



REDEFINING PATIENT CARE
WITH OUR SUPER SPECIALTY DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENTS

NEUROLOGY
UROLOGY
GASTROENTEROLOGY
ENDOCRINOLOGY
CARDIOLOGY



naseem.qa/selfcare

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW

+974 4411 1133

Naseem
Medical Centre



BRAND NEW
LUXURY
HOTEL SUITES

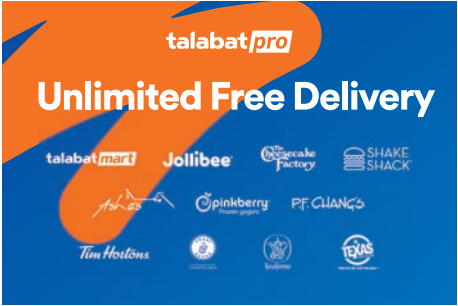
QR 6999
per room

BOOK NOW

+974 4419 1000 | +974 3990 0200



Central Inn
Al Sadd



talabat pro

Unlimited Free Delivery

talabat mart | Jollibee | Shake Shack | Tim Hortons | Pinberry | PF Chang's

SPORT | Page 1

PGA Tour, LIV merge to end golf's 'civil war'



homesrus

SPECIAL OFFER

4 Jun - 15 July 2023
New prices on all units

Hyatt Plaza | Place Vendôme (Lusail) | Edean Mall - Al Wakra
Mall of Qatar | Now Open - City Center Doha

SHOP online: www.homesrus.qa

900 4787 | 7048 5999





GULF TIMES

www.gulf-times.com

gulftimes

GulfTimes_QATAR

gulftimes

GulftimesVideos

WEDNESDAY Vol. XXXIV No. 12668

June 7, 2023

Dhul-Qa'da 18, 1444 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals



Together we can
vodafone

You know it's a GigaHome

when speed starts at 1Gbps



vf.qa/GigaHome

Amir, Uzbek president hold talks to enhance ties



● Ways to implement investment and trade plans discussed ● Number of agreements and MoUs signed between governments of two countries

QNA
Samarkand

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held an official talks session yesterday at the Congress Center in the city of Samarkand.

At the outset of the session, President Mirziyoyev welcomed His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation to Samarkand, looking forward to strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields.

For his part, the Amir expressed his thanks for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, pointing out that the two countries have many elements to consolidate co-operation and push relations to broader horizons.

During the session, they discussed the existing friendship and co-operation relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in various fields.

His Highness the Amir and the Uzbek president also discussed ways to implement investment and trade plans between the two countries in a way that supports the economy and development plans of the two sides, besides developments in the regional and international arenas.

The session was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh

Amir expresses happiness over talks with Uzbek president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed happiness with the talks session held with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which would enhance co-operation relations in various fields. In a tweet on his official Twitter account, His Highness the Amir expressed happiness with the talks held with President Mirziyoyev on investing in the opportunities available to the two countries and strengthening co-operation relations in various fields, adding that His Highness and the president exchanged points of view on the most prominent regional and international issues of interest to



Qatar and Uzbekistan. His Highness the Amir also extended thanks to the president and the friendly Uzbek people for the warm reception and hospitality. **(QNA)**

Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani, HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, and a number of senior officials and members of the delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On the Uzbek side, the session was

attended by Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Khodjaev, Head of the Administration of the President Sardor Umurzakov, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bakhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Energy Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, Minister of Agriculture Resources Aziz Voitov, Minister of Culture and Tourism Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich, and a number of senior officials.

After that, the Amir and the Uzbek president planted a tree in the visitors'

area designated for leaders and presidents in the Congress Center's garden as a symbol of the visit.

His Highness Sheikh Tamim and President Mirziyoyev also witnessed yesterday the signing of a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding and co-operation between the governments of the two countries.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of an agreement on mutual encouragement and protection of investments; a memorandum of co-operation in the field of trade between Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade; an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of fiscal evasion; an agreement on co-operation and mutual administrative assistance in customs affairs; an agreement on co-operation in recruiting workers; an agreement on exemption from travel visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports; and an agreement on co-operation in higher education and scientific research.

They also witnessed the signing of a co-operation programme between the two countries' foreign ministries for 2023-25; a co-operation programme between the ministries of justice; an MoU on co-operation in youth and sports; an MoU between municipalities of Doha and Tashkent to establish friendship relations. **To Page 3**

Amir arrives in Bishkek



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani arrived yesterday in the city of Bishkek on a state visit to the Kyrgyz Republic. The Amir was welcomed at Manas International Airport by President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov. Qatar's ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Abdullah bin Ahmed al-Sulaiti, Kyrgyz ambassador to Qatar Chyngyz Eshimbekov and members of the Qatari embassy were also present. An official delegation is accompanying the Amir. **(QNA) Page 2**

Visitors arrivals see 231.5% annual rise in April

Qatar's hospitality sector saw an improved rooms' yield this April, mainly lifted by five-star hotels and deluxe hotel apartments, as visitor arrivals surged compared to the same month last year. The rosy scenario in the hospitality sector comes in view of a 231.5% annual increase in visitor arrivals, as Qatar received a total of 324,374 visitors in April, according to Planning and Statistics Authority data. **Page 5**

QAS first in world to get IATA environmental management certificate

Qatar Aviation Services (QAS), the ground handling services subsidiary of Qatar Airways Group, is now the first ground handler in the world to receive the International Air Transport Association (IATA) environmental management system certification - the IATA Environmental Assessment programme (IEnvA) - which has been developed specifically for ground and cargo service providers. Qatar Airways Group's QAS was presented with the IEnvA certificate on June 5 during the 79th IATA AGM in Istanbul, Turkey. **Business Page 2**

PM to head Qatar's delegation at GCC-US meeting: MoFA official

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani will head Qatar's delegation participating in the joint GCC-US strategic partnership meeting today in Saudi Arabia.

This was revealed by Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari, Adviser to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), at the weekly media briefing.

Dr al-Ansari said the meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC states and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken would discuss - at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh - several international issues, especially the developments in Palestine, Yemen and Sudan, among others.

He noted that the meeting, which comes within the framework of the strategic partnership between the



Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari

GCC states and the US, represents an opportunity to outline a common stance in the region regarding the relationship with the US and define the shape of the positive influence of the US in the region through its partnership with the GCC states.

Meanwhile, Dr al-Ansari said HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs would head the second round of the Qatar-France strategic dialogue with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Catherine Colonna, in Doha on Thursday. **To Page 3**

AI can create 'immense' positives: ChatGPT founder

Artificial intelligence (AI) can create "immense" positives for the world and will be an "incredibly powerful" system that can solve the biggest problems facing societies, including addressing climate change, providing education, and eradicating disease, Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI - the company that created ChatGPT - has told Qatar Foundation's (QF) Education City Speaker Series.

HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, attended Altman's talk at Qatar National Library in Education City, where he shed light on various aspects of AI, such as its role in education, its risks, the inequity of AI technology among developing and developed countries, and expert predictions for what AI will mean for the world in the future.

"The positive is technology can create worlds which will be immense, and the main point I would like to make is that we are still at the very, very beginning - and that we can get immensely better with more skill systems," said Altman. "So, everything happening now will look totally unprecedented for years."

Speaking about what experts predict for the future of AI, Altman said: "Remember, five years ago, the consensus from all the experts about automation was that robotics and physical tasks would take over.

"For example, they said truck drivers were in bad shape. Then they said to wait longer to see whether basic cognitive labour would be taken over by AI, and then even longer to see



Sam Altman (right) during QF's Education City Speaker Series.

whether creativity got taken over by AI. And it's been exactly the opposite."

And he highlighted that anyone who predicts the future of AI should not be believed, because "it's very difficult to do".

Moderated by Elyas Felfoul, director of Policy Development & Partnerships at QF's global education thinktank WISE, the session gave members of Qatar's community the chance to interact with Altman. **To Page 5**

Amir first Arab leader to pay official visit to Kyrgyzstan: President Japarov

QNA
Bishkek

President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov described the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to his country as 'historic and important', especially since His Highness the Amir is the first Arab leader to pay an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), the president said that the visit carries a historic meaning, not only in terms of co-operation with Qatar, but also in terms of relations linking Kyrgyzstan with Arab countries. He emphasised his confidence that the visit of the Amir, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, will provide good opportunities and a strong impetus for the development of bilateral co-operation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Qatar.

He said that he was very pleased with the visit of His Highness the Amir to Kyrgyzstan, noting that the co-operation between the

two countries is moving in the right direction towards continuous development. He added that the visit will highlight the available capabilities to strengthen co-operation and will be an important factor for the implementation of bilateral projects in the near future, as several agreements are expected in a number of fields to create the appropriate conditions for co-operation, as many projects will be implemented within the framework of these agreements.

He referred to a number of meetings he had with His Highness the Amir on a number of international occasions, the most recent of which was the meeting at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. They discussed ways to enhance co-operation between the two countries, he said, adding that His Highness the Amir's visit to Bishkek allows a great opportunity to delve deeper into various bilateral issues of common interest.

President Japarov explained to QNA that the visit is an opportunity for His Highness the Amir to be acquainted with the capabilities that Kyrgyzstan possesses in terms of natural landscapes

and the promising future of the country, which is witnessing development just like the rest of Central Asian countries, which are developing in a dynamic and continuous manner.

He also noted that the visit comes at an appropriate time to enhance co-operation between the two countries, as well as introduce the ancient customs and traditions that distinguish the Kyrgyz people and to get acquainted with all the natural capabilities in Kyrgyzstan, including mountains, rivers and fresh water pools.

The president emphasised the strong relations between his country and Qatar, saying that the two countries are working to strengthen bilateral co-operation between them. In addition to political dialogue, important discussions are taking place on trade, economic and investment relations, as well as cultural and social exchange, he said, noting the great Qatari support for the development of Kyrgyzstan.

In this context, he pointed out the importance of launching direct flights between Bishkek and Doha as an engine for the development of co-operation, explaining in this context that he



President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov

will discuss with the Amir all issues related to the development of bilateral relations. He stressed that Kyrgyzstan and Qatar share many commonalities in terms of culture, and the relations between the leaderships of the two countries are close and warm; therefore, there is a strong belief in the importance of developing relations and co-operation not only on the bilateral level, but in fruitful co-operation in international projects as well.

In this regard, he said that co-operation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Qatar has a great future and will yield bilateral benefits, as there are many areas of co-operation, including natu-

ral products, the implementation of hydroelectric projects, the development of renewable energy sources in the field of green energy, and co-operation in the field of ecotourism.

He added that taking into consideration that the location of the Kyrgyz Republic is in the middle of the 'Eurasia' region (Europe and Asia), they are looking for new ways for the Central Asian region to develop, pointing out that they are working on large projects to develop transport and logistics routes, such as the railway road project 'China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan' as this project opens the door to several large projects, and they intend to discuss the project with the Qatari side.

He also pointed out that his country is moving towards a policy of digital transformation and is working in joint projects with many startups, highlighting the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic, which has become one of the famous centres in the world. Therefore, there are opportunities in the field of joint business in this sector, as well as opportunities to support emerging companies with the expertise

of the State of Qatar in this field, he explained.

