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# Qatar wins praise for its fight against money laundering, terror-financing

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) have commended Qatar's efforts in "combating money laundering, countering terrorism financing and proliferation financing".

The report published yesterday assessed the level of effectiveness and compliance of Qatar's anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and proliferation financing system with international standards, and stressed that the combating system in Qatar is compliant or largely compliant with all 40 recommendations.

Accordingly, the FATF reported that Qatar has a very strong legal and institutional framework, which makes it the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to achieve such a high level of compliance in its system at this stage of the assessment.



FATF commended this achievement in its statement issued on February 24 this year.

With regard to the effectiveness of the combating system, Qatar obtained four ratings of a substantial level of effectiveness, Qatar Central Bank (QCB) said yesterday.

The report indicated that the AML/CFT system in Qatar is particularly effective in the areas of assessing and understanding the risks of money

laundering and terrorism financing, risk-based supervision of the financial and non-financial sectors, seizing and confiscating proceeds of crime, implementing targeted financial sanctions related to combating the financing of terrorism, and supervising and monitoring the non-profit sector and protecting it from terrorist financing abuse.

The outcomes of the assessment of the AML/CFT and proliferation financing system in Qatar demonstrate the country's robust commitment to combating illicit financing, complying with the FATF standards, and contributing as a strategic partner in the international efforts to combat financial crimes.

Qatar continues to improve and continuously strengthen its combating system based on international standards and best practices, QCB noted.

# Cabinet move to regulate realty owned by diplomatic missions

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday morning.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs issued a statement on the details of the proceedings.

The Cabinet approved its draft decision on the formation of a committee to regulate the ownership of real estate by diplomatic and consular missions in the country and their work system, the Qatar News Agency reported.

The preparation of the draft decision comes in implementation of the provisions of Article 3 of Law No 3 of 2022 regulating the ownership of real estate by diplomatic and consular missions in the country, by establishing the aforementioned committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is concerned with the following: **To Page 3**


## Children of imams, muezzins exempted from school textbook, transport charges

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft decision of HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education amending some provisions of Decision No 42 of 2017 setting the price of textbooks and school transport fees for non-Qatari students who are not GCC nationals, and exempting them from these fees, the Qatar News Agency reported.

In a statement on social media, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education later explained

that the "non-Qatari students who are not GCC nationals", as stated in the above-mentioned decision, refers to the children of imams and muezzins affiliated to the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs. Accordingly, this category of students would be added to other groups previously exempted from payment of the above-mentioned fees in accordance with the decision referred to, the ministry said.

Windy conditions to continue today: Met



Strong winds and poor visibility at times are again expected in most areas of the country today, the Qatar Met department has said. Windy conditions are also forecast in offshore areas along with high seas. The wind speed may go up to 30 knots inshore and 27 knots offshore today, with the sea level rising to 8ft. A hot daytime is also expected today, and there will be slight to blowing dust in some places at times. Visibility may drop to 2km or less in some areas. The temperature, meanwhile, is expected to range from 31-40C today. Doha and other parts of the country experienced strong winds and dust yesterday (pictured), with the conditions gradually improving. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

## Summer outdoor work restrictions from today

The Ministry of Labour has announced that the decision to ban work in open spaces between 10am and 3.30pm will be enforced from today until September 15.

The decision is aimed at protecting workers from the dangers of heat stress in the summer, the ministry said in a statement on social media. The restrictions on outdoor working hours are implemented every year in Qatar during the summer months. Campaigns are conducted to raise awareness on the issue, while inspections are carried out to ensure that different companies and organisations are strictly complying with the rules and requirements. The implementation of these annual procedures stems from the ministry's keenness to ensure the health and safety of the labour force in the work environment.

## New ticket pricing for museums, heritage sites

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced new ticket pricing for entry to all of its world-class museums, galleries, exhibitions, and heritage sites.

Entry to all venues and heritage sites, including temporary exhibitions, will remain free on the presentation of a valid QID to all residents and citizens of Qatar, a statement said.

Effective from today, the National Museum of Qatar, Museum of Islamic Art, and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum will have a ticket price of QR50 for non-residents of Qatar, providing visitors access to permanent collections as

well as any exhibitions on show.

In addition, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, located in Education City, and admission to heritage sites, including Al Zubarah Fort will now be free of charge for both residents and non-residents of Qatar.

To ensure accessibility for everyone, the new concession pricing will provide a 50% discount for non-resident students and large groups (25+), while children under 16 years, QM employees, ICOM members, visitors to gift shops, café/restaurants, and participants of school and university tours will be able to access QM's arts and cultural offering free of charge.



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# Cabinet move to regulate realty owned by diplomatic missions

From Page 1

1. Studying real estate ownership applications submitted by the missions, and submitting recommendations regarding them to HE the Minister.  
2. Proposing any other conditions and regulators for the missions to own or build real estate, and present them to HE the Minister.  
The Cabinet also approved a proposal to increase non-Qatari

investors' ownership rate in the capital of Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEWCo), a Qatari public shareholding company listed on the stock exchange.  
Under this decision, a non-Qatari investor may own up to 100% of the capital of the company.  
Further, the meeting approved a draft decision of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) on the system for settling disputes

arising from transactions related to securities through arbitration.  
The Cabinet, meanwhile, took the necessary measures to ratify a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the field of environmental protection between the governments of Qatar and Georgia.  
It also approved a draft agreement on the promotion and protection of mutual investments between the governments of Qatar and the Dominican Republic; and a draft memorandum of co-operation on providing a set of specialised educational vocational programmes for primary and early education students between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Injaz Qatar.

The Cabinet reviewed a report of the National Cyber Security Agency regarding the launch of the 'Cybersecurity Educational Curricula' project, and took the appropriate decision thereon.

# Police College holds seminar on quality standards

The Police College held a scientific seminar on quality standards and academic accreditation in military and security institutions, in the presence of HE the Adviser to the Minister of Interior and Vice-President of the Supreme Council of the Police Academy Major-General Dr Abdullah Yousef al-Mal.

The event brought together a group of experts, specialists, academics, and centres of expertise and academic accreditation from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and France.

The seminar discussed the components and challenges of quality assurance standards, pioneering experiences in the appli-



cation of quality standards and academic accreditation, and the challenges facing this, in addition to a number of other related topics. Lt Colonel Dr Abdullah Thamer al-Enezi, in charge of the duties of Academic Affairs Dean at the college, said that the

college is taking steady steps towards leadership as an academic police institution and will spare no effort in developing its scientific capacities, hailing the efforts of the parties that participated and contributed to the success of the seminar. (QNA)

# Qatar attends INC-2 meeting on combating plastic pollution

QNA  
Paris

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, is participating in the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee "INC-2" to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, which is being held in Paris from May 29 to June 3.  
During the meeting, Eng Samira Mohamed al-Dossari, from the department of chemicals and hazardous waste at the ministry, highlighted the efforts made within the framework of its targeted strategy, which resulted in important achievements the most prominent of which was the recycling



of all plastic waste during the recent period resulting from holding the FIFA World Cup

Qatar 2022, where the country succeeded in achieving a sustainable solution for sorting,

recycling, and energy conversion by 100%.  
It is the first time in the history of the World Cup tournaments that this percentage has been achieved, which reflects Qatar's commitment to strengthening its national capabilities, implementing its international commitments in addressing global challenges and enhancing co-operation and interaction between countries in areas of common interest, she added.  
This instrument is considered one of the solutions aimed at mitigating the potential damage resulting from the mismanagement of plastic waste, as this type of pollution is a global challenge that crosses borders and requires concerted efforts and joint action to protect human health and the environment.

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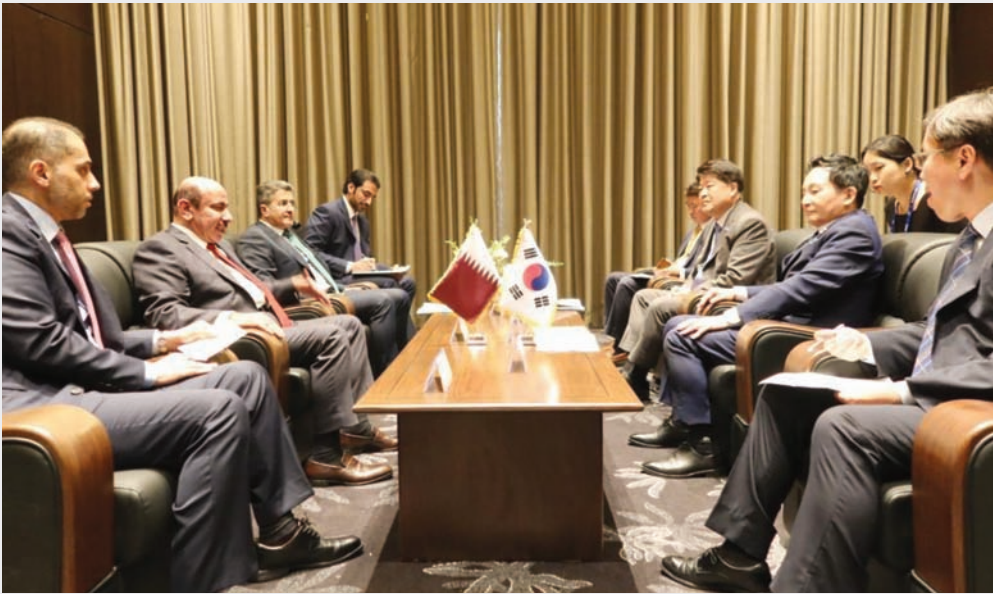
### Al-Muraikhi meets Mexican delegation



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with a delegation from Mexico, who are visiting the country. The delegation included Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano and Deputy Minister of Finance of Mexico Gabriel Yorio. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation relations between the two countries. **(QNA)**

### Transport minister meets S Korean counterpart

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met with South Korean Minister of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport Won Hee-ryong, on the sidelines of his participation in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Second Global Implementation Support Symposium (GISS) in Seoul. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of bilateral co-operation in the fields of transportation and transport services and discussed ways to enhance and develop them using modern and smart transport-related technologies. **(QNA)**



# Project Qatar shines with stellar attendance of industry leaders

The second and third days of the 19th edition of Project Qatar Exhibition, held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, proved to be a resounding success, attracting a huge turnout of industry leaders, innovators and experts from around the world.

Being held from May 29 to June 1, the event aims to explore the latest advancements in various sectors, foster business collaborations and discuss future trends. Yesterday, during the third day of the exhibition at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), the highly anticipated Q Tech Conference 2023 was held.

