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First Qatar Real Estate Forum starts today

The first Qatar Real Estate Forum 2023 is set to begin today under the auspices of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

Organised by the Ministry of Municipality, the two-day forum will be held at the Sheraton Doha under the theme of 'Regulations and Legislations for an Optimal Quality of Life and a Sustainable Real Estate Industry'.

The Qatar Real Estate Forum is an economic event and a dialogue platform for leaders, decision-makers, experts and actors in the real estate sector at both the local and international levels.

It will see the participation of a number of ministers and CEOs from the real estate sector, alongside several related personalities from Qatar and abroad.

The forum will feature 35 keynote speakers and around 1,500 leaders, decision-makers, experts and individuals actively engaged in the real estate sector both locally and internationally. It will highlight the best regional and international experiences and practices relevant to the real estate sector in or-



der to bolster the process of creating a conducive environment for the sector and formulating essential approaches and mechanisms to manage and develop this sector in a way that best suits Qatar's ambitions in supporting and reviving this vital sector, since it leads the engine of development for numerous other sectors.

The event will include a number of panel discussions and workshops that address several key themes, such as future trends in the real estate sector, anticipating the future of the sector, real estate governance, digital innovation for a sustainable real estate industry, real estate in the post-FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 era, investors' journey between reality and hope, funding policies and mechanisms, as well as future cities for a better life quality.

The workshops will address topics such as mortgage systems and real estate funding, Qatari real estate in-

vestment (stages, challenges and solutions), real estate appraisal, international reference and professional practice, real estate development project management and facilities management programmes.

The forum's organising committee had earlier launched the forum's website, <https://qreforum.com>, through which essential services and facilities are being provided to the participants, while emphasising that it had streamlined the registration process. Logistical assistance has been provided to participants to follow up on issues such as accommodation and transportation, along with all other relevant logistical details during the two days of the forum.

The committee is also holding an accompanying exhibition on the sidelines of the forum to showcase the state-of-the-art technologies deployed in the sustainable real estate industry.

The Ministry of Municipality is organising the first edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance, in addition to Expo 2023 Doha and Qatari Diar. **To Page 3 / Page 12**

Amir to begin Central Asian tour tomorrow

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will begin tomorrow a tour of a number of Central Asian countries, at the invitation of their leaders.

His Highness the Amir will begin the tour with a visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, followed by the Kyrgyz Republic, then a visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan, where he will participate in the Astana International Forum. The Amir will conclude the tour with a visit to the Republic of Tajikistan.

During the Central Asian tour, the Amir will hold talks with the leaders and senior officials of the four countries, dealing with ways to strengthen co-operation relations, in addition to discussing a number of issues of common concern and signing agreements and memorandums of understanding in a number of fields.

His Highness will be accompanied by an official delegation, along with a lineup of businessmen and senior officials. **(QNA) Page 2**



Deputy PM participates in opening session of SLD

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah participated in the opening session of the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) in Singapore and the roundtable meeting of the participating ministers. The meeting discussed security and defence challenges facing Asia and the world in general, in addition to possible solutions to achieve security and stability. **Page 2**

Pakistan grants Qatari passport holders visa on arrival

An official source in the Consular Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the Pakistani authorities have decided to grant Qatari passport (ordinary, special, diplomatic) holders entry visas (tourist/visit) on arrival at any border point, for a period of 30 days, extendable for an additional 30 days without any fees and prior requirements. **(QNA)**

India train crash toll rises to 288

At least 288 people were killed and hundreds more injured in a three-train collision in India, officials said yesterday, the country's deadliest rail accident in more than 20 years. Debris was piled high at the crash site near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha. **Page 9**

Qatar participates in inauguration ceremony of Turkish president



On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani participated in the inauguration ceremony of Recep Tayyip Erdogan as President of Turkey, at the Presidential Complex in Ankara yesterday. HE Sheikh Khalifa conveyed the greetings and congratulations of His Highness the Amir to the Turkish president, wishing him success, and the government and people of Turkey further progress and prosperity. For his part, the Turkish president entrusted HE the Minister of Interior to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and Qatar further progress, development, and prosperity. **(QNA) Page 11**

QatarEnergy celebrates steel cutting of 1st Korean LNG vessel for fleet expansion

QatarEnergy celebrated the steel cutting of the first of its new generation of chartered Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) vessels to be built in a South Korean shipyard. Building upon an already successful global maritime initiative, QatarEnergy joined Samsung Heavy Industries and JPMorgan Asset Management in a special ceremony on Geoje Island in South Korea to celebrate this milestone, which is part of QatarEnergy's historic LNG Fleet Expansion Project. This event signifies an extension of QatarEnergy's international collaborations and commitment to global partnerships and follows the October 2022 successful initiation of steel cutting at Hudong-Zhonghua, a Chinese shipyard renowned for its excellence in LNG shipbuilding. The ceremony was held in the presence of Sheikh Khalid

bin Khalifa al-Thani, CEO of Qatargas, attending on behalf of HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy; Jin-Taek Jung, CEO of Samsung Heavy Industries; and Andy Dacy, CEO of JPMorgan's Global Transport Group. Also in attendance were senior executives from QatarEnergy and Qatargas. The steel-cutting ceremony in South Korea follows QatarEnergy's 2020 decision to enter into ship slot reservation agreements with three South Korean shipyards: Samsung Heavy Industries, Hyundai Heavy Industries, and Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering. Subsequently, in 2022, QatarEnergy signed multiple time charter parties with various ship owners, including affiliates of JPMorgan Asset Management, a fund investing in a wide array of transportation assets.

Qatar Real Estate Forum
4 - 5 June 2023

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Deputy PM in Singapore meetings

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met, during his visit to Singapore, with Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. The meeting discussed topics of mutual interest as well as bilateral co-operation relations and ways to enhance and develop them. Qatar's ambassador to Singapore Saoud bin Jassim al-Jufairi attended the meeting.



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met, during his visit to Singapore, with Singaporean Minister for Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam. The meeting discussed issues of common interest as well as bilateral relations and ways to enhance them. Qatar's ambassador to Singapore Saoud bin Jassim al-Jufairi attended the meeting. (QNA)

Deputy PM participates in opening session of 20th Shangri-La Dialogue



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah participated in the opening session of the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) currently being convened in Singapore and the roundtable meeting of the participating ministers. The meeting discussed security and defence challenges facing Asia and the world in general, in addition to possible solutions to achieve security and stability. The SLD is a governmental security summit which is held annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) with the participation of prime ministers, ministers of defence, senior military leaders, along with defence and security policies makers from all over the world. (QNA)



'Amir's tour in Central Asia opens new partnerships'

HE the Chairman of the Internal and External Affairs Committee of the Shura Council Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri underlined the importance of the tour (beginning tomorrow) of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Central Asia, which includes Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan.

HE Dr al-Marri continued saying that thanks to the wise directives of His Highness the Amir, Qatar enjoys strong relations with the outside world, based on mutual respect and maintaining international peace and security. These principles were established by the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar, which stipulates the strengthening of relations with the outside world, especially with regard to the consolidation of international peace and security, he said.

HE Dr al-Marri said in a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that this tour would strengthen bilateral relations between Qatar and the Central Asian countries included in the tour in a manner that achieves common interests and opens up broad, future prospects for more partnerships in various fields.

He pointed out that the majority of these countries are inhabited by a Muslim majority ranging from 80-90% of the population,

He stressed that the achievements and successes made by



HE Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri speaking to QNA.

Qatar are remarkable despite all the difficulties and challenges, highlighting the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, under the wise directives of the

Amir. He noted the great role played by Qatar during the evacuation process in Afghanistan, stressing that all of this is based on the principles and policies of

Qatar and the values of its people.

He said that due to these achievements, Qatar and His Highness the Amir have become the central to communications for world leaders and a destination for everyone looking for peace and stability, adding that the latest thing that the Amir did in Gaza and occupied Palestine was stopping the Israeli aggression and bloodshed.

On the role of the Shura Council in supporting and strengthening Qatar's bilateral relations with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, HE Dr al-Marri explained that the role of the Council is complementary to the grand strategy set by the Amir, as well as the Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasises having strong relations with peace-loving countries.

He said that the Shura Council has relations and friendship groups with parliaments of the aforementioned Asian countries, in addition to the mutual visits between the Council and these parliaments.

This is in addition to the meetings held between the heads of the relevant friendship committees to develop relations in the future.

He explained that the importance of co-operation between the Shura Council and the parliaments of the countries included in the tour lies in that it is complementary to what His Highness the Amir is doing in this regard, adding that the visit of the Amir to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan represent great support for the Shura Council and for all other sectors of the state.

When the Amir visits a country, there will be consensus among the leaders, and this will facilitate the task for everyone after that, he explained.

HE Dr al-Marri stated that the Central Asian countries included in the tour of the Amir are rich in many resources and raw materials, including uranium, natural gas, minerals and other sources.

HE the chairman of the committee also spoke about the role of parliaments and Shura Councils in promoting popular and parliamentary diplomacy.

HE explained that the role of parliaments and Shura Councils is characterised by a wide range of movement since it is broader in scope than the formal sphere and at the same time, it complements and strengthens the political will of states. (QNA)



Qatar to host 47th session of Arco General Assembly

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and in the presence of HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir, Minister of State for International Co-operation, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) will host the 47th session of the General Assembly of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Organisation (Arco).

To be held on June 5-6 at JW Marriott Marquis City Center Doha, the session will be chaired by Yousef bin Ali al-Khatir, president of QRCS, and attended by presidents, secretaries-general and representatives of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies/associations, as well as representatives of some international organisations concerned with humanitarian action.

The purpose of the meeting is to build upon the Arab efforts to provide humanitarian and relief services for the disadvantaged communities in the Arab region, as well as to enhance co-operation and coordination to better support the victims of wars and/or natural disasters, QRCS has said in a statement.

During the meeting, several key humanitarian, environmental, strategic and administrative issues/reports will be discussed. On the sidelines of the meeting, QRCS will hold an exhibition titled 'Humanitarian Artists', which will showcase many paintings that represent humanitarian messages and manifestations.

In celebration of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Day, a workshop will be held on 'IHL: Realities and Aspirations', moderated by a slew of law and media experts.

Armed Forces conclude Al-Adheed 2023 exercise



Qatar Armed Forces have wrapped up the Al-Adheed 2023 exercise under the auspices of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah in the presence of HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabit. Several sectors and branches of the Qatar Armed Forces and a number of brotherly and friendly forces participated in the exercise to upgrade combat capabilities of the armed forces and the use of modern command and control systems. A lineup of senior officers in the armed forces attended the closing of the exercise. (QNA)



WCM-Q scientist is ranked top medical researcher in Qatar

Dr Rayaz Malik of Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) has been ranked the number one researcher in medicine in Qatar by Research.com, an independent research portal that compiles a global list of high-achieving scientists each year.

Dr Malik is also ranked by the Research.com among the top 10,000 researchers in medicine in the world. The ranking is determined by analysing the number of influential pieces of research authored by the scientist, combined with awards, fellowships and academic recognition they have received from leading research institutions and government agencies.

Dr Malik, professor of medicine and assistant dean for clinical investigations at the WCM-Q, has published more than 450 papers.

He has been with the WCM-Q for nine years, during which time he published 310 papers on diabetes complications and neurodegenerative diseases.

He has pioneered use of the Corneal Confocal Microscope, a rapid, non-invasive ophthalmic imaging technique to diagnose and predict progression of multiple neurodegenerative diseases,



Dr Rayaz Malik

including in patients with diabetic neuropathy, hereditary neuropathy, long-Covid, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, dementia, schizophrenia and autism.

Dr Malik, who is also a practising consultant physician in endocrinology and diabetes at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), said: "I am grateful for all the support I have received from the leadership at the WCM-Q, funding from Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Research Fund, and of course

the multiple collaborations with fellow scientists and clinicians in institutes across Doha, including the HMC, Sidra Medicine, Qatar University and Hamad Bin Khalifa University."

"Most importantly, I am indebted to the hard work of my team and the many people and patients who have given their precious time to be involved in our research," he said. "It is extremely gratifying for myself and Qatar to be recognised by Research.com"

First Qatar Real Estate Forum begins today

From Page 1

The sponsors include the United Development Company (UDC), Msheireb Properties, Alfaridan Properties, GWC, Masraf Al Rayan, Doha Bank, Al Hazm, Gulf Times, Qatar Television, and the Qatar Finance and Business Academy.

The organisation of the forum comes within the framework of the great interest that Qatar attaches to

this vital sector, especially after the issuance of Amiri Resolution No 28 of 2023 establishing the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, which is a pioneering and important step for the development of the real estate sector in Qatar, the Ministry of Municipality said in a statement.

