed Abuznaid, Malia Bouattia, and Majed Abusalama - who discussed the challenges faced by activists for the Palestinian cause in the Western context. The second workshop featured the launch of the Palestinian Memory Project website "PalQuest" and the relaunching of the Jerusalem Story website by Mueen al-Taher, Kate Rouhana and Khaled Farraj. The forum will continue today, the third and final day, in a similar format to the previous two days, along with the Ostour Symposium being held in parallel to the main forum.



The project is a collaboration between Save the Dream, the QFFD and Qatar Charity.

## 'Saving Children's Dreams' Somalia project is launched

Jointly with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity (QC), Save the Dream has started the first field activity of the "Saving Children's Dreams in Somalia through Sport" project. This programme falls under the umbrella of the Sport for Development and Peace initiative, which seeks to highlight sport as an effective tool for building societies, empowering and inspiring children and youth in less developed countries. Developed with the institutional support of Unesco and primarily implemented in the city of Garowe in the state of Puntland, the project is aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation in Somalia through empowering youth and creating opportunities for vulnerable groups. Marking the occasion, deputy director-general for projects and development at the QFFD, Sultan al-Aseeri, said: "Sport has proven to be an innovative tool of peace and cohesion, playing a vital role in fostering physical, social, and emotional health, improving learning outcomes, and transmitting key values such as teamwork, fair play, respect for others, especially among youth." "That is why we launched our inspiring 'Sport for Development and Peace' initiative in 2022," he said. Massimiliano Montanari, the chief executive of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) and Save the Dream, pointed out the availability of tools that Save the Dream and the international community have developed in the field of sport for development and peace. "This means fulfilling the mission to protect children's dreams by building local capacities to provide these children with a safe access to sport and its educational values," he said. The QC chief executive's assistant for the international operations and programme, Nawaf al-Hammadi, said this initiative is an extension of Qatar Charity's previous efforts in co-operation with the QFFD and other partners. "The initiative was implemented in Darfur, Sudan, and now we are taking another step forward to implement it in Somalia," he said. As part of the first phase of the project's implementation, partners kicked off a "Train the Trainer (TTT)" programme which will lead to the delivery of capacity building activities on Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) for the benefit of local schools, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community and social centres, sport coaches, educators, role models, youth leaders, and volunteers. Initiated by the ICSS, Save the Dream is a global initiative to empower youth through safe access to sports and its educational values. - QNA

## How to resist neo-colonial domination and apartheid

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter



Eleyan Sawafta

Eleyan Sawafta, president of the C.O.N.F.L.I.C.T. Alliance, graduate research assistant at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)'s School of Education, and the 1990's Palestinian generation's representative, presented yesterday a paper on *Development and Settler Colonialism: Perpetuating Neo-Colonial Domination and Apartheid*, with his colleague Hasan Ayoub at the 2023 Annual Palestine Forum. He spoke to Gulf Times on self-sufficiency under the occupation and continuation of resistance. "I think this is a very important question," Sawafta said. "I was born in 1990 and I experienced the peace process and the second Intifada, when everybody was in their homes for several weeks." "We did not go to schools, everybody was stuck at home, and the main issue was how to handle the situation and how we can understand our sustainability," he said. "It was easy and simple: people at that time had their own basic needs," Sawafta continued. "I am from a farming family, my father is a farmer and he goes to his farm every day." "What is going on in Palestine is a land based struggle. If we understand the conflict from this angle, we can present our arguments about how we can improve our sustainability," he said. "How can we stand against this regime or settler colonialism?" Sawafta posed. "We need to understand ourselves outside the world order of public policies." "It does not work if we keep just talking about Bretton Woods institutions - the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund - and

World Bank policies," he stated. "Now, Palestinian people have their own basic needs and we suggest, in our paper, that we need collaborations and people-centred development," Sawafta said. "We should start from, for example, agricultural projects in designated areas," he added. "These lands are very important to keep fighting and resisting against settler colonialism." "Land is a key in this conflict, without which I think we lose the game, and we should work on this issue," the scholar stressed. "The entire agricultural sector is struggling now. My father tells me every day that he is under pressure and could be out of his land within two years," he continued. "The (Israeli) colonisation (programme) is trying to push them in a silent way towards migration. They control water resources, and they entice them with money." "So, if you have an option between making either \$25 or \$150 a day, plus loans, and a very satisfactory economic situation, most likely you will choose second option," Sawafta pointed out. "This is what is happening now, they are trying to take our labourers, and they control water resources," he reiterated. "Even though you have land, ideas to develop it, you do not have any tools to do whatever you want to achieve." "So after two or three years, you will give up and leave the land to them," he said. "This is a very dangerous idea, and that is why we say that settler colonialism is a classic colonial regime and at the same time it is apartheid, it is neo-colonialism." "We need to understand the context, to understand the conflict first, and then we propose our ideas about development, what we should do and from where we should start," Sawafta concluded.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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Ahmed Mansour Primary School students attend awareness lecture on environment.



Students of Qatar Primary School for Girls learn about the techniques of robot operation.

# Minister stresses need to protect environment

**H**E the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed al-Thani stressed the need to protect the environment and wildlife in all parts of the country, especially those that have been declared as natural reserves, as well as plant environments.

During his tour of meadows and wildlife areas in the country on Saturday, HE Sheikh Dr Faleh noted the importance of instructing meadow visitors and drivers regarding their responsibilities towards these reserves, stressing the need to increase the

use of sign boards in meadow areas, determining vehicles' paths in wild areas, to forbid entry to them, to prevent the trampling over grass beds and damaging natural vegetation with cars and motorcycles.

He said in a press statement that the rains that swept through Qatar reflected positively on the growth of wild plants and local trees in many meadows and natural reserves, pointing out that the aim of the tour is to oversee the protection procedures of meadows, and their growth and prosperity for the pleasure of all citizens, especially camp owners,

as well as preserving those places from camp waste, and following environmentally-friendly practices that do not affect them due to their environmental sensitivity and importance.

HE Sheikh Dr Faleh said that the ministry's procedures are not intended to impose penalties on violators, but rather to raise awareness and guide visitors to natural reserves and valleys on the importance of preserving those places that God has endowed Qatar with.

He pointed out that the number of violations decreased recently, as a result of the sense of respon-

sibility shown by natural reserve visitors, and that offenders are a small segment that is unaware of the rules and regulations in relation to these locations.

He said that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is working on setting up barriers for entry of vehicles to these meadows, whilst removing pedestrian barriers. It also runs patrols to protect these sites throughout the day, to give advice and guidance to all visitors, wishing them an enjoyable visit to meadows and nature reserves.

Assistant Undersecretary for Protection and Natural Reserves

Affairs Dr Ibrahim Abdullatif al-Maslmani emphasised the importance of vehicle compliance with taking the roads designated for them, and to avoid driving into sites with trees and wild plants.

Director of the Wildlife Development Department Mohamed al-Khinji said that the ministry is putting a great effort within the framework of local environment protection, working to rehabilitate some sites, pointing out that rehabilitation works include the planting of trees and plants appropriate for these meadows, in benefiting from the rainy period. (QNA)

## Awareness lecture for students on pollution

**T**he Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) held an awareness lecture for the students of Ahmed Mansour Primary School during their visit to the ministry's building.