In the field of political co-operation, President Japarov said, in an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) that his country's international policy is based on mutual respect and the principles of the United Nations Charter, while striving for stable development with neighbouring countries in the region.

He added that Kyrgyzstan and Qatar support each other within the framework of international organisation, and they have common views on many regional and international issues.

The president of the Kyrgyz Republic spoke about the important role played by Qatar in the field of international politics, noting the foreign policy it follows, which is characterised by firm principles while maintaining flexibility at the same time.

He said that they highly appreciated Qatar at the international level in recent years, especially its role in mediation, adding that he would like to highlight the humanitarian assistance provided by Qatar to countries all over the world, in addition to Qatar's contributions to development pro-

grammes. The president reviewed the number of discussions he is expected to hold with His Highness the Amir, the most prominent of which is the emphasis on the importance of co-operation in the economic and investment fields.

In this context, he added that they are interested in co-operating with Qatar in the field of implementing large and promising projects, stressing the importance of monitor the dynamics of development in the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia in general.

He called for focusing on projects that will give new impetus to the country and region.

He also stressed the importance of investing in the energy sector, explaining that the Kyrgyz Republic is rich in mineral waters and rivers, and 90% of the electricity generated is obtained from running water, yet his country uses only 10% of its potential in energy production.

He pointed out that preliminary negotiations are taking place between the Kyrgyz side and Nebras Power for co-operation in this field, explaining that he is personally following up on these negotiations.

Qatar, Kyrgyzstan share friendly relations, economic partnership

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani arrived in Bishkek on a state visit to the Kyrgyz Republic during which His Highness held talks session with President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, pertaining to the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to support and enhance them in various fields.

The talks session also addressed raising the level of consultation and co-ordination between Doha and Bishkek in international forums regarding various current issues of mutual interest, in addition to issues affecting international security and stability.

The visit of the Amir to Bishkek and the discussions, agreements and memorandums of understanding to be signed, is expected to contribute to supporting and developing relations between the two countries and opening new horizons for them, which will strengthen ties and relations as well as co-operation between the two parties, and contribute

to finding more promising opportunities for signing new investment and development partnerships between the public and private sectors of the two countries, depending on the available capabilities and facilities provided by the two countries for foreign investments.

The friendship and co-operation relations between the two countries are characterised as strong and solid relations that reflect the keenness of the leaderships of the two countries to develop them in various fields. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on March 3, 1998, and the Qatari embassy was opened in Bishkek on Oct 2, 2012. Ambassador of Qatar to the Kyrgyz Republic presented his credentials to the president of the Kyrgyz Republic on Oct 30, 2013, and the Kyrgyz Republic opened its embassy in Doha in September 2015, while the ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic presented his credentials to His Highness the Amir on March 3, 2016. Since that date, relations between the two friendly countries have

developed at a rapid pace, as official visits were intensively exchanged at various levels. In this context, the former Kyrgyz president Almazbek Atambayev paid two visits to Doha during the years 2014 and 2015, where His Highness the Amir received him and held official talks with him on bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance, support and develop them in various fields, especially economic and investment, in addition to reviewing several issues of mutual interest. The Amir and the former Kyrgyz president witnessed the signing of several agreements and memoranda of understanding between the governments of the two countries. President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, visited Doha in December 2022 to attend the final match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which brought together the national teams of France and Argentina at Lusail Stadium. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani paid a visit to the

Kyrgyz Republic in September 2015, during which he discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to support and enhance them, especially in the economic field. He also headed the delegation of Qatar to discuss investment opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic, which included representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Qatar Investment Authority, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Mining Company. During the visit, Qatar's delegation met with representatives of investment agencies in Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of the Ministries of Energy and Agriculture, the Municipality, the Minerals Company, the State Committee for Minerals and the National Bank, representatives of these companies presented areas in which the State of Qatar can invest, especially in the fields of agriculture, mining and energy. The extensive official visits also included ministers representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture, Sports, Interior Affairs, Civil Defence, Tourism, and

Information. Relations between the two countries are regulated by a set of agreements and memoranda of understanding that include political, economic, commercial, industrial, tourism, educational, civil aviation, and mutual exemption of entry visas for holders of diplomatic and private passports, encouragement and protection of mutual investments and twinning between Doha and Bishkek, news exchange between Qatar News Agency and Kyrgyz National News Agency, avoidance of double taxation and prevention of financial evasion with regard to taxes on income. In the political context, two rounds of political consultations were held between the two countries, the first in Bishkek in February 2018, and the second in Doha in January 2019. The rounds dealt with ways to strengthen and develop bilateral co-operation relations in all areas of mutual interest and discussed the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. **(QNA)**



Kyrgyz minister : Visit opens new page with Qatar and Arab world

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Dr Aibek Artykbaev affirmed that his country is proud that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani is the first Arab leader to visit the Kyrgyz Republic, at a time when the relations between the two countries are witnessing significant developments, with Qatar's openness to its regional and international surroundings.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that the visit is historic and will open a new page not only in the bilateral relations between Qatar and the Kyrgyz Republic, but also between his country and the Arab countries in general. He stressed that Qatar's strategy and its openness to Central Asian countries are insightful vision for Qatar under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, who has close relations with the president of the Kyrgyz Republic. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1998, bilateral relations have witnessed significant progress. Both embassies in the respective countries have been working to enhance co-operation in various fields and explore broader horizons. High-level reciprocal visits have been undertaken as part of the efforts to strengthen co-operation in all areas, he noted.

His Highness the Amir's visit to Bishkek would provide a suitable opportunity for engaging in profound discussions on the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. It would also serve as an occasion to give a strong impetus to enhance sustainable and evolving friendship and bilateral co-operation, he added. The Kyrgyz Republic and Qatar are seeking to launch a new phase of distinguished relations that benefit both parties. This is especially evident as both



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Dr Aibek Artykbaev

countries share converging visions and similar positions on most regional and international issues. They also support each other in international institutions and organisations, he said. The deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic emphasised the importance of closer co-operation between Central Asian countries and the Gulf Arab states, particularly Qatar, which shares a special relationship with Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, Qatar would be the main driver and catalyst for building new relations between Central Asia and the Gulf Arab region. In this context, he said, it is noticeable that in recent years there have been developments in Central Asia, especially in the Kyrgyz Republic, which considers giving priority to the Gulf countries, including Qatar, for investment and strengthening co-operation.

He added that the talks between the leaderships of Kyrgyzstan and Qatar will focus mainly on the need to strengthen economic and trade co-operation between the two countries, especially since Qatar is one of the countries that have influences on the international economy thanks to the wise policy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

He praised the role of Qatar on both regional and international

arenas, as well as the contributions it makes towards resolving issues and conflicts, thanks to its balanced and independent foreign policy. Qatar has gained the trust of the international community through its endeavours.

Qatar has indeed been able to showcase its successes to the world in an exemplary manner. The outstanding success of organising the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar stands as the biggest testament to its capabilities and global influence, he said.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs of Kyrgyzstan highlighted the humanitarian support provided by Qatar worldwide, stressing that Qatar is a leading country in the humanitarian field, as demonstrated in several humanitarian crises, including the recent humanitarian aid provided in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. Qatar stood firmly and provided both financial and humanitarian support to those affected by the earthquakes, he added. He praised Qatar's efforts in establishing peace and security in the region and the world. One notable example is Qatar's efforts in the Afghan crisis, where Doha is diligently working towards security stability in Afghanistan. Qatar consistently emphasizes that dialogue is the best approach for resolving conflicts.

He expressed his confidence that the future of the relationship between Kyrgyzstan and Qatar will be "great". The visit of His Highness the Amir would be an opportunity to sign several agreements and memoranda of understanding to enhance co-operation. It would also pave the way for establishing a business forum between the two countries, organising joint forums and exhibitions, initiating negotiations on food security and bilateral investments, and enhancing co-operation in the economic field. **(QNA)**

Host of MoUs, agreements to be signed during Amir's Bishkek visit

Ambassador of Qatar to Kyrgyzstan Abdullah bin Ahmed al-Sulaiti stressed that the visit of His Highness Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Bishkek comes at a time when an accelerated development, strength, and growth characterise the relations between the two countries.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Sulaiti said that the His Highness the Amir is the first Arab leader to visit the Kyrgyz Republic, reflecting the mutual aspiration to boost and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. He stressed that this visit would strengthen the political, economic, and cultural ties between Qatar and the Kyrgyz Republic, opening new horizons for bilateral co-operation, where a host of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements that cover various fields are expected to be signed during that official visit. Al-Sulaiti said that the relations between Qatar and the Kyrgyz Republic witness positive development and growth, as president of the Kyrgyz Republic made three official visits to Qatar, reflecting the significance of the relations between the two countries, and their aspiration to strengthen co-operation. He pointed out that co-operation relations in the charitable field are also witnessing growth, as Qatar Charity provided humanitarian assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic and co-operated in implementing development and relief projects to support the population in need.

He added that the two countries co-operate in providing mutual support within the framework of international and regional organisations, such as the UN and others, as they had co-operated in discussing and



Abdullah bin Ahmed al-Sulaiti

voting on several international issues of common interest. He noted that several mutual visits, at the level of ministers and governments, were organised between the two countries in various fields, which contributes to strengthening understanding and exchanging expertise.

The ambassador of Qatar revealed that His Highness the Amir's visit to Kyrgyzstan would witness the signing of around 20 agreements and MoUs between the two countries, reflecting their commitment to strengthening and expanding the bilateral co-operation in the fields of law, sports, defence, plant quarantine, health, veterinary, finance, disaster management, central banks, agriculture and food security, training aviation specialists, technology and communication, media, cultural centres, employment, customs, livestock and phytosanitary, healthcare, postal exchange, stock market, business council, along with other fields.

He said that signing that large number of MoUs and agreements reflects the two countries commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership and deepening their bilateral co-operation, opening new co-operation horizons, as well as economic and



Chyngyz Eshimbekov

cultural opportunities among the two countries.

Meanwhile, ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Qatar Chyngyz Eshimbekov said that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the Kyrgyz Republic is very important from many perspectives, adding, "It is the first-ever visit of the leader of the State of Qatar to our country and thus given highest consideration."

In remarks to QNA, he said, "His Highness the Amir's visit coincides with commemoration of 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the State of Qatar. Of course, relations between our peoples are deeply rooted in history since early ages, our ancestors actively traded and exchanged the cultural heritage with the Middle East and the Gulf. But, as modern states the Kyrgyz Republic and Qatar established diplomatic relations among themselves only on March 3, 1998, by signing the corresponding Protocol. From that time on, relations between the two countries reached a new level and were marked by active mutual contacts and bilateral events."

The ambassador added, "Late-

ly there were many opportunities for leaders of two countries to meet in person. The last was the visit of Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov to Doha at the time of the final day of the Qatar 2022 World Cup at the invitation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani."

"We highly regard success of Qatar in holding this grand sporting event at its best as well as many late notable achievements in economic development and diplomacy that enhanced prominent and important position of this country in the world affairs."