The forum will include a broad range of platforms bringing together business leaders in the real estate sec-

tor at all levels, locally, regionally and internationally, to lay out a roadmap for the real estate development process, encourage young national talents working in this sector, and support the implementation of the sector's development strategy in Qatar and its outcomes in light of the current distinguished stature of Qatar as a prosperous financial, trading and economic hub. - QNA

Al Failaq International opens Sound Design TOA showroom at Barwa Village



Al Failaq International Trading Company, has recently opened its showroom and sound experience center in Barwa Village. Specializing in TOA Japan products, the showroom demonstrates the full range of Audio Solutions and Products of the esteemed Japanese manufacturer. Al Failaq Trading is listed as the Official Distributor of TOA in Qatar from 2003.

The showroom's opening was attended by multiple technology interests and company representatives as well as a visit by TOA's own regional and global level management.

Daisuke Imagawa, Managing



Director of EMEA region, visited the showroom as an official representative of TOA, stating, "First of all, I would like to congratulate Al Failaq on the opening of the TOA Showroom in Qatar and thank you very much. I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality

on my first visit to Qatar in 15 years. Let's work together for the sustainable growth and prosperity of both Al Failaq and TOA."

Support and direction were also guided by Al Failaq Trading's CEO, Ullattil Achu, and Vice Chairman, Mohammed Al Neema & Sons, Holding group, the parent Company of Dyarco International Group.

Mohammed Al Neema said, "Starting a new business is always a big achievement, and I just wanted to send some good luck wishes. I know how much hard work it takes to get an existing business back on its feet. Sending all my good luck wishes that you can turn this business into a huge success! Congratulations on your new showroom! It makes me happy to see you reaching the goals you set for the Company."

Ullattil Achu, CEO of the group, commented, "We have maintained a consistent presence in the market as a 100% Qatari owned entity and have persevered throughout all of the challenges faced over the last few years. We are established proudly as the official distributor of TOA products in Qatar and our team of technical experts and engineers have a pedigree in design and implementation. I wish Al Failaq; All the Best for its future."

Al Failaq - TOA showroom can be found at Barwa Village, Building block 11, shop 24.



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Qatari-British education committee discusses co-operation



The Qatari-British Joint Bilateral Technical Committee in Education held a meeting in London on June 1 and 2. HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi headed the Qatari delegation to the meeting, which tackled ways to develop public, private and college education; co-operation to promote education and exchanging expertise in these fields. In addition, the meeting discussed co-operation in equivalence of diplomas, technical education, educating students with special needs, co-operation opportunities in terms of exchanging students and teachers between the two countries, conducting joint research and co-ordinating in the academic framework for academic qualifications. At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides underscored continuation of the committee's work to develop co-operation between them in the field of education. (QNA)

Ooredoo initiative sees unwanted telecom devices recycled safely

Ooredoo, a key contributor to national corporate social responsibility initiatives, has announced that its most recent sustainability initiative is proving a huge success, with thousands of customers helping recycle unwanted telecom devices safely and effectively.

In collaboration with Seashore, the latest initiative – signed at the recent Qatar CSR Summit 2023 – enables customers to bring their unwanted devices to selected Ooredoo shops, where they will be collected by partner Seashore, and receive Nojoom Points as a “thank you”. Unwanted devices will be then sent for



recycling. During the first eight days of the initiative, more than 8mn Nojoom Points were given to customers bringing their unwanted devices, with the Airport Road branch giving away 1mn Nojoom Points in a single day, a press statement noted. Moza Khalid al-Muhannadi, director of CSR, Sponsorship and Media at Ooredoo, said: “We have a firm belief in our responsibility to ensure

compatibility between technology and sustainability, and are committed to our efforts to promote green living and the protection of our environment for future generations. “This initiative aligns perfectly with our strategic commitment to Qatar National Vision 2030, and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We’re proud to partner with Seashore to help reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste and promote sustainable practices in the community, and look forward to many more such initiatives in the future.”

Ooredoo shops at City Center Doha, Doha Festival City, on Air-

port Road and at Villaggio Mall have had collection boxes installed to receive unwanted devices. Customers bringing their devices can receive up to 5,000 Nojoom Points for suitable devices in exchange, as incentive to attract those who are committed to environmentally responsible behaviour.

Al-Muhannadi concluded: “We’re delighted to see so many unwanted devices being responsibly recycled already, and we extend our thanks both to our partner Seashore for helping make it possible, and to our customers for wholeheartedly supporting our efforts to promote sustainability and taking part.”

Waseef bags tender for maintenance services of finance ministry building

Waseef Company has won the tender to provide comprehensive periodic maintenance services for the Ministry of Finance building.

This reflects the company's distinguished leadership position in providing high-quality services to all its customers, especially government entities, Waseef has said in a

press statement. Waseef, through its professional team with extensive experience, will provide the highest levels of specialised maintenance services covering mechanical and electrical equipment and service facilities, ensuring the preservation of building value and providing the ideal environment for the ministry's workers, the statement notes.

It should be noted that Waseef provides periodic high-quality services to all its customers based on quality standards and the extensive experience possessed by its professional team, which supports the company's constant keenness to upgrade its leading position towards excellence, in addition to strengthening its business strat-

egy in creating added value for the real estate sector. Similarly, Waseef provides its services in the management, operation, maintenance and leasing of real estate facilities to the private sector and the government entities in Qatar, such as ministries' buildings, towers, multi-service projects, and residential and commercial complexes.

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Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/MNT/6197/23 for Slug Catcher Cleaning Services on Call-Off Basis	04/06/2023 to 11/06/2023	0/-	3,500,000/-	25/06/2023

Scope of Work:
Company requires experienced, competent, and qualified Contractor(s) to carryout cleaning services of slug catchers installed at company's facilities on call off basis. The scope shall also include mobilization of manpower, resources, supply, erection/installation and management of all necessary rigging, scaffolding, insulation, blinding, de-blinding requirements and provision of other equipment and chemicals as necessary for the works / services.

The contract shall be for a period of 5+2 years and shall be effective from 4Q 2023 tentatively.

Bid Validity: Bid should be valid for 270 days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in Qatargas website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the Qatargas online platform (SMART by GEP).

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QU announces admission of 622 students to PG courses

Qatar University (QU) announced that 622 male and female students have been admitted to 63 postgraduate (PG) programmes offered for the next academic class of 2023. In a statement, the QU outlined that the percentage of accepted students in PhD, Master, diploma, and postgraduate certificates from the total number of students reached 15%, 70%, 7.5% and 3.5%, respectively.

Vice-President for Student Affairs Dr Eiman Mustafawi congratulated the students that have been admitted to postgraduate programmes, pointing out that she is proud of seeing a new cohort of promising students joining various disciplines.

Dr Mustafawi wished them an academic career full of excellence, adding that she aspires to see their contributions and achievements in QU as a qualitative addition to the college community and promoting a postgraduate community that abounds with scientific excellence.

She pointed out that QU offers a broad range of services and resources to students to support them in every step they make, in pursuit of achieving their educational and research objectives through an educational environment that stimulates excellence and innovation and offers development opportunities and capacity building through working with an elite of teaching staff who are highly qualified and excelled.

Admission to the QU primarily hinges on the principle of competition among applicants. However, meeting the minimum requirements for applying for postgraduate studies does not necessarily mean that students have been accepted, but they are accepted in each academic class based on conditions announced in each separate program, Dr Mustafawi noted.

For her part, QU's Director of the Admission Department Lulwa al-Rubaie said the QU's Graduate Studies office will hold an orientation meeting for all freshmen on Aug 26 while the academic class will start on Aug 27.

She underscored the importance of the orientation meeting for fresh students through introducing them to key information related to services and educational sources offered by the university to postgraduate students, college regulations and policies, instructions of registering the courses via the QU's portal, as well as method of using e-mails and other electronic systems that support the educational process. (QNA)

Tender - Waseef

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Subject: TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF ASPHALT ROAD REPAIRING AND APPLICATION OF STANDARD THERMOPLASTIC ROAD MARKING PAINT WORKS IN AL KHOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Bid Bond: 17,000 QAR

Non-refundable Tender Fee: 500 QAR

Bid Submission Closing Date: 26 June 2023

The Tender Document will be available from June 4 to 12 2023 upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa

To collect please provide the following:

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

Please note the following:

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date.
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in sealed envelopes and delivered to the below mentioned address:

Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.

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Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Marine Regulations, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas) intends to perform a seismic survey in the location bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of locations during survey operations.

Qatargas takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.

Any further inquiries should be addressed to:
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Abu Sidra City to be a thriving hub for green landscape and healthy living: Sheikh Jassim

By Amjad Vanimal

The Abu Sidra City project by Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding (MBHH), a prominent business conglomerate in Qatar, is on track to achieve its completion in the near future. The project's primary objective is to establish a thriving community that prioritizes sustainability and fosters a culture of well-being.

MBHH is the consolidation of a number of Qatar-based companies, founded by its Chairman, HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Hamad Abdullah J. al Thani, over 50 years ago. Over the years, the company has successfully developed business interests in a variety of industry sectors including real estate investment and development, property management, hospitality, travel and tourism services, healthcare, etc.

Abu Sidra is being developed as a suburban-style, town-center mixed-use project that aims to create a vibrant living and working community in a meticulously maintained environment. This project has been specifically designed to enhance the lifestyles of its residents, tenants, and consumers by incorporating modern real estate development concepts that deviate from traditional market norms.

Located just 13km away from central Doha, the site covers a vast area of 1,376,111.40m². It is strategically positioned at a junction that will eventually link Abu Samra to the Industrial Area and Al Waab Street. This extensive space provides an excellent opportunity for a comprehensive and self-contained development plan. Moreover, it holds great potential as a key location for the future expansion of Doha's urban area, potentially becoming one of the city's important sub-centers.

The development is designed to be an integrated mosaic of low-rise residential apartments, landed housing, a health care facility, retail and F&B outlets, a resort hotel, a community center and a retail mall. All of these elements will be developed around a central green area - the deliberate conservation of an existing farm to enhance the quality of life for its surrounding residents.

Among numerous divisions, the primary initiatives of the projects began with the opening of Abu Sidra Mall in the first quarter of this year. Meanwhile, the remaining parts of the projects are currently progressing rapidly.

In an exclusive interview with Gulf Times, MBHH Vice-Chairman Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Hamad bin Hamani said the vision for Abu Sidra is to create a dynamic and attractive community environment which focuses on landscaped plazas and promotes strong pedestrian activity at street level. "This low-density community is complemented by a series of higher-density developments close to the central commercial core. Together, these multiple living and working elements create a viable and self-sustained population density for all communities within Abu Sidra," Sheikh Jassim said.

Contemporary and progressive, yet with a long history of doing business in Qatar, MBHH is well positioned to rely on its legacy built over the last 50 years while retaining a focus on their vision for the future of Qatar - both in the region and worldwide - by serving and adapting to the needs and demands of an emerging dynamic country and its people.

"We are making gradual progress by prioritizing one step at a time, recognizing that simultaneous completion of all aspects is not feasible. Notably, we achieved a significant milestone by completing the construction of the mall last year and conducting a soft launch earlier this year. Moving forward, our next phase will encompass the development of a cinema as well as a residential complex," Sheikh Jassim added.

Abu Sidra Mall

Located in Al Rayyan Municipality, spanning a built-up area of more than 92,000 sq. metres, Abu Sidra Mall aims to revolutionize the mall culture of Qatar.

Boasting more than 200 retail outlets, as well as health, wellness, and entertainment centres, the mall offers a unique experience centered around the theme of health and fitness.

"Contrary to most malls, Abu Sidra Mall stands out for its emphasis on health and its innovative design that incorporates abundant green spaces, fostering physical activity. The integration of green spaces within the mall facilitates a seamless transition from the outdoors to the indoors, providing visitors with natural light, fresh air, and opportunities for



Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairman, MBHH

social engagement. The mall boasts a jogging track that surrounds the park, encouraging an active lifestyle and promoting physical fitness. Additionally, the presence of health and wellness centres within the mall premises reinforces the pursuit of a healthy way of life, catering to the well-being of its patrons," Sheikh Jassim said.

MBHH has consistently demonstrated

its unwavering dedication to promoting and launching initiatives that empower health, serving as a testament to its strong commitment to the well-being of the community.

"With a vision to promote health and fitness, MBHH has embarked on a distinctive endeavour by integrating these elements within the mall, offering a one-of-a-kind concept in Qatar. Situated

strategically near prominent active sports centers like Muaither Sports Club, Aspire Park, and Khalifa Stadium, the mall ensures convenient access for individuals aspiring to lead an active and dynamic lifestyle," Sheikh Jassim said.

Healthcare

Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding Company's focus on the healthcare sector is evident through

into consideration their dietary requirements, health conditions, and personal preferences.