The lecture offered them the techniques of preserving the environment, types of pollution and the threat it poses to the natural environment, as well as its implications on human health.

The lecture was delivered by the expert in awareness programmes at the ministry Lulwa al-Hamar, during which she focused on the criticality of preserving the environment, introducing the students to the ministry's strategy, along with its national role in conserving the local environment with its all types, whether terrestrial or Aquatic, in addition to the endangered species, and the critical ecological equilibrium those animals represent inside Qatar.

She discussed the MoECC's efforts in this field which led to the increase of the number of those species, with the construction of natural reserves that evidently prohibit hunting or killing those animals.

Al-Hamar underscored the importance of clean environment which symbolises a civilised appearance for the country, and is positively reflected on human physical and psychological health. On the contrary, the polluted environment has profound damages on the public health of Qatari society, whether in the short or long term.

She introduced the students to their responsibilities towards their homeland, local environment, and methods of preserving it, whether in onshore or lands that are visited by all people during winter season, indicating that students are the nucleus that builds societies.

At the end of the lecture, environmental contests were organised for the students, in addition to offering them prizes from the ministry.

Meanwhile, the ministry hosted a group of students from Qatar Primary School for Girls to discuss the scientific research titled: "Design of a robot that sterilises the toilet with ultraviolet rays", within the framework of the support provided by the ministry to the scientific researches in Qatar schools.

Researcher Susan Mohamed Essam held a brainstorming session with the students during their discussion on the methods and techniques of robot operation, in addition to the anticipated benefit from the application of this research in practical and eco-friendly way, by replacing the robot's battery with solar panels to reduce power consumption, and prevent the contamination arising from the use of batteries.

She pointed out that the use of chemical detergents should be reduced during the sterilisation operation, as an excellent solution, which is eco-friendly, and reduces the environmental pollution caused by these detergents. (QNA)

## Call for spreading public awareness to protect local environment



More efforts need to be undertaken by the authorities concerned in the country to protect wild meadows against unauthorised entry with vehicles, which causes significant damage to the local environment there. An online questionnaire was issued recently by local Arabic daily *Arrayah* on how to curb such violations, with most of the participants stressing the need for tighter control and stricter penalties for violators. Some respondents suggested that most of these meadows should be fenced off, especially after rainfall, in a way that makes them inaccessible for vehicles. Others recommended that there should be surveillance cameras powered by



solar energy to monitor such places round the clock and spot violators, while some others suggested that encroaching upon such areas with vehicles should be punishable with hefty fines. Some respondents said the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change should create a new application with a photo option. This will allow people to take photos of related violations and send them promptly to the authorities through the app. In general, most respondents affirmed the need to spread awareness among the public to prevent such unacceptable practices in order to protect the local environment.

## Blinken's visit fails to enthuse Palestinians

From Page 1

Some observers in the Middle East see that Blinken was hoping to use his meetings and dialogues in the occupied Jerusalem to ram up pressure on Netanyahu and his government members, on a combination of issues, including rights and freedoms for both the Palestinians and Israelis, in addition to the criticality of establishing a Palestinian state. However, such issues will occupy a second rank, as the most important and exigent thing before the US Secretary of State right now is to urge for de-escalation.

Observers underscore that Blinken is likely to repeat the

traditional American stance, instead of opening new prospects, adding that the best result of the anticipated tour is that he will manage to ensure stability and avoid the recurrence of May 2021, with reference to the war that broke out in Gaza. Page 9

Observers say that the new Israeli government calls for numerous policies that are evidently contradictory to the US objectives, including expanding the settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal by the United Nations as well. The observers see that the establishment of an adjacent Palestinian state in light of these Israeli practices as impossible.

## Freestyle Kite World Cup begins at Fuwairit Beach tomorrow

From Page 1

"Kiteboarding fans worldwide, as well as the competitors at the event, will once again see and experience the improving landscape for world class kiteboarding competition that our close partnership with the tour's title partner, Qatar Airways, and tourism partner, Qatar Tourism, continues to deliver." Other key international sporting events coming up in Qatar in 2023 include the Beach Pro Tour volleyball finals, ATP and WTA tennis tournaments, Qatar MotoGP and the Qatar Formula 1 Grand Prix.

To book day passes and kite surfing lessons at Fuwairit Kite Beach, visit: [discoverqatar.qa/fkb](https://discoverqatar.qa/fkb) For more details on the event schedule, participating riders and the Freestyle-Kite scoring system, visit: [www.gkakiteworldtour.com](https://www.gkakiteworldtour.com)

# Gord to support Kuwait Vision 2035 with GSAS standards

**T**he Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) was among the leading organisations highlighted at the Gulf Green Cities & Buildings Conference & Expo in Kuwait on January 25-26.

Organised under the patronage of Abdulaziz Waleed Abdullah al-Mujel, Kuwait's Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, the event gathered advocates, practitioners and researchers to share the latest solutions and advancement needed to catalyse the region's transition towards sustainable built environment.

As one of the main participants at the event, Gord offered technical presentations and workshop on GSAS green building rating system as well as exhibited its sustainable solutions that piqued the interest of visitors coming from across the Gulf region.

Gord also showcased its sustainability solutions represented in demonstrating the patent of ultra-efficient cooling system called "Synergia 7in1", which attracted the attention of conference visitors from all GCC countries.

After Qatar, Kuwait houses the largest collection of green buildings certified under Gord's Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS). As the developer and certifier of GSAS, Gord's



prominent participation in Kuwait's recent event was necessitated by the regional market's rising interest in implementing GSAS on new and existing projects through dedicated certifications for design, construction and building operations.

Dr Yousef Alhorr, founding chairman of Gord, said: "Kuwait has made concerted efforts

towards green transformation, making environmental sustainability an integral part of its national strategy. Within the framework of the Kuwait National Development Plan (2020-2025) towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and Kuwait Vision 2035, green cities with sustainable built environment are of prime im-

portance. As Kuwait continues its sustainability journey, we at Gord are honoured to support the nation with wider implementation of GSAS green building framework, which has already been applied on a number of projects from leading government and private companies in Kuwait."

Alongside exhibition oppor-

tunities for novel green solutions, the expo offered expert presentations on areas related to buildings' energy efficiency, energy management, renewable energy, green buildings, sustainable transport in green cities, water management, waste and land management in green cities, information technology to support green cities, government legislation for ecofriendly building construction, net-zero energy or carbon-neutral structures, economic advantages of green buildings, green building materials, incorporation of green-building principles into projects designs, and sustainability in operations and maintenance.

A key highlight of the event remained GSAS Green Advocate Masterclass delivered by Gord's sustainability experts. Addressing the climate challenges within the built environment, GSAS Green Advocate Masterclass is an intensive one-day course that provides a solid foundation for individuals looking to accelerate their career in the sustainability milieu has been attended by 40 practitioners. By attending the complimentary course offered during the expo, attendees received essential knowledge in the field of green buildings and sustainability as guided by GSAS.





# First Maserati Grecale arrives in Qatar

The new Maserati Grecale SUV is now available in Qatar. Grecale strikes the right balance between versatility, elegance, performance and innovation. These features are combined with off-road capabilities and uncompromising driving pleasure, a press statement notes.