The conference provided a dynamic forum for industry visionaries, tech enthusiasts and entrepreneurs to explore the latest advancements in technology and discuss their impact across various sectors. Meanwhile, on the second day of the exhibition, the prestigious Qatar Industry Conference 2023 took centre stage, providing a platform for engaging discussions and insightful presentations on Qatar's industrial sector.

Prominent industry leaders, policymakers and experts convened to exchange ideas, share



Glimpses from Project Qatar 2023.

success stories and address the challenges and opportunities within Qatar's thriving industrial landscape.

The conference highlighted the pivotal role of innovation, technology adoption and sustainable practices in shaping the future of Qatar's industrial sector. Haidar Mshaimesh, general manager of IFP Qatar, said: "We are delighted with the overwhelming success witnessed during the second and third days of the Project Qatar Exhibition. The Qatar Industry Conference 2023 and the Q Tech Conference 2023 served as catalysts for knowledge exchange and networking, empowering industry leaders and technology ex-

perts to ignite innovation, foster collaboration and propel growth within their respective sectors.

"The Project Qatar Exhibition continues to be a distinctive platform, empowering professionals, businesses and organisations to showcase their expertise, explore investment prospects and forge meaningful partnerships. Year after year, this exhibition solidifies its status as a premier event in Qatar, fuelling economic progress and facilitating the seamless transfer of knowledge."

The second edition of the Q Tech Conference featured a series of insightful sessions and workshops focused on the advancement of smart cities and digital



technologies. The event begins with a warm welcome note from Ahmad Keilani, director of Conferences at IFP Qatar.

Following the introduction, the keynote addresses started with Tasmu Smart Qatar, highlighting the groundbreaking initiatives undertaken by Qatar in the realm of smart cities. Another keynote address explored the significance of smart cities in the digital transformation of the Middle East. The conference also covered topics like the role of smart buildings in enhancing stakeholder experi-

ences and success, the challenges and opportunities associated with transitioning from conventional to smart cities, and an exploration of what makes Lusail City unique.

Further, there were discussions on Qatar's smart solar streetlights, innovative approaches to smart parking, and the Internet of Things' role in shaping a sustainable Qatar.

The conference concluded with a workshop on leveraging digitalisation and innovation to enhance smart cities, emphasising the potential of digital technology to

address various urban challenges and transform cities.

The Qatar Industry Conference 2023 Agenda featured a series of insightful sessions. The event began with a welcome note from Ahmad Keilani. Following that, two keynote addresses shed light on key topics. The first address explored the driving force behind Qatar's economic diversification, while the second focused on Qatar's Advanced Manufacturing Hub.

The conference also included discussions on the role of indus-



trial areas as free zones to support foreign investments. A session on the power of material conversion and value addition emphasised the 'Suhail Method is a Model'. The conference further showcased the application of Industry 4.0 in maintenance through a technology showcase. Another topic covered was the utilisation of advanced robotics to automate the supply chain. Enhancing operational excellence through the Industrial Internet of Things was also addressed.

Additionally, a workshop was organised to tackle the challenges faced by manufacturing technologies, such as the high costs of development and integration, production, and low flexibility in business processes. The aim of the workshop was to provide solutions and minimise these challenges.

## Conference highlights need for transformation and sustainability in urban development

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Q Tech Conference at Project Qatar yesterday underlined the need for transformation in urban planning while highlighting the latest trends and innovation in the urban development sector. Also, the panellists discussed during the conference the measures to transform industry with sustainable, offsite and digital solutions, contemplating on the means to integrate holistic approaches towards materialising urban development.

Addressing the conference on 'Pedestrian mobility amid growing infrastructure demand for high speed and grade separated

roads in urban centres', Moen Azmi, executive director of Arab Engineering Bureau, noted that there is a need to ensure pedestrian mobility in urban areas amid the growing infrastructure demand for high-speed and grade-separated roads.

He said pedestrian mobility is important as it fosters vibrant public spaces, social interaction and economic vitality while making cities more liveable and attractive places to work in and visit. "Also, it promotes walking while reducing carbon emission and generating economic benefits along with health and well-being, liveability, urban revitalisation, multimodal integration, accessibility, social inclusion and tourism," he said. Underlining the need to have a proper strategy



Moen Azmi

on developing pedestrian space, Azmi said inadequate pedestrian planning negatively affects urban life. Ahmed El-Essnawi, vice-president and Operations director, Parsons, discussed the possibilities of digital design for large-scale projects while analysing various methods.

Mona Noureldin Husen, depu-



Ahmed El-Essnawi

ty head of the Strategic Planning and Studies Unit at the Ministry of Municipality, shed light on the aspects of strategic development when building smart and sustainable cities. The presentation was on 'The importance of holistic strategic development framework in creating smart and sustainable cities'.



From the Q Tech Conference at Project Qatar. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

## Vodafone Qatar supports Project Qatar 2023

Vodafone Qatar is the Exclusive Telecom Partner of Project Qatar 2023, which concludes today, a statement said.

The 19th edition of Project Qatar specialised in construction and other related sectors and was one of the biggest and most comprehensive business platforms, connecting Qatar and top buyers within the GCC, with suppliers from around the world, promising the opportunity to generate new business leads for companies of all sizes.

During the event, Vodafone Qatar is playing its role as a technology partner for businesses in Qatar and supports the construction industry through its

latest cutting-edge technologies, ranging from connectivity to Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, including Push-to-Talk Plus, IoT Asset tracking, and IoT Fleet Management, all of which can be employed by both large and small businesses to improve their operations.

Mahday Saad al-Hebabi, Enterprise Business Unit director at Vodafone Qatar, said: "We are proud to be Project Qatar's Exclusive Telecom Partner and to support the construction industry through Vodafone's latest cutting-edge technologies. At Vodafone, we are committed to providing the right tools for those within the industry to digitally transform their busi-



ness operations for increased efficiency." For more on Vodafone Qatar

and its business solutions, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/business>

### QU launches digital transformation drive with Google Cloud

Qatar University (QU) has announced a collaboration with Google Cloud aimed at accelerating the university's digital transformation, as part of the framework agreement with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).

As one of the leading universities in the Middle East, QU is committed to providing its students and faculty with innovative technology solutions that enhance learning, research and administrative processes, and such collaborations enable the university to deliver on this commitment, a press statement notes.

Under the collaboration, Google Cloud will work closely with QU to provide cutting-edge cloud technology so-

lutions that will enable the university to enhance its digital capabilities and improve its services to students and faculty.

The collaboration will help QU improve data analytics, streamline operations and optimise resources, ultimately providing an enhanced experience for all, the statement points out.

"Digital transformation is an important part of Qatar University's strategy, and a vital element for continued innovation," said Dr Hassan al-Derham, president of QU.

"Our aim is to build digital competency, the digitalisation of QU operations and sectors, and to implement a smart campus infrastructure. All talents at QU will make use of this

partnership to implement their ideas and help translate them using this platform."

Also, QU will leverage the newly opened Google Cloud region in Doha to securely store critical business data and leverage its scalability in its operations. Ghassan Kosta, Qatar country manager, Google Cloud, said: "The collaboration between Qatar University and Google Cloud Qatar is a significant milestone in the university's digital transformation journey. With Google Cloud's expertise and innovative solutions, QU will be able to provide its students and faculty with cutting-edge technology solutions that enhance their experience and improve their learning and academic research outcomes."



# Al Mana Motors Co. shines at Ford Middle East Conference

Al Mana Group is proud to announce that Al Mana Motors Co., the conglomerate's dedicated Ford division has walked away with multiple awards at the recent Ford Middle East Conference. This recognition further elevates Al Mana Motors' position as a leading force in the Middle East's automotive industry. Additionally, the victories also heavily underscore the successful partnership Al Mana Group enjoys with Ford.

Over the years Al Mana Motors gained a pristine reputation for stewarding the world's leading automobile brands while the company demonstrated its unwavering commitment to customer service and operational excellence. That reputation is what led to the winning of several awards, including the coveted 'President's Service CVP Awards, Group 2' and 'Henry Ford Excellence Award, Group 2' at this year's Ford Middle East Conference. It is pertinent to mention that the 'President's Service CVP Award' is a prestigious accolade that recognizes outstanding performances among Ford's regional distributors.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be recognized for our hard work and dedication to Ford and to our customers, Amer Omar Hassan – Director – Group Sales & Marketing said: "These awards are a testament to our team's unstinted commitment to exceptional service. Even as we celebrate these achievements we want to promise our customers that the quality of our service and the experience we deliver will only keep rising. So we look forward to building on this success as we continue delivering matchless experiences with Ford".

In 2022, Al Mana Motors unveiled a fully refurbished facility that reflected the Group's continuous investment in the Ford brand. It is noteworthy that despite market volatility and production disruptions, the Al Mana Motors team was able to achieve a staggering 28% year-on-year growth in Ford sales. That is what resulted in them leading the pack among key Middle Eastern markets.



The Ford Middle East Conference also recognized the remarkable sales growth of several specific Ford models. In Qatar, the Ford Edge and Taurus recorded an annual growth of 600% and 332% respectively. A glance at those numbers alone confirm the company's achievement is a stunning success!

In addition to the individual awards, Al Mana Motors shared the stage with a few other industry leaders. The conference also gave away several awards as joint winners. The '2022 Lincoln Distributor Excellence Award' and 'Lincoln Presidents Service CVP Award' were among them.

Commenting on these victories Amer Omar Hassan – Director – Group Sales & Marketing said, "We are proud to represent Ford in Qatar and to bring their incredible vehicles to our customers. These accolades underscore our team's relentless dedication as well as the strength of our partnership with Ford. Looking at the year ahead, we are excited to break further records and drive more growth. Ultimately, our focus is to keep on delivering an unparalleled level of service to our customers".

The Al Mana Group extended its gratitude to Ford for these recognitions and congratulated the dedicated team at Al Mana Motors for these outstanding achievements.





## Awqaf minister attends workshop



The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs on Tuesday held a scientific workshop in co-operation with the Ibn Khaldun Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences of Qatar University (QU). According to an official statement, the workshop was held to discuss the most prominent challenges that hinder communication between Islamic sciences and social sciences, and to discuss ways to address and activate them. A group of scholars and preachers from Awqaf, academics and social researchers from the Ibn Khaldun Centre attended the workshop that was held in the presence of HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem.