"At Diet Center, we emphasize the importance of balanced nutrition and a holistic approach to wellness. Our programs focus on educating our clients about healthy eating habits, portion control, and the significance of regular physical activity. We believe that sustainable lifestyle changes are the key to long-term success in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. In addition to our individualized dietary plans, we offer ongoing support and guidance to our clients throughout their journey," Sheikh Jassim said.

Sheikh Jassim also stressed the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector, highlighting its ability to bring about significant advancements and advantages. By leveraging AI technologies like machine learning algorithms, the healthcare industry can harness the potential of vast medical data, such as patient records, and imaging scans, to support healthcare professionals in making precise and timely diagnoses. Additionally, AI aids in the early detection of specific illnesses, enabling individuals to promptly consult the appropriate specialist without the need for further referrals.

Hospitality

Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding Company has strategically expanded its business portfolio by establishing partnerships and making investments in the hotel and hospitality sector. The company has partnered with renowned hotel brands such as Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza, which have further strengthened their presence in the industry.

Sheikh Jassim emphasized the positive impact that major events, particularly in the realm of sports, have on the national economy. He highlighted the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022, which has played a vital role in revitalizing the tourism and hospitality sectors in Qatar. This achievement has showcased Qatar's ability to organize and execute large-scale events,



attracting visitors from around the world and boosting the country's economy.

With the upcoming AFC Asian Cup 2023 and the continuation of Qatar's sports hosting endeavours, the tourism and hospitality sectors are poised to experience further growth, bolstering the country's position as a premier destination for sports and tourism.

"Our collaboration with Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza hotels allows us to offer world-class accommodation and exceptional hospitality services to our valued guests. We are committed to providing a memorable and comfortable experience, ensuring that our guests' needs and preferences are met with utmost care and attention to detail," Sheikh Jassim said.

In addition to hotel ventures, Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding Company currently operates six restaurants and a coffee shop, offering a diverse range of international flavours.

"Our restaurants provide a unique culinary experience, showcasing a variety of cuisines to cater to different tastes and preferences. We take pride in creating inviting and vibrant dining atmospheres that are loved by both locals and visitors alike," Sheikh Jassim added.

These investments and partnerships in the hotel and hospitality sector have played a significant role in driving MBHH's revenue growth. As Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding Company continues to expand its presence in the hotel and hospitality sector, they remain dedicated to providing unparalleled experiences to their guests and contributing to the growth and development of the industry.

Moving forward

The local market offers a wide range of investment prospects spanning various sectors. At present, MBHH is directing its attention towards analyzing investment options within the industrial sector. "However, we are particularly interested in the medical and health services as well as the hospitality sector. Any new investments we make will complement our existing investments in these two sectors," Sheikh Jassim said.

In his role as vice chairman of the company, Sheikh Jassim conveyed his contentment with the present state of his company, expressing his belief that significant achievements have been made thus far.

"Over the next five years, my vision is to witness the successful culmination of our ongoing projects. I am confident that upon your return in five years, you will be able to witness the substantial progress we have achieved," Sheikh Jassim concluded.

its ownership of Doha Clinic Hospital and ICON Medical Center. Both of these institutions provide a range of medical services to the local community. Additionally, the company's efforts to establish mobile clinics indicate its commitment to expanding access to healthcare services.

"The healthcare department holds immense significance within our company as well as in the context of Qatar National Vision 2030. Our commitment to delivering superior healthcare services aligns with the goals outlined in Qatar National Vision. By striving for excellence in healthcare provision, we aim to contribute significantly towards the realization of this vision. Considering the steady population growth, it is essential for us to sustain our focus on the healthcare sector. We remain committed to further developing and advancing our healthcare offerings to address the evolving needs of our community effectively. By prioritizing the healthcare sector and making strategic investments, we aim to foster a robust healthcare system that can effectively serve the needs of our nation," Sheikh Jassim said.

Simultaneously, MBHH's Diet Center is dedicated to providing personalized and effective dietary plans tailored to each individual's unique needs. They have a team of experienced and qualified nutritionists who work closely with the clients to develop customized meal plans, taking



Fifty One East launches exclusive corner for Italian brand Pineider

Fifty One East has celebrated the official opening of Pineider's exclusive new corner.

As a manufacturer of the finest Italian leather goods, writing instruments and stationery, the renowned Italian brand represents a history of timeless craftsmanship, a press statement notes.

The opening was attended by Fifty One East's management, VIP guests, fashion enthusiasts and members of the media, who had the opportunity to explore the brand's latest collections. During the event, guests were treated to a special gift: a personalised leather notebook, personalised by Pineider's official calligrapher.

The new addition to Fifty One East's portfolio reiterates the premium department store's long-term commitment to offering only the finest brands and satisfying the needs of its discerning clientele. It also reflects Fifty One East's leading position in the fashion industry underlining its esteemed reputation on a local and international scale, the statement adds.

Pineider, born in 1774 in Florence and founded by Francesco Pineider, a visionary who created sophisticated, handcrafted and high-quality products to fascinate

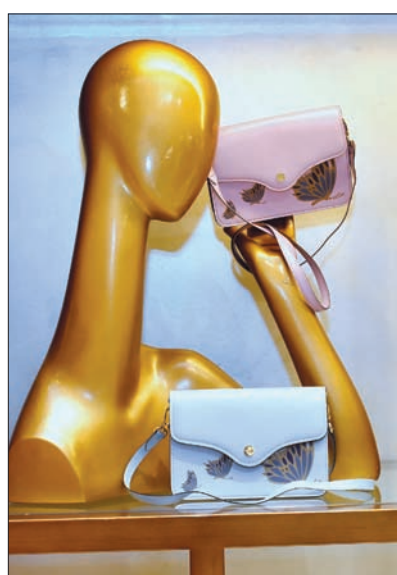
great writers, intellectuals and politicians of the time.

The Italian brand is inspired by tradition for 250 years and represents today the epitome of excellence of Made in Italy, offering a wide range of luxurious leather goods of various sizes, including bags, wallets, jewellery boxes, key holders, phone accessories as well as writing instruments, stationery and personalised cards.

For anyone who needs gift ideas for an important person or a special occasion, Pineider's products "will undoubtedly appeal to both genders and will be appreciated by the person who receives them as they echo the Florentine tradition of entirely handcrafted exquisite goods".

To this day the brand retains its love for tradition which, thanks to the skilled hands of master craftsmen, continues to communicate Made in Italy all over the world, gaining the trust of a cosmopolitan clientele made up of lovers of classic elegance, actors, professionals, intellectuals and writers.

Pineider's latest collections are available exclusively in a dedicated corner in the menswear section on Level 1 at Fifty One East, Lagoona Mall.



From the official opening of Pineider's exclusive new corner at Fifty One East, Lagoona Mall.

PICTURES: Thajudheen and supplied



Skyline Automotive first in GCC to launch all-new Hyundai IONIQ 5

Skyline Automotive, a Jaidah Group company and the official distributor of Hyundai in Qatar, has become the first GCC entity to launch the trend-setting IONIQ 5 by Hyundai EV - the zero-emission, totally electric vehicle that is made with recyclable material.

The model is transforming the motor industry and has won more than 30 awards for safety, design, engine, propulsion and value.

The EV, which is setting new sporty, minimalistic design and driveability benchmarks with aerodynamic efficiency, is helping drivers go farther on every charge with optimal quietness through wind noise reduction, a press statement notes.

"This is a vehicle that will turn heads and is certain to strike a chord with early technology adopters, lovers of exceptional design, those turning to electric vehicles to support their own sustainability goals and those entailed in the Qatar National Vision 2030," said Bryan Logue, Hyundai general sales manager at Skyline Automotive. "Quite simply, it is among the most advanced and quietest



The all-new Hyundai IONIQ 5.

vehicles on the road designed to take people further with faster charging and in sleeker style."

The IONIQ 5 by Hyundai is the first vehicle built on the company's new Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), which enables faster charging, increased driving range, more interior space and better handling with increased leg room and roomi-

ness throughout. Equipped with cutting-edge technology for intelligent driving, the vehicle's regenerative braking system charges the battery while driving by using the electric motor to slow the vehicle, the statement points out.

"Our region-first launch of this breakthrough EV reflects our group's aim of setting new auto dealership standards by bringing cars of superior quality, design and value to Qatar," explained Samer al-Saleh, sales and marketing director at Jaidah Group. "It also emphasises our commitment to Qatar's national vision aims of nurturing an environmentally aware population committed to preserving and protecting the environment for which the adoption of the highest performing EVs will play a role."

The super advanced, all-electric mid-size IONIQ 5 by Hyundai elegantly combines innovative hi-tech, concept car design, with Hyundai's first clamshell hood spanning its entire width and has an 800-volt battery system for ultra-fast charging and a driving range of up to 500 km. The angular, almost geometric design combines auto flush door handles that enhance the clean look and aerodynamics while the eye-catching, V-shape front bumper emphasises the kinetic cube LED headlamps and has an active air flap to improve energy efficiency when closed and cools the vehicle's parts where needed when open.

The IONIQ 5 by Hyundai's interiors deliver a whole new in-car experience and represent sustainability in motion with larger flat

floor, highly adjustable and fully reclinable front seats, and a flexible centre console that can be moved throughout the cabin. The seats are clad in an eco-processed leather that is dyed and treated with plant oil extractions from flaxseed while raw materials extracted from sugar cane are used on the headliner, carpet and seat covers and other soft furnishings consist of textiles derived from wool and poly yarns, as well as material woven from fibres made from recycled used PET plastic bottles. Surfaces such as the dashboard, switches, steering wheel, and door panels are coated in a polyurethane bio paint composed of oils from rape flowers and corn.

The vehicle is also super flexible with a 527-litre trunk capacity and providing almost 1,600 litres of cargo space once the front seats are folded down with a second front boot proving another 57 litres of additional cargo space. The IONIQ 5 by Hyundai can also tow a trailer weighing up to 1,600kg.

The vehicle has an advanced head-up display, which turns the windshield into a display screen, projecting virtual information like turn-by-turn navigation or lane safety warnings directly onto a driver's road view.

For EV lovers, there's added extras as the IONIQ 5 by Hyundai can power any device and charge electric bicycles, scooters or camping equipment on the move or while stationary.

The IONIQ 5 by Hyundai is now on display at the Skyline Automotive - Hyundai showroom on Salwa Road.

QC implements water projects in Pakistan and Bangladesh

Qatar Charity (QC), with the support of philanthropists in Qatar, has built several water treatment plants and installed solar-powered pumps within the framework of its efforts to provide safe drinking water in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Thousands of people from the two countries are expected to benefit from the project, QC has said in a statement.

These projects contribute to protecting the environment, reducing diseases and epidemics, and reducing the use of electricity.

In Bangladesh, Qatar Charity has inaugurated four water treatment plants in coastal areas such as the areas of Pirojpur, Khulna and Bagerhat. This will benefit 8,000 people who suffer from the effects of natural disasters that have afflicted their areas due to the use of salty water, especially since the coastal areas in Bangladesh suffer from severe pollution and salinity, which causes the spread of various diseases, the statement notes.

The plants remove all pollutants from the water to help purify the water and make it safe and fit for human use.

This project has been well received locally. "It is a really good and commendable step to reduce the use of public electricity and protect the environment from the potential impact of climate," said Husain Holidar, the local government representative in Pirojpur district.

For her part, Nazma Sarwar, a government official in the Bagerhat region, said: "The salty water that the local population drinks is harmful, especially since there are no other sources of clean water. The government is working with development partners such as Qatar Charity to

solve this problem, so we thank them for their great efforts."

The beneficiaries also welcomed this step. Shiuli Begum said: "We had to use salty water, which caused us many diseases, such as stomach, allergy and kidney diseases. Thank you to the good people in Qatar and Qatar Charity who ended our suffering with polluted water."

In Pakistan, QC has installed seven solar-powered water stations in Peshawar, benefiting more than 1,650 families, or about 16,000 people.

Two stations have been installed in Peshawar and five stations in Nowshera district to provide safe and clean water.

The project was welcomed by the locals, as the deputy commissioner in Nowshera district, Mohamed Awais Khan, said: "We are grateful to Qatar Charity for providing safe drinking water by installing solar pumps in remote areas, and we thank the Qatari philanthropists and Qatar Charity for this important achievement."

Meanwhile, Mohamed Ismail from the Department of Public Health Engineering in Nowshera said: "The Health Department has been working with Qatar Charity for three years in different areas of Khyber province. We value Qatar Charity's professionalism in terms of co-ordination with government departments, and are grateful to it for providing clean water."

The beneficiaries expressed happiness, as Amna Shah said: "We did not have enough water to meet our water needs, we used to go long distances to get it. But now, after establishing a pump, our water problem has been solved, which has given me enough time to play with my children. Thank you to the good people in Qatar and Qatar Charity."



From the QC initiatives in Pakistan and Bangladesh.



