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Chairman of Estithmar Holding, Moutaz al-Khayyat, said: “The investment opportunities in the Maldives are highly flexible, and the investment environment is encouraging and plays an active role in stimulating the global private sector to innovate a number of projects that enhance tourism and entertainment programmes”



Shura Council partakes in meeting of heads of IPU geopolitical groups, standing committees



The Shura Council participated in the joint meeting between the heads of geopolitical groups and the heads of the Standing Committees of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which took place on the sidelines of the 146th IPU Assembly in Bahrain.

Shura Council Member and President of the IPU Committee on Peace and International Security Mohamed bin Mahdi al-Ahbab represented the Shura Council in the meeting.

During the meeting, IPU President Duarte Pacheco reviewed the latest developments and the main activities since the 145th assembly in Rwanda. The heads of the geopolitical groups reviewed their main activities since



the Rwanda meetings and their expectations from the IPU Assembly in Bahrain.

The meeting touched on strengthening co-operation among the geopolitical groups and the contribution of the standing committees to the IPU

strategy. Al-Ahbab discussed the activities and programmes of the Committee on Peace and International Security during the last period and the various topics and issues concerning regional and global peace and security. (QNA)

Shura Council attends co-ordination meetings on IPU assembly sidelines

The Shura Council attended the co-ordination meeting of the Islamic parliamentary group, held on the sidelines of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which kicked off yesterday in Bahrain and will last for five days.

The Shura Council delegation to the meeting was headed by HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

The meeting saw the Shura Council discuss and submit, on behalf of the Arab parliamentary group, a request to include the criminalisation of contempt of religions, as an emergency item on the assembly's agenda, titled criminalising contempt of religions, violating places of worship and sanctities, spreading ha-

tred among peoples, and instead calling for the promotion of coexistence, tolerance, world peace and security.

Participants stressed the importance of this item, working to add it to the agenda, and uniting their efforts to urge the various parliamentary groups to vote for it, expressing that the item's topic, which was submitted by Qatar, is compatible with the IPU's current session on peaceful coexistence. During the meeting, the items on the 146th session of the IPU Assembly's agenda were reviewed and discussed extensively, stressing the Islamic group's united front in support of it.

In the same context, the Shura Council, headed by HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, participated in the co-or-

dination meeting of the Asian parliamentary group, also held on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly.

Participants supported Qatar's request to criminalise contempt of religions, the need to vote in support of it, as well as having it added onto the Assembly's agenda as an emergency item, stressing parliamentarians' important role in adopting legislation that supports peaceful coexistence, adding that coexistence is reached when there is a lack of contempt of religions and instead there is a respect of religious beliefs and sanctities.

The two meetings were attended by the Shura Council delegation participating in the IPU Assembly's meeting and its accompanying sideline meetings.

AlKhater meets Pakistan foreign minister



HE the Assistant Foreign Minister Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the sidelines of the conference 'Women in Islam: Understanding the Rights and Identity of Women in the Islamic World', which concluded in New York. They discussed the bilateral relations and several conference-related issues, especially enhancing international efforts to empower women in all fields. (QNA)

Healthy lifestyle practices essential during Ramadan

HMC launches nationwide 'Diabetes and Ramadan' campaign

The National Diabetes Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) is launching a nationwide 'Diabetes and Ramadan: Fast Safely, Stay Healthy' campaign.

This initiative aims to educate people with diabetes and Qatar population, increase their knowledge of diabetes, and empower them to control their health during Ramadan and beyond. It will also highlight strategies to manage and prevent lifestyle-related diabetes, including glucose monitoring, physical activity, nutrition, medication dose adjustment and timing in Ramadan.

Dr Manal Musallam Othman, director, Patient Education Medicine, HMC said: "Diabetes is a complicated condition that can cause both immediate and life-threatening long-term complications. As a result, education, prevention, and diagnostic services remain at the frontline of the battle against diabetes and related chronic diseases and raising community awareness of healthy lifestyle practices during Ramadan is vital for ensuring safe fasting."

"For people with diabetes, choosing to fast throughout the holy month of Ramadan entails various potential difficulties. Numerous people with diabetes also deal with other associated complications of diabetes, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, visual problems, and renal disease. Therefore, healthcare experts advise those with diabetes to exercise regu-



Dr Manal Musallam Othman



Eyad Ahmad Ibrahim Abu ne'meh.

larly and consult their physicians and HCP before fasting. They should have detailed therapy recommendations, dietary modifications, and a medical evaluation specific to their health condition," added Dr Othman.

The campaign features several activities, including a workshop for the home healthcare staff to learn about the essential needs for efficient diabetes management, also, expand their knowledge on fasting-related requirements, including glucose monitoring, physical activity, nutrition, medication dose adjustment, and timing in Ramadan.

The workshop's programme covers all aspects of fasting during Ramadan for people with diabetes, focusing on interactivity and discussion and allowing home healthcare staff to learn from each other and interact with experts in the field to improve the home healthcare patient experience, maximise outcomes, and ultimately improve the quality of life for patients.

Additionally, the campaign included two educational lectures titled 'Diabetes and Safe Fasting in Ramadan,' tar-

geting the community. While the first lecture was delivered in Arabic, targeting Arabic speakers, the second was designated for English speakers. Both lectures aimed to ensure that people with diabetes receive the proper glucose monitoring education and engage in regular physical activities.

Along with these activities, a social media campaign will kick off one week before Ramadan and run throughout the month to engage with the public by sharing information about diabetes and Ramadan and supporting those affected by the disease.

Eyad Ahmad Ibrahim Abu ne'meh, patient educator at Hamad General Hospital highlighted that the working hours for diabetes hotline would be changed from 7am to 5pm. He said: "It is an excellent opportunity for us to join hands to raise awareness and promote diabetes management during Ramadan. Diabetes is a complicated disease that may impact the entire body. Hence, even if you don't have diabetes, you should understand it to help your family, relatives, and loved ones"

MoL launches e-service to process work permits

From Page 1

The service of approving the recruitment of workers provides an opportunity for establishments to submit a request for recruitment approval from the Ministry of Labour, and MoL employees will study the request and decide on it. Once approved in terms of gender, number and profession, the application is automatically transferred to the nationalities selection system. Following approval there, the application information is forwarded to the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

It is also possible, as part of the new service, to submit a request to amend the approval of the recruitment of workers electronically, and then it is

decided upon within the procedures followed. To benefit from the amendment service, it is required that the approval belongs to the establishment and the establishment's registration is active and does not have violations of the provisions of the Labour Law. Besides, the approval has to be effective, and not all recruitment approvals should have been used. Also, the number provided in the original approval is not to be exceeded.

The service also enables establishments to submit a request to renew the validity of approval to recruit workers electronically, and it ends with forwarding the request to renew the approval to the MoI through the integrated link, without the need to visit the ministry's headquarters, external

offices or government complexes.

In order to avail of the renewal service, it is required that the approval belongs to the establishment submitting the application, the establishment's registration is effective, it has no violations of the provisions of the Labour Law, all previously approved recruitment approvals have not been used, and that the approval is effective and a week or less remains before the end of the visa.

The Ministry of Labour has been working within an integrated strategy for the digital transformation of more than 80 services since the launch of the Digital Transformation Unit, based on the Agile methodology, which allows the ability to launch new services and updates.

Campaign to release falcons launched



Al Gannas Qatari Society launched on Saturday morning its sixth campaign to release falcons and return them back to nature. The campaign, Qatar Falconers 2023, is being conducted at the headquarters of the society at the Culture Village Foundation - Katara. Falconers can donate their falcons and register them from 9am until 12noon. The data of the donated falcons will be registered alongside all related information, until all the donated falcons are collected in preparation for releasing them. The process of receiving donated falcons will continue until March 15.

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Over 400,000 workers changed jobs in Qatar under new laws: NHRC chairperson

QNA
London

HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiah confirmed that more than 400,000 workers changed their employers since the abolition of the sponsorship system in Qatar.

During a meeting with Secretary-General of Amnesty International Agnes Callamard in London, she underlined that the NHRC's reports and its monitoring of the conditions of workers' rights in Qatar and the follow-up of statistics showed the extent of development in the protection of workers' rights in Qatar, noting that the right to change employers has become a reality for hundreds of thousands of migrant workers.

The NHRC chairperson added that despite this development, from the committee's point of view and through the petitions it received and the monitored statistics, there are some chal-



HE Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiah with Agnes Callamard in London.

lenges to solve during the coming period. She expressed the committee's praise for the efforts of

the Ministry of Labour to protect wages and the efforts of the labour dispute settlement com-

mittees, as well as the issuance of Law No. 18 of 2018 to establish a fund to support workers, and the significant and important role played by the fund in paying arrears of wages, and providing humanitarian, social, health and food support to vulnerable workers in certain circumstances.

HE al-Attiah indicated that one of the recent procedural developments was the Ministry of Labour's launch of the "one platform for complaints and communications" available to all workers electronically, pointing out that workers can resort to the Labour Department to settle disputes, and the department refers disputes to dispute settlement committees if they are unable to resolve them amicably.

During her meeting with the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, the NHRC chairperson expressed the committee's desire and aspiration for greater co-operation in cases and the exchange of information, including the exchange of reports and comments on them.

Gulf English School holds Careers Fair

Gulf English School has held its annual Careers Fair, which was inaugurated by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, chairman of Al Faisal Holding.

The event was attended by prestigious businesses and universities in Qatar, with the aim of providing students with an informative platform to assist them in choosing a career path and improving their future university applications, a press statement noted.

During the event, HE Sheikh Faisal delivered a speech to all the students, and representatives from Al Faisal Holding advised the students on what businesses look for during the recruitment process. The Careers Fair is an esteemed tradition at Gulf English School, organised by the school's Counselling and Careers Department with the participation of the Student Council, enhancing their skills by working collaboratively, preparing them for the professional world.

The fair this year was also attended by members of the Council of International Schools, who were visiting the school in preparation for the re-accreditation process. The Careers Fair was attended by 30 entities, including Vodafone, Aamal, Al Faisal Holding, Marriott Hotels, Qatar Airways, Qatargas and Kahramaa.



HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani at the Careers Fair.

Mona El Helbawi, general manager of the ARIES cluster, said the aim of the event was to introduce students to the opportunities provided by various areas of employment and education. The Careers Fair also welcomed several universities from Qatar such as Lusail University, Qatar University and Derby University (ARIU), along with several UK-based universities in attendance, including Leeds Beckett University, Bristol University and Liverpool John Moores.