## Qatar to offer cash aid for needy Gaza families



Mohamed al-Emadi

**Q**atar's Gaza Reconstruction Committee in co-operation with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) is to disburse cash assistance provided by the State to needy families in Gaza Strip.

HE the Chairman of the Committee ambassador Mohamed al-Emadi said cash will be distributed during the first half of June to about

100,000 poor families in the Gaza Strip governorates, at a rate of \$100 per family.

Qatar disburses a monthly humanitarian grant in support of the brotherly Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip, who suffer from difficult economic and living conditions caused by the Israeli blockade. (QNA)

## Qatar takes part in Arab High-Level Conference on Rights of the Child

**Q**atar participated in the 6th Arab High-Level Conference on the Rights of the Child, which was held under the motto of an effective and sustainable developmental investment guaranteeing the rights of the Arab child, with the participation of ministers and heads of national mechanisms concerned with childhood affairs in member states, and relevant regional and international organisations.

The virtual conference sought to shed light on the 2030 Child Development Agenda, as the sustainable development plan represents an opportunity to address the main development challenges in the Arab world with the aim of promoting the rights of all children.



dren. Speaking at the conference, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Affairs Mubarak Ghanem al-Kuwari said Qatar attaches great importance to the protection and promotion of children's rights, setting it as a priority in its development plan, which relies primarily on investing in human capital.

He also stressed Qatar's keenness on providing the necessary facilities and

an appropriate healthy environment for good upbringing for all children in the country. Al-Kuwari added that the Ministry of Social Development and Family operates through its specialised departments and supervised centres that provide social security services, especially for the most vulnerable groups, the most important of which are children.

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector of the Arab League ambassador Dr Haifa Abu Ghazala said the conference will contribute to developing a roadmap for planning and implementing public policy on children affairs, taking into account sustainable development. (QNA)

## DI announces new PhD admissions

**T**he Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) has admitted 11 students for the PhD studies for the academic year 2023-2024, from more than 1,983 applications received from across the world, a statement said.

Qatari students have topped the list of admissions at 36%. Dr Mohamed al-Nawawi, director of the Board of Doctoral Studies at the DI, said the selection was based on competitive standards on the basis of academic merit, following best practices in students' assessment and acceptance criteria.

"The DI aims to train a generation of Qatari and Arab researchers, to enable them to pursue their postgraduate studies, in order to participate positively in the development of their communities," he said.

The DI offers eight doctoral programmes: Development Economics, Public Administration, Politics and International Relations, Linguistics and Arabic Lexicography, History, Sociology, Media Studies and Critical Security Studies.

The classes will start on August 20 for the academic year 2023-2024. Applying for the next academic year 2024-2025 will start on September 1.



"This will be the second cohort of PhD students as four students were enrolled last year as the first cohort," the statement added.

## Unchanged fuel prices for June

QatarEnergy announced yesterday the fuel prices for June. The prices of diesel, gasoline super 95, and gasoline premium 91 remained unchanged: diesel at QR2.05 per litre, super 95 is at QR2.10, and premium 91 at QR1.95. (QNA)

## Alumni meet planned

Orma, the alumni forum of the 1982-83 batch of BEd students of Sanjai Gandhi College of Education, Bengaluru, India, will hold their first meeting on August 6 at Ernakulam in Kerala. Those interested in participating should contact the organising committee members: Venugopal T (+91 9447621946, e-mail: venukottakkad@gmail.com) or Dr Sabu K C (+974 66158015, e-mail: sabukc2007@gmail.com).

## Qatar Fund for Development sends assistance to typhoon victims in Philippines



**Q**atar Fund for Development, in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent, sent humanitarian assistance to provide relief and support to 1,600 families affected by Typhoon Paeng in the Philippines.

This assistance aim to address the aftermath of the typhoon and provide early support to the affected individuals. The aid included the provision of mobile kitchen for preparing hot meals and the distribution of food baskets. Additionally, efforts have also been made to secure a tanker for providing clean and potable water. Cash assistance is also being provided to farmers whose farms have been affected by the typhoon, the Fund said in a statement.

It is worth mentioning that approximately 164 people have lost their lives, and 270 others have been injured as a result of the catastrophic floods accompanying the typhoon in several villages and towns. (QNA)



## Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha Celebrates Double Triumph at Leaders in Hospitality 2023 Awards



**R**ixos Gulf Hotel Doha, the first all-inclusive beach resort to open in Qatar, proudly announces its resounding success at the highly esteemed Leaders in Hospitality 2023 event organized by Hotels & Catering News Middle East. The prestigious awards ceremony recognized and celebrated the finest achievements in the hospitality industry. Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha emerged as a top contender, securing two esteemed accolades - "Highly Recommended Resort of the Year" and "General Manager of the Year" awarded to Sherif Kasseb, general manager of Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha.

The "Highly Recommended Resort of the Year" award is a testament to the hotel's dedication to providing exceptional guest experiences. Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha has consistently upheld its commitment to delivering outstanding service, luxurious amenities, unparalleled entertainment, kids' programmes and an unforgettable stay for its guests through it all-inclusive concept. This recognition reflects the unwavering efforts of the entire Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha team in consistently exceeding expectations and creating memorable moments for visitors.

Additionally, the award for "General Manager of the Year" was bestowed upon Sherif Kasseb. This accolade is a testament to Kasseb's exceptional leadership, industry expertise, and commitment to excellence. With his visionary approach, Kasseb has successfully opened Rixos Gulf Doha just before FIFA World Cup 2022 and steered Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha to new heights, establishing it as a benchmark for luxury and hospitality in Qatar.

"It is with great pride and gratitude that we accept these two prestigious awards," said. Sherif Kasseb, General Manager of Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha. "These accolades serve as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our entire team. We are



committed to delivering exceptional experiences to our guests, and these awards motivate us to continue raising the bar in the hospitality industry."

Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha offers guests a luxurious retreat, complete with world-class amenities, breathtaking views, and unparalleled service. The resort's dedication to excellence has positioned it as a sought-after destination for travelers seeking an extraordinary experience in Qatar.

As the "Highly Recommended Resort of the Year" and with the recognition of Sherif Kasseb as the "General Manager of the Year," Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha solidifies its position as a leading hospitality establishment and a testament to Qatar's commitment to providing unmatched experiences.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, JEAN ORITO NACILLA  
holder of

PHILIPPINE Passport No. P7109366B  
QID No. 28960811388

hereby change my name

from

JEAN ORITO NACILLA

to

JEAN NACILLA GERONIMO

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHANNA RAE CALLAHAN  
holder of

USA Passport No. 482453708  
QID No. 28884000512

hereby change my name

from

SHANNA RAE CALLAHAN

to

SHANNA RAE ROSS

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



# Italian envoy lauds record trade relations with Qatar

By Tawfi Lamari  
Staff Reporter

On the occasion of the “Festa della Repubblica” – Italian National Day, ambassador Paolo Toschi hosted a ceremony at the St Regis Doha yesterday in memory of the Republic Day, which was celebrated for the first time in 1947.

The Italian envoy welcomed Qatar’s Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani, HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library president HE Dr Hamad bin

Abdulaziz al-Kawari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro and a number of other dignitaries.

Ambassador Toschi began his welcome address in Arabic and then switched to English to stress the excellent bilateral between Italy and Qatar and the record 2022 trade exchanges.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the event, the Italian envoy said: “It is a pleasure to celebrate the “Festa della Repubblica”, the National Day, in Doha among many Italian and Qatari friends. We celebrate a strong friendship, many important achievements including a record in our trade

plus a 140% last year (2022) on the previous record which was 2021 and a stronger relationship blessed by the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Rome in February meeting with President Sergio Mattarella. We had a very busy year full of initiatives and you can count on the embassy of Italy as a friend and as partner.”

Having arrived in Qatar on the opening day of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, ambassador Toschi recalled that big success of the event. “We celebrated with our Minister of Defence coming here and lauding the Qatari organisation and signifying that we respected

the work and the achievement as an international tournament that have no precedent. Our armed forces were here to help guarantee security, and we are very proud of the work they did.”

Ambassador Toschi urged Qatari tourists to visit Italy. “This is a fantastic season of tourism in Italy with many new offers in the cultural world, on the coast, in our cities, in our little villages, on the Alps. I encourage in particular tourists to visit the region of Amelia Romania that was hit by floods and storms over the last month, but being rebuilt successfully. It is the place where the amazing cars and motorbikes that are on display tonight



Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi is joined by Qatar’s Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani and HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library president HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari in cutting a cake at the event yesterday as Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro looks on. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam.

are designed, dreamed and made,” he concluded while referring to an exhibition of Italian automobiles at the event venue.

# CultuRide Cycling Tour participants announced

The Years of Culture initiative yesterday announced the participants who will join Years of Culture ambassador Ali Bin Towar al-Kuwari on a cultural cycling tour on June 7 in Indonesia.

The CultuRide tour will gather professional athletes and cycling enthusiasts in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for a tour of important historical sites.

Towar will represent Qatar throughout the programme and galvanise international communities through the love of sport and cultural exploration.

Joining Towar are professional athletes and cycling enthusiasts, Dr Mohamed Jaham al-Kuwari, president of the Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation; Thani Khalifa al-Zarra, secretary-general of the Qatar Cycling Federation; Lolwa al-Marri, first Qatari female to complete Ironman and member of the triathlon national team; Nour Salem al-Jaber, member of the cycling national team; Abdulrahman Mohd al-Nuaimi, Abdelrahman Mekdad, Fahad Ali al-Adba, Ahmad



bin Hamad al Thani, Mohamed al-Nagm, Fahad al-Hadfa, Ali Mehanna al-Kuwari, Dr Mehsein al-Yafei, Hadeel Reyad, Hamad al-Miarzouqi, Khalifa Jassim al-Kuwari, Yousef Mohd al-Kuwari, and Saleh Akkila.

In a press statement, Qatar Museums’ director of Cultural Diplomacy, Aisha Ghanem

al-Attiya, said: “CultuRide presents a remarkable opportunity to celebrate the beauty of cultural diversity and forge meaningful connections between Qatar and Indonesia. Through this cycling tour, we aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage and traditions that unite us as global citizens.”

Towar said: “All of the participants partaking in CultuRide are eager to experience Indonesia and uncover the rich Indonesian history and culture along the way. I look forward to embarking on this remarkable journey alongside these esteemed athletes and cycling enthusiasts.”

The CultuRide tour will launch from Fort Vastenburg, an 18th-century Dutch fort located in Gladak, Surakarta, Central Java, a major regional landmark in Indonesia.