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **IVAN LINO COELHO**
holder of

Canada Passport No. AL863883
QID No. 30212400134

hereby change my name
from

IVAN LINO COELHO
to

IVAN COELHO KODAIS

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

Maxus D60 'is ideal seven-seat midsize SUV with advanced technology'

The Maxus D60 SUV by SAIC-Maxus is an "ideal medium-sized SUV that offers a seven-seat layout and advanced technology".

The vehicle is available at Auto Class Cars, the authorised general distributor of Maxus in Qatar, at its showroom on Salwa Road in Doha.

The D60 made its global debut with a 1.5-litre turbo-charged engine mated to a seven-speed DCT under its hood. This setup generates a decent 159hp and 250Nm of torque, a press statement noted.

Based on the rigid line inherited from the design of the SAIC-Maxus concept car, TARRANTULA, the Maxus D60's

massive octagonal grille up front features a honeycomb-like design. This is flanked by aggressive-looking swept-back headlamps as well as a pair of sporty fog lamps. The full LED split matrix headlights with the style of the big dipper and the penetrating LED diamond tail-lights echo with each other.

The body structure adopts a closed-loop frame structure, significantly increasing the overall safety level and rigidity. The ratio of high-strength steel accounts for 65% and the ratio of ultra-high-strength steel reaches 25%, making the whole vehicle caring for the driving journey as an iron bastion.

As a mid-sized SUV for the

family, there is a lot of emphasis on practicality in the interior design. A large area with soft material is used above the centre console to highlight the good texture.

The D60 also gets an 8-inch infotainment display up front, complemented by a 14-inch full-LCD digital instrument panel. Its dome panoramic sunroof allows a sunroof area of 1.1sq m and lighting area of 0.86sq m, providing a bright driving space.

Auto Class Cars is the authorised distributor of Maxus in Qatar. A subsidiary of Nasser Bin Khaled Holding, Auto Class Cars introduced Maxus at the 2016 Qatar Motor Show

as a leading Chinese automaker producing quality passenger and cargo vans.

Formerly known as Leyland DAF Vans, Maxus is part of Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). It is among the most respected companies producing light passenger and cargo vehicles.

It embodies a century of experience and unmatched technical prowess in commercial vehicle development. The Maxus D60 and full range of Maxus vehicles are available at the Auto Class Showroom on Salwa Road. Customers can visit the showroom from Sunday to Thursday, between 8am and 9pm.



The Maxus D60.

Innovative practices discussed at Qatar International Mental Health Conference

Three-day conference ends

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), in collaboration with Primary Health Care Corporation and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, brought together more than 50 local, regional and international speakers for the recent ninth Qatar International Mental Health Conference.

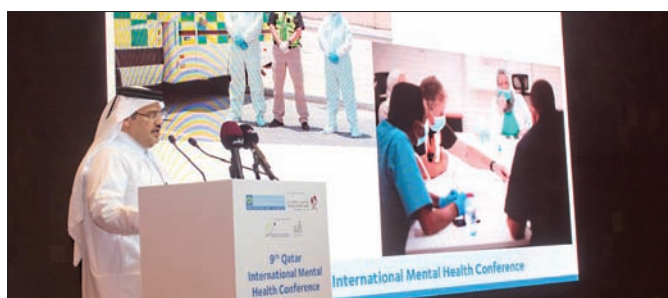
The conference held at the Sheraton Doha saw more than 1,000 delegates attend the three-day event in person or online on combined topics of mental health and wellbeing with innovations in treatment and psychiatry.

Dr Majid al-Abdulla, chairman of psychiatry, medical director of the Mental Health Service at HMC and conference chairman, said: "This event was an ambitious attempt to combine the science of medicine with the importance of wellbeing and mental health promotion. The theme of the conference, "Transforming Mental Health for All", attracted people from the many aspects of mental health today.

"The array of international speakers, colleagues from the region, our own staff and local partner organisations, combined with members of the public, delegates from industry and wellbeing specialists, provided a rich and engaging conference for all."

In his address at the opening ceremony, as well as welcoming guests and delegates, Dr al-Abdulla stressed the importance of raising public awareness of mental health and continuing to improve access to evidence-based treatments, a subject that was continually highlighted throughout the three-day event.

The co-chairs of the confer-



Dr Majid al-Abdulla



Guests and dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

ence were Dr Zarak al-Salihy, senior consultant old age psychiatrist, and Katja Anneli Warwick Smith, assistant executive director, Mental Health Services and Operational Lead for the National Mental Health Helpline.

The opening ceremony was moderated by Sheikha Dr Haya Abdulla Althani, a medical resident currently doing her psychiatry rotation at the Mental Health Service. She, along with other resident doctors, was highly active in the organisation of the conference.

The inclusion and promotion of physical and mental health and the inclusion of wellbeing activities were promoted throughout the conference, with many delegates participating in sessions advising on techniques to relieve stress or to promote stretching and wellbeing.

Susan Clelland, director of the National Mental Health

Programme at the MoPH, said: "Embracing a wellbeing approach helps to promote mental health and raises public awareness in addition to reducing the stigma surrounding mental health. Wellbeing specialists working with colleagues from HMC and engaging delegates was a welcome initiative that complemented the traditional educational lectures."

The scientific stream of the conference brought many experts who worked with local clinical leaders to share and update on areas of contemporary and innovative practice. The conference committees were overwhelmed by the level of interest to present at the conference, and the feedback from participants has been highly positive.

Iain Tulley, CEO of the Mental Health Service at HMC and national lead for Mental Health and Wellbeing, said the event

demonstrated the importance of partnership working and collaboration.

"I would like to pay tribute to our local partners, sponsors and colleagues from across the health system for helping make this event possible. So many delegates were delighted to come together at this conference after the Covid-19 enforced gap. We were, therefore, delighted to welcome so many representatives from our academic partners, schools, representatives from the Generation Amazing Foundation, Qatar Airways and Qatari composer Dana Alfardan - this was truly a multi-sectoral group coming together to support our collective goal of promoting mental health and wellbeing for all."

Dr Yusra Mushtaq, senior clinical psychologist, and Sheryl Henriques, licensed clinical psychologist at Qatar Airways, delivered a presentation on mental health awareness and prevention strategies, and prioritising employee wellbeing.

Dr Mushtaq emphasised the airline's commitment to staff health and wellbeing, shining a spotlight on Qatar Airways' robust focus on mental health and the steadfast support from its Group Chief Executive, HE Akbar al-Baker, and the senior executive management team, a press statement noted.

Dr al-Abdulla said the event would not have been possible without support from the partners and sponsors, and expressed gratitude to the Platinum Sponsor, Lundbeck, as well as the Bronze Sponsors: Janssen, Hikma, Qatar Airways and The View Hospital. Additional exhibitors included Newbridge and Viatrix.

The next mental health and wellbeing conference is scheduled to take place in late 2024.

Eunoia holds Mental Wellness Symposium to mark first anniversary



A visual from the anniversary celebrations of Eunoia.

Eunoia, a leading Doha-based company specialising in wellness services, celebrated its first anniversary by hosting a symposium dedicated to employee well-being.

The symposium, held at Sharq Village & Spa Doha on May 30, brought together influential figures in the field, showcased Eunoia's plans and announced a significant collaboration with Wellkins Medical Centre, a press statement noted.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, Eunoia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Wellkins Medical Centre, a new multi-speciality medical facility located near what is known as the Ramada signal.

The symposium, led by Dr Sonakshi Ruhela, an award-winning psychologist based in Dubai, the UAE, and Dr Shaheema Hameed, a renowned professional in Human Resources and Talent Development, captivated the audience with insightful sessions. The event reached its pinnacle with an interactive presentation by Mentalist Aathi, an acclaimed artist known for his extraordinary skills in observation and deduction. The symposium garnered attendance from esteemed representatives, senior officials from reputable companies, community leaders, as well as officials from

both Eunoia and Wellkins.

"Eunoia proudly stands as Qatar's 'first human asset management company', driven by a group of young women entrepreneurs under the guidance of a panel of experienced psychologists and HR professionals. The company provides a wide range of employee wellness services, including mental health assessments, employee assistance programmes, recruitment, and performance management for corporate organisations and other entities," a press statement noted.

During the event, Aisha Mohamed Salim, the founder of Eunoia, shared an overview of the company's accomplishments and expressed satisfaction with the successful collaborations formed with major corporate entities in Qatar during its inaugural year.

Salim said: "We are delighted to have partnered with prominent corporate companies in Qatar during our first year. Our mission is to foster an equitable, healthy and productive workforce by promoting employee wellbeing and embracing sustainability. We aim to provide corporations with improved work-life balance, increased job satisfaction, and learning opportunities."

Dr Sameer Moopan, chairman & managing director of Wellkins Medical Centre &

DSM Healthcare, highlighted the significance of addressing feelings of anxiety and stress, which are common experiences in the workplace.

He acknowledged the amplified impact of these emotions in the post-pandemic work environment and emphasised the relevance of Eunoia's role in addressing these challenges.

Dr Moopan commended Eunoia's achievements over the past year and expressed his pleasure in collaborating to create a healthy and productive workforce.

"The Mental Wellness Symposium marked a pivotal moment for Eunoia as it celebrated its successful first year while paving the way for future endeavours. The collaboration with Wellkins Medical Centre strengthens Eunoia's commitment to improving mental wellbeing in the workplace and fortifying a healthier and happier workforce in Qatar," the statement added.

The event witnessed the participation of guests, including Salem al-Kuwari, chairman of Redgik; Ullattil Achu, Group CEO of Dyraco International; Ashraf K P, managing director of Well-Care Group; Shanavas Bava, president of ICBF; principals of various schools, admin and HR managers of various companies as well as other prominent personalities.

Youth give voice to anger at Senegal 'injustice'

AFP
Dakar

Twenty-year-old Omar Diop didn't take part in the violent demonstrations in Senegal over the jailing of a popular opposition leader, but says he fully understands the young protesters' anger.

The clashes prompted the authorities to deploy the army. Nine people died on Thursday and six more Friday during the protests following the two-year sentence handed out to opposition politician Ousmane Sonko, who may now be ruled out of contesting next year's presidential election.

"What happened is tough - the dead and destroyed property - but it could have been avoided



Students carry their luggage as they leave the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, after it was closed due to the violent protests that broke out on university grounds.

if (President) Macky Sall had not forced it on us by sentencing Sonko," Diop says.

Diop is far from alone in Senegal in believing Sonko's claims that the government cooked up the rape charges he faced to knock

him out of the election race.

Sonko, who came third in the 2019 presidential election, carries the hopes for change of many youngsters in Dakar's working class neighbourhoods who face the full force of the

economic downturn. Suspicions of a plot against Sonko seemed confirmed for some when the verdict against him was announced on Thursday. After two years of rape allegations, the court switched the charges and found him guilty of "corrupting" a young woman, in a case which has deeply divided the West African nation.

Sonko, who was tried in absentia, has yet to be taken into custody for his jail term, which is likely to cause further tensions.

Diop, who left school very early, sympathises with Sonko's plight, saying: "He was accused of rape then he was sentenced for something else. It's not fair." "The youth are suffering as well in Senegal. I drive a motorbike because I don't have anything else to do," says Diop.

AFP
Jerusalem

An Egyptian "policeman" killed three Israeli soldiers yesterday in a rare exchange of fire near the border between the two countries in which the assailant was also killed, official sources from both sides said.

The Israeli army said an Egyptian assailant shot dead two soldiers "in the early morning... while they secured a military post at the Egyptian border" on Mount Harif, near the town of Mitzpe Ramon in the Negev desert.

The discovery of their bodies triggered a manhunt during which the third soldier was killed.

An army statement identi-

fied the assailant as an Egyptian policeman, saying he was killed by Israeli troops after being found "in Israeli territory".

The statement said an investigation was being carried out "in full co-operation with the Egyptian army".

A fourth Israeli soldier, a non-commissioned officer, was lightly wounded and evacuated to hospital, the military added. An Egyptian army spokesman said "a member of the security forces... chased drug smugglers. During the chase, the security agent crossed the security fence (border)" and an exchange of fire took place.

Egypt's Defence Minister Mohamed Zaki later spoke with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant to "discuss the circumstances of today's incident", the defence ministry in Cairo said.

Israel's defence ministry said Gallant "emphasised the importance of co-operating further in order to prevent such events in the future".

The shared border is largely peaceful, despite an insurgency in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and occasional exchanges of fire between drug smugglers and Israeli forces. Israel's army had initially declined to confirm media reports of the first two deaths, while the families were being notified.

The two soldiers, a man and a woman, were "killed by live fire adjacent to the border", it said in a statement.

The female soldier was identified as Lia Ben Nun, 19, and the male was 20-year-old Ori Izhak Iluz. The third soldier killed later was Ohad Dahan, 20.