The timing of the Careers Fair was particularly important as Year 9 students are submitting the initial draft for the subjects they would like to take for IGCSE,

while Year 11 students were choosing their subjects for Sixth Form. The event was designed to ensure that the right subjects were chosen for the right careers. As part of the national careers week celebrations, several parents visited the Junior and Infant campuses to talk about their own careers. The students were excited and enjoyed the visit.

Parents were also invited to attend the Careers Fair, which is essential for creating a rigorous culture that engages the full community and encourages lifelong learning, especially as the Gulf English School is accredited by the Council of International Schools.

QNB hosts exclusive event for customers at Printemps Doha



Printemps Doha is the largest luxury department store in the Middle East.

QNB Group, one of the largest financial institutions in the Middle East and Africa, organised an exclusive VIP customers-only event in celebration of the opening of Printemps Doha, the largest luxury department store in the Middle East, at Doha Oasis Msheireb.

The event came as part of the bank's efforts aimed at rewarding its customers and enriching their luxurious lifestyle while providing them with the banking experience that suits their lifestyle, in luxury and innovation.

The VIP customers enjoyed a limited 10% discount on many brands, along with food and

beverages. They also enjoyed a number of activities, including a live fashion show and a diamonds reveal. A live DJ, a photo booth stand, kids' area activities, in addition to a magic mirror and live magic show, were also organised. The attendees received special giveaways as well.

This exclusive event gave the invitees a chance to discover Printemps Doha, the largest luxury department store in the Middle East brought all the way from Paris to offer global luxury fashion, beauty and lifestyle products, and a VIP meticulous

made-to-order and customisation service. QNB Group, currently ranked as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa.

Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the group extends to more than 28 countries across three continents, providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services.

The total number of employees is 28,000, operating through 1,000 locations, with an ATM network of more than 4,800 machines.

MoPH, partners celebrate Glaucoma Week

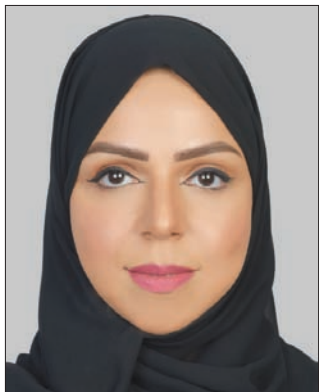
The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), is celebrating World Glaucoma Week from March 12 to 18 under the theme 'The World is Bright, Protect Your Sight!'

Glaucoma is the second largest cause of blindness globally for those aged 50 years or older. Dr Khulood al-Mutaweh, head of the Non-Communicable Diseases Section at the MoPH, said: "Qatar participates in the World Glaucoma Week in March every year to increase public awareness and knowledge regarding this disease and by inviting the targeted group to receive eye check-ups by the ophthalmologists.

"This will help in the early detection of this disease, as glaucoma causes a gradual vision loss without any warning signs. Therefore, it is sometimes called the silent thief of sight."

Dr Badria al-Malki, national co-ordinator for blindness prevention and assistant executive director for continuing care and integrated services at PHCC, said glaucoma is one of the leading causes for blindness in the world, with more than 80mn people infected with it.

Through eye clinics in health



Dr Khulood al-Mutaweh



Dr Zakia al-Ansari



Dr Badria al-Malki

centres, PHCC has succeeded in detecting and treating many glaucoma cases that have been referred by the family doctors or general practitioners to ophthalmologists.

Dr Zakia al-Ansari, consultant ophthalmologist and head of the Glaucoma Unit at HMC, said: "One of the most important causes of glaucoma is a defect in the drainage of watery fluid inside the eye, causing a high pressure inside the eye. Eventually, this leads to a progressive loss of optic nerve cells and a gradual decline in the visual field and may lead to blindness if not detected early."

Dr al-Ansari added: "HMC's Ophthalmology Department co-

ordinates community awareness activities at Souq Waqif on March 17, including free eye

examinations for the general public and spreading awareness messages about glaucoma."

Kahramaa organises technical workshop

The Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), through the Department of Conservation and Energy Efficiency (Tarsheed), recently organised an introductory workshop on the technical specifications of washing machines and refrigerators. The workshop held at Kahramaa Awareness Park, according to an official press statement, addressed the suppliers of electrical appliances in Qatar.

It aimed to introduce the draft of the Gulf standards for washing machines and refrigerators and highlight the importance of the technical regulations for low-voltage electrical devices and equipment. The draft clar-

fies the basic requirements that must be met, whether at the level of low-voltage electrical devices and equipment produced locally, or devices and equipment imported from abroad.

This is in order to ensure energy efficiency and rationalisation, as well as safety and security.

Tarsheed, represented by the Conservation Technology Department, provided a comprehensive explanation about the specifications and the importance of adhering to them in line with the strategic direction of Kahramaa, and intensify efforts to preserve the environment and achieve sustainability in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030. There was an interaction



From the workshop.

session featuring the officials and suppliers, who were able to ask some questions.

Tarsheed is the responsible entity in Qatar for preparing technical studies related to electrical and water equipment with

the aim of developing new specifications for them.

These improve the efficiency of using the available water and electrical resources, in coordination with the concerned administrative units.

Thai eco-friendly banana fabric showcased at Earthna Summit

During the successful inaugural Earthna Summit 2023 organised by Qatar Foundation recently, Thailand showcased its Banana Fabric as part of Earthna Village - an expo showcasing traditional handicrafts and heritage from around the world.

Through co-ordination between the Thai embassy in Doha and Qatar Foundation, Thailand's Bua Luang Banana Fabric was presented to an international audience for the first time and garnered a lot of attention.

Bua Luang Banana Fabric is the unique combination of innovation and tradition, which makes full use of an agricultural byproduct.

Moreover, this product has created an opportunity for the local community to improve the local economy in an environmentally sustainable way. Bunapa Bualuang, head of Baan Sangtawan Community Enterprise, demonstrated the weaving process and explained that Bua Luang Banana Fabric is made by extracting fibre from banana tree trunks, a byproduct of the banana harvest in Pathum Thani province in central Thailand.

Upon successful research into creating thread from banana tree fibre, the innovation and knowledge of traditional Thai weaving methods were transferred to the local community. Bua Luang Banana Fabric is a testament to the



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environmentally sustainable way that can be achieved with the combination of innovative solutions and traditional knowledge. This allows the ancestral knowledge to be preserved while mak-

ing full use of natural resources. The development of this unique textile contributes to Thailand's effort of implementing Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model.

Estithmar Holding Begins its work of developing a new ultra-luxury resort oasis in the Maldives with Rosewood Hotels & Resorts®

Estithmar Holding, the Qatari investment company known for its commitment to excellence, is embarking on an exciting new project to develop one of the world's most luxurious resorts in the Maldives.

The new resort, which is scheduled to open, in Q1 2025 will be managed by Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, the ultra-luxury global hospitality brand, and developed by Estithmar Holding's subsidiary, Royal Resorts. The Rosewood property is set to be an architectural masterpiece, featuring approximately 120 independent beach and overwater villas, one- to five-bedroom villas, all with private pools and a select number located on private islands. This project represents the epitome of luxury and sophistication and will undoubtedly become one of the most sought-after destinations for discerning travelers from around the globe. The total investment is 343 million dollars.

The center of the resort will host several specialty world-renowned restaurants, a waterpark, a wellness facility, a beach club, and several amenities that guarantee to give guests an unforgettable experience. With a focus on experiential luxury, the Rosewood resort in the is set to provide guests with a distinctive and unparalleled experience.

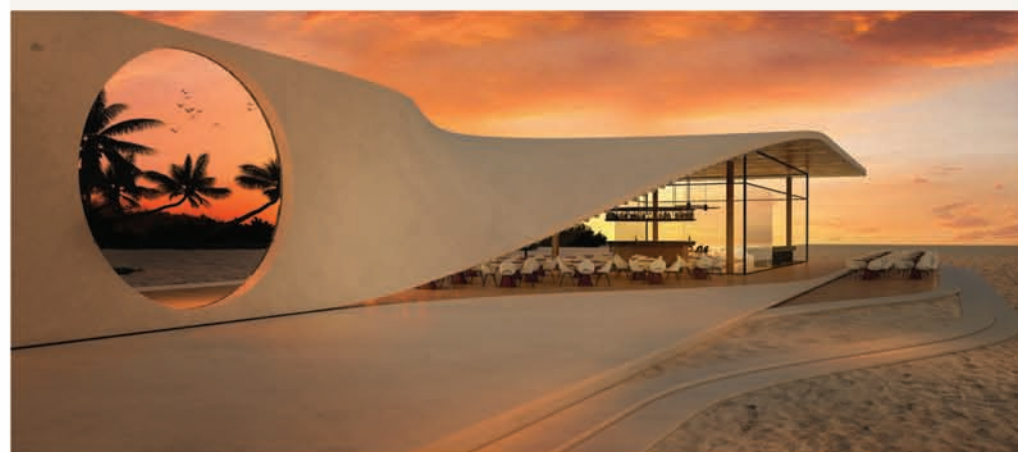
The Maldives has long been regarded as one of the world's top tourist destinations, with high occupancy sustained throughout the year. The rates of return on investment in the tourism field in the Maldives are among the highest in the world, making it an ideal location for investors seeking to make a substantial return on investment.

Estithmar Holding has a proven track record in the tourism sector in Qatar, including Al Maha Island in Lusail, Maysan Resort in Aspire, and Katara Hills Resort in Katara. This latest investment in the Maldives is a testament to the company's commitment to developing world-class tourism destinations.

Commenting on the investment, Chairman of Estithmar Holding, Mr. Moutaz Al Khayyat, said: «The investment opportunities in the Maldives are highly flexible, and the investment environment is encouraging and plays an active role in stimulating the global private sector to innovate a number of projects that enhance tourism and entertainment programs.»

"The Maldives is an ideal location for a Rosewood property, and we are looking forward to bringing our A Sense of Place philosophy to life in this incredible destination" said Radha Arora, President of Rosewood Hotels & Resorts.
"We are pleased to partner with Estithmar holdings on this ambitious project, which is sure to raise the bar for ultra-luxury experiences in the Maldives".

The Rosewood resort in the Maldives is set to become the ultimate destination for luxury travelers, combining the unparalleled experience of Rosewood and its expertise in operating more than 30 hotels in 16 countries around the world. Guests are sure to be left in awe of the stunning architecture, breathtaking views, and exceptional service that this resort will offer.