An “extremely wide range” of engines is available on the Grecale: conventional internal combustion and hybrid, while the Grecale will also be the first full-electric SUV in Maserati history in the future.

The three versions of the Grecale are GT (the first to arrive), powered by a four-cylinder mild hybrid engine capable of delivering 300hp; Modena,



The Maserati Grecale.

with a four-cylinder 330hp mild hybrid engine; and the powerful Trofeo, equipped with a high-performance 3.0L 530hp petrol V6 based on the Nettuno engine fitted to the MC20.

Completing the range will be the Grecale Folgore, the 100% electric version with 400V technology.

Experience “unparalleled driving dynamics” with the Grecale’s eight-speed automatic transmission, all-wheel drive, and a variety of drive modes that can be adjusted to the driver’s preference, including: COM-FORT, GT, SPORT, CORSA (Trofeo only) and OFF-ROAD.

Hamdy Elshantoury, general manager of Maserati Middle East & Africa,

noted: “Maserati continues to accelerate audaciously into a brave new future with revolutionary new cars, innovations and exclusive projects. The all-new Grecale SUV embodies Maserati’s all-Italian audacity in making luxury and exceptional performance part of the daily routine, transforming every journey into a unique driving experience.”

“The arrival of the Maserati Grecale in Qatar marks a new era of luxury and performance. Our discerning customers can expect nothing but the pinnacle of opulence in the Grecale,” said Charly Dagher, general manager of Maserati in Qatar. “We are confident that the Grecale’s exceptional blend

of luxury and versatility will surpass the expectations of even the most discerning customers.”

The Grecale comes complete with a three-year or 60,000km service package for 6-cylinder engines, a 45,000km service package for 4-cylinder engines (whichever comes first), and a 3-year warranty with unlimited mileage, starting at QR289,000.

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## WCM-Q alumnus gets new role in US

Will Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) alumnus, Dr Mustafa Kinaan, has been appointed programme director of the University of Central Florida/HCA Healthcare GME Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship.

As part of his new role, Dr Kinaan is responsible for overseeing the fellowship programme, curriculum, and training future endocrinologists. He is also tasked with ensuring the programme meets the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education criteria and assessing trainee competencies and readiness for independent practice, amongst other responsibilities.

After receiving his medical degree from WCM-Q in 2014, Dr Kinaan joined the inaugural internal medicine residen-



Dr Mustafa Kinaan

cy class at the University of Central Florida/HCA Healthcare GME. He then served as a chief medical resident at the Orlando VA Medical Centre after which he continued his medical training with the University of Central Florida/HCA Healthcare GME as both

an endocrinology fellow and chief fellow.

During his training, Dr Kinaan received several awards.

Following his graduation from the fellowship programme, Dr Kinaan joined the University of Central Florida/HCA Healthcare GME as an assistant professor of medicine and a core faculty member at the endocrine fellowship and internal medicine residency programmes. He was later promoted to assistant programme director of scholarly activity with the internal medicine residency and associate programme director of the endocrinology fellowship prior to his most recent appointment as programme director of the endocrinology fellowship. As a faculty member, Dr Kinaan received the Osler Award and GME Teaching & Mentorship Award in appreciation of his skills.

## Qatar boosts IAEA co-operation to enhance radioactive waste management

A delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discussed with a number of officials from the Radiation and Chemical Protection Department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, ways to bolster the measures that aim to optimise the management of radioactive waste generated from the oil and gas production in Qatar.

The IAEA delegation met yesterday with Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs Eng Abdul-Hadi Nasser al-Marri, along with a number of officials.

The two sides discussed the IAEA’s possible assistance to establish an effective national programme to manage and treat the radioactive waste generated from the oil and gas production, in co-ordination with QatarEnergy, in addition to the steps that should be taken by Qatar for the effective and secure management, as well as the priority measures that should be taken



to optimise the secure and sustainable management of waste in commensurate with IAEA’s international safety standards.

The IAEA’s delegation discussed the global and modern expertise in this field, and the possibility of transferring it to

the Qatari national cadres for further implementation.

In addition, the MOECC, represented by the Radiation and Chemical Protection Department, seeks to boost co-operation with IAEA through a new technical co-operation programme that

has been designed by the department’s professionals to be further implemented in 2024.

The programme includes the training of Qatari cadres on the state-of-the-art global technologies in the area of treating radioactive waste. – QNA



NU-Q building in the Education City.

## NU-Q researchers awarded QNRF, QF research grants

Faculty and researchers from Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) have been awarded four grants from the Qatar National Research Fund’s (QNRF) Undergraduate Research Experience Programme and two collaborative research grants by Qatar Foundation’s Education City Innovation in Teaching Grant programme.

“NU-Q continues to play its role as an impactful institution located at the convergence of continents and cultures,” said, Marwan M Kraidy, dean and CEO of NU-Q. “By utilising their expertise in the field of journalism, critical security studies, and digital media, these researchers are boosting Qatar’s strategy to be a thriving knowledge society while also advancing the future of research

and collaborative engagements in academia to new heights.”

Prof Khaled al-Hroub, Eddy Borges-Rey, Hasan Mahmud, and Spencer Striker are among the faculty awarded the grants by QNRF’s Undergraduate Research Experience Programme.

As part of their projects, they will work with students from NU-Q to examine digital citizenship in the Arab world, higher education in Qatar, the Palestinian diaspora in Qatar, and the history of global pandemics.

NU-Q faculty and researchers have also been awarded grants through QF’s Education City Innovation in Teaching Grant programme for projects examining religious pluralism and critical security studies. These grants

are awarded to cross-institution research projects by faculty in Education City and Qatar to implement creative and innovative pedagogical approaches in the classroom.

In highlighting the impact of the projects, Zachary Wright, professor in residence and associate dean for faculty affairs at NU-Q, said: “The topics involved speak to some of the more interesting and urgent discussions within contemporary regional contexts. These funded projects testify to NU-Q’s foregrounding of agile research methodologies involving new media, faculty-student learning, as well as interdisciplinary and cross-campus collaboration.”

## QU, QMC to launch co-ordination meeting to empower media students

Qatar University (QU), in co-operation with Qatar Media Corporation, is launching today a co-ordination meeting to empower media students and graduates, with the aim of refining their skills, developing their capabilities, and opening the doors of training and job opportunities for them, with the participation of officials from a number of media institutions in the country.

The meeting’s agenda includes research into strategies and mechanisms for empowering media students and graduates, opening training and employment opportunities in media institutions and public relations and strategic communication departments.

It will also discuss how to confront fake news and be credible, accurate and professional.

Participants also will present their visions on linking theoretical study with field work



and raising students’ efficiency to enable them to actively participate in the renaissance that the country is witnessing in all sectors.

HE the CEO of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani, stressed the importance of mobilising and developing human energies to meet the requirements of Qatar National Vision 2030 in the field of media.

President of Qatar University Dr Hassan

Rashid al-Derham, expressed his hopes and aspirations for this meeting to be a turning point in the relationship between the Department of Media and the Qatar Media Corporation.