180 dead from Sudan fighting buried unsung as battles continue

AFP
Khartoum

Blasts rocked the Sudanese capital yesterday, as fighting between warring generals entered its eighth week, with volunteers forced to bury 180 bodies recovered from combat zones without identification.

Witnesses told AFP of "bombs falling and civilians being injured" in southern Khartoum, while others in the city's north reported "artillery fire", days after a US and Saudi-brokered ceasefire collapsed.

Since fighting between Sudan's warring generals erupted on April 15, volunteers have buried 102 unidentified bodies in the capital's Al-Shegilab cemetery and 78 more in cemeteries in Darfur, the Sudanese Red Crescent said in a statement.

Both regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy-turned-rival, paramilitary commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, have issued repeated pledges to protect civilians and secure humanitarian corridors.

But civilians reported escalated fighting after the army quit ceasefire talks on Wednesday, including a single army bombardment that killed 18 civilians in a Khartoum market, according to a committee of human rights lawyers.

Both sides have accused the other of violating the ceasefire, as well as attacking civilians and infrastructure.

Washington slapped sanctions on the warring parties Thursday, holding them both responsible for provoking "appalling" bloodshed.

In negotiations in Saudi Arabia last month, the warring parties had agreed to "enable responsible humanitarian actors, such as the Sudanese Red Crescent and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross to collect, register and bury the deceased".

But volunteers have found it difficult to move through the streets to pick up the dead, "due to security constraints", the Red Crescent said.

Aid corridors that had been promised as part of the truce never materialised, and relief agencies say they have managed to deliver only a fraction of needs, while civilians remain trapped.

Over 700,000 people have



A medic walks in an empty hallway at Soba University Hospital in southern Khartoum, yesterday, where only the dialysis department remains open.



A Sudanese patient suffering from kidney failure, undergoes a dialysis treatment at the Soba Hospital in southern Khartoum, yesterday.

fled the capital to other parts of Sudan that have been spared the fighting, in convoys of buses that regularly make their way out of Khartoum.

But on their way back, bus drivers were shocked to find they "were not allowed into the capital", one said yesterday, with others confirming authorities had blocked access since Friday, ordering the drivers to turn back.

The army had earlier on Friday announced it had brought in reinforcements from other parts of Sudan to participate in "operations in the Khartoum area".

That sparked fears it was planning "to launch a massive offensive," according to Sudan analyst Kholood Khair.

So far neither side has gained a decisive advantage. The regular army has air power and heavy weaponry, but analysts say the paramilitaries are more mobile and better suited to urban warfare.

The RSF announced yesterday its political advisor Youssef Ezzat had met with Kenyan President William Ruto in Nairobi, as part of his visits to several "friendly countries to explain the developing situation in Sudan".

"We are ready to engage all the parties and offer any support towards a lasting solution," Ruto said on Twitter.

More than 1,800 people have been killed in the fighting, according to the Armed Con-

flict Location and Event Data Project.

Entire districts of the capital no longer have running water, electricity is only available for a few hours a week and three quarters of hospitals in combat zones are not functioning.

The situation is particularly dire in the western region of Darfur, which is home to around a quarter of Sudan's population and never recovered from a devastating two-decade war that left hundreds of thousands dead and more than 2mn displaced. Renewed clashes were reported yesterday in the town of Kutum in North Darfur, according to witnesses.

Amid what activists have called a total communications "blackout" in huge swathes of the region, hundreds of civilians have been killed, villages and markets torched and aid facilities looted, prompting tens of thousands to seek refuge in neighbouring Chad.

According to aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF), those crossing the border report horrific scenes of "armed men shooting at people trying to flee, villages being looted and the wounded dying" without access to medical care.

The UN says 1.2mn people have been displaced within Sudan and more than 425,000 have fled abroad - more than 100,000 west to Chad and 170,000 north to Egypt.

Fighters take over Khartoum museum: director

Reuters
Khartoum

Sudanese paramilitary fighters have taken over the national museum in Khartoum, its deputy director said yesterday, urging them to protect precious artefacts from the nation's heritage that include ancient mummies.

Members of the Rapid Support Forces group that has been fighting the army since mid-April for control of Sudan entered the museum on Friday, said deputy director Ikhlas Abdellatif. Museum staff do not know the situation inside the museum because they halted work there after the conflict suddenly erupted on April 15, forcing police guarding the facility to quit, Abdellatif said.

The RSF released a video filmed inside the museum grounds showing a soldier denying that they had done any harm to the museum or would do so, and inviting any individuals or organisations to visit the museum to check.

The video also showed RSF fighters covering up exposed mummies with sheets and closing the plain white boxes in which they were contained. It was not clear when or why the

mummies had been uncovered.

The museum is in a large building on the banks of the River Nile in central Khartoum, near the central bank in an area where some of the fiercest fighting has taken place.

Among its thousands of priceless relics are embalmed mummies dating to 2500 BC, making them among the oldest and archaeologically most important in the world.

The museum also contains statues, pottery and ancient murals, with artefacts from the stone age through to the Christian and Islamic eras, said former director Hatim Almour.

Roxanne Trioux, part of a French archaeological team that was working in Sudan, said they had been monitoring satellite pictures of the museum and had already seen potential signs of damage there before Friday, with signs of burning.

"We don't know the extent of damage inside," she said.

Fighting has persisted despite repeated truces including one negotiated by Saudi Arabia and the US to which both sides signed up. The latest was due to expire on Saturday evening.

Yesterday afternoon, residents reported clashes in-

cluding air and artillery strikes in southern Khartoum and northern districts of its sister cities Omdurman and Bahri which lie across the Nile, as well as the Sharg el-Nil district, to the east.

After continued clashes, bombardment and occupation of civilian buildings, Washington and Riyadh suspended the talks and the US said this week it was imposing sanctions on the two sides' business interests.

Since the overthrow of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in 2019 Sudan's government was headed by a sovereign council under army chief General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan with the RSF head Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, known as Hemedti, as his deputy. The two are now heading rival forces in a bloody power struggle, and Burhan removed Hemedti from his post last month. On Friday, the UN Security Council called on the warring factions to cease hostilities to allow access to humanitarian organisations.

"The army is shelling us and the RSF are spread out in the streets, and the citizen is paying the price for war," said Sami el-Tayeb, a 47-year-old resident of Omdurman.

US first lady visits Giza Pyramids



US First Lady Jill Biden (centre), her sister Bonny Jacobs (right), and her daughter Ashley Biden pose for a photo during their visit to the Giza Pyramids plateau on the outskirts of Cairo, yesterday.

Ivory Coast gets ready for elections



Voters check for their names on the voters roll, yesterday in Abobo, suburb of Abidjan, ahead of September 2, 2023 Ivory Coast's municipal and regional elections.

Iran says to form naval alliance with Gulf states to ensure regional stability

Reuters
Dubai

Iran's navy commander said his country and Saudi Arabia, as well as three other Gulf states, plan to form a naval alliance that will also include India and Pakistan, Iranian media reported yesterday.

"The countries of the region have today realised that only co-operation with each

other brings security to the area," Iran's navy commander Shahram Irani was quoted as saying.

He did not elaborate on the shape of the alliance that he said would be formed soon.

Iran has recently been trying to mend its ties with several Gulf states.

In March, Saudi Arabia and Iran ended seven years of hostility under a China-mediated deal, stressing the need for re-

gional stability and economic co-operation.

Naval commander Irani said the states that will take part in the alliance also include the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, Pakistan and India.

Saudi Arabia's rapprochement with Iran has frustrated Israel's efforts to isolate Iran diplomatically. The UAE resumed formal relations with Iran last year.

Death toll rises to 15 as tensions persist in Senegal

AFP
Dakar

Tensions remained high in Senegal yesterday after fresh overnight clashes brought the death toll to 15 in the two days since a court convicted opposition leader Ousmane Sonko.

Sonko's ongoing legal woes have prompted rare flare-ups of violence in Senegal, typically a bastion of stability in West Africa, and foreign allies have urged a return to calm.

Washington "is troubled and saddened by the violence and damage we have witnessed in many parts of the country," the State Department said yesterday, urging parties to "voice their views in a peaceful manner." Sonko, a 48-year-old former tax inspector, was initially charged with rape but was on Thursday convicted on a lesser charge of morally "corrupting" a young woman and sentenced to two years in prison. He claims the charges against him were a bid by the government to torpedo his political career ahead of the presidential election next year.

His conviction may take him out of the running for the 2024 poll.

Clashes between Sonko's supporters and police broke out af-



This general view shows the charred remains of a vehicle on a street in Dakar, yesterday, following deadly violence in the Senegalese capital.

ter the ruling on Thursday, leaving nine people dead.

Shops and businesses were ransacked. The army was deployed to the streets but fresh scuffles erupted on Friday night in parts of the capital, Dakar, and in Ziguinchor. They left another six dead, government spokesman Maham Ka said.

Burned-out cars, tyres and debris-strewn streets bore testimony to another night of violence. The government has acknowledged that it has restricted access to social networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter in order to stop "the dissemination of hateful and subversive messages".

Government spokesman Abdou Karim Fofana said on Friday

that the violence was not fuelled by "political demands" but "acts of vandalism and banditry".

"These are difficult times for the Senegal nation that we will overcome," he told TFM.

Sonko, who was tried in absentia, has yet to be taken into custody for his jail term, which is predicted to cause further tensions.

He is presumed to be at his Dakar home, where he has been blocked in by security forces since last weekend. He alleges he is being "illegally held".

Sharp-tongued and charismatic, Sonko has drawn a strong following among Senegal's youth, who love his barbs against a political elite he refers to as the "state mafia". He has spoken out

against debt, poverty, food insecurity, under-funded health and education systems and corruption. Sonko, who has two wives, portrays himself as a devout person and defender of traditional values. Supporters of President Macky Sall, however, see him as a rabble-rouser who has poisoned political discourse and sown instability.

Dakar residents interviewed by AFP said they feared the possible consequences of his arrest.

"I am really scared because we don't know how this will all end," said 46-year-old Fatou Ba, a businesswoman in the Dalifort neighbourhood of Dakar.

"If they want peace they won't go and fetch Sonko," she added.

Another Dalifort resident, Matar Thione, 32, said he felt unsafe in his own country.

"If the protests continue, life is going to get even harder," he said.

Students have been plunged into uncertainty, forced to leave the capital's main university campus after violent clashes led to widespread destruction.

The African Union said the head of its executive commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, strongly condemned the violence and urged leaders to avoid acts which "tarnish the face of Senegalese democracy, of which Africa has always been proud".

Hong Kong arrests four on Tiananmen anniversary eve

Police arrested four people in Hong Kong for "seditious" acts and "disorderly conduct" yesterday, on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

The bloody 1989 clampdown in Beijing is a highly sensitive topic for China's communist leadership, and commemoration of the hundreds killed – by some estimates, more than 1,000 – has long been forbidden in the mainland.

For decades, Hong Kong was the only Chinese city with large-scale public Tiananmen commemoration, but the annual vigil has been banned following the imposition of a national security law on the city in 2020.

Around the busy shopping district of Causeway Bay yesterday, AFP reporters witnessed police bundling several performance artists – some of whom appeared to be doing nothing – into police vans.

Later in evening, the police said four people had been arrested "for disorderly conduct in a public place" and "doing acts with seditious intent".

Four others were suspected of "breaching the peace" and were detained "to assist with the investigation", the police said on its official Facebook page.

They did not name the people arrested and detained.

Local media reported that two other well-known activists – Lau Ka-yee and Kwan Chun-pong – were removed from Victoria Park by police. – AFP

UK police swoop on activists at Epsom Derby

AFP
Epsom, UK

British police guarding the Epsom Derby yesterday made multiple arrests including of an activist from the rights group Animal Rising who stormed the track during the Blue Riband horse race.

The man was bundled away by police and stewards before the 14 horses reached that point of the track, to cheers from massed spectators.

One woman was arrested as she tried to clamber over the fence, as Animal Rising slammed race organisers for a "sickening display of profit (over) care for animals".

Surrey Police said they had arrested 31 protesters, including 19 activists from the animal rights group in a pre-emptive operation around the Epsom racecourse, near London.

All were arrested on suspicion of conspir-

acy to commit public nuisance, the police force said.

"We have been clear in our approach that criminal activity will not be tolerated at the Epsom Derby Festival," senior Surrey officer Michael Hodder said in a statement.

One of British sport's highest profile events was won by Auguste Rodin – beating the pre-race favourite, ironically called Arrest.

Animal Rising had said before the race that it was undeterred both by the arrests and a court injunction obtained by the Jockey Club this week.

The Jockey Club said it "utterly condemned" the actions of the activists and said it would seek prosecutions.

"This reckless and illegal behaviour which threatened the safety of our equine and human athletes is a breach of the High Court injunction which The Jockey Club obtained last week and prohibits trespass," it said in a statement.