Facilities with charming views of a picturesque nature



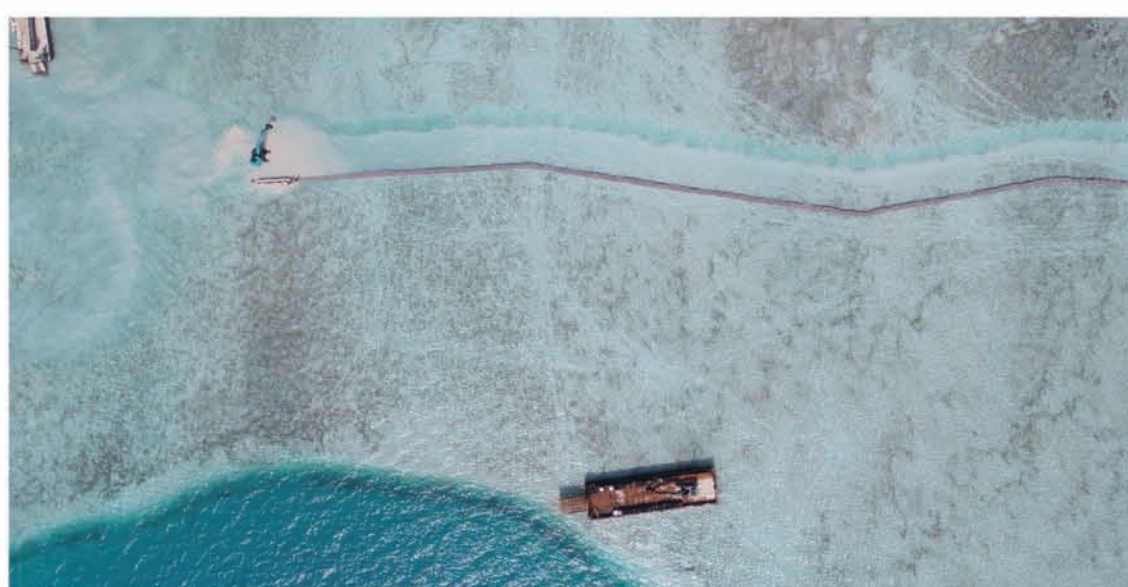
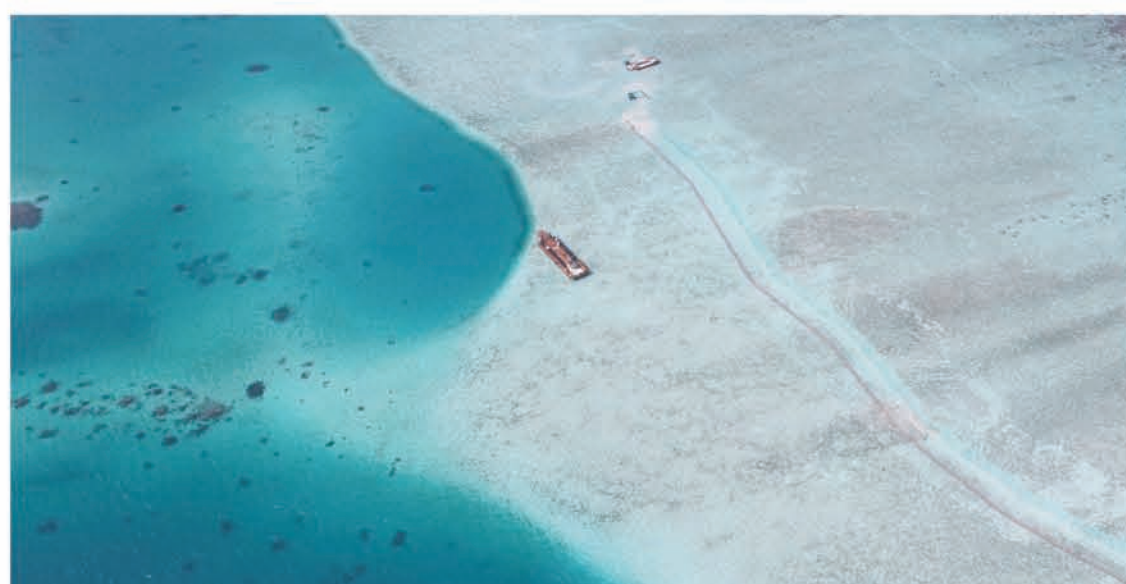
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A high luxury service that provides a unique and distinctive experience for visitors



Architectural designs that provide the highest standards of luxury



Estithmar Holding to develop luxury resort in the Maldives

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This project represents the epitome of luxury and sophistication and will undoubtedly become one of the most sought-after destinations for discerning travellers from around the globe.

The total investment is \$343mn. The centre of the resort will host several specialty world-renowned restaurants, a waterpark, a wellness facility, a beach club and several amenities that guarantee to give guests an unforgettable experience, Estithmar Holding has said in a statement. With a focus on experiential luxury, the Rosewood resort is set to provide guests with a distinctive and unparalleled experience.

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Guests are sure to be left "in awe of the stunning architecture, breathtaking views and exceptional service that this resort will offer", the statement added.

Vodafone Qatar 'Platinum Sponsor of QRCS disaster management camp'

Vodafone Qatar was the Platinum Sponsor of the recently held ninth Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) Disaster Management Camp (DMC-9) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy.

The camp aimed to build awareness about both the natural and unnatural disasters that occur worldwide, and how to provide the necessary aid that is required during these times.

Training coaches from various organisations around the world were on hand to share their knowledge and expertise with the participants.

Khames al-Naimi, chief human resources officer at Vodafone Qatar, said: "We take pride in our social investment initiatives that



have benefited the wider community. These initiatives follow our CSR strategy, and it was an honour to sponsor Qatar Red Crescent Society's event, which mobilised the power of youth in volunteerism, and contributed to the human development goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030."

Faisal M al-Emadi, CEO of QRCS, said: "I would like to thank Vodafone Qatar for sponsoring the '9th Disaster Management Camp', uniquely organised by QRCS as the world's only Arabic-speaking disaster management training event."

"The camp was amazing and achieved its planned goals, thanks to support from the government, as well as the private-sector sponsors like Vodafone Qatar, which have already provided funding and in-kind donations for QRCS in many projects."

For more of Vodafone Qatar CSR programme, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/investor-relations/financial-information/annual-reports/2018/corporate-social-responsibility>



The opening session.

Conference on political culture in Arab world commences

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The three-day Conference on Social and Human Sciences, held by the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies, began yesterday based on the theme - 'The concept of political culture and political cultures in the Arab world'.

Dr Azmi Bishara, director-general of the centre and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, delivered the opening lecture.

Then, Dr Abdelwahab El Affendi, president of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, presented a paper titled 'Culture as a Weapon: Culture Wars and Cultures of Wars in the United States and Egypt', in which he dealt with the phenomenon known as "culture wars" in the US, a development that drew public attention in the 1990s. It reached its peak in the era of former President Donald Trump.

El Affendi compared it to similar developments in Egypt in the period leading up to the July 2013 events, and it is still raging today. He reviewed the dynamics of this "cultural" conflict, which reveals that the pivotal role of culture is in shaping identity and giving political and social action. The meaning also interacts with the multiplicity and diversity of the possibilities of using it as a tool for conflict and division. He also disagreed with Samuel P Huntington's contention that the difference of cultures delineates the boundaries of conflict between nations.

Dr Abdel-Fattah Madi, a researcher at the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies and director of the State and Political Systems Studies Unit, presented a paper titled 'How does tyranny shape the political culture of the masses? An approach from the perspective of civil-military relations'. He focused on the policy of indoctrination, which usually has long-term repercussions, because it is related to the political culture of the masses.

The subsequent sessions featured Tunisian researcher in sociology, Dr Asma Lahyoul; Dr Shaker Houki, professor of Public Law at Al-Manar University in Tunis; Dr Ahmed Abu El-Ala, professor of Cultural Anthropology at the National Centre for Social and Criminology Research in Cairo;

Egyptian academic and architect Dr Ali Abdullaouf; researcher at the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies Dr Hani Awad; Dr Ibrahim Morshed and Dr Ibrahim Mansouri, professors of economics at the University of Marrakech, and Dr Hussein Shukrani, professor of public law and political

science at the same university; Dr Saeed al-Haji, professor of Contemporary and Current History at Abdelmalek Saadi University in Tetouan (Morocco), and Dr Abd al-Ilah Setti, professor of political science and constitutional law at Ibn Zohr University in Agadir (Morocco).



INVITATION TO TENDER

Qatar Development Bank hereby invites Classified Facilities Management Contractors to participate in the following Tender:

Tender Ref.	Project Title	Description	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Tender Closing Date
QDB-FMD/M/05	Jahiz 1(32 Factories); Qatar Business Incubation Center (QBIC); Jahiz 2 (16 Workshops) and Al Maha Commercial Building, New Industrial Area, Qatar	Complete Facilities Management Services	QR. 4,000	QR. 1,400,000	26 th March 2023, 12:00 PM

The Pre-Tender meeting to be held on **Tuesday 14th March 2023, 10:00 AM**, in the presence of Assets & Properties Management Department (APMD) Representatives. Maximum of 2 participants only from each Contractor.

- The Tender Document for the above can be obtained by sending an email to:

Procurement & Tendering Department
Mezzanine Floor, QDB Building A

Grand Hamad Avenue,
P.O Box: 22789 Doha – Qatar
Email: eprourement@qdb.qa

- Tenderers to pay a non-refundable Tender Fee mentioned above which should be paid to **Qatar National Bank (QNB) Account No. (0001-818570-003)** in the name of **Qatar Development Bank**.
- The Tender shall be submitted in the following manner: -
 - Technical Tender Submission: Includes completed, stamped and signed Tender Documents, UNPRICED Schedule B – Remuneration and Payment. **Any reference to total tender amount in this Submission may result to rejection of tender**.
 - Commercial Tender Submission: Includes completed, stamped and signed Schedule B – Remuneration and Payment.
- Technical & Commercial Tender Submission shall be submitted online through QDB Procurement e-portal
- All inquiries to be sent to email: eprourement@qdb.qa not later than **7 calendar days from the date of this advertisement**. Any enquiries after this date will not be considered.