The ambassador said, "While in the Kyrgyz Republic this time it is anticipated that His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov will continue the earlier set personal dialogue on many topics of mutual interest including bilateral and regional co-operation."

He explained, "The state institutions have been working hard to create a favourable legal basis for mutual co-operation, in particular, 19 different agreements have been signed to this date. At present, the parties have prepared for signing a number of new agreements in the field of investment, finance, sports, healthcare, agriculture and justice."

"For the last several years the Kyrgyz Republic and the State of Qatar have been building a dynamic and forward-looking relationship. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have grown fast to embassy level representation in Bishkek and Doha respectively. Thanks to regular visits and official meetings Kyrgyz and Qatar have significantly advanced bilateral treaty framework." **(QNA)**

Amir accorded official reception in Samarkand



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani was accorded an official reception ceremony upon his arrival at the Congress Center in the city of Samarkand in the friendly Republic of Uzbekistan yesterday. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev led well-wishers to welcome His Highness the Amir. The ceremony started with playing the Qatari and Uzbek national anthems before the Amir reviewed the Guard of Honour. His Highness the Amir then shook hands with members of the Uzbek official delegation and senior officials. President Mirziyoyev also shook hands with members of the official Qatari delegation and senior officials. (QNA)

Uzbek minister says Amir's visit will open up new fronts

QNA
Tashkent

Uzbekistan's Minister of Culture and Tourism Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich has described His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Uzbekistan as historic, which will start a new chapter in bilateral relations. Talking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Akhmadovich said that Qatar-Uzbekistan relations are experiencing remarkable development in terms of investments and the economy, with hopes of launching joint projects.

He added that Uzbekistan considers the Amir's visit is significant in opening up new fronts, particularly in all economic, commercial, and tourism fields. The minister explained that the opening of Qatar's embassy in May comes as a confirmation of the country's interest in strengthening co-operation relations with Uzbekistan.

He stressed that Uzbekistan is open to the world, especially when it comes to tourism, where the country provides foreign tourists with many facilities, including entry visa exemptions for many countries, such as the case with Qatar. He explained that this is due to the fact that tourism is a basic engine of the economy in light of which Tashkent seeks to strengthen and develop touristic co-operation with Qatar.

He said that Uzbekistan and Qatar, which have



Uzbekistan's Minister of Culture and Tourism Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich speaking to QNA.

enormous potential in the tourism sector, are not taking advantage of all of the opportunities available to enhance co-operation in this sector. He said that starting direct flights between the two countries would encourage them to pay closer attention to touristic co-operation, especially as Uzbekistan is one of the most open countries to

international tourists. Akhmadovich praised Qatar's tourism sector and its facilities represented by various major projects during the State's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, mesmerising the world with what Qatar has to offer in terms of hospitality and touristic attractions and facilities.

Amir, Uzbek president hold talks to enhance ties

From Page 1

The two countries also signed a MoU for co-operation in the field of culture; an MoU and co-operation in agriculture and food security between Qatar's Ministry of Municipality and Uzbekistan's Ministry of Agriculture Resources; an MoU between the two governments on co-operation in plant protection and agricultural quarantine; and a letter of intent for co-operation in investment.

Members of the official delegation attended the signing ceremony.

On the Uzbek side, it was also attended by a number of ministers and senior officials.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir was accorded an official reception ceremony upon his

arrival at the Congress Center in Samarkand.

President Mirziyoyev led well-wishers to welcome His Highness the Amir.

The ceremony started with the Qatari and Uzbek national anthems before His Highness the Amir reviewed the Guard of Honour. He then shook hands with members of the Uzbek delegation and senior officials. The president also shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir and senior officials.

Also, His Highness Sheikh Tamim attended the luncheon banquet hosted by President Mirziyoyev in his honour and the accompanying delegation.

Later yesterday, His Highness the Amir left Samar-

kand after a state visit to Uzbekistan, heading to Bishkek on a state visit to the Kyrgyz Republic. His Highness and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Samarkand International Airport by Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, and Qatar's ambassador to Uzbekistan Hassan bin Hamza Hashim.

His Highness the Amir sent a cable to President Mirziyoyev, expressing thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to him and the accompanying delegation during his visit, which provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues of common concern and ways to support and strengthen the friendly relations in various fields for the benefit of the two nations.

PM to head Qatar's delegation ...

From Page 1

He noted that Qatar had signed several documents during the first round of the Qatar-France strategic dialogue, including memorandum of understanding and letters of intention between a number of institutions in both countries. He added that strategic dialogues represent one of the most significant mechanisms for developing bilateral relations, and indicates the strength of

these relations with partners in France. The MoFA official said the continuation of the Qatari airbridge since the start of the fighting in Sudan to provide medical, relief and humanitarian assistance to those affected as the 10th flight took off yesterday for Port Sudan, carrying 37 tonnes of foodstuffs. The flight evacuated 164 people, holders of Qatari residency, mostly of Sudanese nationality, bringing the total number of evacuees to 1,784

residents. He added that the total assistance reached 318 tonnes, stressing the continuation of the airbridge flights in the upcoming days.

The official reviewed the ministry's efforts during the past few days and the meetings held by Qatari officials at home and abroad, which aim in their entirety to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss areas of co-operation in various fields and ways to enhance and develop them. (QNA)

Qatar Rail feted for operational excellence during World Cup '22

For its outstanding performance and delivering operational excellence during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has been recognised by the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) during the UITP Global Public Transport Summit which concludes today (June 7) in Barcelona, Spain.

Qatar Rail received the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Recognition Award in the Operational Excellence category for the Delivery of Operational Excellence during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, a statement said. This category recognises projects that demonstrate excellence in planning and executing public transport operations, leading to efficient network operations and safe travel.

Abdulla Ali al-Mawlawi, communication and public relations director at Qatar Rail, stated: "It is a great honour to receive this Recognition Award from UITP, the largest association in the field of public transport worldwide. We are delighted to see that all the hard work, all the preparations that started almost 10 years ago, the final preparations and mobilisation last year, and ultimately the delivery of our services, have paid off. We would like to thank our team at Qatar Rail, but also our Service Provider RKH Qitarrat, for this great achievement."

"The setting of the World Cup 2022 tournament was demanding: Eight stadiums with up to four matches every day, accommodation clusters for almost 100,000 people, and several fan areas with a combined capacity well above 100,000 people, all served by our Metro system with three Lines. We had a train every 165 seconds, almost our entire fleet in operation most of the day, and 5,000 additional staff for crowd



Abdulla Ali al-Mawlawi

management and customer service. The outcome was fantastic: more than 17mn customers during the event, with over 50% of the people going for the 64 matches using the Metro. We achieved a customer satisfaction rate of 99%. Each of these achievements speaks for itself."

During the World Cup, Doha Metro was the preferred transport mode for 1.4mn visitors and it was internationally recognised as a star of the show connecting five stadiums directly and a shuttle linking the other three stadiums. Additionally, the integrated plans with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy ensured seamless customer journey experience to and from stadiums, fan festivals, fan zones and accommodation.

The successful delivery of the World Cup not only provided Qatar with global recognition as "The Best World Cup ever", but it also resulted in record-breaking ridership of 827,135 on the Metro and 33,000 on the Tram recorded in one day. The network experienced five times its normal patronage and the robust plans in place helped facilitate 18.2mn passenger journeys.

Additionally, being the first carbon neutral World Cup, aided by Doha Metro and Lusail Tram, resulted in 119,000 fewer car journeys, and the avoidance of 8,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The Metro gained significant exposure from international fans, which drove a



Qatar Rail receiving the UITP special recognition award.

global interest in the network. This also raised the profile of the Metro amongst the local population, resulting in a steady increase in patronage after the tournament.

The four-day UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2023, under the theme "Bright Light of the City", is the world's biggest event dedicated to sustainable mobility that brought together all transport modes, industry authorities and operators, as well as exhibitors. As the coveted prize in public transport, the UITP Awards showcase the most ambitious and innovative projects of the last two years in cities and regions around

the globe. First launched in 2011, it covers nine categories that encompass the full spectrum of the public transport sector.

The Special Recognition Awards are a part of the UITP Awards and are awarded to those projects that stood out from a specific region (Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, India, Latin America, MENA, and North America). UITP assembles an impartial expert jury that scores the submitted projects based on their innovation, contribution to the sector, and prospects of transferability to other cities.

Qatar Power Engineering and Contracting (Q-PEC) opens its forth office in Doha



Qatar Power Engineering and Contracting (Q-PEC), a Doha based company, opened its forth office on Monday, in a very glittering occasion with all the employees and leadership of the company present.

The office was opened in the sprawling Sharq Plaza with its chairman Mr. Yousuf Mohamed Y.A. Al-Jaida gracing the occasion by cutting a cake. "This is the fruit of your hard work as we have upgraded our offices. We appreciate the hard work you have put in this for the past 13 years," said chairman adding that Q-pec is a one family and looking forward for multiple years of success. "Your success is our success," he said.

He also praised the employees for tremendous work even during Covid-19 lock down and said despite odds the company met its targets.

General Manager Q-pec, Irshad Ahmad Mir said that special bonding between company and its management had made this company to achieve its goals. "The company has made its mark in the short span of time and the hard work and joint efforts of its employees and management will make this company the leading stars of the country."



Amir sends congratulations to king of Sweden

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. **(QNA)**

Deputy PM meets Korean defence minister

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met with Korean Minister of National Defence Lee Jong-sup, at the Ministry of Defence's headquarters in Seoul. The meeting dealt with discussing issues of joint interest, military co-operation between the two sides, and ways to enhance them. The meeting was attended by Qatar's ambassador to South Korea Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Hamar, and Qatari military attache to South Korea and Japan Brigadier-General (Navy) Hassan Ali al-Obaidly. **(QNA)**



Deputy Amir meets chairman of US Blackstone Group



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his Amiri Diwan office with the visiting Chairman and CEO of the US Blackstone Group, Stephen Schwarzman, who called on His Highness to greet him. The meeting discussed ways to enhance co-operation and several issues of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

Minister of Social Development and Family meets UN officials



HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad has met with Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) Catherine Russell. The meeting came on the sidelines of HE al-Misnad's participation in the Oslo Conference on the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict currently held in the Norwegian capital. During the meeting, they discussed the co-operation between Qatar and Unicef, and the opportunities and projects that would enhance them in the areas of social development and family. They also discussed the most prominent axes of the conference and their impact on bilateral co-operation in the international field. HE al-Misnad also met with UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and projects between Qatar and the UN in the areas of the protection of children, especially those whose rights are violated in armed conflicts, and means to strengthen and develop them, in addition to topics of common interest, particularly technical co-operation to build capacity and to strengthen social protection programmes in times of crisis. **(QNA)**

Al-Marri meets Saudi minister



HE the Minister of Labour and President of the International Labour Conference, Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, held a meeting with Saudi Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Ahmad bin Sulaiman AlRajhi on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference in Geneva. The meeting revolved around discussing strategies to strengthen collaboration between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, particularly in the labour sector. The goal was to leverage the successful practices in developing the work environment in both nations. AlRajhi extended his congratulations to Dr al-Marri on his election as the President of the International Labour Conference's 111th session. He wished him success in steering the conference towards developing significant recommendations. **(QNA) Page 7**

FREE VEHICLE RECALL

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
دولة قطر
State of Qatar



Mercedes-Benz SL-Class

Manufacturing
Year

2022



DEFECT

Programming of rear axle steering controllers on the left and right sides does not conform to the latest factory specifications, which may lead to the appearance of an erroneous message about the steering of the rear axle in the instrument panel when the engine is running



PROCESS

Contact the dealer for the free required repair



CONTACT

Nasser Bin Khaled Automobiles
Phone: 44587777



For any consumer protection issues please contact us on the hotline 16001

 mociqatar | 16001 | +974 66111400 | www.moci.gov.qa

Qatar hosts third meeting on Somalia



Joint statement issued

Representatives of Qatar, Somalia, Türkiye, the UAE, the UK and the US met in Doha for their third meeting to discuss the current situation in Somalia, particularly the security, political and humanitarian issues.