"The court order provides a clear route to prosecution, fines and even the threat of prison for Contempt of Court and we will now take steps to enforce that."

Animal Rising activists stormed the Grand National race at Aintree near Liverpool in April, and last week said they had "rescued" three lambs from slaughter on a farm on King Charles III's Sandringham estate.

Three horses were destroyed after getting injured during the Grand National steeplechase festival – proof, the group says, that racing is fatally dangerous.

In 1913, the Epsom Derby was the scene of one of the most famous political protests in British history.

Suffragette Emily Davison, campaigning for women's right to vote, was trampled to death when she ran in front of King George V's horse.

A plaque today marks the tragedy at Epsom's Tattenham Corner.

One dead in Japan following heavy rain

AFP
Tokyo

Heavy rain across parts of Japan has killed one person, left three missing and injured dozens more, authorities said yesterday, with thousands of residents issued evacuation warnings.

The inundation has been caused by the remnants of former Typhoon Mawar, now downgraded to a tropical storm.

A rescue team in central Aichi region's Toyohashi, where the country's highest-level evacuation alert was issued on Friday, "found a man approximately in his 60s in a submerged car, but he was later confirmed dead", a city official told AFP.

In western Wakayama, where several rivers burst their banks, officials told AFP that they had resumed the search for one man and one woman missing.

Dozens of rescue workers also searched for a resident who could not be reached after his house was engulfed by a landslide in central Hamamatsu city.

A total of six people were seriously injured and 29 suffered minor injuries as of afternoon yesterday, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said.

In central and western Japan, many evacuation orders – which are non-compulsory, even at the highest level – were being downgraded as rains eased.

With several cities including Aichi's Toyohashi and Koshigaya near Tokyo reportedly seeing the highest 24-hour rainfall on record, the Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents to "be on high alert for landslides, overflowing rivers, and flooding of low-lying areas".

Some 4,000 households in regions close to Tokyo suffered power outages early yesterday, the Tokyo Electric Power Company said, but the issue was mostly resolved several hours later.

Shinkansen bullet trains were temporarily suspended between Tokyo and Nagoya, but Japan Railway said they resumed operations around noon.

Southeast Asian defence pact helps 'balance' region

Top officials from Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Britain said yesterday that their 52-year-old Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) pact helped keep things in balance amid regional tensions.

"The longstanding FPDA ... always been an important part of ensuring signalling collective defence in this region," New Zealand defence minister Andrew Little said at a media briefing on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

As the tensions between the United States and China persist, the longstanding relationships among smaller nations are "what keep things in balance", Little said.

"I'm comfortable continuing to keep things in balance as different countries including the major powers work out how the relationships are working," he added.

Singaporean Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, Malaysian Defence Minister Mohamad Hasan, Little, and the British defence minister, Ben Wallace, discussed the importance of the FPDA as a constructive and peaceful arrangement.

The ministers also talked about collaborating in unconventional ways in the face of contemporary security challenges.

"We are five countries who are deeply committed to a rules based order and promoting peace within our region," Marles said. – Reuters

India train crash death toll rises above 280

AFP/Reuters
Balasore, India

At least 288 people were killed and hundreds more injured in a three-train collision in India, officials said yesterday, the country's deadliest rail accident in more than 20 years.

Debris was piled high at the crash site near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, where some carriages had been tossed far from the tracks and others flipped over entirely.

Smashed train compartments were torn open in the impact late on Friday, leaving the wreckage stained with blood.

"I was asleep," an unidentified male survivor told NDTV news. "I was woken up by the noise of the train derailing. Suddenly I saw 10-15 people dead. I managed to come out of the coach, and then I saw a lot of dismembered bodies."

Researcher Anubhav Das was in the last carriage of one of the trains when he heard "screeching, horrifying sounds coming from a distance".

His coach stayed upright and he jumped out unhurt after it ground to a halt.

"I saw bloodied scenes, mangled bodies and one man with a severed arm being desperately helped by his injured son," the 27-year-old told AFP. "I lost count of the bodies before leaving the site. Now I feel almost guilty."

There was confusion about the exact sequence of events, but reports cited railway officials as saying that a signalling error sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track.

"The Coromandal Express was supposed to travel on the main line, but a signal was given for the loop line instead, and the train rammed into a goods train already parked over there. Its coaches then fell onto the tracks on either side, also derailling the Howrah Superfast Express," said K S Anand, chief public relations officer of the South Eastern Railway.

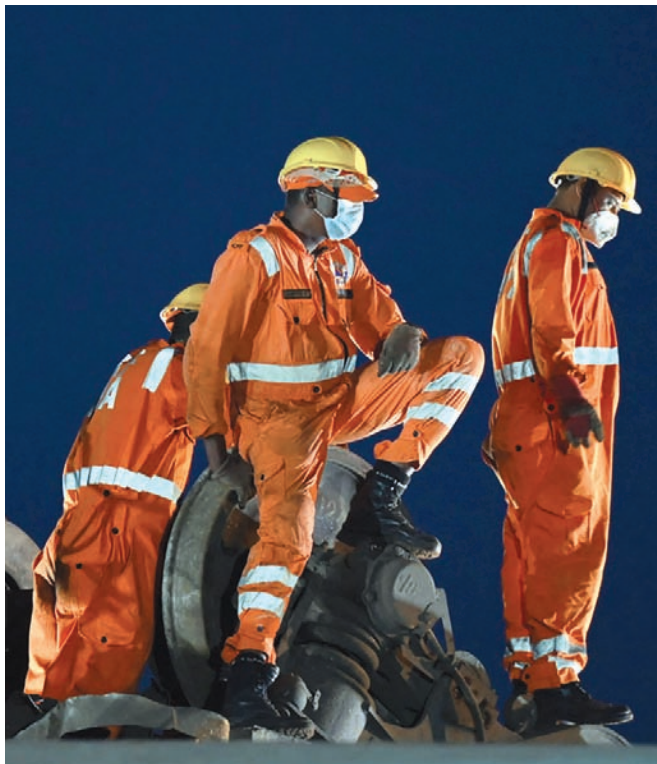
The Coromandal Express slammed into a stationary goods train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was passing the site.

Residents nearby rushed to help the victims even before emergency services arrived.

"There were severed arms, legs, and even some partially severed heads – while the unlucky ones died in pain, too much pain," said Hiranmay Rath.

Over the next few hours the 20-year-old saw "more death and grief" than he could have "ever imagined", he told AFP.

The rescue effort was de-



Rescue workers recover victims' bodies from the carriage wreckage of a three-train collision near Balasore.



People offer prayers for the victims and survivors of the three-train collision near Balasore.



This handout photograph released by the Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB) shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the accident site.

clared over yesterday evening after emergency personnel had combed the mangled wreckage for survivors and laid scores of bodies out under white sheets beside the tracks.

"All the dead bodies and injured passengers have been removed from the accident site," said an official from the Balasore emergency control room.

Sudhanshu Sarangi, director-general of Odisha Fire Services, said the death toll stood at 288 but is expected to go higher, potentially approaching 380.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site and injured passengers being treated in hospital and said that "no one responsible" for the train crash would be spared.

"(I) took stock of the situation

at the site of the tragedy in Odisha. Words can't capture my deep sorrow. We stand committed to providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi said.

"It's a sad moment," he told state broadcaster Doordarshan. "I pray that we get out of this sad moment as soon as possible."

Families of the dead will receive 1mn rupees (\$12,000), while the seriously injured will get 200,000 rupees, with 50,000 rupees for minor injuries, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Some state governments have also announced compensation.

India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst of them in 1981 when a train derailed while

crossing a bridge in Bihar and plunged into the river below, killing between 800 and 1,000 people.

Friday's crash ranks as its third-worst, and the deadliest since 1995, when two express trains collided in Firozabad, near Agra, killing more than 300 people.

Odisha state's chief secretary Pradeep Jena confirmed that about 900 injured people had been hospitalised.

Rescue teams including from the National Disaster Response Force and the military were deployed, while the railways ministry announced an investigation.

Authorities said every hospital between the crash site and the state capital Bhubaneswar

Defence officials say wide co-operation key to Indo-Pacific stability

Reuters
Singapore

Co-operation, including among countries outside the region, is crucial to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, defence officials from the Philippines, Britain and Canada said yesterday at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit.

Speaking at a plenary session, they echoed earlier comments by US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, who

stressed that communication and collaboration, and not just military might, were essential to keep the region secure and stable.

"Canada has a keen interest in building a region that is stable, that is balanced," said Anita Anand, Canada's defence minister.

"What does this mean? It means an Indo-Pacific where international rules and norms prevail and all actors engage responsibly, an Indo-Pacific where disputes are resolved peacefully, and ultimately an Indo-Pacific that is free, that

is open and that is inclusive," she elaborated.

Carlito Galvez Jr, senior undersecretary and officer-in-charge at the Philippine defence department, said increased competitiveness in the region had increased the need for upholding the rule of law and pursuing dialogue.

"As the old adage goes, good fences make good neighbours," he said. "It is only when neighbours have clear boundaries and respect for set boundaries that relations remain genuinely amicable."

Responding to a question from a

Chinese military delegate whether the presence of outside nations in Asia was disruptive rather than constructive, Anand said: "Canada will continue to ensure that we are working on open lines of communication and recognising the need to co-exist responsibly."

Ben Wallace, Britain's defence minister, said his country would continue its Indo-Pacific "tilt" and noted that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato)'s presence in Asia was not of line considering that Russia "has been quite aggressive in this region ... it still

retains quite a large naval fleet?"

China's Minister of National Defence Li Shangfu had this week declined an invitation to meet Austin at the security summit.

Li, a general who has been sanctioned by the US, delivers his own speech today. On Friday, the two shook hands on the sidelines of the conference but did not hold detailed talks, the Pentagon said.

"A cordial handshake over dinner is no substitute for a substantive engagement," Austin said in his remarks earlier yesterday.

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GULF TIMES

Long way still to ensure sustainable, climate-resilient future for our planet

The continued increase in greenhouse gas emissions posts a grave challenge to the world's fight against climate change and limit global warming to 1.5C.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the unprecedented scale of the challenge required to keep warming to 1.5C. Five years later, that challenge has become even greater due to a continued increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

"The pace and scale of what has been done so far, and current plans, are insufficient to tackle climate change," IPCC said in a recent report.

More than a century of burning fossil fuels as well as unequal and unsustainable energy and land use has led to global warming of 1.1C above pre-industrial levels. This has resulted in more frequent and more intense extreme weather events that have caused increasingly dangerous impacts on nature and people in every region of the world.

The solution lies in integrating measures to adapt to climate change with actions to reduce or avoid GHG emissions in ways that provide wider benefits

Every increment of warming results in rapidly escalating hazards. More intense heatwaves, heavier rainfall and other weather extremes further increase risks for human health and ecosystems. In every region, people are dying from extreme heat.

Climate-driven food and water insecurity is expected to increase with increased warming. When the risks combine with other adverse events, such as pandemics or conflicts, they become even more difficult to manage.

The IPCC report brings in to sharp focus the losses and damages we are already

experiencing and will continue into the future, hitting the most vulnerable people and ecosystems especially hard. Taking the right action now could result in the transformational change essential for a sustainable, equitable world.

"Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected," said Aditi Mukherji, one of the authors of this Synthesis Report, the closing chapter of the panel's sixth assessment.

"Almost half of the world's population lives in regions that are highly vulnerable to climate change. In the last decade, deaths from floods, droughts and storms were 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions," Mukherji added.

In this decade, accelerated action to adapt to climate change is essential to close the gap between existing adaptation and what is needed. Meanwhile, keeping warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels requires deep, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors.

Emissions should be decreasing by now and will need to be cut by almost half by 2030, if warming is to be limited to 1.5C.

The solution lies in climate resilient development. This involves integrating measures to adapt to climate change with actions to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in ways that provide wider benefits.

For example: access to clean energy and technologies improves health, especially for women and children; low-carbon electrification, walking, cycling and public transport enhance air quality, improve health, employment opportunities and deliver equity.

It is important to note that achieving the 1.5C target requires significant and co-ordinated efforts from all stakeholders.

While progress has been made, there is still a long way to go to ensure a sustainable and climate-resilient future for the planet.

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Climate science beats climate fatalism

By Carl-Friedrich Schleussner, Bill Hare, and Johan Rockström
 Berlin

The Paris climate agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C is in the headlines again. According to the latest projections from the World Meteorological Organisation, "There is a 66% likelihood that the annual average near-surface global temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year." A supercharged El Niño cycle means that record-breaking temperatures are almost certain.

But, as concerning as these warnings are, it would be even more worrying if one year above 1.5C was taken as a sign that the 1.5C target has been missed. Drawing that erroneous conclusion would lead us to abandon the Paris agreement's goal just when we should be doubling down on it.