The Diplomatic Club Tender Committee invites qualified contractors and vendors for the following tender:

S. No.	Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Closing Date
01	TDC-ITT-04-23-GESST	Supply & Delivery of General and Engineering Store Supply Items for One Year.	As per Below table	Five percent (5%) of total bid value	02:00PM 02 April 2023

Tender Document Fees for Tender No.: TDC-ITT-004-23-GESST – "Supply of General and Engineering Store Supply Items":

S/N	Group	Subject	Fees QR.
1	A	Cleaning Items & Chemicals	300-
2	B	Office Stationeries & Printer Cartridge	300-
3	C	Plastic & Polythene Bags	100-
4	D	Paper Products	500-
5	E	Aluminum & Plastic Products	200-
6	F	Operating Supplies	200-
7	G	Electric Bulbs & Accessories	200-
8	H	Plumbing Items	100-
9	I	Paint & Accessories	100-
10	J	Swimming Pool Chemicals	100-
11	K	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Accessories	100-

CONDITIONS:

Tender Documents may be obtained from The Diplomatic Club Contracts & Procurement Department upon presentation of **Authorization Letter to collect tender documents with valid Commercial Registration, Computer Card, trade license Certificate and payment of the non-refundable tender fee**.
Price valid from 01 June 2023 to 31 May 2024
Tender Bond – As stated above valid for one hundred twenty (120) days.
Performance Bond – 10% valid for 30 days after scheduled completion date. At the award of contract, if the bidder's payment terms requires an advance payment, an advance payment guaranty valid for 90 days from scheduled completion date issued by a bank operating in Qatar must be submitted to the Tender Committee.
Offers should be valid for 90 days commencing from the closing date.
The Diplomatic Club's shall have the right to increase or decrease the quantity by 20% of the contract quantity or value, as per its condition & price
The Diplomatic Club reserves absolute discretion in awarding in full to one supplier or partially to different suppliers.
The Diplomatic Club's is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and is under no obligation to show reason thereof.
Tenders should be submitted not later than **02:00PM on 02 April 2023** (closing date) and must be deposited into the Tender Box provided in Contracts & Procurement Department, located at The Diplomatic Club, West Bay Dafna. Late submissions will not be accepted.

CHAIRMAN - TENDERS COMMITTEE
Tel: 44847506 / 44847471 Fax: 44839001
Email: tendercommittee@dclub.com.qa



Qatar Charity and Al Rawabi Group officials.

Qatar Charity signs ‘CP’ agreement with Al Rawabi Group

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed an agreement with Al Rawabi Group as part of a partnership and co-operation in the fields of humanitarian and community work.

Under the agreement, Al Rawabi Group becomes a ‘Charity Partner’ (CP) of QC and has been awarded the ‘CP’ trademark in the bronze category within the framework of the social responsibility programmes of Qatar Charity.

The agreement was signed by Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO’s

assistant for the Resources Development and Media Sector at Qatar Charity, and Sheikh Khalid bin Hassan Abdu Rahman al-Thani, director of Al Rawabi Group.

Al Rawabi Group donated QR100,000 as part of its partnership and co-operation in the field of humanitarian and community work.

The agreement is part of Al Rawabi’s keenness to participate in the programmes and activities, organised by Qatar Charity to help and support deserving persons, as part of its

social responsibility and humanitarian duty. Fakhroo expressed happiness at the signing of the ‘CP’ agreement with Al Rawabi and inauguration of Rawabi Hypermarket, Izghawa.

He said Qatar Charity is keen to involve organisations and companies in charitable activities by signing ‘CP’ agreements, noting that it aims to establish partnerships with a larger number of companies this year to allow them to contribute to community services and charitable projects.

Fakhroo also referred to the

previous co-operation between Qatar Charity and Al Rawabi Group for many joint Ramadan projects, in addition to other programmes that will be implemented under the ‘CP’ programme.

On signing the agreement, Sheikh Khalid said: “We are proud to associate with Qatar Charity, whose efforts to alleviate poverty and provide help and support to those in need across the world irrespective of caste, creed and religious beliefs is a shining example of Qatari culture.”

QIB launches Qatar Central Bank’s Himyan prepaid card

Apply for a Himyan Prepaid Card for your local spending



Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has introduced a new prepaid card, Himyan, the first Qatari national prepaid card, to all existing customers, residents and visitors of Qatar, allowing secure payments within the country.

The first Qatari national prepaid card is an initiative of Qatar Central Bank with its own trademark in Qatar, as part of its efforts to develop electronic payment services and enhance financial inclusion in the country. The name of the card comes from the moneybag used by merchants in ancient Arabia.

As part of QIB’s efforts to support the national vision and enhance financial inclusion, QIB customers and non-banking customers, including visitors holding a valid QID or visa, can apply for the Himyan prepaid card via the QIB mobile app or by visiting the branch and filling out the required application form.

Minors can also apply with a valid QID and a guardian who is a QIB customer. The new prepaid card can only be used within Qatar providing flexibility to customers in their daily spends, in addition to monitoring and controlling expenses and purchases. The new card allows transactions locally via the NAPS network at all sale points, ATMs, and local online shopping websites.

In addition to the flexibility of the Himyan prepaid card, customers can benefit from contactless feature, reaffirming QIB’s commitment

to offer a seamless banking experience. Himyan cardholders can use their cards to pay locally in a safe and secure manner since all transactions are made locally via the NAPS network. Additionally, the Himyan prepaid card does not require a minimum account balance for issuance.

D Anand, QIB general manager – Personal Banking Group, said: “We are excited to launch the Himyan prepaid card, a new addition to our extensive and diversified line-up of cards. This new card comes at a perfect time when we are witnessing an influx of visitors in the country, allowing them to pay securely within Qatar as part of the country’s efforts to develop electronic payments systems and a cashless society. This gives our customers and non-customers yet another option to pay securely using a national prepaid card with many advantages.”

Existing QIB customers can apply for the Himyan prepaid card via the QIB mobile app or by visiting the branch and filling out the required application form. Non-QID holders (visitors), can download the QIB wallet application and complete the registration process. Once the process is completed and the card is received, visitors can visit QIB’s selected branches to request load funds in exchange of cash. For more information and to learn how to apply for the Himyan prepaid card, visit www.qib.qa/en-Himyncard

Department store Printemps Doha celebrates its official grand opening on International Women’s Day

In Doha, everything begins at Printemps



Baumer, exciting gifts, live music from Banyan Tree’s Vertigo, various dance performances, a fashion show which highlighted Printemps’ key SS23 brands and signature looks, beauty animations from the likes of Hermes Beauté, Wild Science Lab, Tom Ford, Chanel Beauté, Roja, Clarins, a fashion illustrator, glitter make-up bar, and calligraphy from Cartier, Assouline and Penhaligon’s. Last but not least, culinary experiences from Banyan Tree - and for the first time in Qatar with Printemps Doha - from new restaurants & cafés Dar Yema, Villa Mossavali, Wild & The Moon, Printemps’ Salon de Thé by Mariage Frères, Pierre Marcolini,



Matthew Kenney, Al Rabeya, Twiga, Crazy Pizza and Cova, provided everyone with a unique gastronomic experience to remember.

Present at the event were Ambassador of France to Qatar HE Jean-Baptiste Faivre, the CEO of Printemps Paris, Jean-Marc Bellaiche, George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg from the award-winning design studio Yabu Pushelberg who oversaw the ambitious Printemps Doha design concept, artist Luc Kieffer, the renown French botanist Patrick Blanc who designed the vertical gardens for Printemps Doha’s latest vegan restaurant & café, Matthew Kenney and Wild & The Moon, and friends of Printemps including fashion designers Mikael D and João Rôlo and Sébastien LÉTRANGE, among other prestigious names.

On International Women’s Day, Printemps Doha, the largest luxury department store in the Middle East, celebrated

its official grand opening in Doha Oasis with a memorable event that combined fashion, fun, food and much more. Guests were treated on

Wednesday 8th March to a thrilling evening filled with surprises including a wonderful diamond prize courtesy of jewellery brand Lorenz



Printemps Doha’s opening hours:

Saturday – Wednesday:
10 am – 10 pm

Thursday:
10 am – 12 am

Friday:
1 pm – 12:00 am

‘Qumra lends voice and space to emerging talent’

The Doha Film Institute's (DFI) annual talent incubator event for Arab and international cinema, Qumra 2023, plays a decisive role in shaping the new generation of talent, providing them the voice and much-needed space to accelerate their script-to-screen journey, observed accomplished Arab filmmakers, who mentor young directors at the event.

Annamarie Jacir, whose films *Wajib* and *Salt of this Sea* have captivated global audiences and won international acclaim, said Qumra is invaluable at many levels, including how it has enabled young filmmakers, especially who have bold themes to narrate, the support they need.

She said themes set around Palestine and the struggles of its people are still taboo in the Western world and they are seen in a very critical manner. Qumra offers the platform for young filmmakers, who have such bold themes, to realise their cinematic aspirations. While the landscape of cinema has changed tremendously since she started out, Annmarie says she is energised and inspired by the stories and narratives of today's filmmakers. "They keep you on your toes," especially in the manner they perceive various subjects that are relevant to the world today.

Annamarie said Qumra also helps create an audience for Arab cinema in the region, stating that it is possible that a huge critically and commercially acclaimed film can emerge from the region. "We must fight for our audience because the typical thinking is that there is not a large audience for Arab cinema. I never buy that argument."

She said Arab cinema has long broken the glass ceiling, as is evident from the number of women filmmakers nurtured by the Doha Film Institute and who participate in Qumra. "We have always had a level playing field."



Annamarie Jacir



Tala Hadid



A general view of Working Breakfast on Day 2 of Qumra 2023. PICTURE: Eamonn M McCormack/Getty Images for Doha Film Institute

Annamarie said she had wished for a mentor when she started her career as a filmmaker, one that Qumra today delivers for young talent. "My only advice to every emerging filmmaker is to trust their instinct – about the project and the situations they come across."

Tala Hadid, whose films such as *House in the Fields* have gained global recognition and has been associated with Qumra for many years as mentor, said the event has played a commendable role in offering seamless support to young filmmakers, even during

the pandemic. Such support was much-needed, especially during the pandemic, she said.

Describing Qumra as a 'very special space' for cinema, Tala said its vibe is "relaxed, open and supportive" and "creates a sense of community," which is relevant more so in today's world, where the spirit of being together is often threatened.

She said that over the years, young filmmakers who participate in Qumra, have had a fundamental quest – to make a good film without being fazed by the number of hurdles they must

overcome. For her, the golden rule to any aspiring director is to "be honest in your endeavour."

Qumra is being held in an innovative hybrid format with in-person activities until March 15 and online sessions from March 19 to 21. Tickets for the Qumra Screening are priced at QR35 and can be bought online at www.dohafilminstitute.com.

Members of the public can also buy the Qumra Pass to gain full access to the Qumra programme or buy a Qumra Pass Online for the master classes or individual screenings only.

Build trust with actors and crew, and explore instinctive filmmaking, Qumra Master Lynne Ramsay tells emerging talent

Highly original even when she adapts literary works to cinema, Cannes and BAFTA-award winning director and Qumra Master Lynne Ramsay was effervescent and candid in her Masterclass at Qumra 2023, the Doha Film Institute's annual talent incubator event for Arab and international cinema.