Throughout the two-day tour, participants will travel through and learn about several cultural destinations surrounding Solo and Yogyakarta, finally arriving at the largest Buddhist temple in the world at Borobudur.

# Hyatt Plaza holds Summer Super Sale Campaign

Hyatt Plaza is currently celebrating the “resounding success” of its Summer Super Sale Campaign, which is being held from May 25 until June 3.

“The campaign is captivating shoppers from far and wide as they eagerly embrace the exceptional discounts and enticing promotions on offer,” a press statement notes.

The Super Sale campaign features huge discounts on a wide range of products, including fashion, toys, jewellery, furniture, cosmetics, electronics, home decor and more. Visitors are also able to take advantage of exclusive offers such as buy-one-get-one-free deals, flat sales, special offers and play offers in Jungle Zone.

Mohamed al-Hawamdeh, head of Marketing at Hyatt Plaza, expressed heartfelt gratitude, stating: “We extend our



The Summer Super Sale Campaign is being held until June 3.

deepest appreciation to all the tenants and visitors who have wholeheartedly embraced our Summer Super Sale Campaign. Their unwavering support and remarkable enthusiasm have been instrumental in our success. We eagerly anticipate hosting many more captivating promotional events in the near future.”

“Hyatt Plaza continues

to redefine the shopping experience by offering an exceptional blend of world-class retail brands, remarkable customer service, and captivating events and campaigns that leave shoppers wanting more. Stay tuned for upcoming promotions and prepare to indulge in the ultimate retail extravaganza at Hyatt Plaza,” the statement adds.

# Edu Drive Education Exhibition attracts over 2,000 students

More than 2,000 students participated in the three days-long Edu Drive Education Exhibition organised by Momentum Media in collaboration with Reigate Builders at MES Indian School.

Around 30 stalls opened by various universities, colleges, and training centres from countries such as India, the UK, Australia, Malta, New Zealand, Germany, and Canada participated in the exhibition, a statement said.

The participants got to interact directly with the authorities of various institutions and gained knowledge of the courses they offer and the admission process.

The huge participation of students for the CIGI career clinic was a highlight. Students were counselled by career experts headed by advocate Izzuddin, vice-chairman of CIGI.

The programme was inaugurated by Indian Cultural Centre president A P Manikantan.



Indian Sports Centre president E P Abdurrahman, MES Indian School president Abdul Karim, vice-president Khalil, principal Dr Hameeda Kader, Radio Malayalam CEO Anwar Vaniyambalam, MES Indian School Abu Hamour Branch principal Prameela Kannan, Reigate Builders director Haksar C H, Momentum Media executive director Saif Valanchery, MES In-

dian School Off Campus administrator Mamadhan Mampilli, and Edu Drive event director Fasalul Haq were present.

Different sessions were headed by Dr Saleel Hassan, Firos P T, Dr Jaseem Kurankott, Faisal A K, and Hannah Lulu. Kerala Business Forum founder and general secretary Varghese announced ‘Edu Drive Edition 2: Saif Valanchery said that Edu Drive Edition 2 will be organised in Qatar, Oman and Bahrain in October-November.

# Sporting Extravaganza, the 13<sup>th</sup> SABIS® Global Sports Tournament, Concludes After Three Days of Spectacular Performances

The much-awaited 13th SABIS Global Sports Tournament took place over the weekend, from April 28-30, co-hosted by the International Schools of Choueifat in Sharjah and Ajman, UAE. Held every other year, this event brings together students from across the SABIS Network to showcase their athletic talent, team spirit and true sportsmanship in a series of sports challenges in four categories: football, basketball, swimming, and track and field, which included sprints, relays and long jump. Since its inception in 2002, the tournament has been regarded as far more than a sporting event that empowers students to refine their athletic skills as it also encourages them to foster diversity, form friendships, and gain a set of valuable life skills and attributes—sportsmanship, openness, accountability, collaboration and more—that shape them into champions at every level and give them a significant advantage in university and beyond.

Congratulations to all our athletes representing the International School of Choueifat - Doha, winners and podium players at this memorable event!

We are proud of ALL our students who demonstrated remarkable sportsmanship and represented ISC-Doha with pride. ISC-Doha won a total of 16 medals consisting gold, silver and bronze:

- ISC- Doha U10 football team - 1st place trophy
- SC-Doha relay team - 1st place
- Alissar Saadallah - 400 m 1st place winner
- Talal Al Saad - Long jump record breaker
- Sarah Francis - 60m girls
- Haruna Salisu - 100 m boys

Another shoutout to ISC-Doha’s coaches. Your hard work, dedication and perseverance have paid off, we couldn’t be any prouder.





# Gord, Global Carbon Council takes lead role at CCUS Forum

The Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (Gord) and Global Carbon Council (GCC) were the strategic partners of the Mena region's first Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Forum, which concluded in Doha yesterday.

The three-day event organised by Oman-based Birba Energy and held under the patronage of Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, brought together over 500 delegates and visitors from different countries, including government representatives, industries, and

leading climate and technology experts.

The forum provided a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the fostering of strategies to drive the global transition to a low-carbon future. Showcased were technologies being developed to capture and remove CO2 from the atmosphere, and aimed to create commercial markets for utilising the captured CO2 and advance its permanent storage via geological sequestration.

Dr Yousef Alhorri, founding chairman of Gord and GCC, said: "As the first CCUS Forum in the



Mena region, this event marks a turning point in our collective

efforts to address the pressing climate challenges faced by the

region and the world. An energy transition supported by CCUS

will enable global economies to diversify their energy mix, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to the global transition towards a low-carbon economy, in alignment with the Paris Agreement."

Representing the Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy & Sustainable Development, HE Dr Mohamed bin Saleh al-Sada, former minister of Energy and Industry, said: "I commend the organising committee for focusing on carbon capture, utilisation and storage – a technology that is key for advancing

low carbon solutions in the energy sector... Through its innovative methods of capturing carbon dioxide emissions, utilising them in various applications, and safely storing them underground, CCUS provides a range of environmental, economic, and social advantages that deserve our attention and support."

On the first day of the forum, Kishor Rajhansa, COO of GCC, joined a key session on catalysing carbon markets and investments as a crucial strategy for reducing GHG's emissions and achieving a sustainable future.

# Qatar Charity signs 'CP' pact with FMM

Within the framework of partnership and co-operation in the field of humanitarian and community work, Qatar Charity (QC) has renewed the signing of a co-operation agreement with Facilities Management & Maintenance Company (FMM).

Under this, FMM obtains the Charity Partner ('CP') trademark in the bronze category within the social responsibility programmes of QC.

The agreement was signed by Amer al-Busairi, head of the Collection Department, Resources Development Department, QC; and Irene Vidal Fernandez, CEO of FMM.

Ali Gharib, director of the Resources Development Department at Qatar Charity, welcomed the signing of the agreement and the joining of FMM under the humanitarian partner umbrella launched by QC, based on its keenness to develop the community partnership system, especially as this trademark is granted to companies within the framework of social responsibility.

Gharib said: "Qatar Charity is keen to develop and strengthen the community partnership system in order to join efforts in serving societies."

For her part, Fernandez expressed pride at signing the agreement with Qatar Charity



Officials at the agreement-signing ceremony.

with the aim of serving the local community and humanitarian issues, and said: "The signing of this agreement comes from our company's belief in its social responsibility in various fields such as health, education and the environment."

Fernandez emphasised that the company is working to participate in the success of all community initiatives in partnership with QC.

She also praised Qatar Charity's humanitarian efforts and its capabilities to implement pioneering humanitarian projects that had a significant impact on the lives of others.

She thanked Qatar Charity for activating this partnership to serve the local community and vulnerable communities around the world.

The Charity Partner brand is a special mark granted by QC to private companies, various bodies and institutions within strategic partnerships according to different conditions and levels related to the social impact of these partnerships and their positive impact on the groups that Qatar Charity serves around the world, and expresses the commitment of these entities to their social responsibilities.

## Daiso Japan opens 12th branch in Qatar



Daiso Japan has opened its 12th branch in Qatar on the ground floor of Ezdan Mall Al Gharaffa, a statement said. The store was inaugurated by Mohammed al-Jundi, Malls director (Ezdan Malls) and Ramesh Bulchandani, general manager, LTC International Qatar (Daiso).

"Daiso Japan has established itself as a household name worldwide, bringing exceptional products at affordable prices to local communities. There is a diverse range of 80,000 lifestyle items and novelty gift products, and over 900 new products are introduced every month.

"From practical kitchen utensils in funky designer colours such as folding colanders and silicon garlic peelers to clever ways of dressing up bedrooms with stylish storage solutions, decorative household items, gifts, makeup, stationery, toys, and much more, the store offers something for everyone. With the price starting, QR7 onwards; Daiso boasts of a 'value for money deal'.

"The store has gained a superior reputation as a leading Japanese one-stop-shopping destination in Qatar



for both local as well as international shoppers. In addition to an upright and extensive product range, excellent quality, and a warm shopping ambience."

Now Daiso has 12 branches in Qatar: Hyatt Plaza, Al Khor Mall, Gulf Mall,

Doha Festival City, Ezdan Mall Al Wakra, Mall of Qatar, Mirqab Mall, J Mall, Place Vendôme, City Center Doha, Abu Sidra Mall, and Ezdan Mall Al Gharaffa. Daiso Japan was launched in December 1977 in Hiroshima city, Japan.

# Turkiye will see significant progress during Erdogan's new term: envoy

Turkiye will see significant progress during Recep Tayyip Erdogan's new presidential term, Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu has said.

He made the observation in a statement issued following the recent elections.

"With great joy and pride, I salute the great Turkish people after their huge participation in the recent presidential and parliamentary elections, who showed their deep love for democracy and freedom and their commitment to the future of their country," he said.

"I extend my warmest congratulations to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on winning a second presidential term, and we affirm that his success reflects the confidence of the Turkish people in the ability to lead the country towards further progress and prosperity."

He continued, "We are proud of the great progress and honest democratic life that



Dr Mustafa Goksu

Turkiye has been experiencing during the past two decades, while we await the start of the centenary of the Turkish Republic, and the glorious renaissance century that befits our great nation.

"I am sure that Türkiye will see significant progress during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's new presidential term, as our country deserves a stable government under the leadership of a loyal, capable and beloved president like Mr Erdogan."

Dr Goksu thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, who was the first to congratulate Erdogan on his victory in the presidential elections, which shows the depth of Qatari-Turkish relations that have been witnessing great prosperity in recent years.