The 1.5C goal will not be lost with just one or a few years of extreme temperatures. The Paris goal refers to human-caused temperature increases that are measured over the course of decades. We must keep this firmly in mind to stave off the dangerous climate fatalism that has been gaining momentum in recent years.

Yes, now that the planet has

warmed roughly 1.2C above pre-industrial levels, "once-in-a-century" heatwaves, forest fires, and floods are becoming more familiar to us. In some low-lying regions, rising seas are already forcing people to relocate. But there is still a massive difference between 1.2C and 1.5C – let alone between 1.5C and 2C – and the science shows that it is still possible to end this century at or below 1.5C.

Recent climate research has affirmed the importance and necessity of the 1.5C guardrail. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned last year, extreme weather events, ecosystem collapse, and planetary tipping points can happen at markedly lower levels of global warming than previously thought. Since the IPCC's last reporting cycle in 2014, we have amassed much more evidence to show that even a 1.5C warmer world would be immensely challenging, and that temperature increases above that level would be truly devastating.

With every additional tenth of a degree of warming, more people will be exposed to life-threatening heatwaves, water shortages, and flooding. Worse, various studies show that the likelihood of reaching tipping points, like the potential collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet, increases exponentially above 1.5C. These represent red lines. The world would

not fall off a cliff, but there would be a fundamental shift in which planetary systems start moving irreversibly down the path toward more ice melt, marine-ecosystem change, and rising sea levels.

The only sensible approach is to mitigate that risk by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as fast as possible. Though we still might overshoot the 1.5C limit in the short term, we can return to it in the long run. But that will be possible only if we have cut fossil-fuel emissions to zero. This is the crucial first step toward achieving net-zero GHG emissions.

It is no less important to preserve and restore the natural land and ocean systems that absorb and store carbon. And if we distort the Earth's carbon cycle (through the thawing of permafrost, for example), we will undermine our ability to reverse global temperature increases.

Limiting warming to 1.5C this century requires that we halve our emissions by 2030. This is not an arbitrary figure. Only if we halve our emissions this decade will we halve the pace of warming in the 2030s and bring it to a halt in the 2040s. Think of it as the difference between tackling climate change ourselves, or passing a civilizational time-bomb to our children.

Slowing the warming process also buys us precious time for adaptation.

Even a rich country like the United States will be limited in how fast and fully it can adapt to the consequences of climate change. For those in more vulnerable places, the situation is incomparably worse. Disasters like the flooding in Pakistan last year can derail a country's economy and leave it in a downward spiral of rising debt and poverty – all of which will be compounded by future climate disasters for which it could not afford to prepare.

Moreover, many of the net-zero commitments made by governments, companies, and cities around the world are premised on the 1.5C limit. Phaseout plans for coal (such as those in Germany, Vietnam, and the United Kingdom) are based on 1.5C-aligned modelling, which shows that OECD countries need to stop using coal by 2030, and that non-OECD countries need to do so by 2040. Gas must follow shortly thereafter.

With the clock ticking down, these 1.5C-based models are telling us how to prioritise. We must decarbonise electricity first, then electrify as much transportation, buildings, and industry as we can, while also reducing demand. Beyond this low-hanging fruit, we also will need to scale up technologies for carbon removal.

Investments have been moving in this direction. Since the Paris agreement was concluded in 2015, the costs of solar, wind, and batteries have plummeted. Electric vehicles and heat pumps are going mainstream. These are market-driven responses to government incentives. Public policy has been crucial for instilling confidence and supporting clean-energy growth.

To give up and start looking beyond 1.5C would let big emitters off the hook. Rather than instilling confidence, it would signal to everyone that they should expect less – and betray all those who live in places that lack the resources and possibilities to adapt to a warmer world.

If we don't keep pushing for the most ambitious science-based targets, those with vested interests in the status quo will exploit our fatalism. Following a massively profitable year, owing to Russia's war in Ukraine, BP recently signalled that it will divert much of its intended investments in decarbonisation toward oil and gas.

The best science we have tells us that 1.5C is still feasible, and it tells us how to get there. As the British climate-change diplomat Pete Betts puts it, "If we do go above 1.5C, the message is not to give up. It's to double down." – Project Syndicate

● Carl-Friedrich Schleussner is Head of Climate Science at Climate Analytics and an honorary professor at Humboldt University Berlin.
 ● Bill Hare is a founder and CEO of Climate Analytics.
 ● Johan Rockström is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor of Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam.



Charred trees are seen as a wildfire burns in the Dadia National Park, in the region of Evros, Greece, last July. (Reuters)

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Erdogan sworn in for 3rd term as president, pledges unity

AFP
Ankara

Turkiye's Recep Tayyip Erdogan was sworn in for a third term as president yesterday, promising to serve "impartially" after winning a historic runoff election to extend his two-decade rule.

Erdogan called for unity and the anger and resentment of the campaign to be set aside as he spoke during a lavish ceremony at his presidential palace in the capital Ankara attended by dozens of world leaders.

Turkiye's transformative leader won the May 28 runoff against a powerful opposition coalition, despite an economic crisis and a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan won 52.18% of the vote while his secular rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu scored 47.82%, official results show.

"As president, I swear upon my honour and integrity, before the great Turkish nation... to work with all my power to protect the existence and independence of the state... and to fulfil my duty impartially," Erdogan said in parliament after a ceremony outside the building where he saluted soldiers under pouring rain.

Supporters in parliament



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan greet guests during his oath-taking ceremony at the Presidential Complex in Ankara yesterday. (AFP)

gave Erdogan a minute-long standing ovation after his swearing in, while some opposition lawmakers refused to stand up.

In his oath, Erdogan also promised not to deviate from the rule of law and the secular principles of the republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 100 years ago.

Turkiye's longest-serving leader, who has survived a failed coup attempt since he came to power in 2003, now

faces significant immediate challenges in his third term, including the slowing economy and tensions with the West.

"From a geopolitical point of view, the election will reinforce Turkiye's recent pursuit of an independent foreign policy," said Matt Gertken, chief geopolitical strategist at BCA Research.

"This policy aims to extract maximum economic and strategic benefits from eastern states while still preventing a

permanent rupture in relations with western democracies," he said.

"Tensions with the West will likely increase again," Gertken added. Erdogan, standing next to his wife Emine, promised to embrace all segments of society during the ceremony at his palace after visiting Ataturk's mausoleum.

"We will embrace all 85mn people, regardless of their political views, origins, creeds or sects," he said, hoping that his

appeal would be reciprocated also by his opponents.

"Turkiye needs unity and solidarity more than ever," he said.

"We want all opposition segments, including journalists, writers, civil society, artists and politicians, to reconcile with the national will," he said.

"If there is resentment, if hearts are broken, let's find a way to make peace."

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, Iran's vice-president Mohamed Mokher, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban and the Speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin, were among the foreign guests at the ceremony.

In the latest sign of a thaw between the two arch foes, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was also present.

Addressing the country's economic troubles will be Erdogan's first priority, with inflation running at 43.70%.

"Erdogan's government looks like it will pursue an orthodox stabilisation programme," said Alp Erinc Yeldan, professor of economics at Istanbul's Kadir Has University.

Turkiye's new members of parliament were sworn in on Friday.

3 Europeans released by Iran return home

AFP
Brussels

One Dane and two Austrian-Iranian citizens released from detention by Tehran arrived in their home countries yesterday, after the latest in a series of prisoner swaps.

The three Europeans had landed shortly before 2:45am yesterday at Melsbroek military airport just outside Brussels.

They had flown there from Muscat, the capital of Oman which helped broker their release.

Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib welcomed them at the airport along with Danish and Austrian diplomats.

The trio's release, as well as that of a Belgian aid worker a week earlier, were part of a prisoner swap in which Tehran got back an Iranian diplomat convicted and incarcerated in Belgium on terrorism charges.

Vienna reacted with relief at the release of its two citizens, named as Kamran Ghaderi and Massud Mossaheb, who it said had been arrested "unjustly" by Iran in January 2016 and January 2019, respectively.

Thanking Belgium, Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said: "Our years



Massud Mossaheb (second left) and Kamran Ghaderi (second right) step off a plane upon arrival at Melsbroek military airport in Belgium yesterday after being released from detention by Iran.

of diplomatic efforts to secure their release have borne fruit... Today is a very emotional day for all of us."

Ghaderi and Mossaheb arrived at Vienna airport from Belgium at around 11:30am yesterday, where they were welcomed by their families and Schallenberg, his spokeswoman Claudia Tuertscher told AFP.

The Danish man, identified as Thomas Kjems, landed at Copenhagen airport at around 11:00am local time, telling reporters that he had been treated well in Iran, without being subjected to torture.

Kjems had been arrested in Iran in November 2022 on the sidelines of a demonstration for women's rights, according to Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo.

Melsbroek is the same airport that Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele arrived at on May 26 upon being freed by Iran after 15 months in captivity.

His liberation was obtained

in exchange for Belgium freeing Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi, who had been imprisoned for a 2018 plot to bomb an Iranian opposition rally outside Paris.

Iran had levelled charges of "espionage" at Vandecasteele but his family, the Belgian government and rights groups all say that was a fabricated case used to pressure Brussels for Assadi's release.

Belgian government officials said the release of Vandecasteele, the Dane and the two Austrian-Iranians were all part of "Operation Blackstone", in reference to an 18th-century English jurist William Blackstone, who was known for declaring: "It is better that 10 guilty escape than one innocent suffer."

De Croo confirmed to *Le Soir* daily that the three Europeans released on Friday were the second part of the negotiations with Tehran on the exchange between Vandecasteele and Assadi.

Argentines raise steaks despite rocketing inflation

Argentines are expected to eat the most beef in five years in 2023, extending the country's reign as the No 1 steak consumer per capita despite the painful impact of 109% inflation on food prices, a Rosario grains exchange report showed on Friday.

The major beef producer, where "asado" barbecues are a key part of the culinary culture and steakhouses dot city streets, has seen in recent years beef consumption dip as prices climbed and diners shifted to cheaper chicken.

That, however, seems to be partly reversing, even in the face of one of the world's highest inflation rates which has badly hurt spending power. Analysts expect inflation could hit 130% by the end of the year.

"Despite everything, the traditional asado remains one of the pillars of the local gastronomic tradition, and a must at most Argentine dinner tables," the exchange said, adding likely beef consumption this year would be 53.1kg per person.

The exchange said the relative cost of beef versus pork and chicken had dropped since 2021, though it remained elevated versus a historical average. Gross salaries were also slightly higher than in 2021, though again lower than historic averages.

The proportion of beef in meat consumption climbed this year to 46% from 44% two years ago. However, the amount of beef and its share is still far below peaks of some 68 kg per capita and over 70% in the past two decades.

Biden signs debt ceiling bill into law

AFP
Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday signed into law a debt ceiling bill passed by Congress after weeks of wrangling, moving to avert a catastrophic, self-induced default in the world's biggest economy.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 authorises the government to extend the so-called debt ceiling to renew borrowing, keeping the bills paid. The Treasury had warned that if the debt ceiling was blocked beyond Monday, the country would default on its \$31tn debt.

A default would have likely triggered market panic, huge job losses and a recession, with global implications.

In a statement yesterday, the White House thanked the Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress "for their partnership."

In a rare Oval Office address late Friday, Biden said that the debt ceiling bill saved the country from "economic collapse."

Speaking from behind the historic Resolute Desk on live primetime television, Biden said the deal resolving the standoff between Democrats and Republicans was a compromise where "no-one got everything they wanted." However, "we averted an economic crisis," he said.

Oval Office addresses have always been reserved by presidents for moments of unique national danger or importance.

Biden used the occasion to project a reassuring, calm tone. Sprinkling his speech with chuckles and smiles, he praised his opponents for negotiating in good faith and promised Americans that he had never felt more optimistic.

Biden said that Congress has now preserved "the full faith and credit of the United States."

But even with the House and Senate putting aside differences to finally rush through the agreement over the last week, the US economy's reputation took a hit.

Ratings agency Fitch said Friday that it is keeping the United States' "AAA" credit rating on negative watch, despite the deal.

The debt ceiling is usually an uncontroversial accounting manoeuvre approved yearly by Congress. It allows the government to keep borrowing money to pay for bills already incurred.

This year, hard-right Republicans dominating their party's narrow majority in the House of Representatives decided to use the must-pass vote as leverage for forcing Biden into accepting cuts to many Democratic spending priorities.

This triggered a test of political strength that threatened to end in chaos before the two sides agreed this week on raising the debt ceiling while freezing some budgetary spending in return – yet stopping well short of Republican demands for cuts.

Kevin McCarthy, the speaker of the Republican-led House, had touted the compromise bill as a big victory for conservatives, although he faced backlash from hardliners on the right who said he made too many concessions.