Attended by emerging filmmakers from across the world and moderated by Richard Peaa, professor of Film Studies at Columbia University, the masterclass navigated the cinematic universe of Ramsay, providing glimpses into the genius that makes her works extraordinary and resonate intensely with successive generations of audiences. The takeaway for emerging filmmakers from the session – 'Build trust' – with actors and the crew so that together they realise the director's vision.

There was no prescriptive advice from Ramsay for the participants. Instead, they gained insight into a passionate and brilliant filmmaker's mind, enabling them to put themselves in her shoes as directors and bring out the best from their team.

Ramsay says it is important never to be complacent when it comes to directing actors, and to keep exploring together by getting them into the project as early as possible. The next step is to agree how far they can go, and whether their actor impulses match her own vision and then stick to her guns. All the disagreements must be addressed in the first place, to work towards building mutual trust and rapport. "You must



Lynne Ramsay poses during a portrait session. PICTURE: Eamonn M McCormack/Getty Images for DFI

bring your enthusiasm to the film set, and when it's fun, it works." Her own approach to cinema is guided by the exciting prospect of "meeting people from different backgrounds, with different emotions, and understanding what prism they are looking through, and in the process uncover some kind of emotion inside you too. You must be honest and open to seeing the world."

Ramsay says films are like a crochet of humanity, and filmmaking is an endlessly fascinating job that enables directors to "uncover a person, moment, and time. I always feel like a student – and I always learn from my associations on a film. The key is to find a subject that hits your core." She likes to smash up her themes a bit to challenge herself, which is her way of "uncovering some truth in the subjects" she presents in her films.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, in a working-class family that

loved films, Ramsay attended a film foundation course for young kids, where she stumbled into a dark room to herself, which she calls "the magic room" that enabled her to explore with abandon.

Her original passion was photography, but she went on to graduate in cinematography and directing from the National Film and Television School. She says she hated film school, where she felt she was "thrown into the deep end" as most of her peers were more experienced in film than her.

Her graduation film, *Small Deaths*, won the 1996 Cannes Prix de Jury, and she continued to work on shorts, such as *Gasman* (1997), an intense film that too won at Cannes. Ramsay loves making short films for their ability to "speak volumes while saying little". Shorts also enable her to experiment, and she sees it as a "fun form to play with".

Ramsay's first feature film, *Ratcatcher*, screened in the Un Certain Regard at Cannes in

1999, stood out for its brilliant originality. She worked with non-professional actors for the film, and her cue to young filmmakers is "never to patronise [debutant non-professional actors] and to make the filmset a fun experience".

Her subsequent films, including *Morvern Callar* (2002), based on a novel by Alan Warner; the intense *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2011), based on Lionel Shriver's novel; and the 'neo-noir crime thriller' *You Were Never Really Here*, based on a novella by Jonathan Ames, all gained international acclaim.

But, in making these films, she again marked a departure from the norm. None of the films were seen by the writers before they were completed, with Ramsay never resorting to a 'straight adaptation but always reinterpreting the characters' in her inimitable way.

Describing her style of filmmaking as "very instinctive", Ramsay says these films are "companion pieces" to the novels. She said she could make another movie altogether on *Kevin*. She said she likes to review the works by upcoming filmmakers. "I am excited to be here in Qatar after being invited for many years. Qumra is really supportive of emerging filmmakers in a very special way." On final count, here was a masterclass that did not handhold young filmmakers and took them through a pre-ordained path but inspired them to discover the freedom in filmmaking – from ideation to the process to connecting with audiences with a new approach to storytelling.

Italian embassy, VCUarts Qatar mark Italian Design Day



Amir Berbic



Maria Tripodi at the event.

The embassy of Italy and Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) held a 2023 Italian Design Day event at VCUarts Qatar's Atrium recently.

The event was opened by the addresses of Maria Tripodi, Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Amir Berbic, dean of VCUarts Qatar.

Italian Design Day is the annual celebration of Italian design abroad, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Italian Trade Agency and the Italian Association of Industrial Design.

The 2023 edition of Italian Design Day in Qatar was co-organised by the embassy of Italy in Doha and VCUarts Qatar with the support of the Italian Trade Agency Office in Doha, whose contribution was also directed at promoting the upcoming 'Salone del Mobile di Milano' – Milan Design Week, which will be held from April 18 to 23.

This year's edition has been entirely dedicated to

the influences that link Italy and Qatar through the experiences of professional designers from both countries, hence the title - 'Design Stories Between Italy and Qatar'. Marco Bruno, Simone Muscolino, Giovanni Innella, Simone Carena, Stella Colaleo and Maryam al-Suwaidi, in collaboration with FROMM, presented a selection of projects that are inspired by a mutual understanding of Italian and Qatari culture.

Undersecretary Tripodi said: "I am particularly glad to have the opportunity to take part in the Italian Design Day in Doha, which is nowadays one important recipient of our best products. As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are well aware of the importance of design as a means to promote Italian lifestyle and industries, and that is why we partner with an international event as the Milan's Salone del Mobile. The values of beauty, sustainability and human-centred approach that are at the basis of our design are also at the core of our campaign for Expo Rome 2030, which is now entering in the final and most intensive stage."

"Every year, Italian Design Day reminds us of the beauty and elegance of objects that respond to our needs, offer solutions and provide inspiration," said Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi.

"This year's event is even more special because it is opened by a high-level political guest like Undersecretary Tripodi. It shows us how different cultures can influence each other to create new aesthetics and ideas. This is particularly visible in Doha today, a city which has grown to become one of the world's design and arts capitals. Research and academic collaborations are crucial to these developments and our partner VCUarts Qatar represents a standard of excellence."

Berbic added: "We are celebrating the legacy of Italian design which has transcended borders, culture and time. Italian design has captivated the world and we are fortunate here at VCUarts Qatar to have a collective of Italian artists and designers on our faculty to bring this fusion of Italian and Qatar design to life through their research, stories and their work."

Qatar Insurance Group sponsors EAA's Goals4Good tournament

Qatar Insurance Group (QIC), a leading insurer in Qatar and the Mena region, sponsored the Goals4Good tournament organised by Education Above All (EAA) Foundation with the aim of helping the world's most vulnerable and marginalised children.

The tournament took place at Doha College.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Rashid al-Buainain, chief administrative officer of QIC Group, said: "Access to quality education is critical to unlocking a child's full potential. We are proud to sponsor an initiative that supports a noble cause of education of marginalised and impoverished children and promotes good health and leadership among students in Qatar. This sponsorship reinforces our commitment to leveraging QIC Group's leading position to create a positive societal impact by developing the future leaders of Qatar's Student Community. We thank Education Above All for their vision and commitment to creating an equitable world for children everywhere."

'Goals4Good' will support EAA's projects across the world with a specific focus on supporting children in Myanmar,



Rashid al-Buainain at the event.



A QIC Group-sponsored team.

Zanzibar, Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Cambodia Together Project, Assalam Schools in Qatar, Rota Programme Project Youth Vol-

unteers for Training and Development and Al Fakhoora programme for access to higher education in Gaza.

Students of over 35 schools compete in EAA's Goals4Good tournament

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation has organised "Goals4Good" tournament, the kick off of its Ramadan campaign, with the participation of students from over 35 schools.

Director of Private Sector Partnerships at Education Above All Foundation Parintaj Sulaiman said that the tournament reflects EAA's commitment to sustainable developments goals, particularly Goal 3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"; Goal 4, "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and Goal 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development." She underlined the importance of the tournament in spreading awareness about the importance of education as a basic right for millions of marginalised and poor children around the world, in addition to raising donations to support the selected EAA's projects, that aim to educate the most vulnerable children in the world. Parintaj

Sulaiman said that all funds raised during the tournament will be used for EAA's educational projects around the world, with a particular focus on supporting children in Myanmar, Zanzibar, Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Cambodia, Qatar, ROTA "Young Volunteers for Training and Development" project and Al Fakhoora programme for access to higher education in Gaza, Syria, Turkey and Lebanon.

She explained that school students will compete in the football matches in three age categories, namely 10-12 years, 13-15 years and 16-18 years, for both boys and girls. The winning team will receive a trophy and certificates of appreciation, as well as medals and prizes for Best Player, Best Goal and Best Goalkeeper. The winners of the art competition, titled "The Classroom of Tomorrow", have been announced, she said and added that the artworks were offered for sale for QR100 per piece, to be donated to Education Above All Foundation's projects. (QNA)

Bomb attack kills guard, wounds journalists in Afghan north

A bomb blast in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif yesterday killed a security guard and wounded a group of journalists, as well as several children, police and a witness said.

The blast came two days after a suicide bomber killed the Taliban governor of northern Balkh province in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

Yesterday's blast took place during an event honouring Afghanistan's media at a cultural centre in Mazar-e-Sharif. Police said a security guard was killed and that five journalists were among the wounded. **-AFP**

German aviation stoppage sees more than 350 flights cancelled

A 24-hour strike by security staff at four German airports will force the cancellation of 351 flights tomorrow, their union announced, an action denounced by the airports association.

"One will have to expect longer queueing times as well as cancelled flights," said a statement yesterday from the Verdi union, which is pressing for better pay and conditions.

The expected flight cancellations will be at Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg and Hannover airports, hitting around 100,000 passengers, airports association ADV said.

Verdi is seeking better pay for night shifts and weekend work. **-AFP**

Iraq seizes 3mn captagon pills hidden in apple crates at border

Iraqi authorities said they seized 3mn pills of captagon, an amphetamine-type stimulant that has been sweeping the Middle East for years, near the Syrian border.

The pills had been hidden in apple crates "loaded onto a refrigerator truck" and discovered at the Al-Qaim crossing between Syria's Deir Ezzor province and western Iraq's Anbar desert region, the Iraqi border authority said yesterday.

The truck driver had been arrested.

A border authority official told AFP that the shipment from Syria into Iraq contained captagon pills produced by several manufacturers. **-AFP**

Indian police arrests three after man killed for possessing beef

Police in India have arrested three men in eastern Bihar state in connection with the death of a man who was attacked because he was suspected of carrying beef, a police official said yesterday.

The victim, Naseem Qureshi, 56, died earlier this week after being attacked by a mob on suspicion of carrying beef, the sale and consumption of which is restricted in some parts of the country by local governments.

Ramchandra Tiwari, head of Rasulpur police station in Bihar, where the crime took place, said by phone that three people were arrested. **-Reuters**

Biden scraps Trump's colour scheme for Air Force One plane

The US Air Force has unveiled a new colour scheme for Air Force One, discarding the palette chosen by Donald Trump for the presidential aircraft.

President Joe Biden is sticking with a classic blue-and-white colour scheme for the jets, which are under construction, retaining a design that dates to John F Kennedy's administration six decades ago.

A red, white and blue paint scheme for the presidential aircraft, known as Air Force One when the president is on board, was proposed by Trump when he was president, but was scuttled after a study showed it would create too much heat.