"I also thank the Qatari government and police for organising and facilitating the electoral process that took place at our embassy in Doha, which enabled our citizens in Qatar to cast their votes calmly and peacefully," he said.

"Further, I won't forget to thank the Arab people for their support and love for this great country."

## Ooredoo announces Nojoom anniversary offers

Ooredoo has announced a raft of offers, activities and promotions to celebrate the 14th anniversary of its award-winning loyalty programme, Nojoom.

A host of rewards and prizes will be on offer until June 30, from partner vouchers to staycations and grand prizes of 4mn Nojoom Points, a statement said yesterday.

Nojoom members will be able to play games via the Ooredoo App, whereby they can win Nojoom Points and partner vouchers, while prepaid customers can be in with the chance to win 1mn Nojoom Points by recharging their lines with QR30 or more.

The more they recharge, the more chances they get.

Members shopping with Jumbo, Kalyan, Joyalukkas, FNAC, Farah Jewellery, Victoria, Chilies, Dunia, AlAzizya Pharmacy and Hadaiah Perfumes can enjoy double Nojoom Points on all their spends, with every transaction also giving them one entry into the draw to win a grand prize of 1 million Nojoom Points. The more transactions they



carry, the more chances they get.

A staycation, spa vouchers and dining vouchers with Nojoom partner Sharq Village & Spa, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, will also be up for grabs in the weekly Social Media Quiz, where the telco leader will post a question every Thursday for members to answer correctly to be in with a chance of winning.

Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, director PR at Ooredoo said: "We're excited to be celebrating yet another Nojoom anniversary with our loyal members. We thank all our Nojoom members for their ongoing support and loyalty, and look forward to many more years of meeting their needs."

## Mercedes-Benz model recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz S-Class, 2023 model, as rear passenger seat control unit programming may not match the latest factory specifications, which may lead to the possibility that the seat belt will not be extended to the right and left after the rear doors are closed.

The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, Twitter @MOCIQATAR, Instagram MOCIQATAR. MoCI's mobile application is available on iPhone and Android devices - MOCI\_QATAR

# HMC Enaya Center holds recognition ceremony

HMC's Enaya Specialised Care Center held a Person-Centred Care (PCC) recognition ceremony for all the members of the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) recently.

PFAC is a collaborative working group between patients, family members and caregivers who are working together to carry out the best practices of person-centred care.

The PFAC members promote a culture of PCC across HMC as they provide guidance on how to enhance the patient and family experience in several HMC facilities.

The ceremony at Enaya Specialised Care Center was officiated by Dr Hanadi Khamis al-Hamad, medical director of Rumailah Hospital and acting CEO of Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (QRI), along with Nasser al-Naimi, deputy chief of quality, Centre for Patient Experience and Staff Engagement, director for Hamad Healthcare

**"We want to recognise our valuable PFAC members for their service as well as their inputs, which has made real and lasting changes to the way care is delivered to our patients. Their contributions are at the heart of person-centred care - ensuring that the patients' voices are heard"**

Quality Institute, and chairperson of 16000 Health Sector Services.

"The PFAC in Enaya works in collaboration with our clinical and administrative staff in the facility. Our PFAC members are very open to share their perspectives on how we can improve our services and initiate actions within the context of a person-centred approach to the delivery of care. Their contributions to promote a culture of PCC in Enaya have made significant impacts to our patients, the family

members, our staff, and to the reinforcement of a person-centred healthcare system in HMC," said Dr al-Hamad.

Fahad al-Qadi who has been a member of the Enaya and PFAC for a number of years, said: "My feedback and ideals do matter to them. I feel heard and understood as someone who represents the community. They treat their current patients according to our guidance and recommendation, that is, with respect, compassion and kindness."

"We want to recognise our valuable PFAC members for their service as well as their inputs, which has made real and lasting changes to the way care is delivered to our patients. Their contributions are at the heart of person-centred care - ensuring that the patients' voices are heard," said al-Naimi. "I urge anyone - current and former patients, their families and members of the community - to consider joining our PFACs across HMC."





# Musk hails China's 'vitality' on Beijing visit

AFP  
Beijing

Elon Musk praised China's "vitality and promise" yesterday, Beijing said, during a trip to China in which he has met multiple government officials and reportedly declared he will expand his business there.

The mercurial tycoon, one of the world's richest men, is on his first trip to China in over three years.

He met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao in Beijing yesterday, praising "the vitality and potential of China's development", according to a ministry readout of the meeting.

Musk "expressed full confidence in the China market, and was willing to continue deepening mutually beneficial co-operation".

He also said: "China-US relations are not a zero-sum game", the readout added, and thanked China for "the

support and guarantees it provided for Tesla's Shanghai factory during the Covid-19 pandemic", when it was placed under strict lockdowns.

Musk has extensive business interests in the country and told Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Tuesday that his firm was "willing to continue to expand its business in China", according to the foreign ministry.

Musk and Tesla have not released any statement themselves on the trip or responded to AFP requests for comment.

Chinese media reported that Tesla welcomed its CEO to Beijing on Tuesday with a 16-course dinner that included seafood, New Zealand lamb and traditional Beijing-style soybean paste noodles.

Musk also met Industry Minister Jin Zhuanglong in Beijing yesterday to discuss "the development of new energy vehicles and intelligent connected vehicles", the Ministry of Industry and

Information Technology said in a readout. Yesterday evening the tycoon was seen boarding his private plane at Beijing's Capital International Airport.

He is next expected to visit his factory in Shanghai, Bloomberg reported, citing sources, and potentially meet with Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

China is the world's biggest electric vehicle market and Tesla announced in April it would build a second massive factory in Shanghai, after its Gigafactory that broke ground in 2019.

In his meeting with Qin on Tuesday, Musk expressed his opposition to any economic "decoupling" between China and the United States, Beijing said.

"The interests of the United States and China are intertwined, like conjoined twins, who are inseparable from each other," Musk said.

Musk's extensive business ties to China have raised eyebrows in Washington, with President Joe Biden saying in November the executive's links

to foreign countries were "worthy" of scrutiny. He has also caused controversy by suggesting the self-ruled island of Taiwan should become part of China — a stance welcomed by Chinese officials but which deeply angered Taipei.

Musk is one of a number of Western executives to visit China since the country ended strict Covid controls that saw it largely closed off from the world for almost three years.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said this week that Beijing welcomed visits by international executives "to better understand China and promote mutually beneficial co-operation".

In March, Apple CEO Tim Cook visited Beijing, saying his company enjoyed a "symbiotic" relationship with China.

That same month, Albert Bourla, CEO of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, also paid a visit to the Chinese capital.



Tesla CEO Elon Musk (left) shaking hands with China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang during a meeting in Beijing. (AFP)

## Plea for recognition



Activists of the All Tribal Students Union Manipur (ATSUM) hold placards during a protest amid ongoing ethnic violence in India's northeastern Manipur state, in New Delhi yesterday. (AFP)

# Russia reports attacks on oil refineries; 5 dead in shelling

Reuters  
Moscow/Kyiv

Russia said Ukrainian artillery hit a Russian town for a third time this week and drones struck two oil refineries in an uptick in attacks on Russian territory as Ukraine prepares a Western-backed push to end Moscow's invasion.

Inside Ukraine, Russian-installed officials said five people had been killed in Ukrainian army shelling of a Russian-occupied village in the east, where Russia has fought months of bloody and inconclusive battles to try to seize more territory.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine on the Russian reports, in a week when the two countries accused each other of spreading terror in their capitals with air strikes.

Thousands of civilians have been killed in Ukraine and towns and cities laid to waste since Moscow's forces invaded 15 months ago, but Tuesday marked only the second time Moscow had come under direct fire — from a flurry of drones — although oil and military facilities elsewhere in Russia have been hit.

In the Russian town of Shebekino, two of four wounded people were hospitalised and shells damaged an apartment building, four homes and a school as well as power lines, regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Germany, once Russia's biggest energy market, reiterated that it deemed such Ukrainian attacks on Russian soil legitimate in terms of international law, and announced a sharp downgrading of diplomatic representation in both Russia and Germany.

Russian-installed officials in Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region — one of four Moscow claims to have annexed — said Ukraine had killed five people and wounded 19 in a rocket attack on a farm in the village of Karpaty.

Ukraine's general staff said its forces had fended off 22 Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine over the past day and Ukrainian aircraft had carried out 11 strikes on Russian personnel and military equipment, without specifying where. Russia's defence ministry said it had pushed Ukrainian forces back around two settlements in Donetsk province, part of a 1,000km front line that has barely moved despite months of fighting that has cost tens of thousands of lives.

Reuters was not able to verify either side's reports. Drones attacked two oil refineries 40-50 miles east of Russia's biggest oil export terminals yesterday, according to Russian officials, who did not attribute blame. They said a fire at one of the terminals was later put out.



An employee of a local enterprise Igor, who didn't give his family name, demonstrates a destroyed facility located on the premises of a poultry farm following recent shelling in the village of Karpaty in the Luhansk region, Russian-controlled Ukraine, yesterday. (Reuters)

## Germany orders 4 Russian consulates closed

Germany said yesterday that it would drastically reduce Moscow's diplomatic presence on its soil in response to a similar move from Russia, the latest escalation of tensions sparked by the war in Ukraine.

Moscow called Germany's decision "ill thought out" and vowed a response.

Berlin has ordered four of Moscow's five consulates in Germany to close, a decision that "was communicated to the Russian foreign ministry today", a foreign ministry spokesman said at a press conference.

The move comes after Moscow put a limit of 350 on the number of German

government personnel allowed in Russia, the spokesman said.

This will mean that hundreds of civil servants and local employees working for German institutions in Russia will have to leave the country, according to the German foreign ministry.

"This unjustified decision forces the government to make very substantial cuts in all areas of its presence in Russia," the spokesman said.

This will include closing the German consulates in Kaliningrad, Yekaterinburg and Novosibirsk, with operations to be

considerably reduced and discontinued by November, he said.

Germany's embassy in Moscow and its consulate in Saint Petersburg will not be affected.

"For the Russian presence in Germany, our decisions apply reciprocally... in order to ensure a balance of the mutual presences both in terms of personnel and structure," the spokesman said.

Moscow's reduction of German staff in Russia will affect several hundred people working in German embassies or institutions starting from June, according to the foreign ministry.

## Saudi population up by a third since 2010

Saudi Arabia's population has grown by more than one third since 2010, and a majority of the kingdom's nationals are aged under 30, according to a census published yesterday.