He pointed out that this event represents a practical translation of the university’s strategic plan aimed at providing society with a graduate who meets the various developmental needs sought by the State. (QNA)

## NCSA participates in national CtF competition

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) participated in the national Capture-the-Flag (CtF) competition (CtF World Cup Edition), organised by the KINDI Center for Computing Research at Qatar University College of Engineering to enable students to find solutions to cybersecurity challenges through practical experiences.

Through its participation, NCSA

aims to promote a culture of cybersecurity among students in the country, as well as encourage students and youth initiatives aimed at enhancing cyber capabilities and developing skills among university students.

Director of KINDI Center for Computing Research at College of Engineering Dr Abdulaziz Khalid al-Ali said the competition was aimed at security capacity

building, security education, development of cyber capabilities, development of cyber resilience, and cyber security competence assessment.

The Head of the National Cyber Excellence Department of NCSA, Dalal al-Aqidi, said NCSA’s participation stems from its continuous role in promoting students, youths, and educational initiatives organised by KINDI Center. (QNA)





**DISASTER**  
**Earthquake kills three, injures 800 in Iran**

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit northwestern Iran overnight, killing at least three people and injuring more than 800 in the region near the border with Türkiye. Residents fled their homes as buildings collapsed and rubble crushed cars, with hundreds seeking shelter from freezing winter conditions in evacuation centres as more than 20 aftershocks rattled the region. The shallow quake hit the city of Khoy, with a population of around 200,000, in West Azerbaijan province at 9.44pm Saturday, said the Seismological Center of the University of Tehran. "This incident has left 816 injured and three dead," West Azerbaijan governor Mohamed Sadegh Motamedian said.

**COMMENT**  
**N Korea denies arms dealing with Russia**

North Korea denied providing arms to Moscow after the US said Pyongyang supplied rockets and missiles to Russia's private military group Wagner. Washington earlier this month designated the Wagner group as a "transnational criminal organisation", citing its weapons dealings with Pyongyang in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The White House showed US intelligence photographs of Russian rail cars entering North Korea, picking up a load of infantry rockets and missiles, and returning to Russia. A North Korean official warned that the US would face a "really undesirable result" if it persisted in spreading the "self-made rumour".

**BLUNDER**  
**S Korean soldier fires near border 'by mistake'**

A South Korean soldier mistakenly fired a machine gun near the border with North Korea, prompting the military to inform Pyongyang that the shooting was unintentional, a report said yesterday. Four live rounds were fired during a training along the border in Gangwon province on Saturday evening, Yonhap news agency reported, citing South Korean military officials. All of the bullets landed on the South's side and no damage was reported. The military unit immediately informed North Korea that the firings were not intentional and stepped up readiness posture, the officials said.

**POLICY**  
**Philippines to offer tax refund to foreign tourists**

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos has approved a value-added tax refund programme for foreign tourists by 2024 to attract more visitors, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said yesterday. The government collects a 12% VAT on goods consumed within the country. The plan is to allow foreigners to get a VAT refund on items they are taking out of the Philippines, similar to what many other countries offer. The measure is among the proposals a private sector advisory council presented to Marcos recently to boost the tourism industry, including improving airport infrastructure and operations and promoting tourism investment, the PCO said in a statement.

**OPINION**  
**Gandhi's great-grandson slams rising intolerance**

India's rising tide of Hindu nationalism is an affront to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, his great-grandson says, ahead of the 75th anniversary of the revered independence hero's assassination. Gandhi was shot dead at a multi-faith prayer meeting on January 30, 1948, by Nathuram Godse, a religious zealot angered by his victim's conciliatory gestures to the country's minority Muslim community. Godse was executed the following year and remains widely reviled, but author and social activist Tushar Gandhi, one of the global peace symbol's most prominent descendants, says his views now have a worrying resonance in India.

# UK premier sacks party chairman over tax affairs

Reuters  
London

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked Conservative Party chair Nadhim Zahawi yesterday after an investigation found he committed a serious breach by not being open about a tax probe, the latest scandal to hit one of Sunak's top ministers.

Sunak had initially stood by Zahawi before ordering an independent adviser to investigate questions over his tax affairs after it emerged Zahawi had settled a probe by Britain's tax authority HMRC last year.

Zahawi has said the tax body ruled he had been "careless" with his declarations but hadn't deliberately made an error to pay less tax, confirming he paid a penalty to HMRC.

Sunak's independent adviser Laurie Magnus said that Zahawi didn't declare that his tax affairs were being investigated when he was briefly made finance minister last year, and failed to disclose details when Sunak appointed him to his current role.

"Following the completion of the independent adviser's investigation...it is clear that there has been a serious breach of the ministerial code," Sunak said in a letter to Zahawi.

"As a result, I have informed you of my decision to remove you from your position in the government."

Zahawi's response to Sunak did not mention either the HMRC or independent adviser's investigation.

He expressed concern at the conduct of some in the media in recent weeks and said he would support Sunak's agenda as a backbench lawmaker.

"I am sorry to my family for the toll this has taken on them," he said.

It is a setback to Sunak's attempt at a government reset after a chaotic year that saw three different British prime ministers.

An investigation into alleged bullying by Deputy Prime Minis-

ter Dominic Raab is ongoing and could cause further headaches.

One Conservative lawmaker said sacking Zahawi was "clearly the right decision," adding Zahawi "should have resigned to avoid the embarrassment."

"Raab is rather different," the lawmaker, who declined to be named, said. "One man's bullying is another's firm direction." Raab has denied bullying allegations.

The opposition Labour Party said that Sunak had shown weakness in how he had handled the Zahawi and Raab cases.

"It's vital that we now get answers to what Sunak knew and when did he know it," Labour's education spokesperson Bridget Phillipson said yesterday.

Zahawi's sacking comes as Sunak's government, facing decades-high inflation and a wave of public sector strikes, trails badly in opinion polls ahead of an expected 2024 election.

Magnus said that the details of HMRC's own investigation - relating to Zahawi's co-founding in 2000 of opinion polling firm YouGov, and how many shares his father had taken to support its launch - was outside the scope of his own inquiry.

But he found that Zahawi had failed to declare HMRC's probing of affairs, or acknowledge that they were a serious matter.

Zahawi had characterised reports last July over his tax affairs as "clearly smears".

Zahawi did not correct the record until last week, when he said he had reached a settlement with the authorities.

"I consider that this delay in correcting an untrue public statement is inconsistent with the requirement for openness," Magnus said in a letter to Sunak.

He added that Zahawi had shown "insufficient regard" for the requirement "to be honest, open and an exemplary leader through his own behaviour."

Zahawi became finance minister following Sunak's own resignation from the role in July last year, which helped end Boris Johnson's scandal-hit premiership.



Palestinian girls sit in the debris of a house after it was demolished by Israeli bulldozers, in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabal Mukaber yesterday.

# Blinken begins Middle East trip amid spate of violence

Reuters  
Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken landed in Egypt yesterday at the start of a three-day visit to the Middle East as violence flares between Israelis and Palestinians, and with Iran and Ukraine high on the agenda.

Blinken heads today to Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new right-wing government has stirred concern at home and abroad over the future of Israel's secular values, fraying relations with the Arab population and deadlock in peace talks with the

Palestinians. On Thursday, Israeli forces killed nine people in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, the deadliest raid there in years.