The partners affirmed their support for the Federal Government of Somalia to achieve security and stability in the current situation, and discuss ways to enhance confidence-building, capacity-building, and emphasise co-ordination of counterterrorism and international security assistance.

They welcomed the Somali government's commitment to strengthening its security sector capacity and preparations to assume responsibility from the African Union Transition Mission

in Somalia by December 2024.

They discussed the importance of a security conference later this year to set out a pathway for a sustainable, affordable security architecture and stability post-2024.

The partners discussed the importance of ensuring stability and good governance in areas liberated from Al Shebaab and committed to improve co-ordination of assistance in support of Somali-led stabilisation efforts. The government offered to share with the partners an approach to co-ordinate stabilisation efforts in Somalia.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater chaired Qatar's delegation to the meeting, with the participation of HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterror-

ism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani.

The meeting discussed the current situation in Somalia, especially security, political and humanitarian aspects, ways that would achieve stability in Somali territory and priorities and strengthen co-ordination, and proposals that would enhance confidence-building for the stability of Somalia, including the best ways to address the current situation in the country.

Qatar reaffirmed its support for Somalia and to continue providing the necessary support to contribute to laying the foundations for security, development and stability and building a state of institutions and the rule of law, which guarantees all rights of Somalis, and guaranteeing respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia. **(QNA)**

Qatar elected vice-chair of UN General Assembly panel

The UN General Assembly has elected by acclamation the second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Qatar in New York Mohamed al-Nasr as vice-chairman of the Fifth Committee of the 78th session of the General Assembly – the committee related to discussing administrative and budgetary matters. **(QNA)**





HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani at the event.

AI can create ‘immense’ positives: ChatGPT founder

From Page 1

One audience question spotlighted the issue of fear of change and job losses through AI, with Altman responding: “I think we’re going to manage to get to the other side – we have to – but this is going to be a dramatic change.

“In this next decade, we are going to live through history in a way that we haven’t done in this world. The socio-economic contract is going to change a lot. There is fear, for sure, but it is up to us to figure out how to do good.

“With this technology,

there is going to be economic impact – that’s unavoidable. Over time, I think AI will automate more and more jobs; I’m pretty sure that in most of the categories, humans will just operate at a higher level and quality. We’ve seen this with previous technology – computers, for example. And it has been seen that, for the most part, people have been able to just do more and better. I think that is what will happen with AI.”

During his time at Education City, Altman also visited Qatar Computing Research Institute, part of QF’s Hamad Bin Khalifa University.



A view of the audience at the event.

Inbound visitors see 231.5% annual rise in April

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Qatar’s hospitality sector saw an improved rooms’ yield this April, mainly lifted by five-star hotels and deluxe hotel apartments, as visitor arrivals surged compared to the same month last year.

This was revealed by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) in its Qatar Monthly Statistics bulletin.

The rosy scenario in the hospitality sector comes in view of a 231.5% annual increase in visitor arrivals, especially from the Americas, Europe and other African countries. Qatar received a total of 324,374 visitors in April.

On a monthly basis, however, the total visitor arrivals decreased by 25.1% in April 2023.

Qatar’s overall hospitality

sector saw a 25% year-on-year surge in average revenue per available room to QR210 in January 2023 as the average room rate jumped 15.03% to QR444 and occupancy by 3% to 47% in the review period. The visitor arrivals from Europe were 149,733 or 46% of the total; followed by Americas 66,867 or 21%; other Asia (including Oceania) 58,781 (89.8%); other African countries 18,760 (6%); other Arab countries 18,486 (6%); and the Gulf Co-operation Council or GCC 11,747 (4%) in the review period.

The visitor arrivals from the Americas soared 1,013.2% and 151.7% year-on-year and month-on-month respectively; those from other African countries by 1,006.1% and 160.5%; and those from Europe by 648% and 30.6% in April 2023. In the case of visitor arrivals from other Arab countries, they witnessed

107.5% increase on an annualised basis but declined 47.2% on a monthly basis. Similarly, those from other Asia (including Oceania) jumped 89.8% year-on-year but fell 31% month-on-month in the review period. The visitor arrivals from the Gulf region were seen declining 61.2% and 92.9% year-on-year and month-on-month, respectively, in April 2023.

In the case of five-star hotels, the average revenue per available room increased 41.62% on annualised basis to QR279 in April 2023 as the average room rate grew 27.97% to QR668 and the occupancy by 4% to 42%.

The two-star and one-star hotels’ average revenue per available room shot up 9.17% year-on-year to QR131 this April as the occupancy improved by 9% to 865 but the average room rate dipped 2.56% to QR152 at

the end of April this year. However, the average revenue per available room in the four-star hotels plummeted 12.5% on a yearly basis to QR105 in April 2023 as the occupancy plunged 7% to 43% although the average room rate was up 0.83% to QR243.

The three-star hotels saw an 8.53% year-on-year contraction in average revenue per available room to QR118 as the average room rate shrank 0.54% to QR184 and the occupancy by 6% to 64% in the review period.

The deluxe hotel apartments registered a 25.32% year-on-year surge in average revenue available per room to QR193 in April this year even as the average room rate in the category was seen gaining 2.53% on an annualised basis to QR365 and the occupancy by 10% to 53% in the review period.

Health ministry to mark World Food Safety Day

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) marks World Food Safety Day today under the theme “Food standards save lives”. This year’s celebration highlights the role that safe food plays in maintaining human health and calls for a range of specific actions to make food safer. On this occasion, the ministry is launching an extensive awareness campaign via media outlets, including dissemination of food safety awareness messages through social media and the ministry’s website, in addition to distributing leaflets and brochures related to food



Wassan Abdullah al-Baker

safety to food establishments. The ministry building has been lit in orange to mark the day. The Ministry of Public Health will organise many important activities and events, most notably a ceremony to honour food establishments participating

in the pilot phase of the Food Handlers License Programme in co-operation with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The ministry is also participating in a training workshop organised by the Ministry of Social Development and Family for home businesses entitled “How to ensure the safety of our food products”. Experts from the ministry will organise a workshop entitled “Food Poisoning and Preventive Measures” in collaboration with Qatar Energy Corp for food companies that supply Qatar Energy.

Wassan Abdullah al-Baker, director of the Food Safety Department of the Ministry of Public Health, said: “Celebrating World Food Safety Day contributes to raising awareness and supporting actions and plans to deliver safer and healthier food. This celebration represents an important opportunity to highlight the impact of unsafe food on health. According to the World Health Organisation, there are more than 200 food-borne diseases, and statistics indicate that 600mn people around the world are exposed to food-borne diseases every year.”

Qatar delegation visits Indonesia for dialogue on culture, creative economy

A high-level cultural delegation from Qatar has arrived in Indonesia as part of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture initiative, it was announced yesterday.

The objective is to carry out cultural exchanges and deepen bilateral relations between various sectors of the creative economy.

Indonesia is the 11th partner country of the annual cultural exchange launched by Qatar Museums chairperson HE Sheikh Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani in 2012 and the first country in Southeast Asia.

The Qatari delegation is led by HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, Minister of State and president of Qatar National Library (QNL), and includes representatives from cultural institutions in Qatar. They were joined by Qatar’s ambassador to Indonesia Fawziya Edrees Salman al-Sulaiti. “We believe that culture is one of the most effective tools for bringing people together, encouraging dialogue and connection, and deepening understanding between people. Guided by Qatar’s National Vision 2030, we seek to strengthen cultural exchange and dialogue between global communities. For this reason, Qatar launched the ‘Years of Culture’ initiative a decade ago to deepen understanding between nations and their people,” explained HE Dr al-Kawari.

The Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture is organised under the theme of “Bhinneka,” which means diversity – although Indonesia and Qatar share cultural and social similarities, both countries are home to diverse people who live together in harmony.

This year will celebrate the



HE Dr Hamad al-Kawari and the Qatari embassy team visit Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 4.

unique aspects of Indonesian culture and its relationship to Qatari culture. Partnerships will also emphasise supporting the development of Indonesia’s creative economy as one of the fastest-growing emerging markets, including an emphasis on projects that will boost the creative industries in both countries with a focus on sustainable long-term partnerships.

“Similar to Indonesia, which has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, Qatar is also a Muslim country. Both countries have a tolerant and diverse tradition, which we are very proud of. This partnership takes our Years of Culture initiative to a new level.

“The 2023 programme is designed to support not only the development of culture, but also the creative industries in both countries, to jointly advance the successes that have been achieved,” added HE Dr al-Kawari.

During the visit, HE Dr al-Kawari also held meetings with a number of ministers, including with Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Sandiaga Uno, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Nadiem Makarim and Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi.



HE Dr al-Kawari meets with Indonesia’s Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.

During the meeting with Uno, HE Dr al-Kawari said: “I’m glad this is our Year of Culture because co-operation across the creative economy and tourism sectors is a matter of great interest for our country. Qatar is a growing country in the field of tourism, with last year’s FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 playing a big role in that. We have no doubt about the political will in Qatar and Indonesia to co-operate on developing the tourism and creative industries and we look forward to learning from your experience.”

During the meeting with Makarim, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of Indonesia, HE Dr al-Kawari, said: “What we are hoping to achieve through Years of Culture programming should be reflected across many aspects



The visit to the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia.



HE Dr al-Kawari meets with Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi.

of co-operation between the two countries, including the education sector. We look forward to receiving you to share our experience in building Education City, which is a unique model gathering some of the best educational institutions in one location.”

During the meeting, director general for Culture Dr Hilmar Farid also discussed joint the possibility of a joint research programme with the QNL to bring a new perspective on the historic spice trade route from Indonesia to the Arab World and the coast of Africa. This will explore the Southeast Asian perspective in films with the support of the Doha Film Institute and co-operation with museum teams from both countries in a variety of training programmes.

The year-long cultural col-



HE Dr al-Kawari with Indonesia’s Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Sandiaga Uno.

laboration between Qatar and Indonesia centres on 12 pillars, including art, fashion and design, music and theatre, sports, film and photography, cuisine, literature, health and education, politics and economics, museums and exhibitions, sustainability, and science and technology.

These pillars are brought to life throughout the year in Qatar and the partnering country through collaborative residency programmes, photography exchanges, culinary trips, social projects, art exhibitions, and literary and film festivals.