The 2022 Saudi census marks the "most comprehensive and precise population survey conducted in the Kingdom's history," the General Authority of Statistics said.

It set the total population of the oil-rich country at 32.2mn. Of these, 58.4% cent are Saudi nationals and most others are from South Asia or elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The total resident population is up 34.2% since 2010 — an increase of 8.2mn people, of whom 4.8mn are Saudi nationals. Among Saudis, 63% of the population is below the age of 30.

Non-Saudi nationals account for 13.4mn, the majority of whom are Bangladeshis, followed by Indians, Pakistanis, Yemenis and Egyptians.

The national census, the fifth in the kingdom's history, was initially scheduled to be held in 2020 but was postponed because of the Covid pandemic. Saudi Arabia conducted its first official census in 1974.

# Imran Khan in court as rights watchdog warns against hurting democracy

AFP  
Islamabad

Embattled Pakistan opposition leader Imran Khan returned to court yesterday, as the nation's human rights watchdog warned all sides are to blame in a rapidly deteriorating democratic crisis.

Khan's brief arrest earlier this month sparked days of deadly unrest before Islamabad orchestrated a crackdown on his party, including mass arrests and a pledge to try some protesters in army courts. The Islamabad High Court and a specialist corruption court granted Khan bail yesterday in the same graft case which prompted his arrest on May 9, his lawyers said.

Thousands, including grassroots supporters and key Khan aides, have been rounded up since the Supreme Court declared that detention illegal and allowed him to walk free.

Islamabad says the arrests are justified because it was targeted by anti-state terrorism, while Khan claims his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is being quashed ahead of elections due by October.

But Hina Jilani, the head of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), issued a stark warning to "all political stakeholders".

"Unless they desist from any further measures that could imperil the country's fragile democracy, they may find themselves unable to steer the country safely through the multiple crises it is facing".

Since he was ousted from office in a no-confidence vote last spring, Khan has waged an unprecedented campaign of defiance against Pakistan's powerful military establishment, which analysts say was behind his rise and fall from power.

His arrest was widely seen as payback ordered by top brass after he repeated incendiary allegations that they plotted an assassination attempt against him.

The HRCP said "civilian supremacy has emerged as the greatest casualty" from the deepening political crisis, which comes as Pakistan suffers from a flat lining economy and worsening security situation. "The government's inability — or unwillingness — to safeguard civilian supremacy" and PTI's "incessant humiliation of law... has led to making military interference in politics inevitable", Jilani said.

Meanwhile, yesterday, Human Rights Watch criticised Islamabad for agreeing to try 33 civilians in military courts for allegedly attacking army installations during the unrest.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

✉ P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar  
✉ editor@gulf-times.com  
📞 44350478 (News),  
📞 44466404 (Sport),  
📞 44466636 (Home delivery)  
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GULF TIMES

# Why the Fed is hard to predict

One might think that predicting the US Federal Reserve's next policy moves would become easier now that it has already hiked interest rates ten consecutive times, for a total of five percentage points. Not so fast: few, if any know for sure what the Fed will do at its June 13-14 meeting – not even the Fed itself.

Over the past two weeks, officials at the world's most powerful and influential central bank have signalled a range of possible actions, from hiking rates again to "pausing" or "skipping" this round and resuming the tightening process in July. One Fed official has even hinted that it would have been better for the institution not to hike at its last meeting, in May.

We do not know where the Fed will land for two main reasons. It is a central bank that is excessively data-dependent in an unusually fluid economy; and it lacks a solid strategic foundation.

For this Fed, much will depend on the employment and inflation data that will be released in the days before the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meets. As matters stand (in late May), the data will probably lead them to hike rates again. That is not what I would do, given what I believe should be a more secular and strategic approach to monetary policy.

It is tempting to attribute the wide range of views among Fed officials to the fluidity of economic and financial conditions. After all, America's debt-ceiling saga and banking-system tremors have further complicated an already uncertain outlook for growth and inflation worldwide.

But that explanation is too narrow, and it is unlikely to stand the test of time. The real reason that we have so much policy confusion is that the Fed is relying on an inappropriate policy framework and an outdated inflation target. Both of these problems have been compounded by a raft of errors (in analysis, forecasting, communication, policy measures, regulation, and supervision) over the past two years.

Its top priority now should be to use the next few months to address the structural weaknesses

It is now widely agreed that the Fed dug itself a hole when it mishandled the critical initial responses to the return of inflation. Policymakers have been struggling to climb out ever since. Not only did the Fed mischaracterise inflation as "transitory" for most of 2021, despite mounting evidence to the contrary and warnings from prominent economists. It then responded too timidly after Fed Chair Jerome Powell

acknowledged, in late November 2021, that "it's probably a good time to retire that word ['transitory'] and try to explain more clearly what we mean."

These two missteps meant that the Fed would have to play massive catch-up, which it did by implementing the most concentrated set of rate hikes in decades. Such a big, sudden tightening generates greater risks to both growth and financial stability. Yet the catch-up process came too late to prevent inflationary pressures from migrating from the goods sector to services and wages. That crucial development has made core inflation (which excludes volatile food and energy prices) more stubborn and less sensitive to rate hikes, further increasing the risk of compounding policy errors.

This sequence also explains why Fed officials seem to be all over the map when it comes to forthcoming policy moves. Having missed a wide-open window for implementing the best possible response, they now find themselves in a quagmire of second-best policymaking, where every option implies a high risk of collateral damage and unintended consequences. Hike again in June, and you increase the risk of tipping the economy into recession and reigniting financial instability. Refrain from hiking, and you risk losing even more credibility (a problem compounded by the Fed's excessive dependence on backward-looking data for policy moves that act with a lag).

If the next round of labour-market and consumer-price data continues to surprise on the strong side, the Fed will announce another rate hike in June. But regardless of what it decides, its top priority now should be to use the next few months to address the structural weaknesses that led to this mess in the first place. That means not only overhauling its monetary-policy framework and internally assessing the suitability of its inflation target, but also addressing its institutional insularity, lack of cognitive diversity, and poor accountability. — Project Syndicate

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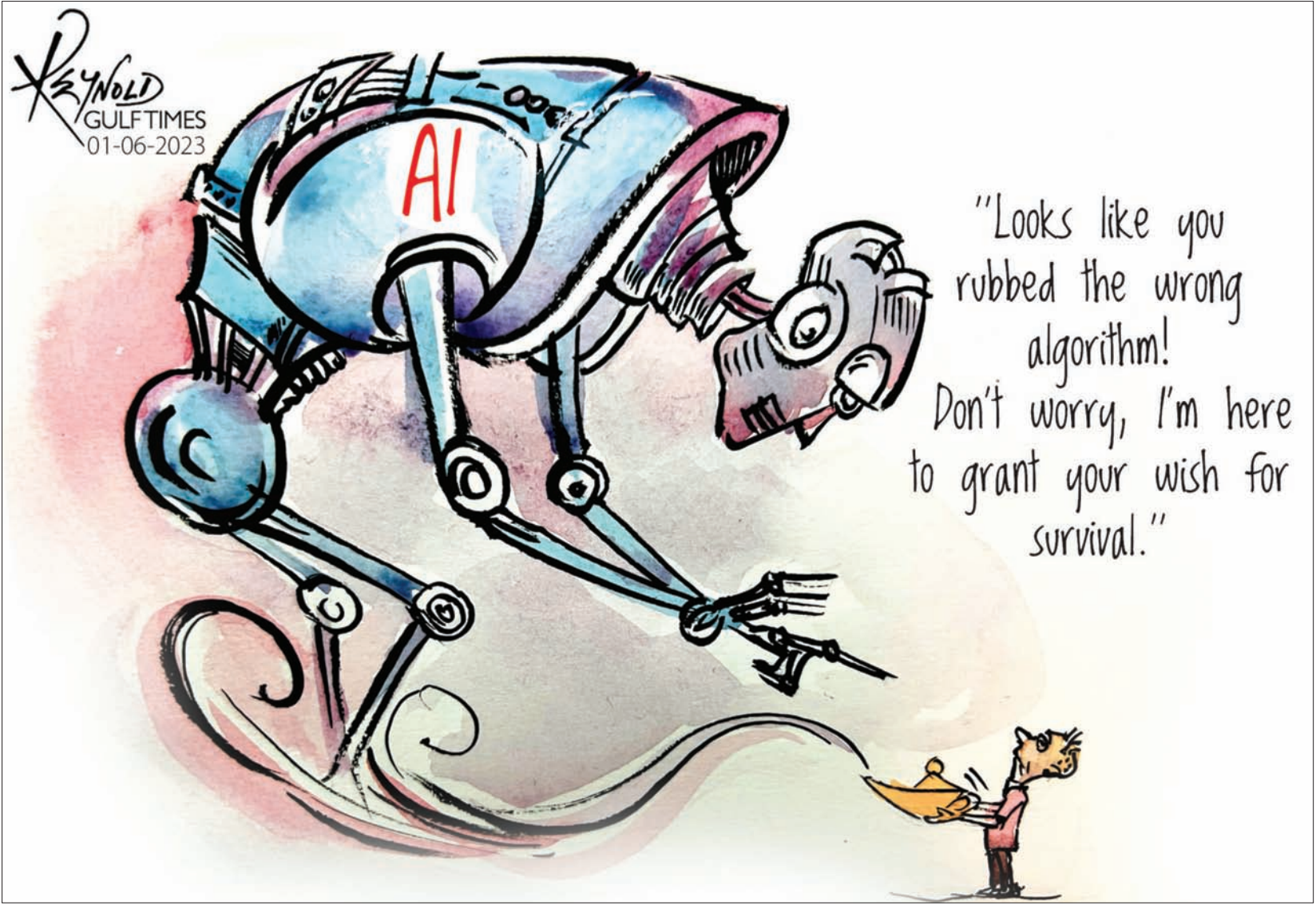
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# A primer on growing out of the developing-country debt crisis

By Ishac Diwan & Philippe Le Houérou  
Paris

The sovereign-debt crisis was high on the agenda at this year's Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with all eyes on China, the biggest creditor to the developing world, and the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's fund for the poorest countries. With many low-income economies already in or at high risk of default, China has been reluctant to write down the value of its loans and insisted that multilateral institutions, including the IDA, share the burden alongside other creditors – a contentious stance that breaks with convention.