Trump's design called for a deep red stripe down the middle of the aircraft and a dark blue underbelly.

The colours presented challenges to engineers, however, and a statement yesterday from the secretary of the Air Force cited possible delays and tests to deal with "the added heat" from the darker shade of blue.

The new Air Force One aircraft will instead closely resemble the ageing current one, although the light blue will be a "more modern tone" than the existing robin's egg blue, and there will be no polished metal on the fuselage "because modern commercial aircraft skin alloys don't allow for it", it said.

The replacement aircraft are projected to be delivered in 2027 and 2028, so the winner of the 2024 elections will be the first to take off in the new jets.

The Boeing aircraft are not like commercial airliners.

The Boeing Co 747-8s are designed to be an airborne White House able to fly in worst-case security scenarios, such as nuclear war, and are modified with military avionics, advanced communications and a self-defence system.

The current Air Force One planes face rising maintenance costs and use parts that are increasingly obsolete, but will have to suffice until the newer aircraft are delivered, the statement said. **-AFP/Reuters**

Only 16% of DUP voters back Sunak's Northern Ireland deal: survey

Only 16% of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) voters would back British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's recent deal with the European Union on post-Brexit trade rules if a referendum were held, a poll showed yesterday.

The survey by pollster LucidTalk for the *Belfast Telegraph* found just 38% of the region's wider unionist electorate would vote for the Windsor Framework agreement if a referendum were held.

While 73% of DUP voters and 50% of unionist voters would oppose the deal, 67% of all voters in the region were in favour thanks to strong support among nationalists.

Unionists want Northern Ireland to remain part of the UK, while nationalists favour a united Ireland.

The British government is not expected to need the votes of the DUP or the wider Northern Ireland electorate to ratify the agreement, which was announced in February, but Sunak had hoped to use the deal to convince the party to end a boycott that has frozen the region's devolved government.

In an apparent sign of falling support for the DUP's boycott, the percentage of unionists who said the region's devolved government should not be restored until issues around post-Brexit trade rules are resolved fell to 54% from 66% in a poll six weeks ago.

The online poll questioned 3,409 people on March 3-5. **-Reuters**

Skeleton of T-Rex to go on auction

A Tyrannosaurus-Rex skeleton dating back 67mn years will be auctioned in Switzerland next month, marking the first such sale in Europe, the auction house said yesterday.

The skeleton dubbed Trinity will go under the hammer in Zurich on April 18, the Koller auction house said.

Towering 3.9m (12.8') in the air, Trinity has been valued at between 6-8mn Swiss francs (\$6.5-8.7mn), according to the auction catalogue.

However, Christian Link, in charge of natural history memorabilia at Koller, told AFP that he believed that was a "very low estimate".

Trinity is "one of the most spectacular T-Rex skeletons in existence, a well-preserved and brilliantly restored fossil", the auction house said.

The sale would mark "the first time in Europe and only the third time worldwide (that) a skeleton of an entire T-Rex dinosaur of exceptional quality will be offered at auction".

The Trinity skeleton is made up of bone material from three T-Rex specimens, excavated between 2008 and 2013 from the US. **-AFP**

More than 1,300 migrants brought ashore in Italy

AFP/Reuters
Rome

Three boats overcrowded with migrants were brought safely to Italian ports yesterday, the coastguard said, as thousands of marchers remembered the victims of last month's deadly shipwreck off Calabria's coast.

The rescue of more than 1,000 migrants came the same day as the body of the 74th victim of the deadly shipwreck nearly two weeks ago was found - that of a female child between five and six years of age, according to Italian news agency AGI.

The February 26 shipwreck, which occurred just off the shore of Calabria, has drawn sharp criticism of the right-wing government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for its failure to intervene timely to save the migrants.

Yesterday in Cutro, near the site of the disaster, thousands of marchers carried a cross made of splintered wood from the shipwreck through the streets.

"This cross is a symbol of suffering today," said Domenico "Mimmo" Lucano, a former Calabrian mayor known for his activism on behalf of migrants, as quoted by news agency Ansa. "During these emergencies, Calabrian

communities are shaken, and what prevails is a spirit of solidarity that the government doesn't show."

On Friday, the coastguard began a rescue operation of three boats, one south of the Calabrian city of Crotona and two further south off Roccella Ionica.

Coastguard videos showed a large fishing boat pitching violently back and forth in nighttime rough seas with dozens of people visible on the deck.

Other images showed inflatable rescue boats approaching another fishing vessel packed with people.

Those 487 migrants onboard the first boat were safely brought to the port of Crotona about 0200 GMT yesterday morning, the coastguard said.

Another operation in which 500 migrants were brought to safety aboard a coastguard ship was wrapping up, it said.

Ansa had earlier reported that the ship had docked at the port of Reggio Calabria.

A third boat carrying 379 people was rescued by two coastguard patrol boats and the migrants transferred to a Navy ship headed to the Sicilian port of Augusta, it said.

Italy's defence ministry said it had begun to air transfers of migrants away from the migrant centre on the island of Lampedusa, which it said was now over capacity.

The recent shipwreck has put the government on the defensive.

On Thursday, Meloni held a cabinet meeting at Cutro, near the disaster site, and announced a new decree that included stiffer prison sentences for human traffickers, but no new measures to help save lives.

Late last year, the government cracked down on charity rescue boats, accusing them of acting as a taxi service for migrants.

The charities denied this was the case.

Enrico Borghi, a senator with the centre-left Democratic Party, accused the government of bungling the crisis.

"(It) thinks it can solve such a profound problem through media posturing, the criminal code and fake efforts at appearing tough," he wrote on Twitter. "The result: landings have tripled with the Meloni government."

Meloni herself issued a statement yesterday, saying that the only solution lay with a joint European effort to strengthen the EU's borders and enhance co-operation with expulsions.

The interior ministry says more than 17,500 people have arrived by sea so far this year - almost three times the number for the same period last year.

Hundreds have also died trying to cross the Mediterranean and reach Europe.

Prepped for launch



This handout photo from Relativity Space shows the Terran 1 rocket on the launch pad at Launch Complex 16 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The Terran 1 is the world's first 3D-printed rocket. Its second launch is scheduled for this weekend.

New Chinese prime minister confirmed

AFP/Reuters
Beijing

Li Qiang, one of Chinese President Xi Jinping's most trusted allies, was confirmed as premier yesterday, as Xi cements his influence on the country's top leadership.

Li, the former Shanghai party chief who oversaw the city's gruelling two-month lockdown last spring, was named the successor of outgoing premier Li Keqiang at a meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament.

The 63-year-old received nearly every vote from the more than 2,900 delegates at the National People's Congress, a day after Xi was unanimously selected by deputies for a norm-breaking third term as president.

Xi's motion nominating Li Qiang as premier was read out to the chamber yesterday morning.

Journalists were asked to leave the chamber as deputies, mostly dressed in dark suits, marked their ballots in a tightly choreographed process.

Delegates later applauded as Xi ceremoniously deposited his votes in the ballot box while cheerful traditional music played from speakers.

An electronic screen in the hall displayed 2,936 votes for Li, with only three delegates voting against his appointment and eight abstaining.

Li later took an oath, swearing to be loyal to China's constitution and to "work hard to build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilised, harmonious and great modern socialist country".

Widely perceived to be pragmatic and business-friendly, Li faces the daunting task of shoring up China's uneven recovery amid global headwinds and weak confidence among consumers and the private sector.

He takes office as tensions rise with the West over a host of issues including US moves to block China's access to key technologies and as many global companies diversify supply chains to hedge their China exposure due to political risks and the disruptions of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic era.

Protests against pension reform losing steam

Protesters took to the streets in France yesterday on a seventh day of demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular pension reform plan, but not in the huge numbers authorities had expected.

The protests - and rolling strikes that have affected refineries, public transport and garbage collections - aim to pressure the government to withdraw the pension plan, whose key measure is raising the retirement age by two years to 64.

According to figures from the interior ministry, 368,000 demonstrators marched through various cities.

Authorities had expected up to 1mn people to take part.

As with the previous protests, yesterday's events were free of any major scuffles with the police.

On Tuesday, 1.28mn people took to the streets, the highest turnout since the start of the protest movement, according to government figures.

The government insists its reform plan is essential to ensure the pension system does not run out of money and has said it will not back down.

The Senate, the upper house of Parliament, continued to review the reform bill during the weekend and may vote on the text to-night, moving it closer to enactment.

In a joint statement, the French unions, maintaining a rare show of unity since the protest movement was launched at the end of January, called on the government to organize a "citizens' consultation" as soon as possible.

The unions plan to keep up pressure "and to keep on proving that the vast majority of the population remains determined to say no to the proposed bill", they said.

Opinion polls show a majority of voters oppose Macron's plan, while a slim majority supports the strike actions. **-Reuters**

'Pineapple express' storm wallops California

Reuters/AFP
Los Angeles

Emergency officials in several California counties are patrolling levees and swollen rivers as an "atmospheric river" storm drenched the already-sodden state with torrential rains, causing floods that washed out roads and prompted evacuations.

The latest deluge from dense streams of Pacific moisture sweeping California's skies soaked some mountain areas still clogged with piles of snow dumped by a recent spate of paralysing blizzards, while bringing even more snow to higher elevations.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said it is investigating what role, if any, late-February snowstorms may have played in the demise of at least eight people, most of them elderly, found to have died alone while snowbound in their homes over the past two weeks.

Residents in the town of Big Bear and nearby mountain enclaves have said that their communities are ill-prepared for the severity of winter storms that local authorities called unprecedented for Southern California's high country.

The latest blast of heavy showers and gusty winds arrived on Thursday night and peaked early yesterday, sweeping a vast region that is home to 20mn people, including greater Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area and metropolitan Sacramento.

Flood watches and advisories extended from San Diego and Mexican border to the Shasta-Cascade region of north California.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported rainfall totals ranging from 3" to

nearly 10" across the region.

US President Joe Biden has declared an emergency in California, ordering federal assistance to help state and local authorities cope with the severe weather.

The move came after a request from California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The storm is the product of what meteorologists call an atmospheric river - known as a "Pineapple express" - a high-altitude current of dense, subtropical moisture streaming into the West Coast from the warm Pacific waters around Hawaii.

Forecasters said the Pineapple Express - so-called because it is bringing warm, subtropical moisture from Hawaii - could cause some of that monster snowpack to melt, overwhelming river systems.

It marks the 10th such weather system to hit California since Christmas, adding to an exceptionally wet, snowy winter in a state that in recent years has been plagued far more by drought and wildfires than by severe precipitation.