Qatar-Indonesia 2023 features an expansive programme taking place across the country of Indonesia, including Jakarta, Medan, Jogjakarta, Bali, Sumba, Tasikmalaya, Ternate, Pontianak, and other cities and provinces.

LuLu Hypermarket launches ‘Buy 2 Get 1 Free’ promotion

LuLu Hypermarket has announced the return of its popular ‘Buy 2 Get 1 Free’ promotion at all LuLu outlets until July 1, covering a wide range of international brands, including menswear, ladieswear, children’s wear, footwear and ladies’ bags.

Customers can expect to find an extensive selection of renowned international brands such as Lee, Wrangler, Crocs, Skechers, Reebok, Louis Philippe, Arrow, Eten, Cortigiani, De Backers, John Louis, Marco Donatelli, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, Peter England, Oxemberg, Zero, Dash, Hush Puppies, Liberty, Dickies, Joseph Seibel, and more, a statement said.

The promotion allows customers to receive the lowest-priced product for free when they purchase any three items from the categories, regardless of the brand.

Simultaneously, LuLu Hypermarket Group in collaboration with Kalyan Jewellers is conducting an exclusive promotion titled “Win 1.5KG Gold and QR 100,000 LuLu Gift Voucher”. For every purchase of supermarket and department store products worth QR100, customers



have a chance to enter the e-affle draw, with 50 winners standing a chance to win a 30gm gold coin and 50 winners receiving LuLu shopping vouchers worth QR2,000 each.

“As part of our exclusive promotion, every shopper

who spends QR100 or more will receive a complimentary gold voucher worth QR100 and a diamond voucher worth QR250. These vouchers can be redeemed towards purchases from Kalyan Jewellers. This promotion is valid at all LuLu outlets until August 22, 2023.

Mawaqif Qatar forms largest electric vehicle icon to promote sustainability

Mawaqif Qatar (QDVP) has announced another milestone achievement for Qatar: creation of the most significant human-made electric vehicle icon to date.

The event took place at Barahat Msheireb in Msheireb Downtown Doha. Members of the Mawaqif team came together to bring this iconic representation to life.

June 3 also coincides with ‘No Paper Day’ in Qatar, which aligns with Mawaqif Qatar’s deployment of ticketless parking solutions, a press statement noted.

This groundbreaking activity was supported by Msheireb Properties, a like-minded organisation that shares Mawaqif Qatar’s commitment to promoting sustainable practices and encouraging electric vehicle adoption.

Participants in this endeavour were presented with an environment-friendly gift. This symbolised their pivotal role in shaping our present environmental and social landscape. “Today’s generation is responsible for devising innovative solutions and adapting to a sustainable future. We can collectively create significant and lasting impacts by embracing even the most minor sustainable practices,” the statement pointed out.

Sustainability is a core pillar of Mawaqif Qatar and Msheireb Properties. Both entities actively strive to safeguard the planet, combat climate change and foster social development, all while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The widespread adoption of electric vehicles across all categories has already resulted in the replacement of 1mn barrels of oil consumed worldwide each day. Moreover, electric car batteries recycle maximum environmental benefits, contributing to a sustainable future.

Mawaqif Qatar, Msheireb Properties and their partners remain committed to pushing sustainability boundaries and advocating for the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.



From the initiative.



HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie presenting a memento to a GWC official at the conclusion of the Qatar Real Estate Forum.

GWC gold sponsor for Qatar Real Estate Forum

GWC, Qatar's leading logistics provider, was the gold sponsor for the Qatar Real Estate Forum which took place on June 4 and 5 in Doha, a statement said yesterday.

"This forum came at a time when the real estate sector is witnessing strong growth backed by huge infrastructure and transportation projects and high domestic liquidity," it was explained.

"This sector, a cornerstone of Qatar National Vision 2030 got a major fillip with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and has continued to ride that wave.

"For GWC, this is an opportunity to support the exchange and development of new ideas and projects in the country and

the region. GWC has proven track record and has been the partner-of-choice for public and private sector in developing their vision for bespoke logistics parks, over the last two decades.

This forum came at a time when the real estate sector is witnessing strong growth backed by huge infrastructure and transportation projects and high domestic liquidity

"This was exemplified in the successful delivery of GWC Bu Sulba Warehousing Park, the first public private partnership project to bear fruit in Qatar, followed by signing the management contract for Bu Fes-seela Warehousing Park, and

most recently, the landmark launch of Phase-1 of GWC Al Wukair Logistics Park. And currently the construction works are on step to launch phase-2.

"This forum focused on key themes and issues related to regional and global best practices and facilitated discussions on how to set up relevant management mechanisms, as well as addressing other factors that impact the real estate industry.

"The forum achieved, among other things, the creation of a transparent and attractive environment for foreign investors and to provide a platform for the various stakeholders to address and discuss issues related to the real estate sector," the statement added.

Healthcare partners to raise awareness on skin cancer

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) along with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), and Sidra Medicine are partnering to strengthen their existing efforts to raise awareness of skin cancer throughout June.

Skin cancer is an abnormal growth of skin cells, most often develops on skin exposed to sun, but it can also occur on an area that is not normally exposed to sun. Skin cancer develops when errors (mutations) occur in the DNA of skin cells. The mutations cause the cell to grow out of control and form a mass of cancer cells.

There are two main types of skin cancer: melanoma and non-melanoma. In Qatar, non-melanoma skin cancer is ranked 6th amongst the most common cancers in both genders according to 2019 Annual Report of the Qatar National Cancer Registry at MoPH. The risk factors include excessive sun and ultraviolet exposure which is harmful to the skin, having a fair skin, history of sun burn, family history of skin cancer, sunburns during childhood, exposure to radiations and others. The best way to protect against skin cancer is to avoid extensive exposure to sun during mid-day, between 10am and 4pm, avoid using tanning lamps and beds, and use sun protection products. Awareness posts will be published on social media platforms to raise awareness about skin cancer and the main symptoms and possible changes that can be observed at the beginning of the disease. Those noticing any changes to their skin should consult the primary care physician by calling 107 for treatment or for referral to a specialised dermatologist, a statement added.



Qmic organises workshop on connected and automated mobility

Qatar Mobility Innovation Centre (Qmic) hosted a workshop on Connected & Automated Mobility (CAM/V2X), yesterday at Sheraton Doha.

The event was attended by more than 60 delegates representing 20 institutions from government entities, private enterprises, universities, and RDI organisations who have a common interest in promoting the development and deployment of emerging mobility technologies.

The workshop acted as a platform to get an update about global V2X standards and deployment activities and to learn about the status of development and deployment activities carried out by Qmic and its strategic partners in the last few years.

Dr Adnan Abu-Dayya, Qmic's executive director (CEO), commented "Since we started working on V2X as an R&D project in 2010, we have carried out the first large scale technical pilot in the region that involved more than 10 applications in collaboration with local strategic partners that allowed us to gain significant operational knowledge and to validate the viability of our systems and applications.

"Hence, Qmic is uniquely positioned to lead in the large scale development and deployment of V2X in the coming years to enhance road safety, improve traffic efficiency, and enable autonomous driving."

Expert keynote speakers and panellists included: Dr Maxime Flament, chief technology officer at SGAA, Dr Hamid Menouar, principal RDI lead at Qmic, Dr Martin Böhm, technical director at Austria Tech, Dr Fethi Filali, director of technology & research at Qmic, and Firas Muf-ti, head of marketing & CX (Toyota & Lexus) at Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros.

The workshop provided a platform for these experts to share their comprehensive understanding on topics related to CAM/V2X including



Dr Adnan Abu-Dayya speaking at the event.

Dr Menouar, commented: "In Qatar we have already made good efforts in terms of V2X field piloting and testing, which will be leveraged for future expansion plans. These efforts put Qatar road infrastructure ahead in the region in terms of V2X development, readiness and adoption, and this is something that needs to be expanded. The continuation of such efforts can be made by carrying out large scale customer-centric pilots to address different use cases and to start delivering services to road users based on the integration of V2X technologies with the road infrastructure."

GU-Q set to achieve pre-eminence in the region and beyond: dean Masri

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), is set to achieve pre-eminence in the region and beyond, building on the strength of its programmes and expertise to create a powerful hub for teaching, learning, and research that meets the unique needs of the Global South and the changing global economy.

"As a hub of global education in the region, the GU-Q campus is committed to not just provide education, but also learn from partners on the ground, and transmit that knowledge to Washington, DC campus, contributing to further globalisation of the institution," dean Dr Safwan Masri stated during a media interaction yesterday.

"As a leading institution for global education, research, and engagement in the Gulf and the Middle East, the Qatar campus of Georgetown University provides an opportunity to teach and learn about the world from a location that



GU-Q dean Dr Safwan Masri interacts with the media yesterday.

is an important intersection of geopolitical interests in the region and the world. With over 70 nationalities represented in the student body, the students are unlike any in the world, and the diversity of viewpoints adds depth and complexity to the international affairs curriculum," he pointed out.

According to dean Masri, GU-Q has been cultivating a multiversity environment, through the development of joint programmes, cross registration, and teaching and research exchanges.

GU-Q is a pivotal pillar of Qatar Foundation's strategic mission to foster a

knowledge economy.

The official highlighted some of GU-Q's strategic partnerships across Qatar such as joint certificate and minor programmes in Media and Politics and Africana Studies with Northwestern Qatar, a certificate in Energy Studies with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and Texas A&M at Qatar, and collaborative teaching and research and a joint lecture series with HBKU.

"As the only Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service in the region, GU-Q has built a solid foundation in its first 18 years in Qatar, producing 817 graduates, 40% of

whom are Qatari. Starting as one of the most well recognised programmes in the field of international affairs, the impact of this degree has been magnified through the unique Education City ecosystem which attracts the next generation of leaders from the region, Africa, and Asia," continued the dean.

The GU-Q official pointed at the efforts of the university at career services and external engagement to build important strategic partnerships and career placements.

Dean Masri himself is an expert on both the region and on education, and his current research project looks at Arab identity from historical and social-political perspectives.

"Cultivating connections with the media is also a priority. The university will provide a media-friendly database of GU-Q's world class experts in a variety of areas such as Indian Ocean, arts, and culture, as well as political scientists, historians, and the full breadth of faculty across Georgetown University," dean Masri added.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **ALYSSA SENA CARDEL**
holder of

Philippines Passport No. P6927596B
QID No. 29360801643

hereby change my name
from
ALYSSA SENA CARDEL
to
ALYSSA CARDEL ORAYAN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **YUSUFF HAMED I**
holder of

Nigeria Passport No. A00178308
QID No. 28328800421

hereby change my name
from
YUSUFF HAMED I
to
HAMMED OBASANJO YUSUFF

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

GU-Q plans new programmes, conference series

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) will launch a series of conferences from September and is planning to launch several new programmes, dean Dr Safwan Masri said yesterday.

"The conference series will include book launches, Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series, and diplomat and scholar in residence programmes. We plan to launch a number of minor and certificate programmes. We also have plans to introduce some masters programmes at later stage," he explained.

"We have plans to further elevate the university's profile by developing additional programmes and expertise in the areas of international security, global economics, and America's relationship with the region, in partnership with local institutions and Georgetown's Washington, DC campus.