In talks with the new Israeli administration, which includes ultra-nationalist parties that want to expand West Bank settlements, Blinken will repeat US calls for calm and emphasise Washington's support for a two-state solution, although US officials admit peace talks are not likely soon.

Blinken will also travel to Ramallah to meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Netanyahu's government has proposed a sweeping over-

haul of the judiciary that would strengthen political control over the appointment of judges while weakening the Supreme Court's ability to overturn laws or strike down government action.

The proposals have triggered big demonstrations against what protesters see as the undermining of judicial independence.

Blinken will hear from people inside and outside of government on the reforms, Barbara Leaf, the top state department official for the Middle East, added.

Diplomats will also discuss US efforts to revive the stalled 2015 deal between big powers and Iran, opposed by Israel, that

lifted international sanctions in return for curbs on Iran's nuclear programme.

Blinken yesterday met with Egyptian youth leaders at the American University in Cairo, and told reporters he wanted to strengthen Washington's "strategic partnership" with Egypt.

Blinken will meet President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry today, and discuss issues such as Sudan's stuttering transition to democracy and elections in Libya, the state department said.

Blinken will also be under pressure to raise human rights concerns.

The Biden administration

has withheld some military aid to Egypt over its failure to meet human rights conditions, although advocacy groups have pushed for more to be withheld.

Most of the \$1.3bn in military aid that Washington sends to Egypt each year remains intact and the US says Sisi's government has made progress on reducing political detentions.

Sisi, who became president in 2014, has said Egypt holds no political prisoners, and argues that security is paramount and that the government is promoting human rights by working to provide basic needs such as jobs and housing.

# Iran condemns drone attack on defence site

AFP  
Tehran

Iran yesterday condemned a "cowardly" night-time drone attack that targeted a defence ministry site, at a time of high tensions over its nuclear programme and Russia's war in Ukraine.

An anti-aircraft system destroyed one drone and two others exploded, the ministry said, adding that there were no casualties and only minor damage to the site in the central province of Isfahan.

"This cowardly act was carried out today as part of the efforts made by enemies of the Iranian nation in recent months to make the Islamic republic insecure," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said.

"Such measures cannot affect the will and intention of our specialists for peaceful nuclear developments," he added.

A fireball lit up the night sky in video footage widely shared on social media and published by Iranian state media, with people outside seen running and emergency service vehicles speeding towards the site.

The defence ministry described the attack as "unsuccessful", saying it was carried out "on one of the workshop complexes of the ministry", according to state news agency IRNA.

"The attack, which occurred at around 11.30pm (2000GMT) on Saturday, did not cause any disruption to the operation of the complex," it said.

Authorities did not elaborate on activities at the site, but IRNA said the strike had targeted "an ammunition manufacturing plant".

It added that "one of the quadcopters used in the attack, which suffered less damage during the confrontation operation, was handed over to the security forces

stationed in the complex".

Parliament member Mohamed-Hassan Assafari told the Mehr news agency that "opponents and enemies" of Iran aimed to "disrupt the defensive power" of the country with the attack.

The drone strike comes as Iran's standoff with major powers over its nuclear programme remains unresolved.

Iran has also faced Western accusations that it has been supplying armed drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, a charge Tehran denies.

Iran has been engaged in a shadow war for years with its arch-enemy Israel, blamed for a series of sabotage attacks and assassinations targeting the Iranian nuclear programme, and with Israel's ally the US.

A few hours before the Isfahan attack, a major fire broke out at a motor oil production plant in the northwestern province of East Azerbaijan, IRNA reported.

## Beating the Retreat



Members of the Indian military band take part in the Beating the Retreat ceremony during rains in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

## Four dead after record flooding in New Zealand

Reuters  
Wellington

New Zealand's death toll from heavy rain rose to four yesterday as flash floods and landslides on the north island continued for a third day.

Battered since Friday, Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, remained under a state of emergency.

The nation's weather forecaster, MetService, warned of more severe weather for the north island.

Intense rainfall could also cause surface and flash flooding, it said.

"We know that there is potential for more adverse weather tonight," Auckland Emergency Management controller Rachel Kelleher told reporters.

The emergency covers large swathes of the north island, with Waitomo District about 220km from Auckland, declaring a state of emergency late on Saturday.

A man missing after being swept away on Friday in One-whereo, a rural village about 70km south of Auckland, was confirmed dead, police said. "The most horrific part of it is that we've lost lives," Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni said in Auckland, a city of 1.6mn. Climate change is causing episodes of heavy rainfall to become more common and more intense in New Zealand, though the impact varies by region.

Climate Change Minister James Shaw noted the link to climate change on Saturday when he tweeted his support for those affected by flooding.

Police said yesterday they were assisting with traffic management and road closures in Waitomo District after heavy rainfall "caused numerous slips, flooding and damage to roads".

In nearby Bay of Plenty there was also "widespread flooding", police said, as well as a landslide that had knocked down a house and was threatening neighbouring properties.



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**GULF****TIMES**

# The brouhaha over what the ChatGPT can and can't do

It would not be an exaggeration to state that ChatGPT has caused excitement and consternation equally across the world. The chatbot is the latest model of GPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer), from OpenAI, the same company behind the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-fuelled art generation platform DALL-E. The text-generating AI platform, which employs similar technology to make the users feel like they are messaging with a real person, has been stunning audiences with its ability to spit out human-like text.

The chatbot is currently enjoying a 'research preview,' during which the public is allowed to use the platform for free while the company gathers information about users' experience. An example of ChatGPT's prowess was revealed by a new research from a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School who found it was able to pass the final exam for the school's MBA programme. While the tech has impressed a lot of people, it has also worried them. In particular, critics fear that the chatbot will potentially make students lazy, lead to a swell in disinformation, and prove otherwise disruptive to major media industries.

As expected, the ChatGPT backlash officially began early this month in the US when New York City public schools barred teachers and students from using the chatbot, apparently fearing that the powerful AI would lead to a tsunami of cheating. New York City Education Department spokesperson Jenna Lyle explained that "due to concerns about negative impacts on student learning, and concerns regarding the safety and accuracy of content, access to

ChatGPT is restricted on New York City Public Schools' networks and devices. While the tool may be able to provide quick and easy answers to questions, it does not build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong success." NYC Public Schools' statement

also seems to make reference to ChatGPT's accuracy problem. More and more people seem to be waking up to the darker implications of ChatGPT's technology. While the chatbot has so far managed to impress users with its ability to spin up a wealth of creative material, concerns persist over how it will inevitably be misused. When it comes to education specifically, many have predicted that ChatGPT will be used to cheat, to automatically fabricate college essays, and to otherwise hamper students' ability to learn and do things for themselves.

On a related note, a college student spent New Year's Day creating an app that can decipher what content was written by a human and what was spawned by ChatGPT. Edward Tian, a computer science and journalism student at Princeton, created the program, GPTZero, to help combat academic plagiarism generated by the new chatbot. Tian's program analyses text for complexity and 'randomness' to assess whether it was spawned by a human or machine. He shared links to his creation on Twitter early January, explaining how it was designed to "quickly and efficiently detect whether an essay is ChatGPT or human written."