There are strong arguments against IDA participation in debt restructuring. Its loans are highly concessional, with an average grant element of 50%, compared to 0% for market-based loans and 18% for Chinese debt. In recent years, its commitments have surged in the face of multiple shocks, reaching \$42bn in 2022. Moreover, it provides its financing in the form of grants, rather than loans, to countries with high debts – self-termed "ex-ante implicit debt relief." It would be grossly unfair to the taxpayers backing it if the IDA bailed out other creditors not once, but twice.

During the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable, a centrepiece of the Spring Meetings that focused on facilitating the debt-restructuring process, China apparently agreed to the Bank's proposal to offer more lending through the IDA, rather than taking a haircut on outstanding debt. This agreement must still be clarified, but it could be a win-win: China's cooperation with the IMF, together with more concessional financing by multilateral development banks, would go a long way toward putting poorer countries on a greener and more sustainable growth path.

For the IDA, the current question is how to operationalise this agreement in ways that help it regain its financial footing and effectiveness. The global debt crisis is weakening the three main ways in which the IDA funds its operations: debt service on past loans (\$7bn in 2022), contributions from donors (around \$25bn every three years), and market borrowing.

First, offering grants reduces future debt-service payments. Since 2010, the IDA has provided \$81bn in grants. If these had been loans, the IDA's current portfolio of \$180bn would be nearly 50% larger, producing more debt-service flows and greatly strengthening its borrowing capacity. As long as the debt crisis lingers, causing more grants to be issued, the IDA's balance sheet will continue to suffer.

Second, the IDA's disbursements are now leaning to bilateral and private creditors. Recent empirical work shows that in highly indebted countries, one dollar of net transfer from the IDA was associated with 60 cents of net outflows to other lenders



in 2021. Conversely, in countries that are not highly indebted, IDA disbursements spur inflows from other creditor sources. Unsustainable debt burdens thus weaken the IDA's effectiveness. A rise in donor contributions seems unlikely without progress on the debt problem, further reducing the IDA's borrowing capacity.

The IDA's well-being thus requires a quick resolution of the debt crisis. Sharing the burden of debt restructuring can help accelerate progress. This requires looking forward rather than looking back.

Suppose, for example, that the IDA contribution was determined by using comparability of treatment (CoT) rules based on past disbursements. A straightforward application of the traditional form of the rule in the case of Zambia, which has been trying to restructure its debt since it defaulted in 2020, would imply a 44% haircut for all creditors, including the IDA. This would result in a loss of \$335mn. A more equitable method would reduce the IDA's debt only when other creditors' loans are written down to the point where they are equally concessional. This fairer rule would result in a loss of \$234mn. We estimate that a similar treatment for all low-income countries currently in debt distress would cost the IDA between \$3.5-7.6bn in haircuts. Depending on which rule is used,

these contributions would lead to a 70-100% increase in concessional lending to Zambia over the next three years. For all countries in debt distress, the estimated additional loans would be smaller, in the range of 20-40% above current IDA disbursements.

The main problem with a backward-looking approach, however, is that it ignores the fact that the IDA is not a normal creditor. Over the course of the next decade, the IDA will provide large concessional net transfers which include more grants than the losses implied by both CoT rules. For example, Zambia's current IDA grant-equivalent allocation for the next decade would be over \$1bn, much more than the loss implied by CoT rules (though the losses we estimate are exaggerated, as they ignore that the IDA previously provided large grants in addition to concessional loans).

The best way to facilitate rapid resolution of the debt crisis is to increase future contributions. In the case of Zambia, the current debt-sustainability analysis is predicated on a 4.5% growth rate. If the IDA's disbursements were to rise, Zambia would grow faster out of its debt crisis, and the losses suffered by creditors would be smaller – the outcome China is attempting to achieve in the ongoing negotiations. This solution also aligns with

the World Bank's desire to increase its financial capacity as part of its ongoing efforts to scale up operations. In this context, there have been calls to double IDA funding over five years. This would enable larger disbursements to countries suffering a debt overhang, which would, in turn, accelerate their recovery. But the IDA is already under pressure, having spent most of the resources of its current funding cycle, which ends in mid-2025. To start scaling up its funding, it needs fresh resources. The Bank's new crisis facility, which sits within the IDA, would be the ideal vehicle.

When stakeholders reconvene this month at the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, they should focus on accelerating debt-restructuring negotiations and expanding the IDA's lending capacity. Progress toward each goal requires progress toward the other. Unless both directions are pursued, the current vicious cycle will only persist. — Project Syndicate

● Ishac Diwan is Research Director at the Finance for Development Lab.

● Philippe Le Houérou is a former CEO of the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries.



# QF students highlight the benefits of learning beyond the classroom

By Noor Al-rawi

**Q**F's Pre University Education (PUE) has created schools and devised curricula that support and embrace diversity, meeting the needs of Qatar's multi cultural community, deliver learning experiences that meet the highest global standards, and are rooted in Qatari culture and values that provide personalised educational opportunities.

Qatar Academy schools follow IB curricula and offer rigorous programmes encompassing an international, bilingual education deeply integrated with local culture and heritage. The schools are located in different parts of the country: Qatar Academy Doha (QAD), Qatar Academy Al Khor (QAK), Qatar Academy Al Wakra (QAW), Qatar Academy Sidra (QAS) and Qatar Academy Msheireb (QAM).

QF's PUE has also eight specialised schools – Awsaj Academy, a K-12 specialised school that addresses the needs of students with mild to moderate learning needs, Academic Bridge Programme (ABP), a foundation programme that aims to equip secondary school graduates with the skills to succeed in degree programmes at English-language world-class universities; Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA), a residential school that promotes personal growth in young men by engaging them in an environment that fosters excellence in academics, leadership, athletics, and character; Qatar Music Academy (QMA), an academy that provides promising young musicians with a comprehensive music education programme that draws on practice and music theory, incorporating both Arab and Western classical music curriculum; Renad Academy, a school that provides education and specialised services to children with autism, and training and support to parents; Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST), Qatar's only dedicated STEM school, designed to develop Qatar's next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) innovators and offering both a US Diploma through Advanced Placement Courses and UK A Levels certification; Academyti, a progressive and innovative school that uses an unconventional curriculum to nurture children's inner gifts and support them in becoming ethical creators who are aware, confident, and empowered, Tariq Bin Ziad School, which provides bilingual education blended with a curriculum deeply rooted in Qatari heritage, having a legacy of excellence dating back decades. Previously run by the Amiri Diwan, the school is of national importance to Qatar, having graduated many of the country's current leaders.

This year, for the first time, Qatar Foundation is celebrating its graduating school students in one ceremony at Qatar National Convention Centre. The event, taking place on June 4, will highlight the academic journeys of 249 students from across seven schools, and the importance of taking learning beyond the classroom.

Hadwa Aboushama is an 18-year-old student at Qatar Academy Sidra (QAS). When she first joined QF's PUE school, in grade 3, she struggled with some of her classes due to her limited proficiency in English. But, thanks to the additional support provided by the school, she was able to quickly catch up to her peers.

She has also been given the opportunity to gain skills outside of the classroom. Last year, she took part in the Street Child World Cup 2022, where 28 teams of young people – representing 25 countries – came together in Education City to participate in a football World Cup-style tournament and child-friendly congress sessions.

"The Street Child World Cup gave me the opportunity to learn about different cultures and perspectives. I was there to play football. But a lot of these children were not just there to play football. It made me very grateful for what I have – it was an eye-opening experience, which changed my outlook on life."

And the effects have been long-lasting, according to the QAS student, explaining how she has remained in contact with a number of participants, including girls from the Palestinian, Brazilian, and Egyptian teams.

For 18-year-old Qatar Academy Doha (QAD) graduate Saoud al-Marafi, football is a way of life, and is a tool that has helped to develop a variety of social and academic skills. Speaking about what he will miss when he leaves QAD, he said: "The competitive football games we used to play in front of the school is what I will miss the most. These had the greatest impact on my skills and helped me become a Qatar national football team player."

"I am also grateful to the school and my teachers as they believed in my abilities and gave me leadership roles, such as managing the school's football team."

"Now, when I wake up in the morning, I feel like there is a something missing from my life, which is going to school, seeing my classmates, and doing homework and projects. Despite my joy of graduating from school, I will miss what I had at QAD."

After graduation, al-Marafi plans to travel overseas, along with his twin brother who is also graduating this year from QAD, to study mechanical engineering, as eventually he wants to return to Qatar and becoming a contributing member of society.

Maryam al-Ibrahim, a 19-year-old student at Awsaj Academy who has cerebral palsy, has always been dedicated to pursuing her education, and has been supported by her family and the school's nurturing environment. Al-Ibrahim strongly believes her disability should not limit her potential.

"My family instilled in me the belief that I have a lot to offer the world, and Awsaj Academy strengthened my confidence in that."

"So, I dedicate time to educating others, promoting inclusivity, and challenging social stigmas surrounding disabilities through my social media account. I strive for a society that does not judge people based on appearances or ideas, and that everyone, whatever their challenges, deserves a place in this world."



Maryam al-Ibrahim



Hadwa Aboushama



Alanoud Matar al-Meraikhi



Dion Stephan Baldsing



Jassim Fahad al-Thani



Turki Majid al-Kuwari

20  
23

حفل تكريم مدارس  
مؤسسة قطر  
QATAR FOUNDATION SCHOOLS  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



During Covid-19, al-Ibrahim began to write poetry, as it helped her find solace, and it served as a tool to express her feelings and experiences. She now hopes to compile a book of her poems. "Behind every poem is a story, and by sharing these poems, I share a part of myself with those around me."

As she graduates from Awsaj Academy, al-Ibrahim embarks on a journey to find a university that embraces acceptance and inclusiveness. She wishes to continue her studies in one of QF's partner universities. "I have been at the school since the first grade. It has had a tremendous impact on me as my intelligence, skills, and determination have made me a catalyst for change and improvement, and my presence reinforced the belief that people with disabilities have great capabilities, if given the opportunity and support."

Turki Majid al-Kuwari, an 18-year-old student at Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA), reflects fondly on his time at school. Being a boarder at QLA has been a transformative experience for him, thanks to the supportive community at QF, which played a role in his journey.

"Graduating from school fills me with immense joy and gratitude. QLA has been my home away from home, providing me with a nurturing environment to explore my passions and unlock my potential."

Beyond the classroom, al-Kuwari eagerly participated in various extracurricular activities, which opened doors to new experiences and shaped his character. "My extracurricular pursuits have provided me with invaluable life lessons, fostering teamwork, leadership, and personal growth."

Al-Kuwari's passion for sports, arts, and community service led him on a journey of discovery, where he developed new skills and formed long-lasting connections. These experiences complemented his formal education, providing a well-rounded foundation that he believes has prepared him for the future.