"We aim to attract faculty and students from the DC campus to study in Qatar, and design key programmes of regional interest including minor and certificate programmes in international law, arts heritage and cultural programmes, and environmental ethics in partnership with Georgetown's Earth Commons," dean Masri said.

Upcoming conferences include "America and the Middle East: 20 Years after the War in Iraq" from September 14-16; "Global Histories and Practices of Islamophobia," from September 30-October 1; "Confronting the Impasse: Doha Symposium on Afghanistan and the Region," from November 9-11; "Water Security in the Gulf: Developing a 50 - 100-Year Vision," from November 1-13; "International Law and the Global South," from November 21-23, and "Global Energy Cultures: How Energy Shapes Our Everyday Life," from December 9-10.

Dean Masri who assumed the position late last year said that his first months in Qatar have been filled with rich cultural experiences. He commented: "I am particularly impressed by the quality of students, the unique approach to education in Qatar, and the organic, authentic commitment to arts, culture, education, sports and communications that Qatar has shown over time."

He further added that he was drawn to Qatar because of the country's visionary leadership that established a regional hub of knowledge production in the Middle East, and provided access to high quality education for students from the Global South.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **ALIA CHOUGLE ANWAR ALI**
holder of

INDIAN Passport No. V8358295
QID No. 30635600410

hereby change my name
from
ALIA CHOUGLE ANWAR ALI
to
ALIA ANWAR CHOUGLE

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **RINSHAD HASSAN**
holder of

INDIAN Passport No. V7677253
QID No. 30735600156

hereby change my name
from
RINSHAD HASSAN
to
RASHAD HASSAN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **HASSAN IBRAHIM**
holder of

GHANA Passport No. G2643772
QID No. 28928800340

hereby change my name
from
HASSAN IBRAHIM
to
HASSAN ADEDAPO IBRAHIM

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **KYEIMENSAH ERNEST GHANAIA**
holder of

Ghana Passport No. G3571773
QID No. 28528800827

hereby change my name
from
KYEIMENSAH ERNEST GHANAIA
to
ERNEST KYEI MENSAH

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

Rawabi Hypermarket selects winner of 'Shop and Win' promotion, announces new offers

Rawabi Hypermarket Qatar has announced Nazmul Hasan as the winner of the 'Shop and Win' promotion for the second time.

Holding coupon No 2018248, Hasan has won the prestigious prize of a brand-new Nissan Patrol.

The draw was held on June 1 at Rawabi Hypermarket Al Wakra, one of the outlets participating in the 'Shop and Win' promotion.

The ongoing 'Shop and Win' campaign, which started on February 1 and continues until September 30, has garnered immense popularity among shoppers, the retailer said in a press statement. To participate, customers need to make a purchase

of QR50 at any Rawabi outlet, giving them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV with each draw.

The event at Rawabi Hypermarket Al Wakra was graced by dignitaries, including Mohamed T P, branch manager; Jojo Robert, operation manager; Shiju Krishnan, business development manager; Ismayil V P, purchase manager; and Abdul Malik, an official from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The next draw is scheduled for July 1, which will present yet another opportunity to win a Nissan Patrol.

Customers are encouraged to visit any of the following Rawabi outlets to participate:

Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa, Rawabi Food Center Al Rayyan, Rawabi Hypermarket Al Murrah, Rawabi Hypermarket Al Wakra, Rawabi Hypermarket New Rayyan, Rawabi Hypermarket Umm Salal Mohamed, Grand Shopping Centre Abu Hamour and Grand Hypermarket Al Kharaitiyat.

Moreover, Rawabi Hypermarket Qatar has announced the launch of a new promotion starting from June 4. Customers can avail of the 'Buy 2 Get 1 Free' offer on garments, footwear and ladies' bags. This promotion aims to provide shoppers with excellent value and an enhanced shopping experience, the statement added.

Additionally, Rawabi Hy-



Officials at the draw.

permarket Qatar is currently running the popular '10 20 30' promotion, offering more than 1,000 products at prices of QR10, QR20 and QR30. Customers

can take advantage of these deals to save big on a wide range of products until today.

Further, on June 8, Rawabi Hypermarket Qatar will launch

the 'Back to Home' promotion. This special offer is designed for individuals travelling back to their home countries, providing them with exclusive discounts

and deals on selected products. Customers can make the most of this promotion to purchase their favourite items before heading home.

ARCO general assembly participants commend Qatar's special humanitarian work

The 47th session of the General Assembly meeting of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) has praised Qatar's remarkable role in humanitarian work in sisterly and friendly countries around the world to mitigate the repercussions of crises and disasters.

A number of officials and participants said Qatar's hosting of this session is clear proof of Doha's support for joint Arab action, especially in terms of humanitarian action, highlighting the State's permanent presence at all times whenever there are calls for humanitarian and other interventions.

Secretary-General of ARCO Dr Saleh bin Hamad al-Tuwaijri said the Arab region is witnessing many conflicts and natural disasters, with the region not yet fully recovering from the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to the negative and harmful effects of climate change, affecting infrastructure, low standard of living, and increasing cases of internal displacement and asylum abroad.

In light of all of these difficult and complex circumstances and challenges, Dr al-Tuwaijri said Qatar is hosting the work of the 47th session of



the General Assembly meeting of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation in order to discuss ways to alleviate the suffering of those afflicted by these disasters and crises in the Arab region, confirming the great attention and care of Qatar's leadership, government and people to humanitarian issues. He praised the Qatar Red Crescent Society's successful role in this regard, stressing that QRCS is one of the most active and generous national societies wherever and whenever there is a need.

The President of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA) Dr Jalal bin Mohamed al-Owaisi highlighted the humanitarian work of Qatar and the QRCS, adding that he looks forward for QRCS' implementations of

decisions that support the Arab position and which support Arab national societies to overcome the challenges.

The SRCA president also expressed confidence in the presidency and work of the QRCS during the 47th session, due to its wealth of experience and expertise.

Executive Director of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) Mohamed H Elasbali said that ICIC enjoys bilateral co-operation with the QRCS in humanitarian action, in addition to a joint programme represented in the "Islamic Forum for International Humanitarian Law," which allows its publication in light of relevant Islamic rulings, appreciating the humanitarian work undertaken by Qatar.

For his part, the head of the regional delegation for the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mamadou Sow appreciated Qatar's growing and distinguished humanitarian aid, stressing that Qatar is the Arab region's humanitarian action capital, enjoying an international reputation in this regard.

ARCO's Africa sector supervisor engineer Hail al-Ftaih highlighted the Arab region's challenges and difficulties in terms of conflicts and disasters, including drought and armed conflicts. She said that according to international reports, Sudan needs \$3bn in humanitarian aid, while Somalia needs about \$2.6mn to secure urgent aid. (QNA)

ARCO general assembly meeting concludes

During the closing day of the 47th Session of the General Assembly meeting of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO), hosted by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) under the auspices of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the current Secretary-General Dr Saleh bin Hamad al-Tuwaijri, was re-elected for a four-year tenure.

The meeting discussed ARCO's financial reports, committee reports, the Arab Initiative of Environmental Education and Waste Management Investment Project, the ARCO Disaster Management Project, and the Volunteering Platform Project.

They approved the Executive Committee's report, the Secretary-General's report for the period from April 2022 to June 2023, the amendments to the statute, the criteria of nomination for Movement-level positions, and the organisation's Contingency Fund regulations. The 48th Session of ARCO will be held in Damascus, Syria.

The final report expressed concern about the increasingly worsening humanitarian



The meeting discussed ARCO's financial reports, committee reports, the Arab Initiative of Environmental Education and Waste Management Investment Project among others, and also made key recommendations

conditions in many Arab countries, particularly Yemen, Syria, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Palestine. In tandem with the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic crisis and armed conflicts, there was an alarming decline in standards of living and services, as well as growing numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees.

The key recommendations included in the final report are as follows:

- Calling on the international community (governments, international governmental and non-governmental organisations) to intensify efforts and humanitarian aid for Sudan, Syria, Somalia, and Djibouti.
- Calling for an Arab disaster

management team from RCRC organisations, under the supervision of ARCO, capitalising on cloud technology as much as possible to facilitate connectivity among National Societies, and creating a shared unified database.

- Calling on National Societies to create their own international humanitarian law (IHL) departments, which would be supported by ARCO.

- Urging National Societies to better invest in technology and standardise work procedures across ARCO.

- Calling for training and capacity-building curricula and standards for National Societies unified qualification systems across the Arab world, especially in medical and am-

balance services.

- Calling on the Arab League to support Arab governments technically to enact national legislations that encourage and stimulate volunteerism.

- Renaming the "Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Medal" to the "ARCO Medal" in two ranks.

- Calling on National Societies to contribute to environmental sanitation by implementing the waste management project, as well as calling to support National Societies in this respect.

- Calling for benefiting from successful experiences in waste management and processing, as well as sharing expertise with other National Societies (for example, the experience of QRCS).

'ILO conference taking place under unique global circumstances'

HE the Minister of Labour and President of the 111th session of the International Labour Conference, Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri presided over the plenary session of the 111th International Labour Conference, which took place in Geneva yesterday.

During the session, representatives from 187 member states of the International Labour Organisation reviewed the reports from the ILO Director-General and the Chairman of its board of directors.

The session, led by Qatar, is scheduled to run from June 5 to June 16. The conference will be attended by over 5,000 participants, including heads of state, prime ministers, ministers of Member States, representatives of employers and workers, along with representatives from various international, governmental, and labour organisations.

HE Dr al-Marri said that the 111th session of the International Labour Conference is taking place under unique global circumstances. He acknowledged that the multiple crises the world currently faces have directly affected the labour market and job creation capacities of economies. This situation amplifies the importance of the conference to address these issues, given

their implications for workers, employers, and governments worldwide.

He said that the report of the Director General of the current session highlights social justice and the need for more social justice and the promotion of decent work worldwide, pointing out that the labour market faces many challenges and obstacles that prevent the achievement of the desired goals of social justice, which confirms the need to form an alliance broad global support for multilateral co-operation for social justice.

He called on the ILO members to take advantage of the convening of the conference under exceptional circumstances that require everyone to search for solutions and recommendations that enable the labour market to overcome the effects of the crises that afflicted the world during the past years and had a direct impact on the global labour market.

The Vice-Chairperson of the ILO Board of Directors for the Employers' Group, Renate Hornung-Draus, confirmed that the Director-General's report included essential elements for achieving social justice and meeting the needs of the labour market, noting the need to benefit from the ILO and the International Labour

Conference to define the basic frameworks for achieving social justice.

Katharina Stasch, the Chairperson of the Government Group at the ILO, stressed the need to provide workers in the occupied Arab territories with a way that contributes to achieving decent work and social protection for them, noting that the issue of social protection is extremely important at the level of the labour market in the world.

The heads of the delegations praised Qatar's role and tangible contributions in the global labour sector.

Upon his election as the President of the International Labour Conference's 111th session, the leaders expressed their congratulations to Dr al-Marri, asserting their trust in Qatar's capabilities to efficiently steer the International Labour Conference.