Among areas hardest hit were riverfront communities in central California where numerous streams engorged by runoff of rain and melting snow from surrounding mountains were transformed into raging torrents.

About 2,000 residents were under evacuation orders and warnings in San Luis Obispo County, as crews there spent the day monitoring levees, creeks and rivers and filling sandbags, said Rachel Monte Dion, the county's emergency services co-ordinator.

Some personnel spent hours in trailers watching for flooding in low-lying areas across the county, which was pummeled by heavy downpours in January, causing a levy to fail and damaging homes.

"Since January, it's been raining steadily here and so our ground is fully saturated and our creeks are full," Dion said, adding that flooding on Friday struck parts of the coastal wine country town of Cambria and the beachfront community of Oceano.

The collapse of one roadway in Paso Robles for the second time since January left a couple hundred residents outside that town cut off again, Dion said.

In Santa Cruz County, another road was washed out by a flooded creek near the town of Soquel, leaving at least 400 homes in adjacent foothill and mountain communities isolated, county spokesperson Jason Hopkin said.

Elsewhere in the county, communities along the swiftly rising San Lorenzo River were ordered evacuated before it reached flood stage, then receded, he said.

Authorities were still keeping their eye on the Pajaro River, which drains a much larger area and thus takes longer to rise and fall, he said.

Evacuation orders were issued along the Monterey County banks of that river, where "the levee is a little bit lower" than on the Santa Cruz County side, Hopkin said.

On Friday morning, the weather service issued a flash-flood warning for parts of Tulare County, urging residents: "Move to higher ground now! This is an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation."

The growing frequency and intensity of such storms amid bouts of prolonged drought are symptomatic of human-caused climate change, experts say.

The swing from one extreme to another has increased the difficulty of managing California's precious water supplies while minimising flood and wildfire risks.

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GULF TIMES

Urgent action required to address global crisis on food and nutrition security

Globally, poverty and food insecurity are both on the rise after decades of development gains.

Supply chain disruptions, climate change, Covid-19 pandemic, financial tightening through rising interest rates and the war in Ukraine have caused an unprecedented shock to the global food system, with the most vulnerable hit the hardest.

Food inflation remains high in the world, with dozens of countries experiencing double digit inflation.

According to WFP, nearly 350mn people across some 79 countries are acutely food insecure. The prevalence of undernourishment is also on the rise, following three years of deterioration.

This situation is expected to worsen, with global food supplies projected to drop to a three-year low in 2022/2023.

The need is especially dire in 24 countries that FAO and WFP have identified as hunger hotspots, of which 16 are in Africa. Fertiliser affordability as defined by the ratio between food prices and fertiliser prices is also the lowest since the 2007/2008 food crisis, which is leading to lower food production and impacting smallholder farmers the hardest, worsening the already high local food prices.

For example, the reduction in 2022 of the production of rice, for which Africa is the largest importer in the world, coupled with prospects of lower stocks, is of grave concern.

With two of the world's largest exporters of wheat and other crucial crops entering a second year of war, many vulnerable countries still face heightened food insecurity

In response to the inflation of food, fuel and fertiliser prices, countries have spent over \$710bn for social protection measures covering 1bn people, including approximately \$380bn for subsidies.

However, only \$4.3bn has been spent in low-income countries for social protection measures, compared to \$507.6bn in high-income countries, the heads of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, World Food Programme and World Trade Organisation said in a joint statement.

To prevent a worsening of the food and nutrition security crisis, further urgent actions are required to rescue hunger hotspots, facilitate trade, improve the functioning of markets, and enhance the role of the private sector, and reform and repurpose harmful subsidies with careful targeting and efficiency.

Meanwhile, one year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended agricultural commodity markets, food prices remain elevated even after retreating from their record highs in early 2022, IMF said.

With two of the world's largest exporters of wheat and other crucial crops entering a second year of war, many vulnerable countries still face heightened food insecurity. Fragile and conflict-affected states, home to 1bn people, are at particular risk.

Eleven straight monthly declines have pushed food prices down 19% percent from a peak last March, FAO noted.

Inflation-adjusted prices in February remained above than the average level for recent years, though they are now back in line with levels seen before the war in Ukraine.

The composition of the FAO Food Price Index shows that vegetable oils drove the decline in prices, along with dairy and cereals, while sugar and meat are little changed from early last year.

Obviously, governments and donors must step up support for the most vulnerable, facilitate trade and market functioning, and abandon harmful subsidies.

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The great global crack-up

By Paola Subacchi
London

The world is at last waking up to the ways in which economic inter-connectedness amplifies the risks of geopolitical turmoil. But while there is good reason for countries to boost resilience, a wholesale shift from integration to fragmentation, driven by geopolitical hostilities, bodes well for no-one's peace or prosperity.

The global economy is not there yet. While capital flows have declined considerably from their 2007 peak of \$12tn (22% of global GDP) – a trend that began with the 2008 crisis – economic integration remains strong. Total global trade in goods and services exceeds \$40tn – a ten-fold increase since 1990.

But, from 2016 to 2021, trade restrictions nearly doubled worldwide, owing primarily to tensions between the United States and China. In fact, fragmentation – like globalisation before it – would not be possible without China, whose rise transformed the regional competition for economic, financial, and geopolitical clout into a global one. While some hope to balance rivalry with engagement – the European Union views China as “a partner for co-operation, an economic competitor, and a systemic rival” – the dynamics are obviously complex.

The Covid-19 crisis and Russia's war against Ukraine have also contributed to fragmentation, as they have spurred countries to embrace “onshoring,” “near-shoring,” and “friend-shoring” with a growing sense of urgency. Yes, the pandemic showed that efficiency and cost-effectiveness do

not necessarily square with economic security. But while adjustments are needed to strengthen supply chain resilience, returning to a world divided into economic (and geopolitical) blocs holds serious risks.

We have been here before. Recall that World War I ended three decades of economic integration, showing that “doing business together” is not a sufficient condition for peace. But it is a necessary one.

The economic costs of fragmentation are already mounting. For starters, according to the International Monetary Fund, trade fragmentation could reduce global output by between 0.2% and 7%. Moreover, while trade and trade-related transmission channels have dominated discussions about the risks of fragmentation, international financial and monetary integration is also in peril, and the risks are not as slow-moving or moderate as many seem to think.

Consider sovereign debt. Here, fragmentation is reflected in the heterogeneity of creditors and contracts. In addition, key official creditors are divided along geopolitical lines: China is the largest bilateral creditor for developing countries, having lent them about \$498bn in 2008-21. For comparison, the World Bank lent these countries \$601bn over the same period.

Debt resolution remains the gaping hole in international governance. Countries with unsustainable debt positions lack incentives to address them in a timely way; on the contrary, the fear of losing market access deters such action. But with tighter financial conditions worsening the debt positions of poor countries in

Asia, Africa, and South America – 15% of which are already in debt distress, with another 45% at high risk – an agreement on debt resolution is urgent.

The problem is that fragmentation is hampering negotiations, not least because disunited creditors eschew bailouts and haircuts – the main tools used for debt resolution. This was the case just last month, when – on the fringes of the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Bengaluru, India – the IMF brought together representatives from the G7, China, India, Saudi Arabia, and the World Bank to strengthen the framework for resolving sovereign debt distress.

At that meeting, the G7's request that sovereign creditors accept haircuts along with private creditors fell on deaf ears. China, the largest external creditor to two of the most urgent cases – holding 35% and 20%, respectively, of the total external debt of Zambia and Sri Lanka – insisted that it was multilateral institutions like the World Bank that needed to accept haircuts, putting an agreement out of reach.

Debt resolution is an important example of the kind of international policy co-operation that is needed to avert global economic fragmentation – co-operation that must include China. But where to begin? A good starting point would be to align China's incentives with those of other bilateral creditors, multilateral institutions, and the private sector.

More broadly, the G20 should attempt to find common ground among global actors, and work to strengthen policy co-operation in areas with the broadest consensus and the least scope for political tension. For example, it

could launch a co-ordinated initiative to build a global digital platform for international remittances, which would enable migrants around the world to send money home securely and without extortionate fees.

Multilateral mechanisms are needed to prevent unilateral action from producing international spillovers and deepening economic fragmentation. As digital currencies and new platforms become available to settle cross-border payments, countries' national security concerns, domestic economic objectives, the need to create buffers against geopolitical shocks, and sheer economic rivalry will encourage them to embrace these new systems as a means of reducing their dependency on the US-dominated financial system. Financial fragmentation will become entrenched, and financial risk management will be significantly weakened. This is not a desirable path.

Over the past three decades, economic integration and co-operation enabled the global economy to triple in size, lifted approximately 1.5 billion people out of extreme poverty, and supported peace and prosperity around the world. To ensure that we do not squander these gains, let alone undermine our ability to confront the challenges of the future (not least climate change), we must find ways to uphold some level of integration and effective co-operation. – Project Syndicate

● Paola Subacchi, Professor of International Economics at the University of London's Queen Mary Global Policy Institute, is the author, most recently, of China and the Global Financial Architecture: Keeping Two Tracks on One Path.



The Covid-19 crisis and Russia's war against Ukraine have also contributed to fragmentation, as they have spurred countries to embrace “onshoring,” “near-shoring,” and “friend-shoring” with a growing sense of urgency

Call for tree-planting at the Qatar Foundation Earthna Summit 2023

Importance of indigenous knowledge being passed on through generations to protect the environment is driven home as event closes

By Noor al-Rawi
Doha

A Bedouin environmental activist from Qatar called on every person across the nation to plant one tree as their contribution to protecting their environment as Qatar Foundation's Earthna Summit 2023 drew to a close.

Speaking on the final day of the inaugural Summit in Msheireb Downtown Doha – which explored new sustainability pathways for hot and arid climates, and how indigenous knowledge can play its part in tackling the environmental challenges of the present and future – Ali Taleb al-Henzab spoke of how lessons and practices taught by his forefathers instilled in him the importance of “taking only what we need from our environment without harming it”.

In a session exploring indigenous approaches to sustainability, he told delegates: “My grandfather had a mobile school which shaped our knowledge of trees, plants, seasons, and this is why I have knowledge of how to preserve the environment that I now look to pass to my children.

“As Bedouins, we move from place to place and take only what we need so we do not drain the environment. We have learned not to cut down trees, and how to use the water we gather when it rains. We did not have any waste because we carried out what is now called recycling. It is about making the best of each and every component of our environment, because if we do not have an environment, we do not have anything.”

Al-Henzab – who runs an agricultural initiative and preserves endangered Qatari plants, while also distributing small trees to schools in Qatar – described Islamic values as “a great protection for the environment”, and said: “We should go back to our forefathers for at least half-an-hour a day and they should be part and parcel of our schools because they can give us guidance on how to protect the environment.