An Amazon lawyer, reportedly urged employees not to share any Amazon confidential information (including Amazon code they are working on) with the AI chatbot. The guidance comes after the company reportedly witnessed ChatGPT responses that have mimicked internal Amazon data. So eventually, it has boiled down to this - all academic or professional writings are going to be run through GPTZero like programs, in addition to the routine anti-plagiarism screenings. Technology has always been a double-edged sword, which could produce fantastic results if judiciously and ethically deployed. It just got smarter, sharper, and powerful and indeed elevated to the next level.

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# Realism about techno-optimism

By Gernot Wagner  
New York

Technology will save us! No, it won't! Whenever the climate-policy debate addresses specific economic sectors, potential carbon-abatement technologies, or energy strategy, the same fundamental question always arises: How much can we rely on "simple," preferably "cheap," technofixes? Can climate change be addressed by counting on people to switch to lower-carbon technologies, or will it take more fundamental changes to how we live and organise ourselves as a society?

These are not just philosophical or academic questions. In today's political culture, they have been among the issues that most divide right and left. One side trusts markets and new technologies to fix everything, while the other insists that public policy must play a leading role. Yes, this caricature is far too crude. But recognising that it is how many politicians, polemicists, and their followers frame the matter can help us analyse, and ultimately improve, how new clean-technology developments are received.

Consider the apparent scientific breakthrough in nuclear fusion last month. Longstanding debates about nuclear energy returned to the fore. Techno-optimists seized on the idea that we may have unlocked a source of truly unlimited clean energy. That would be in everyone's interest, regardless of political stance, and it would seem to confirm that human ingenuity holds the key to our salvation. But not even the most ardent techno-optimists can claim that technology

will save us on its own. After all, this first-ever fusion ignition happened at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a US federal research facility where government scientists conduct experiments paid for with taxpayer money.

Yes, there are also startups working on fusion, in the hope of launching the first demonstration plants in the coming decade. But they, too, are clamouring for government funds, whether direct subsidies or the Department of Energy loan guarantees enabled by the Inflation Reduction Act. The picture is no different in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, nor is it confined to fusion technology. Silicon Valley, that bastion of techno-libertarianism, depends on government funding and favourable policies more than many other industries do.

None of this will come as a surprise to those working in the energy sector, which includes some of the world's most heavily regulated, taxed, and subsidised industries. Governments pick winners all the time, and lobbying plays no small part in the process.

Now consider a second recent episode. Cookstoves have been catapulted into the centre of the US culture wars, following a statement by a federal consumer-protection agency voicing concerns about their effects on household air quality. Induction represents the new technology, gas the old, and the debate has both too much nuance and too much nonsense for the public to make sense of it easily.

In this case, many on the right - who would ordinarily trust technology to save us - are siding with the old technology in the name of opposing government "overreach." But unlike in the past, they can no longer argue

against induction on the grounds that it costs more. You can now get an induction plate at IKEA for \$70.

Shifting from gas to induction could be considered largely symbolic in the fight against climate change. Yes, most homes in temperate and cold climates use significantly more gas for heating than for cooking. But this step would go well beyond mere symbolism in households where it would mean cutting off the gas line altogether.

The fusion and stove debates show why getting technology right requires moving beyond simplistic yes-no shouting matches. As a general matter, no-one should dispute that we need both new technologies and new policies to cut carbon dioxide emissions at the necessary pace and scale. Just ask the Texas Land and Liberty Coalition, an advocacy group representing traditionally conservative farmers and ranchers. The group is calling for policies to advance renewable-energy projects across the state.

All techno-optimists should be doing the same. If you believe that new technologies are the answer to climate change, you should want the state to use policy levers to hasten those technologies' deployment. But the problem is that many who are lobbying for such policies are doing so in private, while those who are lobbying against new technologies are much more vocal about it. As a result, public discourse remains a caricature.

With a more nuanced debate, the public would appreciate that not all technological solutions are created equal. Induction stoves, heat pumps (the more efficient electric alternative to gas), retrofitting, and solar and wind power are all ready to be deployed at scale - immediately. But other

technologies - chiefly nuclear fusion, but also green liquid fuels for uses where electrification is much more efficient - are not. They are at best a distraction, or, worse, an excuse for continued inaction. They could still deliver future benefits with more research and development funding; but that must not detract from cutting CO2 emissions this decade.

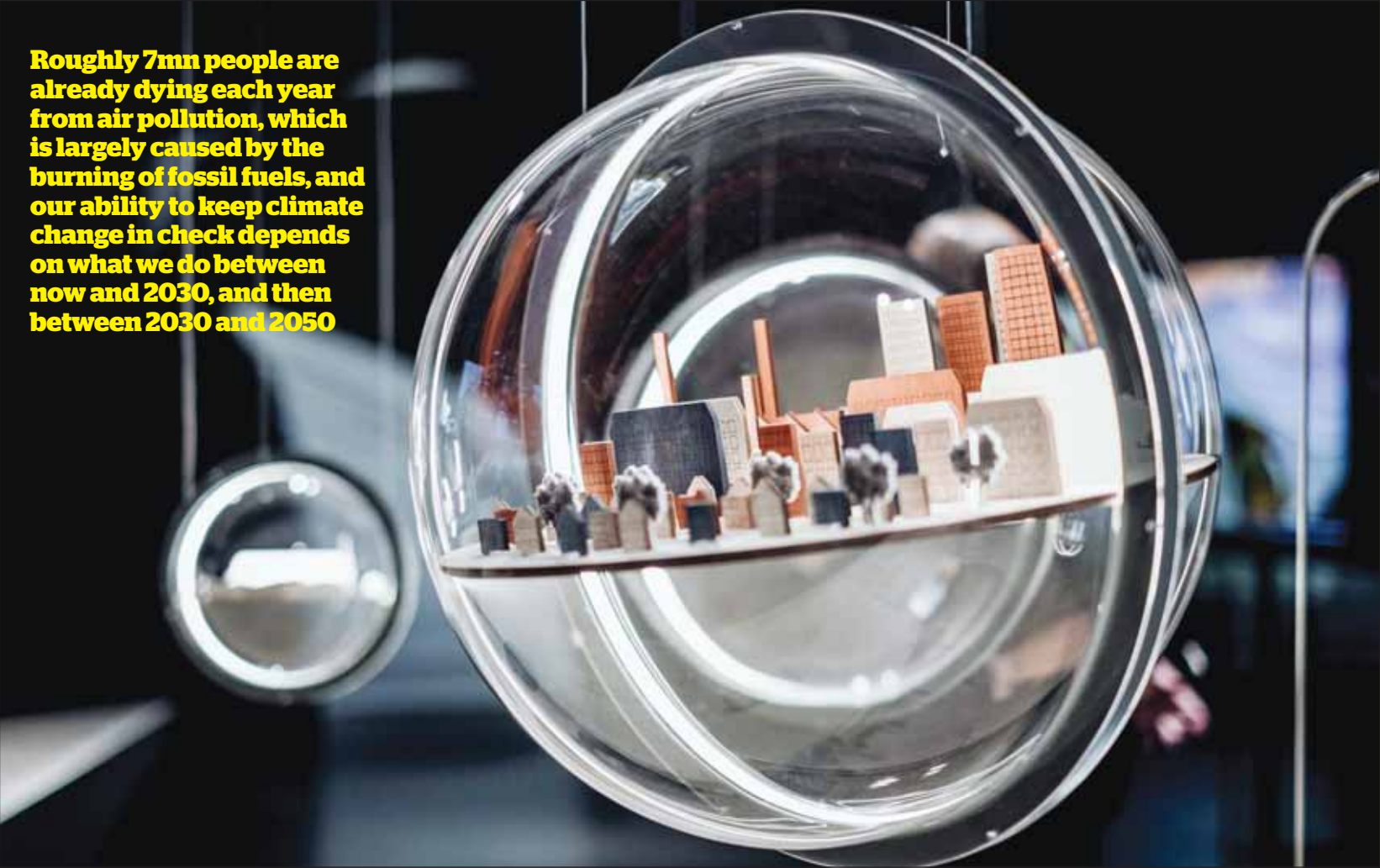
As the joke goes, nuclear fusion has been 30 years away for decades. Now that it has been achieved in a lab setting, those 30 years may actually be true. That means the technology could well become an essential part of the low-carbon electricity mix in the second half of this century. But, given that timeline, nobody who understands the climate science would suggest nuclear fusion as the only technofix. Roughly 7mn people are already dying each year from air pollution, which is largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and our ability to keep climate change in check depends on what we do between now and 2030, and then between 2030 and 2050.