Qatar presides over the International Labour Conference for the first time since the establishment of the organisation in the Qatar Hall, so that Qatar will be present in the UN building, with a hall named after the State and presiding over the conference in a historic event that demonstrates the power of the Qatari achievement at the level of international forums. (QNA)

Qatar attends meeting of Interpol Working Group on Cybercrime

Qatar is participating in the 14th meeting of the Interpol Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Working Group on Cybercrime for Heads of Units, which started on Monday in Riyadh.

Assistant Director of the Economic and Cyber Crimes Combating Department, Maj Madawi Saeed al-Qahtani, represented the Ministry of Interior in the three-day meeting.

The meeting reviewed the experiences of participating countries in combating cybercrime and international efforts in this field, starting with the development and modernisation of legislation that criminalises and punishes the use of technology in all types of crime and the efforts of police and security personnel in confronting this type of crime. (QNA)



Qatar Charity honours nurses at Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Center

To celebrate International Nurses Day, Qatar Charity (QC) honoured the nursing staff at Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Center by presenting them with roses in recognition of their efforts in the health sector. QC's Community Centers Department head Hind al-Riyashi said the step comes within the framework of activating social responsibility within the Qatari society to support workers in the health sector and all other sectors, in appreciation of what they provide to serve the local community. She also thanked the management of the Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Center for their constant co-operation with Qatar Charity. For her part, the responsible nurse at Fahd Bin Jassim Center, Wafaa Ali Ahmed, said: "The event was wonderful,



especially as it is a gesture of gratitude. We were pleased with this simple gesture, but it has a great meaning. Thank you to Qatar Charity for its constant interest in the local community, especially the medical staff."



HEC Paris-QSTP session discusses Qatar's venture investment potential

HEC Paris in Qatar and Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) hosted an interactive panel session on 'Unlocking the Potential of Innovation with Venture Investments'.

The event at HEC Paris in Qatar's state-of-the-art Doha campus in Msheireb Downtown coincided with the recent Qatar Economic Forum.

The session provided valuable insights into the world of venture investments and its role in driving innovation and growth.

Around 40 of Qatar's most relevant entrepreneurship stakeholders including HEC Paris and QSTP alumni, participants and aspiring entrepreneurs attended the event.

HEC Paris in Qatar dean, Dr Pablo Martin de Holan, stated: "Investment plays a crucial role in driving economic diversification as it empowers businesses with the vital capital and resources needed to grow, innovate, and venture into new markets."

The panel session was moderated by Prof Shaheena Janjuha-Jivraj, an associate professor at HEC Paris in Qatar, who works in the fields of innovation, leadership, and diversity. It featured insights from panellists Dr Allan Villegas-Mateos, a senior research fellow of entrepreneurship at HEC Paris in Qatar, and executive committee member of the QSTP board of directors; Kristian Feldborg, founder and CEO of Vesuvio Labs a venture building studio and seed fund that aims to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the FinTech, InsurTech, and WealthTech Space; Sara Daniel, CEO of the investment club Doha Tech Angels; and Joanna Harries, global senior vice president of expansion at Endeavour who works with some of the world's fast-growing business founders.



The panel session began with a progress update by Dr Villegas-Mateos on the 'Observatory of Entrepreneurship and Innovation' being established by HEC Paris in Qatar with the support of Qatar Foundation, and ecosystem stakeholders.

"The Observatory is aimed at galvanising Qatar's innovation community to collaborate, share data and support each other's work. We are currently building a governing board for 'The Observatory', identifying its founding members, and leveraging stakeholders as ecosystem partners," explained, Dr Villegas-Mateos.

"Innovators and investors form a critical and symbiotic relationship that is a key driver for economic prosperity. This event brought together these key actors and other important players in the ecosystem, highlighting the rich potential for innovation and investment in Qatar. Participants absorbed the valuable insights of the expert panellists and demonstrated a keen interest in exploring opportunities for their own professional and societal advancement," commented Mohamed Zebian, programme manager - Acceleration from QSTP.

WCM-Q researcher wins prestigious international award

Dr Isra Marei of Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) has won the prestigious Paul Dudley White International Scholar Award, which recognises the world's best cardiovascular science and medicine research.

Dr Marei, a postdoctoral associate in pharmacology, received the award from the American Heart Association (AHA), during the Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine Scientific Sessions 2023 in Boston.

The award is named after one of the AHA's founders, a champion for heart health who pioneered preventive cardiology.

Since 2017, the award has promoted Dr White's vision for excellence in cardiovascular and brain health science. It is presented to the primary author of the highest-ranked scientific abstract from every participating country for each AHA scientific meeting.

Dr Marei, whose research focuses on the use of blood progenitor cells for diabetes and cardiovascular applications, is a member of the research team of Dr Christopher Triggle, professor of pharmacology at WCM-Q. She is also working toward engineering 3D vascular grafts for cardiovascular drug screening.

The quality of her research was recognised in 2020 by the



Dr Isra Marei

L'Oréal-Unesco for Women in Science Middle East Regional Young Talents Programme.

The work recognised by the AHA award is a part of an ongoing early career research project led by Dr Marei.

The work identified a link between the altered transcriptomic profile of blood endothelial progenitors, and the impaired repair and endothelialisation processes in type 2 diabetes.

Dr Marei said: "The findings from our work provided new insights on the effects of type 2 diabetes on the vascular repair mechanisms which are influenced at a transcriptomic level. Blood progenitors emerged as a potential source for tissue engineering, regenerative medicine

and cell therapy. Taking the dysfunction of these cells in diabetes, these applications should be tailored to address the dysfunction in these cells and provide more personalised therapeutic options for this specific population of patients."

Dr Marei's co-authors include Binitha Thomas, Omar Chidiac, Dr Charbel Abi Khalil and Dr Tanwir Habib at WCM-Q; Dr Mohamed Jameesh, Dr Amin Jayyousi, and Dr Jassim al-Suwaidi at Hamad Medical Corporation; Dr Blerina Ahmetaj-Shala and Prof Jane Mitchell at Imperial College London; and WCM-Q medical students Ahmed El-Naas, Anam Ehtesham, Azwa Dilawar, and Leena Elsheikh Aboidris.

Centara, West Bay Beach join forces to boost sustainability efforts

Centara West Bay Hotel & Residences Doha has announced its collaboration with West Bay Beach as part of the Centara Hotels & Resorts Sustainability Campaign, 'P-O-P - Plastics Only, Please'. The initiative aims to foster environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices in the vibrant West Bay area of Doha. The hotel employees built a wire sculpture in the form of a fish, now located at West Bay Beach. Throughout this initiative, guests and employees are encouraged to collect plastic water bottles refuse and 'feed' it to the hungry P-O-P creatures. "The recyclable plastic waste will be sorted and sent for recycling; this is a part of our corporate waste management," a press statement notes.

Centara Hotels & Resorts, is marking this year's World Environment Day (June 5) and Ocean Day (June 8) events with the revival of its successful 2019 'Plastics Only, Please' (P-O-P) campaign to raise awareness and take action against plastic waste. All of Centara's properties will feature P-O-P sculptures that serve as bins for plastic waste found on or around the beach from June 5-30. Sean Spinks, general manager of Centara West Bay, said: "We are thrilled to partner with West Bay Beach on this important sustainability initiative. Through our joint efforts, we aim to inspire



positive change and create a sustainability, more environmentally conscious West Bay. By working together, we can make a significant impact and contribute to a sustainable future for Qatar." Sultan Abdallah Saad, operation manager of West Bay Beach, said: "Our participation with Centara West Bay is an exciting opportunity to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness about the importance of environmental stewardship in West Bay." "We encourage guests, staff and anyone who happens upon plastic waste to help support our initiative

and #BeatPlasticPollution together," said David Good, EVP - Hotel Operations for Centara Hotels & Resorts. By 2025, Centara aims to have 100% of its properties certified as sustainable by accredited certification bodies, as a key element of the organisation's long-term sustainability objectives. It is also committed to eliminating single-use plastic items, including drinking straws, laundry bags, take-away food containers, fitness centre and poolside plastic bottles, and plastic guest room amenities, to minimise environmental impact across the entire guest journey.

QDF launches eco-friendly shopping bags



After announcing the replacement of 100,000 single-use plastic shopping bags monthly with reusable branded sustainable shopping bags on Earth Day, Qatar Duty Free (QDF) is finally putting the plan into action for World's Environment Day in all Day2Day Essentials Stores at Hamad International Airport. The sustainable cotton shopping bags are reusable at least 500 times, vegan certified, and made from lightweight and locally sourced cotton, a statement said yesterday. QDF senior vice-president Thabet Musleh, said: "We are very proud of taking the first step towards transforming our shop floor into a sustainable space on World Environment Day. Sustainability is shaping the future of travel retail. As a key player in the industry, it is our responsibility to take the lead in promoting this initiative by adopting sustainable practices. "Our step is the first amongst many significant decisions and actions we plan to take for a more sustainable and environmental-friendly retail experience. Sustainability has not only been a strong trend and is greatly discussed within the industry; however, it is now greatly desired and supported amongst travellers and duty free customers."

Mercedes-Benz, Honda models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled Automobiles, has announced the recall of the Mercedes-Benz SL-Class, 2022 model, as programming of rear axle steering controllers on the left and right sides do not conform to the latest factory specifications, and may lead to the appearance of an erroneous message about the steering of the rear axle in

the instrument panel when the engine is running. The MoCI, in co-operation with Domasco (Doha Marketing Services Company), has announced the recall of Honda Accord, CRV, and Odyssey, 2018-2019 models, as the seatbelt buckle might not latch or latch falsely, which may severely displace the passenger and cause serious injuries in case of an accident.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that the dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealers to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI has urged all

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

ACHIEVEMENT
Iran unveils hypersonic missile

Iran's Revolutionary Guards yesterday unveiled an intermediate range ballistic missile capable of travelling at hypersonic speeds of up to 15 times the speed of sound. President Ebrahim Raisi hailed the missile's hypersonic capability, saying it would boost Iran's "power of deterrence" and "bring peace and stability to the countries of the region". The IRNA news agency published photographs of the ceremony. Several top military commanders were present, including Guards chief General Hossein Salami. "The range of the Fattah missile is 1,400kms and its speed before hitting its target" is between 13 and 15 times the speed of sound, IRNA said.

CONFLICT
Clashes between Sudan warring factions intensify

Sudan's warring military factions clashed by air and on the ground in the country's capital yesterday, as increased violence and spreading lawlessness added to the misery of residents already struggling with limited food and medicine. Fighting between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, now in its eighth week, has killed hundreds of civilians, and driven 400,000 across borders and more than 1.2mn out of the capital and other cities. Saudi Arabia and the US had brokered talks that had led to imperfectly-observed ceasefires with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance. But talks collapsed last week and while delegations remain in Jeddah no direct talks have been announced.

DECISION
Australia to phase out cheques

Australia will phase out cheques by 2030 as part of a broader overhaul of its payments system designed to capitalise on digitisation to improve efficiency and regulation, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said. Payments infrastructure and the regulatory framework have not kept pace with transitions in finance, particularly in the digital economy and payments, Chalmers said. The government is consulting on plans to update the Reserve Bank of Australia's mandate to cover all participants in the payments system, including digital wallets, and on a new payments licensing system that would apply regulation based on the risk an entity poses to consumers and the financial system.