From the early years of Grade 1 to the final months of Grade 12, Jassim Fahad al-Thani – an 18-year-old student at Qatar Academy Al Wakra (QAW) – has been on an adventure of growth, learning, and self-discovery.

And during this journey, Jassim al-Thani has not only acquired knowledge but also created enduring friendships and refined valuable lifelong skills. His extracurricular activities also played a pivotal role in his life.

"I have learned the importance of stepping outside my comfort zone and embracing new experiences. I have also acquired a sense of responsibility and empathy. My goal is to eventually represent my country on an international stage as well as proudly within Qatar."

He takes great pride in being part of a school that fosters a deep sense of belonging and provides an environment conducive to academic and personal growth. As he embarks on a new chapter in life, Jassim al-Thani will carry with him the valuable lessons learned and cherished memories created at QF.

As Alanoud Matar al-Meraikhi, an 18-year-old student at Qatar Academy Al Khor (QAK), reflects on her academic journey, she recognises the challenges she faced along the way, and how these helped her become more resilient.

Graduating brings immense joy to al-Meraikhi, serving as a testament to years of hard work and determination. The pride and support of her family have been instrumental in her success, and their unwavering belief in her fuels her determination to continue striving for success in all aspects of life.

"My experience at QAK has been nothing short of transformative. Engaging in extracurricular activities outside the classroom has provided me with a unique and fulfilling learning experience. These activities have allowed me to discover my true potential."

With the confidence and skills acquired from QAK, al-Meraikhi eagerly looks forward to embracing new adventures and making a positive impact in the world. She has chosen to take her next step at Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), a QF partner university.

"I am going to continue my studies at TAMUQ because it offers an exceptional educational environment that combines academic excellence with unique opportunities. Being part of this community allows me to stay connected to my local roots while gaining a global perspective through a diverse student body and access to state-of-the-art resources. It is the perfect platform to pursue my aspirations and thrive both academically and personally."

Dion Stephan Baldsing is an 18-year-old student at Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST). He believes that the QF ecosystem has played a central role in his academic journey and ultimately altered the trajectory of his life.

He is dedicated to have been accepted onto the computer science programme at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, another QF partner uni-



Saoud al-Marafi

versity. His decision to complete his studies in Qatar has been strongly influenced by the Education City teachers – and the safety within the campus.

"The unity fostered by QF, the remarkable facilities, and the opportunity for collaboration has brought people from different parts of the world together. It serves as a launch pad for individuals to embark on their own paths and contribute to great things."

Although Baldsing was born in Sri Lanka, he has considered Qatar his home since 2007 and expresses deep gratitude for the incredible hospitality of its people and the enriching cultural experiences it offers.

Baldsing acknowledges the unwavering support and immense pride his family has shown him throughout his academic journey. "I am so grateful for the support my family has shown me. Their hearts brim with pride as they witness me graduating, knowing that their unwavering support has guided me to this moment of accomplishment."

As Baldsing prepares to embrace the next phase of his educational and personal growth, he carries with him the invaluable lessons and cherished memories from QF, grateful for the transformative impact it has had on his life.

The PUE commencement ceremony will celebrate the achievements of students from QAD, QAK, QAS, QAST, QLA, QAW, and Awsaj Academy.





# Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar signs pact with Dogus Group

Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar has signed on Turkish Dogus Group as one of the ‘Founding Family’ members in a signing ceremony at the National Museum of Qatar, a statement said yesterday.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums; Dr Mohamed al-Sada, president of the Dadu Advisory Committee; Dr Mustafa Goksu, Turkish ambassador in Doha; Ahmad al-Namla, CEO of Qatar Museums; David Alexander Taylor, deputy director of Project Operations at Dadu; Ferit F Sahenk, chairman and CEO of Dogus Group; and Husnu Akhan, vice-chairman of Dogus Group were present.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa and Ferit F Sahenk officiated the agreement between Ahmad Musa al-Namla and Husnu Akhan. “We

are pleased to have Dogus Group join as one of the ‘Founding Family’ members of Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar. We extend our gratitude for their sponsorship, which brings us closer to achieving our goal of providing a place for children to learn, grow and to advance the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 for human, social, economic and environmental development,” said HE Sheikha Al Mayassa in a press statement.

Dadu is the first institution of its kind in Qatar to provide innovative child development settings and resources to support children, families and educators to thrive and contribute to a sustainable future.

The museum will be Qatar’s first publicly funded museum, with all donors, families and corporations directly contributing to the future of Qatar and its

people. Sahenk said: “We are delighted to become a member of the esteemed ‘Founding Family’ of Dadu, Children’s Museum of Qatar. We would like to express our gratitude for all parties who facilitated this treasured bond, which I believe will create a vibrant educational environment for curious children from all corners of the world.

“Dogus Group has played an important role in contributing to the cultural and artistic landscape in Turkiye through many years and with multiple initiatives. We honour world-renowned photojournalist Ara Guler who’s known as Istanbul’s Eye with the Ara Guler Museum and Archives; support the 12,000-year archaeological site of Gobekli-tepe from excavation to its maintenance and have been undertaking our precious Dogus

Children’s Symphony Orchestra for seventeen years.

“Our dedication to nurturing the growth of children and supporting arts will find new life with Dadu, which will serve as an invaluable resource for children from all around the world. Once again, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and the organisers of Dadu for providing us with the privilege to support this remarkable project.”

Dogus Group joins ‘Founding Family’ members His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Awqaf (Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs), Baladna, Baladiya (Ministry of Municipality), ConocoPhillips, Eni, ExxonMobil, IntesaSanpaolo, Ooredoo, Schlumberger and Shell.



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, along with other dignitaries, at the signing ceremony.

## Qatar ‘working to consolidate co-operation with African countries in all fields’

Qatar is working closely to develop and consolidate its co-operation with countries on the African continent in all fields by employing the best capabilities and opportunities available to serve the common interests of both Africa and Qatar, Amr ElSherbini, Egypt’s ambassador to Qatar and president of the Group of African Ambassadors in Doha, stressed during the 60th Africa Day celebration held at the Diplomatic Club recently.

“As we celebrate Africa Day on the ground of the sisterly Qatar, I express my deepest thanks for the growing interest of Qatar in our continent and its keenness to be a reliable and effective partner in the African economic development,” he said.

The event was attended by ambassador Abdullah Hussein Mohamed Jaber, director of the African Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); ambassador Ibrahim Yousef Abdullah Fakhro, director of the Protocol Department, MoFA; Ali Ibrahim Ahmed, ambassador of Eritrea and dean of the Diplomatic Corps; diplomats of African and other countries, among others.

Welcoming the gathering, the ambassador said: “The 25th of May marked the 60th anniversary of founding the Organisation of African Unity, which inaugurated a new era for the path of African solidarity and the strengthening of joint action



Dignitaries at the event held for the 60th Africa Day celebration.



The celebration featured cultural presentations, artefacts and other items, as well as cuisines from different African countries.

sary of founding the Organisation of African Unity, which inaugurated a new era for the path of African solidarity and the strengthening of joint action

among the countries of our dear continent.” He took the opportunity to congratulate Qatar, on behalf of the Group of African Ambassadors in Doha, for its

success in organising an exceptional edition of the FIFA World Cup last year, which was praised by the whole world. “We also congratulate the sisterly Qatar for the distinguished hosting and organisation the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as the Qatar Economic Forum. We look forward to a unique success in organising the International Horticultural Expo Doha 2023.”

ElSherbini said Africa is open to co-operation with all international partners, including governments, international organisations, private sector companies and global financing institutions, in order to build the Africa of the future through a co-operative framework and sus-

tainable partnerships that ensure the achievement of mutual interests in an equitable manner, “which contributes to enhancing the stability and prosperity of our world and enriching the human experience.” The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) is a pioneering initiative as part of Agenda 2063 that was launched on January 1, 2021, as an important step towards enhancing intra-African trade and the economic integration among African countries and the world, he noted.

Africa is striving to develop its human resources, especially the youth, to keep pace with the developments and carry out their tasks in leading the future of Africa, as well as continuing to enhance the role of African women as the beating heart of their societies and a beacon for their economic transformation and stability, the envoy pointed out.

“I express my sincere wishes to Africa for more solidarity, comprehensiveness, integration and for achieving fruitful co-operation with countries of the whole world, especially with the sisterly Qatar,” he concluded.

The celebration featured cultural presentations, artefacts and other items, as well as cuisines from different African countries.

## Qatar takes part in Rabat Int’l Book Fair

The 28th edition of the Rabat International Book Fair will kick off today with the participation of the Ministry of Culture and Qatar University Press (QU Press).

Qatar’s participation in the 11-day fair comes within the framework of strengthening cultural and intellectual exchange between Qatar and Morocco.

Director of the Ministry of Culture’s Libraries Department and Director of Doha International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said the Qatari participation in the

fair aims to forge new relations with professionals from the cultural and publishing industries, in addition to showcasing Qatari publishing houses’ intellectual production, as well as holding meetings with fair officials and Moroccan publishing houses to discuss aspects of co-operation.

Director of QU Press Dr Fatima al-Suwaidi said QU Press decided to display its publications in the pavilion of the Afaq foundation, which is in line with QU Press’ aim of marketing its publications locally and internationally, and expanding its outreach.(QNA)

## New book with focus on Qatar-Turkiye ties released

A new book on Qatar-Turkiye relations, co-authored by Qatari academic Dr Khaled al-Jaber and Turkish researcher Ozgur Pala, was released by US-based Lexington Books.

Titled Turkish-Qatari Relations: From Past to Present in a Turbulent Geopolitical Landscape, the book examines the relations between the countries since the 19th century, utilising arguments of practical geopolitical reasoning. It

has been released in several languages, including Arabic, Turkish and English.

Jordanian publisher ‘lines and shadows’ will release an Arabic version, which will go on display at the upcoming Doha International Book Fair in mid-June. The release coincides with the conclusion of the Turkish presidential elections, which saw Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan winning a new presidential term until 2028.(QNA)

### Alfardan Sports Motors introduces all-new Alfa Romeo Tonale in Qatar



Alfardan Sports Motors unveils the all-new Alfa Romeo Tonale in Qatar.



The “3+3” headlights with new Full-LED Adaptive Matrix.



The Alfa Romeo signature: 5-hole wheel rims



Alfa Romeo Tonale: Unmistakable Alfa Romeo design.



A driver-centric interior by excellence.