“All of us are fallible. All of us make mistakes. But what is important is that we incubate ideas and support young people who have initiative, as well as teaching them to plant trees and giving them the opportunity to do this so that it grows in their hearts. We want children to take the initiative in the realm of sustainability.

“I hope that each of us in Qatar will plant one tree, or preserve one. This is the job of every person living in this country. And if you cannot plant, at least deliver the message about the need to plant, and do not cut trees down. Our forefathers were able to develop environmental solutions despite the fact they had limited resources, and this should expand generation after generation, for generations to come, so that our legacy can be a sustainable one.”

Earthna summit spotlighted Yemen experience in sustainability. Former Yemeni minister Abdulrahman al-Eryani highlighted



the importance of native knowledge as main source for sustainable development in a panel discussion at the Earthna Summit 2023 and shed light on Yemen's experience in sustainable development where Abdulrahman al-Eryani, former minister of water and environment of Yemen, spoke about the challenges his country faced to achieve the goals of sustainability.

During a fireside chat – that part of a two-day conference hosted by Qatar Foundation's Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future – moderated by Habes Howail, External Relations Manager, CEO Office, Qatar Foundation (QF), al-Eryani said the critical challenges to sustainability are environmental changes that affect seasons – causing an increase in floods and torrential rains, or droughts during some seasons, and hurricanes that lead to coastal erosion and

destruction of marine environment.

He pointed out that to achieve sustainable development, environmental patterns must be preserved, which are fragile systems in hot and dry areas which already pose an additional challenge.

“To achieve a balance between economic and environmental development, there must be a common vision between the political leadership, local community, the private sectors, which would make sustainable development more efficient and less expensive,” al-Eryani said.

“A positive experience from Yemen is from the island of Socotra where a sustainable lifestyle was followed by the people there to preserve and protect the environment. The island community realised the importance of following the path of sustainable develop-

ment for any growth process that the island is going through, which contributed to achieving great results.”

Al-Eryani addressed the issue of water security, saying: “There must be a national agreement that water is a common resource, and preserving it is the responsibility of all community members, and that providing water for humans and animals is a priority.”

During this talk, al-Eryani stressed on the importance of native knowledge and local environmental habits which were formed and practised over thousands of years as a main source for sustainable management.

“Our ancestors left us a sound environmental legacy, of which soil, water, vegetation and wild animals are part, and the most valuable part is the indigenous local knowledge that helped preserve the environment in the

past, and that should form the basis of our knowledge today.

“This knowledge must be documented in a scientific way and then the basic principles must be extracted from it. And this can be taught to future generations so that it is not limited as oral information only.”

QF's Earthna is a non-profit policy research and advocacy centre established by Qatar Foundation to provide a holistic view of environmental, social, and economic prosperity.

Bringing together Qatar's wide community of technical and research experts, government departments, policy and decision makers, businesses, multilateral institutions, and civil society, and collaborate with leading international institutions to enhance the depth and breadth of the country's sustainability efforts.



'I hope that each of us in Qatar will plant one tree, or preserve one. This is the job of every person living in this country. And if you cannot plant, at least deliver the message about the need to plant, and do not cut trees down'

– Ali Taleb al-Henzab, environment activist





Qatar Tourism (QT) yesterday celebrated the opening of the 12th edition of the Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) at the newly-minted Al Sa'ad Plaza in Lusail Boulevard, in the presence of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and with opening remarks presented by Qatar Tourism Chairman and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker. The opening event saw a dazzling fireworks display and cultural presentations, amid the presence of a large number of people. Also, the three-day Darb Lusail Parade concluded yesterday. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen and supplied

QT opens up world of delicacies with QIFF

From Page 1

“At talabat, we believe in the power of food to bring people together, and we are honoured to be part of this exciting event that showcases the best of Qatar’s food culture,” de Sousa added.

Expo 2023 Doha, represented by secretary-general Mohamed Ali al-Khouri, saw a great opportunity at the festival to raise awareness about the Expo, its pillars and what it stands for especially when it comes to putting horticulture and innovation and technology at the service of sustainability.

He also highlighted that sustainability extends to food waste and leftovers and that the QIFF is the perfect forum to start this conversation.

Ooredoo Qatar chief executive Sheikh Ali bin Jabor al-Thani said: “We’re delighted to partner with Qatar Tourism for this year’s Qatar International Food Festival.”

“We’re committed to supporting our communities and our country, and helping showcase the many incredible events and activities on offer in Qatar, and we’re sure the QIFF will – once again – be a hugely enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors,” he said.

The QIFF 2023 will offer five daily live cooking theatres, which will feature some of the region’s most



dynamic and respected chefs, including 29 participating chefs.

Food-loving festivalgoers can also attend ticketed interactive food masterclasses where they will have the opportunity to sharpen their skillset with some of the industry’s finest.

Some industry favourites include Rachel Allen, chef Wan, East Levant and more.

There will be a host of unusual – and delicious – dining options available for guests.

Attendees can also enjoy their own high-end Har-dors afternoon tea.

The festival’s customary cornucopia of world cuisine food trucks will make a return for 2023.

From sumptuous Mexican tacos to flavoursome Filipino kare kare, guests are sure to find something mouth-watering amongst the melee of carts.

In a true tribute to international cuisine, the QIFF will see an area dedicated to Indonesian cuisine, in celebration of the Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture 2023.

Finally, an entire section of the festival will exclusively house vegan cuisine and healthy food options.

A suite of varied and lively entertainment options for the entire family will be on offer at the QIFF 2023.

Throughout the festival, there will be roaming acts, a nightly fireworks show and a publicly-accessible VIP section.

Guests can get their skates on with a custom-made skate ring, and an entire Kids section will be available for the little ones, with entertainment organised by Aura Entertainment.

The QIFF 2023 can be easily accessed by metro (Lusail QNB station) and car, with several parking options in close proximity to Lusail Boulevard.

On a daily basis, all leftover food will be collected and distributed by the festival’s charity partner, Hifz Al Naema.



Msheireb Museums hosts Medhal art exhibition by General Authority for Minors’ Affairs

Msheireb Museums, in collaboration with the General Authority for Minors’ Affairs, is hosting an art exhibition.

Titled “Medhal: The Roots of Authenticity

Snapshots from the exhibition.



Extends ... To Leave Generations as Art”, the exhibition is being held at Sheikh Mohamed bin Jassim House, one of the four heritage houses of Msheireb Museums.

“We are honoured to partner with the General Authority for Minors’ Affairs to support emerging talents and provide them with a



platform to display their capabilities,” said Dr Hafez Ali Ali, head of Marketing and Communication at Msheireb Properties. “The artwork on display are captivating and reflect the potential of these young artists, which makes them an important contributor to Qatar’s artistic and creative movement.”

More than a centre for tourism and history, Msheireb Museums is an educational and cultural hub that plays a vital role in creating awareness and educating the community.

The Museums have established a range of national and international partnerships, adding value to Qatar’s cultural and social landscape, and enhancing its position as a leading centre for community engagement.

The General Authority for Minors’ Affairs is the official organisation that supervises orphans and minors in Qatar, providing them with social, educational, and health support based on authentic local values.

Invitation-only Global Security Forum starts in Doha tomorrow

From Page 1

As the world looks back on the 20th year of the post-Iraq conflict, there will be a dedicated session, organised in partnership with the New American Foundation, focusing on the lessons learned from the conflict’s impacts and implications for contemporary global security, regional dynamics, emerging threats, and US influence.

The event will focus on the issue of mediation and conflict resolution amid today’s security and diplomatic challenges, with framing remarks from HE the Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi.

Later, a panel comprising Aaron Nuutinen of the US State Department, former Burkina Faso foreign minister Djibril Bassole, and Dr Monica Juma, National Security Adviser to the Ken-

yan president, will examine lessons learned and good practices in mitigating conflicts, including through mediation, conflict prevention mechanisms, and defence and diplomatic engagement, with reflections on diverse regional dynamics, including in Africa and the Middle East.

Meanwhile, as many Western nations battle with the energy fallout of recent geopolitical shifts, the forum will examine the means of fostering energy security amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics in a session that will reflect on the global energy crisis and the implications of regional dynamics and the ongoing war in Ukraine for Europe and the Middle East.

The session, which will be moderated by Paul Wallace (of Bloomberg Middle East Energy and Commodities), will unearth the views of former US assistant secretary of state for en-

ergy resources Frank Fannon, assistant dean of the New York University Centre for Global Affairs Dr Carolyn Kisane, Rapidan Energy Group chief executive Scott Modell, and Dr Damlola Olawuyi, professor and Unesco Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University’s College of Law.

The future of Afghanistan is also high on the forum’s agenda, with a session reflecting on the country’s future prospects, particularly in relation to security, governance and human rights.

Bloomberg opinion editor Bobby Ghosh will moderate Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies chairman and former Afghanistan deputy foreign minister Hekmat Karzai, Centre for Strategic and International Studies visiting fellow and former Afghan parliament second deputy speaker Fawzia Koofi, and Saad Mohseni, co-founder

and chairman of MOBY Media Group, through the complex pathways to peace.

The forum will also investigate global perspectives on the religious militant threat, the roles of cities in fostering resilience and preventing violent extremism and the spectrum of conflict in Africa.

There will also be a special panel examining the practice of hostage-taking by state and non-state actors, with introductory reflections from Roger Carstens, the US’s special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, while Christopher O’Leary, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)’s director of Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, will number among the panellists.

Technology’s emerging influence will come under the forum spotlight in a dedicated session organised in partnership with the UN Security Council

Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and involving Dina Hussein, Meta (Facebook parent company)’s global head of policy development and expert partnerships, and Amy Larsen, director of strategy and business management at Microsoft.

The session will see international experts scrutinise terrorism and technology in a post-coronavirus (Covid-19) world the potential human rights implications of use and abuse of emerging tech, misinformation/dis-information, conspiracy theories, online abuse and its intersections with gender, and consider future challenges for policymakers, practitioners, and communities.

There will also be dedicated panels exploring countering extremism, hate and disinformation online and international violent far-right movements and the countermeasures of states and global organisations.

Forum findings will be compiled into a key-insights report to provide an overview and strategic assessment of the security matters and policy recommendations to meet the range of 2023 security challenges.

The Global Security Forum 2023, hosted by the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS), is being held in co-operation with several high-level agencies and institutions, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the New America Foundation, Qatar’s Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Defence One, the Centre on National Security at Fordham Law, the Strong Cities Network, and the Airey Neave Trust.

Virtual participation to the fifth edition will be possible through the Forum’s official website, globalsecurityforum.com