No solution is sufficient on its own. But speeding up the adoption of already proven and scalable technologies is a necessary goal, especially when the many hidden costs associated with fossil fuels are included in the calculus, and will require new policies to guide investments in the right direction. Techno-optimists ought to be their loudest advocates.

Technology alone will not save us. But nothing else on its own will, either.

- Project Syndicate

● Gernot Wagner, a climate economist at Columbia Business School, is the author, most recently, of Geoengineering: The Gamble.





# Drought-hit New Yorkers: Where's the snow?



A combo of photos taken on January 7, 2022 (top) and January 13, 2023 (bottom) shows visitors standing at a viewpoint in Central Park.



A combo of pictures shows people in Dubo neighbourhood of Brooklyn on March 14, 2017 (top) and on January 25, 2023 (bottom).



A combo of pictures shows images taken on January 7, 2022 (top) and January 25, 2023 (bottom) of people crossing the Brooklyn Bridge.



A combo of photos taken on January 29, 2022 (top) and January 26, 2023 (bottom) shows pedestrians making their way across a street in central Manhattan. (AFP)

By Peter Hutchison, AFP  
New York

The idea of New York in winter-time conjures up images of Manhattan's Times Square and Central Park shrouded in snow. Not this year. The city was forecast yesterday to surpass a 50-year record for the latest first snowfall of the season. It is also close to recording its highest number of consecutive days without any measurable flakes. The snowless streak has New Yorkers

puzzled, some questioning their love-hate relationship with the white stuff. "It's really sad," said retired teacher Anne Hansen. "Basically, we don't like to see the snow. But now we're sorely missing it," she told AFP. The Big Apple usually gets its first dusting around mid-December. Last season it arrived on Christmas Eve. A heavy load often results in "snow days," beloved by children and office workers who gets days off school and work. Kids grab their sleds and head to the nearest grassy slope. Adults cross-

country ski around the main parks. "You stay home, you drink hot cocoa; it's beautiful and the dog loves it," filmmaker Renata Romain told AFP. Joyww turns to despair fairly quickly though, as the snow turns yellowy-brown, trash piles up on the sidewalk and trips to the laundrette become hazardous. "The snow is pretty to look at the first day, but afterwards it's dirty and I don't like it. It's slushy. It's nasty," added Romain. Meteorologists define snowfall in NYC as snow that measures at least 0.1 inches in Central Park. Some

flakes fell last Wednesday but not enough to count. The longest residents have had to wait for measurable snow is January 29, a record set in 1973, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). No snow yesterday meant the longest wait since records began in 1869. New York is also approaching its longest streak of consecutive days without snow. The current record is 332, which ended on December 15, 2020. Sunday was day 326. Accuweather has called the period a "snow

drought." "It's very unusual," NWS meteorologist Nelson Vaz told AFP, saying the global La Nina weather pattern was responsible for keeping colder fronts further north and west. Up to 40 inches (1m) of snow fell in Buffalo, New York state, near the Canadian border, in December, killing at least 39 people. But a few hundred miles southeast, in NYC and surrounding Atlantic coastal areas, the precipitation has meant lots of rain amid mild temperatures. Only 1932 had a warmer first 25 days of January in New York than 2023,

according to Weather.com. Scientists say climate change is causing winters to be warmer and shorter. "It's disconcerting," Hansen said of recent balmy days that have felt more like fall. New York has never gone a whole cold season without measurable snow. And with February usually its snowiest month, a white blanket could soon envelope the Big Apple yet. "That's what makes New York, New York, right?" said Romain.

## Memphis disbands police unit after beating video

AFP  
Memphis

The US city of Memphis has disbanded the special police unit whose officers fatally beat a young Black man, after graphic video of the assault sparked widespread shock and outrage. The video, which shows five officers repeatedly kicking and punching 29-year-old Tyre Nichols as he moans and calls out for his mother, triggered calls for police reform. The southern US city on Saturday announced it had deactivated the officers' special unit, known as Scorpion, which was launched in 2021 to reduce illegal activity by assigning more police to high-crime areas. The Memphis Police Department said in a statement it was "in the best interest of all to permanently deactivate the SCORPION Unit," which stands for Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace in Our Neighbourhoods. "The officers currently assigned to the unit agree unreservedly with this next step," the department added. Several dozen demonstrators called for police reform Saturday afternoon as

they gathered in the chilly rain in front of city hall shouting "No justice, no peace!" and carrying signs with slogans such as "Justice for Tyre Nichols." At one point, a police car ended up surrounded by a group of protesters, who directed their angry chants at the vehicle. Memphis City Council member J B Smiley Jr addressed the crowd's demands, speaking to protesters in the rain. "Memphis has an opportunity to set the standard on how to respond to actions like this," he told them. The five Memphis officers, who are all Black, were charged with second-degree murder in the beating of Nichols, who died in hospital on January 10 three days after being stopped on suspicion of reckless driving. The lengthy video footage from police body cameras released on Friday evening shows the group of officers detaining Nichols, attempting to take him down using a Taser, then giving chase as he evades them. Subsequent segments — the footage runs about an hour in total, and is audio-only in parts — show Nichols calling for his mother, and groaning as officers repeatedly assault him.

## New Czech president to foster EU, Ukraine ties

Newly-elected Czech president Petr Pavel, a former Nato general, will promote close ties with the European Union and offer firm support for Ukraine in the face of the Russian invasion, analysts said. The 61-year-old war hero beat billionaire populist Andrej Babis to win Saturday's presidential election. A former chief of Nato's military committee, he will replace outspoken, divisive incumbent Milos Zeman who had fostered closer ties with Moscow and Beijing before making a U-turn when Russia invaded Ukraine last year. Analysts told AFP that Pavel's experience in military diplomacy would be a clear asset as he held a very different presidency than his predecessor. "We know that his contacts at Nato, as well as with peers from Nato member states... are very strong, and foreign policy will be his domain," said Pavel Havlicek, a scientist at the Association for International Affairs in Prague. "I think he will be a proficient president if we realise the war in Ukraine is one of the key problems Europe is facing," Havlicek told AFP. Pavel was a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the 1980s and began a rapid rise through army ranks until communism fell in 1989. After Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, Pavel became an advocate of EU and Nato membership. During campaigning he argued there was still "no better alternative".