But Biden, who is campaigning for re-election in 2024, sees the dramatic resolution to the crisis as a win, showcasing his negotiating powers and his pitch to be the moderate voice in an increasingly extreme political landscape.

He burnished those credentials in the speech by going out of his way to praise McCarthy, a politician long loyal to former president Donald Trump – the man Biden defeated in 2020 and who is seeking his own return in 2024.

"I want to commend Speaker McCarthy. You know, he and I, we and our teams, were able to get along, get things done," Biden said.

Bird flu virus changing rapidly in largest ever outbreak

The virus causing record cases of avian influenza in birds across the world is changing rapidly, experts have warned, as calls increase for countries to vaccinate their poultry. While emphasising that the risk to humans remains low, the experts who spoke to AFP said that the surging number of bird flu cases in mammals was a cause for concern. Since first emerging in 1996, the H5N1 avian influenza virus had previously been confined to mostly seasonal outbreaks.

But "something happened" in mid-2021 that made the group of viruses much more infectious, according to Richard Webby, the head of a World Health Organisation collaborating centre studying influenza in animals. Since then, outbreaks have lasted all year round, spreading to new areas and leading to mass deaths among wild birds and tens of millions of poultry being culled.

Webby, who is a researcher at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the US city of Memphis, told AFP it was "absolutely" the largest outbreak of

avian influenza the world had seen. He led research, published this week in the journal *Nature Communications*, showing how the virus rapidly evolved as it spread from Europe into North America. The study said the virus increased in virulence, which means it causes more dangerous disease, when it arrived in North America.

The researchers also infected a ferret with one of the new strains of bird flu. The found an unexpectedly "huge" amount of the virus in its brain, Webby said, indicating it had caused more serious disease than previous strains.

Emphasising that the risk in humans was still low, he said that "this virus is not being static, it's changing". "That does increase the potential that even just by chance" the virus could "pick up genetic traits that allow it to be more of a human virus," he said. In rare cases, humans have contracted the sometimes deadly virus, usually after coming in close contact with infected birds.

The virus has also been detected in a



Chickens inside a coop at a private poultry farming at a ranch in Rio de Janeiro. (Reuters)

soaring number of mammals, which Webby described as a "really, really troubling sign". Last week Chile said that nearly 9,000 sea lions, penguins, otters, porpoises and dolphins have died from bird flu along its north coast

since the start of the year. Most mammals are believed to have contracted the virus by eating an infected bird. But Webby said that what "scares us the most" are indications from a Spanish mink farm, or among sea

lions off South America, that the virus could be transmitting between mammals.

Ian Brown, virology head at the UK's Animal and Plant Health Agency, said there has not yet been "clear evidence that this virus is easily sustaining in mammals."

While the virus is changing to become "more efficient and more effective in birds," it remains "unadapted to humans," Brown told AFP.

Avian viruses bind to different receptors on the host cell than human viruses, Webby said. It would take "two or three minor changes in one protein of the viruses" to become more adapted to humans, he said.

"That is what we're really looking out for."

One way to bring down the number of total bird flu cases, and therefore reduce the risk to humans, would be for countries to vaccinate their poultry, Webby said. A few nations including China, Egypt and Vietnam have already held

vaccination campaigns for poultry. But many other countries have been reluctant due to import restrictions in some areas, and fears vaccinated birds that nonetheless get infected could slip through the net.

In April, the United States started testing several vaccine candidates for potential use on birds.

France recently said it hopes to start vaccinating poultry as early as autumn this year.

Christine Middlemiss, the UK's chief veterinary officer, said that vaccinating poultry was not "a silver bullet because the virus changes constantly".

But traditionally reluctant countries should consider vaccinating poultry more often, Middlemiss told AFP at an event at the UK's embassy in Paris last week.

World Organisation for Animal Health director general Monique Eloit said that the issue of vaccinating poultry should be "on the table". After all, "everyone now knows that a pandemic is not just a fantasy – it could be a reality," she added.

QATAR



Snapshots from the launch of the all-new Maxda CX-60 in Qatar. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam and supplied

NCC launches the all-new Mazda CX-60 in Qatar

The National Car Company (NCC), the sole agent for Mazda vehicles in Qatar celebrating 50 years of their partnership in excellence with Mazda Corporation - Japan, launched the all-new Maxda CX-60 at a glittering event held at the Mazda showroom in Al Nasr on May 30.

The new models were unveiled by chief guest Satoshi Maeda, ambassador of Japan to Qatar, and NCC president director Sheikh Ahmad bin Nasser al-Thani.

The event was attended by invited guests, business partners and representatives from the media.

Speaking at the launch, Sheikh Ahmad said: "As we celebrate 50 years of our association, it is an important milestone for the unique Mazda brand and National Car Company, as we are moving towards next-generation ve-

hicles that blend exquisite design with exhilarating driving dynamics."

"I am confident that these premium Mazda models will delight the discerning car lovers of Qatar and set higher expectations when it comes to design, performance, safety and, above all, the pleasure of driving!" he said.

Three variants of Mazda CX-60 are now available for sale in Qatar, equipped with a high-performance 2.5-litre Skyactiv-G engine and 8-speed automatic transmission, all equipped with a whole range of new driver-centric technologies.

All the models offer low emissions and excellent fuel efficiency with high levels of torque, a press statement notes.

Crafted in Japan

The all-new Mazda CX-60 repre-



sents everything that Mazda has built into its DNA over the last 100 years: from the great design, both inside and out, to Japanese craftsmanship and new technologies, all focused on creating a fantastic experience for the driver and co-passengers.

Less is More

There is a pure grace to be found in the simplicity and sparse beauty of a traditional Japanese garden, which exemplifies the design principle of "less is more".

This principle was deftly applied to the new Mazda CX-60, imbuing the car with a subtle yet strong appearance.

The car is in harmony with the surrounding nature, a value that is important in Japanese life.

Human-centricity

The optimum positioning of the driver has always been a key component in any Mazda vehicle's development.

However, Mazda researchers recently discovered that less than half of drivers position themselves correctly for comfort, safety and control, and the new Mazda CX-60 gives a lot of emphasis to this aspect.

A Richer Life

Mazda believes that a car can truly enrich your life and has designed the interior of the new Mazda CX-60 for this very purpose.

It is not just a stylish and comfortable place to enjoy every journey, but a mindful zone with a design that takes inspiration from nature and Japan's rich culture infused with modern techniques and principles so that it is superbly functional as well as beautiful.

New Rhodium White Colour Exemplifies Simple Elegance

Mazda designers went to great lengths to create a new special paint called Rhodium White, which was crafted specifically to highlight the beauty of the CX-60's design.

As light flows over the bodywork, the surrounding environment is reflected in its surfaces, creating a sensation of the car being in harmony with the world.

All-new Scalable Platform with Longitudinal Engine

Engineered to give exhilarating responses that are also friendly to the environment, the CX-60's front-engine rear-wheel-drive (FR) layout is the debut of the longitudinal version of the Skyactiv Multi-Solution Scalable Architecture platform.

This all-new platform accommodates both 4- and 6-cylinder longitudinal engines of any capacity, as well as diverse electrification technologies such as the M Hybrid mild hybrid system.

The design was directed by the unique Skyactiv-Vehicle Architecture concept, assuring that the CX-60 works with the human body's inherent ability to maintain balance while in motion "so, you can comfortably maintain a relaxed, well-balanced posture even as you experience the pleasure of controlling G forces in various driving situations".

I-ACTIV AWD

The CX-60's longitudinal powertrain layout allows i-Activ AWD "to give you the best of both worlds: the neutral cornering characteristics of a rear-wheel-drive system combined

with the reassuring stability of all-wheel drive".

The result is a new level of high-speed, straight-line stability on highways, inspiring handling on winding roads, and reliably stable traction on snow or slippery surfaces.

Kinematic Posture Control

At the front is a double-wishbone suspension system, optimally designed to take advantage of the extra space afforded by the longitudinal powertrain layout.

At the rear is a multi-link setup. "And now, our newly developed Kinematic Posture Control (KPC) is introduced to leverage the inherent strengths of this suspension system to achieve smoother body movement in everyday driving and suppress body roll during high-speed cornering."

Mazda Proactive Safety

In line with Mazda's human-centred design philosophy, Mazda Proactive Safety "is engineered around you, the driver, to support you in anticipating and assessing your driving environment moment by moment, helping you recognise and avoid danger beforehand rather than react after a hazardous situation has developed".

i-Activsense, with its full spectrum of remote sensing devices, provides continuous 360° monitoring around the vehicle and alerts drivers to potential threats.

And, when necessary, its advanced autonomous control/brake systems assist in staying out of harm's way.

Qi Wireless Charger

The centre console tray includes a Qi wireless charger to enable charging

of compatible smartphones and other devices placed on it when the engine is running.

Panoramic Sunroof

The large panoramic sunroof provides an expansive top view and brings light to the entire cabin, delivering an open, airy feel to passengers in the front and rear alike.

Handsfree Tailgate Function

With the advanced key in your pocket or bag, a quick kick beneath the sensor located under the rear bumper lets you open and close the rear power liftgate.

Advanced Acoustic Environment

A supremely quiet cabin is the essential backdrop to top quality in-car audio.

The CX-60's rigid body structure helps achieve that, suppressing intrusion of unwanted noise and vibration through extensive sound insulation and NVH (noise, vibration, and harshness) measures.

With this as its foundation, the unique Mazda Harmonic Acoustics audio initiative creates a breathtaking audio experience for everybody in the vehicle.

Master Sound Revive Noise Reduction (MSR NR), making its debut in a car audio system, does exactly what the name says by drastically reducing the low-level noise that can muddy sound to bring you a high-quality audio experience closer to the artist's intention.

The all-new Mazda CX-60 variants are on display and sale at the Mazda showroom located in Al Nasr, Doha.

For more information, visit the Mazda showroom, call 44435965/44417859 or head to www.mazda-qatar.com



Qatar Real Estate Forum speakers to share insights on key issues



The first edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum will feature a number of sessions discussing key issues and reviewing the best regional and global experiences and practices over two days.

Taking place at the Sheraton Doha from today, the forum will feature 35 keynote speakers and around 1,500 leaders, decision-makers, experts and individuals engaged in the real estate sector.

The forum is being held under the theme *Regulations and Legislations for an Optimal Quality of Life and a Sustainable Real Estate Industry*.

The Qatar Real Estate Forum begins today.



There will be 12 sessions and workshops at the forum, which seeks to support and improve the process of creating a privileged climate for the real estate investment sector, formulating a methodology to develop the sector, and setting up relevant management mechanisms, as well as addressing other factors that impact the industry.

The forum begins with the "Future Trends in Real Estate" session. It will highlight the importance of real estate development to enhance the state's economy, strategic initiatives to build an attractive real estate investment environment, and aligning government agencies to create a mature real estate development industry.

HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie is among the speakers at the session, sharing insights on the future trends in real estate.

Up next is "Exploring the Future of Real Estate", on the impact of natural, political and economic changes on the expansion of real estate investment at the international level, taking a look at what is beyond smart cities in the future of the real

estate industry, and addressing the importance of diversity in the real estate industry: the need, solutions and challenges.

Day 1 also features a session on "Governance of the Real Estate Sector", which will look into the impact of regulations and legislations on the development of the real estate sector regionally, the legal and regulatory framework to promote Qatar's real estate industry, the establishment of a public authority for regulating the real estate sector: reality and the future (Law No 28 of 2023), real estate market regulation and supervision mechanisms (real estate brokerage, real estate contributions, sorting mechanisms, real estate registration, disputes and real estate arbitration mechanisms, etc).

The final session today will deal with "The Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Real Estate Industry".

The areas in focus include off-plan sales experience, the Ejar platform experience, real estate brokerage, innovation and customer journey in the real estate market, and the role of the Mullak housing programme.

Day 2 of the forum will begin with a session on "The Post-World Cup

Real Estate Sector", which will look into the gains from the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the future of the real estate sector post-hosting the World Cup, enhancing supporting mechanisms for real estate investment after hosting the World Cup, and the co-ordination of efforts to sustain the World Cup gains.

Next is the session on "The Real Estate Investor's Journey - Reality vs Hope" on the challenges facing the local and international investor, the foreign investor's expectations of the real estate system in Qatar, best practices and experiences to promote real estate investment, proposals and solutions to improve the real estate investor's journey.

Session 3 on Day 2 will be based on the topic of "Funding Policies and Processes".

The areas of discussion include mortgage and real estate finance systems, the current and future global economic repercussions and challenges and their impact on Qatar's real estate sector, funding to encourage foreign investment, impact of financial leverage on real estate investment, and financial management of the real estate sector.

The final session on Day 2 will deal with "Future Cities for a Better Life Quality".

It will explore urban development in light of the standards of sustainable development of cities, humanising cities for a better quality of life, and the role of the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution in the real estate development industry.