## Protester dies as Peru's political crisis continues

A man in Peru's capital Lima died on Saturday and others were hospitalised as nationwide clashes between protesters and police continued in the eighth week of the South American country's political crisis. The death of Victor Santisteban Yacsavilca, 55, brings to 58 the nationwide toll in the protests that began in early December after the impeachment and arrest of President Pedro Castillo. Initially focused in Peru's rural, mountainous south, protests have gained steam in the capital in recent weeks. Saturday's protests were mostly in Lima and the southern Cusco region, Peru's ombudsman said in a statement. Santisteban had suffered a severe head injury, the national health insurance agency said in a statement. Some protests escalated as demonstrators armed with rocks and makeshift shields clashed with police, who deployed gas and rubber bullets. Peru's ombudsman condemned reports of attacks against journalists covering the protests. President Dina Boluarte expressed regret early on Saturday after Congress refused to speed up the timeline for a presidential election amid the unrest, her office said. Lawmakers had given an initial green light to moving elections from 2026-2024, but on Friday voted down proposals hold the election this year.

## Trump warns 2024 election 'one shot' to save America

AFP  
Columbia

Donald Trump warned on Saturday that the next election would be America's last chance for salvation as he attempted to revive a faltering third run for the White House in two US states that launched his winning 2016 presidential campaign. Buffeted by political and legal headwinds, the 76-year-old Republican addressed a few hundred supporters at an intimate rally in South Carolina's capital Columbia after speaking to grassroots activists in Salem, New Hampshire. "The 2024 election is our one shot to save our country and we need a leader who's ready to do that on day one," Trump said from a podium beneath the Statehouse rotunda, flanked by American flags and some of his most loyal political allies. The events were seen as a chance to revitalise a stuttering campaign amid criticism over Trump's failure to make any public appearances since he announced his latest run in November. But there was no discernible shift in his messaging as he launched into his debunked claims of a stolen 2020 election and reprised his litany of disparaging nicknames for his political rivals. He touched on favourite culture war talking points, railing against critical race theory that he said was being taught in the military as well as gender ideology and windmills that he said were mainly Chinese-made bird-killers. "There's only one president who has ever challenged the entire establishment in Washington, and with your vote next year, we will do it again," he said seeking to revive his 2016 image as an insurgent outsider. His most divisive remarks were reserved for the conservative critics he refers to as "RINOs" — Republicans in name only — whom he criticised at both events, arguing in New Hampshire that they were "even more dangerous than Democrats." During his address to party activists in Salem he had touted his record on law and order, immigration and "rebuilding" the US military as he vowed to save the country from "being destroyed by a selfish, radical, corrupt political establishment." "I'm more angry now and more committed now than I ever was," Trump said. "We need a president who's ready to hit the ground running on day one."



Former president Donald Trump speaks at the New Hampshire Republican State Committee's Annual Meeting in Salem, New Hampshire. (AFP)

## At least 51 dead in Pakistan bus, boat tragedies

AFP  
Bela/Islamabad

At least 51 people were killed in two separate transport accidents in western Pakistan yesterday, when a bus plunged off a bridge and a boat carrying a class of children capsized. Forty-one are so far confirmed dead after their bus crashed into a ravine in southwestern Balochistan province, while at least 10 students died in the boating accident in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said. As many as three are still missing in the waters, with a rescue operation underway. At the remote site of the bus crash, north of the city of Bela in Lasbela district, senior administration official Hamza Anjum said "the dead bodies... are beyond recognition". Anjum said 40 corpses were retrieved from the wreck alongside three injured, one of whom died shortly after. The remaining two survivors were in "serious" condition. The charred brown husk of the vehicle chassis smoked on a dry riverbed under the bridge yesterday, according to video released by the provincial government. A team of men used heavy machinery to move the twisted metal aside and pull out the burnt remains, which were then shrouded in white cloth. Head of the local rescue service Asghar Ramazan told AFP the bus had been loaded with containers of oil. "When the bus fell down, it immediately caught fire," he said. The oil "caused the fire to flare up so much that it was difficult to control", he added. The bus was reportedly carrying a total of 48 passengers when it hit a pillar on the bridge and careened off course earlier yesterday. It had been travelling overnight between Balochistan's provincial capital of Quetta and the southern port city of Karachi. "It is feared that the driver may have fallen asleep," Anjum said, also mentioning the possibility he had been speeding during the long-distance trip. "We will investigate the causes of the accident," he said, adding that DNA tests would be needed to determine the identity of the remains, which had been "badly mutilated". In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, local police official Mir Rauf told AFP all of the drowned so far recovered from the boating accident on Tanda Dam lake were aged between seven and 14. A total of 17 were rescued alive from the reservoir by yesterday afternoon. "Everything was normal until suddenly the boat overturned," said 11-year-old survivor Mohamed Mustafa from his hospital bed in the nearby city of Kohat.



Rescue workers search for the victims drowned in the waters of Tanda Dam after a boat carrying students capsized in Kohat district of northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Below: A resident looks at the wreckage of a burnt passenger bus in Lasbela district of Pakistan's Balochistan province yesterday. (AFP)



sibility he had been speeding during the long-distance trip. "We will investigate the causes of the accident," he said, adding that DNA tests would be needed to determine the identity of the remains, which had been "badly mutilated". In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, local police official Mir Rauf told AFP all of the drowned so far recovered from the boating accident on Tanda Dam lake were aged between seven and 14. A total of 17 were rescued alive from the reservoir by yesterday afternoon. "Everything was normal until suddenly the boat overturned," said 11-year-old survivor Mohamed Mustafa from his hospital bed in the nearby city of Kohat.

"I got stuck under the boat," he told AFP. "My shawl and sweater weighed me down, so I took them off." "The water was extremely cold and my body went numb. I thought I was going to pass out when a man on an inflatable tube saved me." One of the rescued was a teacher, who remained unconscious as the rescue operation continued for up to three pupils still missing. "According to the information so far, the boat was in a dilapidated condition and it was overloaded too," he said.



# PROMOTION ITEMS FOR

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Sadia Chicken Griller 1400gm



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Parliament Daily Delight Basmati Rice 5kg



10 QR

جوف مياه ١.٥ لتر x ٦ حبة x ٣ طقم  
Jouf Water 1.5Ltr x 6pcs x 3 Set



20 QR

لندن ديري ايس كريم مشكل ٥٠٠ مل x ٢ حبة  
London Dairy Ice Cream Asrtd. 500ml x 2pcs



10 QR

اميريكانا بيرجر دجاج ١ كجم x ١ حبة  
Americana Chicken Burger 1kg x 1pc



20 QR

نوتيللا برطمان ٧٥٠ كجم x ١ حبة  
Nutella Jar 750gm x 1pc



10 QR

اراس زيت زيتون التر x ١ حبة  
RS Olive Oil 1Ltr x 1pc



30 QR

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2nd DRAW 20-02-2023 SAFARI HYPERMARKET, SALWA ROAD

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Safari Hypermarket, Barwa Village  
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