AVIATION
Air India plane lands in Russia after engine issue

An Air India plane flying from Delhi to San Francisco was forced to divert and land at an airport in Russia's Far East after it developed a technical issue with one of its engines, the airline said yesterday. The 216 passengers onboard are being offered support on the ground and will be provided with alternative options to reach their destinations at the earliest opportunity, Air India said, adding the plane also carried a crew of 16. Russia's aviation authority said it was checking on the plane's technical condition after landing at Magadan airport and was ready to give the airline permission to land an additional reserve aircraft if needed.

CONTROVERSY
UK orders China to shut 'police stations' in Britain

The UK has ordered China to shut unofficial police stations operating on British soil, Security Minister Tom Tugendhat told parliament yesterday. The Foreign Office "told the Chinese embassy that any functions related to such 'police service stations' in the UK are unacceptable and that they must not operate in any form." The embassy "responded that all such stations have closed permanently", it added. Police began investigations after rights group Safeguard Defenders reported their existence in the UK. Police visited each location and "have not, to date, identified any evidence of illegal activity on behalf of the Chinese state across these sites", Tugendhat added.

Over 100 bodies still unidentified after Indian rail disaster

Reuters
Balasore, India

Indian authorities made fervent appeals to families yesterday to help identify over 100 unclaimed bodies kept in hospitals and mortuaries after 275 people were killed in the country's deadliest rail crash in over two decades.

The disaster struck on Friday, when a passenger train hit a stationary freight train, jumped the tracks and hit another passenger train passing in the opposite direction near the district of Balasore in the eastern state of Odisha.

Till Monday evening around 100 bodies were yet to be identified, a senior state health department official said.

A team from the federal Central Bureau of Investigation has reached the site to start a probe into the cause of the disaster while a separate inquiry by railway's safety commission has begun

Bijay Kumar Mohapatra, health director of Odisha, said authorities were trying to source iced containers to help preserve the bodies.

"Unless they are identified, a post mortem cannot be done," Mohapatra said, explaining that under Odisha state regulations no autopsy can be conducted on an unclaimed body until 96 hours has passed.

At state capital Bhubaneswar's biggest hospital, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), large television screens displayed pictures of the dead to help desperate families who are scouring hospitals and mortuaries for friends and relatives.

A detailed list was made of distinguishing features for each body, but relatives could first view photographs, however gruesome, to identify missing loved ones, a senior police official said.

The trains had passengers from several states and officials from seven states were in Balasore to help people claim the bodies and take the dead home, the police official added.

A forlorn Parbati Hembrum, from West Bengal's Hooghly district, stood near the help desk at the Balasore railway station, looking for information on her son Gopal.

The 20-year-old had travelled in the Coromandel Express with three others from their village but while the other three returned home Gopal has not.

Tarapada Tudu, standing next to his relative Hembrum, said Gopal was admitted in Balasore hospital after the accident but when they looked for him there, the hospital said he was released the same day after being treated for minor injuries.

But, filled with dread over the lack of contact with Gopal, Tudu said he and Hembrum will travel to Bhubaneswar to look for him among the dead.

A team from the federal Central Bureau of Investigation reached the site yesterday to start a probe into the cause of the disaster while a separate inquiry by railway's safety commission started on Monday.

A signal failure was the likely cause of the disaster, according to preliminary findings, which indicated the Coromandel Express, heading southbound to Chennai from Kolkata, moved off the main line and entered a loop track – a side track used to park trains – at 128kph, crashing into the stationary freight train.

That crash caused the engine and first four or five coaches of the Coromandel Express to jump the tracks, topple and hit the last two coaches of the Yeshwantpur-Howrah train heading in the opposite direction at 126kph on the second main track.

Following non-stop efforts to rescue survivors and clear and repair the track, trains resumed running over that section of the line on Sunday night.

Philippines, Japan, US hold first trilateral coast guard manoeuvres



Members of the Special Operation Force (SOF) of the Philippine coast guard board the Melchora Aquino coast guard patrol boat during an anti-piracy simulation as part of a maritime exercise with Japan and the US in the South China Sea off Mariveles, Bataan province yesterday. Yesterday's manoeuvres are part of an inaugural trilateral coast guard exercise between the three countries, coming at a time of growing unease over China's maritime conduct in the region.

'Vile' press has blood on its hands, Harry tells court

Reuters
London

Prince Harry yesterday launched a fierce attack on the "vile" press, blaming tabloids for destroying his adolescence and later relationships, as he gave evidence against a tabloid publisher whose titles he accuses of unlawful activities.

As he became the first senior British royal to appear in a witness box in more than a century, Harry also said the thought of people unlawfully intruding into the life of his late mother

Princess Diana made him "feel physically sick". The prince, the fifth-in-line to the throne, and 100 others are suing Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), the publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *Sunday People*, at the high court in London over allegations of widespread unlawful information gathering between 1991 and 2011.

In his 50-page written witness statement and during hours of cross-examination from MGN's lawyer Andrew Green, the younger son of King Charles said he had been targeted since 1996 when he was a schoolboy.

Harry said the press would try

to destroy his relationships with girlfriends, blaming them for his break-up with Chelsy Davy, for causing his circle of friends to shrink, and for bouts of depression and paranoia.

He said he had been labelled a "playboy prince", a "thicko", a "failure" and a "drop out".

"Looking back on it now, such behaviour on their part is utterly vile," he wrote, saying the tabloids had incited "hatred and harassment" into his and his wife Meghan's private lives.

In another section he said: "How much more blood will stain their typing fingers before someone can put a stop to this

madness?" Questioned about to whom he was referring, he said: "Some of the editors and journalists that are responsible for causing a lot of pain, upset and in some cases – perhaps inadvertently – death."

Green began his questioning respectfully, personally apologising to Harry on MGN's behalf over one instance in which it admitted unlawful information gathering, saying "it should never have happened and it will not happen again".

The lawyer then forensically and with increasing hostility quizzed the prince over 33 newspaper articles, whose de-

tails Harry claims were obtained unlawfully.

Looking relaxed but serious and speaking softly but firmly, Harry, the first senior British royal to give evidence for 130 years, said thousands if not millions of stories had been written about him, as Green pressed him on whether he had read the MGN articles in question at the time they were published.

The lawyer intimated that the distress he had suffered was caused by press coverage in general, not the specific MGN stories, and suggested they were based on information already in the public domain.

India 'to offer incentives for battery storage projects'

The scheme is intended to boost battery storage projects critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity

Reuters
New Delhi

India will offer Rs37.6bn (\$455.2mn) in incentives to companies setting up battery storage projects totalling 4,000 megawatt hours (MWh) under a scheme announced earlier this year, two government sources said.

The scheme, details of which were not previously known, is intended to boost battery storage projects critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.

It also aims to cut the cost of battery energy storage from the current 5.5-6.5 rupees per unit.

Battery storage, used to back up intermittent renewable power

supply to stabilise the grid, is an evolving technology, and there are very few large-scale operational projects in the world. The scheme intends to develop large-scale battery energy storage systems to bring down costs through competitive bidding.

The government will provide so-called viability gap funding – incentives to cover risks of developers of critical infrastructure projects that are or may turn out to be economically unviable – in the form of grants for three years, the sources said.

It also expects private investments worth Rs56bn through the scheme. The disbursement of the contracts will be made in five tranches until 2030-31, one of the sources said, requesting anonymity since the proposal is not yet public and needs federal cabinet approval. Contracts will be awarded through a competitive process, with the company with lowest bid selected, they said.

India's power secretary Alok

Kumar said the country "is committed to energy transition while meeting the demands of energy security of its population".

"A battery energy storage scheme is a step in this direction," he added. He said battery storage systems are a crucial part of enabling the energy transition.

A number of Indian conglomerates including Reliance Industries, Adani Power and JSW Energy have plans to set up large-scale battery plants. The proposal, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech on February 1, will next be taken up for decision by the country's cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. No timeline for its approval has yet been given.

India has 37MWh of battery storage capacity currently. According to estimates from its power sector planning body, it requires 236 gigawatt hours (GWh) of battery energy storage in addition to 27GW of pump storage projects by 2031-32.

Dust storm covers Ajmer



A dust storm blankets the city of Ajmer in India's Rajasthan state yesterday.

Mother of slain Palestinian child calls for justice

The mother of a Palestinian toddler who died of his wounds after being shot by Israeli soldiers last week called for justice yesterday as she attended his funeral in the occupied West Bank. Marching with dozens of mourners, Marwa al-Tamimi held her toddler for the last time, his face fitting in her palms as she leaned in to kiss his forehead. "I want justice for my son, and for every person who shot at my husband and son to be held accountable," she said. Mohamed, who his mother said was months shy of his third birthday, succumbed on Monday to a gunshot wound to the head inflicted after he and his father came under Israeli gunfire near their home while driving to visit relatives. Haitham al-Tamimi, the father, was shot in the shoulder. "When I went to check on my son, I told (the soldiers) that my son was killed. They said 'stand back or we'll shoot,'" the mother, who was not in the car, said. In a statement following the

incident, the Israeli military claimed soldiers responded with live fire to shots fired by assailants toward a Jewish settlement, and two Palestinians, including a child, were wounded. According to the Palestinian office of Defence for Children International (DCIP), al-Tamimi was one of 27 Palestinian minors killed as a result of Israeli military and settler activity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza since January. "Without accountability, Israel's crimes against our people/children will continue unabated," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohamed Shtayyeh wrote in a tweet yesterday. The US Office for Palestinian Affairs urged Israel "to evaluate all use of deadly force that involves civilian casualties". It echoed statements by the EU delegation to the Palestinians and the United Nations envoy for the Middle East peace process that called on Israel to hold accountable those responsible for al-Tamimi's death.

CHAIRMAN
Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor
K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar

editor@gulf-times.com

44350478 (News),
44466404 (Sport),
44466636 (Home delivery)

44350474

facebook.com/gulftimes

twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar

GULF TIMES

London’s market appeal fading amid plunge in volumes and IPOs

The UK now appears to fit the narrative of a nation whose economy has run into trouble, hit by under-investment, jolt to trade from Brexit, labour shortages and striking workers.

After a tumultuous year in which it lost the top spot among Europe’s stock markets, London is now grappling with slumping volumes and dearth of initial offers.

Since the wave of privatisations in the 1980s, the London Stock Exchange has been a symbol of Britain’s free-market economy.

Home to companies that dominate global industries, including AstraZeneca, Shell and HSBC Holdings, the FTSE 100 Index is an international benchmark.

However, trading volume has slumped in recent years and some British companies have picked other markets to list their shares.

Activity has shrunk from its peak before the global financial crisis, with average daily traded volume on the FTSE All-Share Index falling to about £3.7bn (\$4.6bn) in May 2023 from almost £15bn in the same month of 2007.

Investors tend to pay less for illiquid stocks as they risk a bigger loss when they come to sell. While London still rivals New York as a global financial hub, the LSE is being muscled aside by rival stock exchanges.

The total capitalization of London-listed equities fell from a high of \$4.3tn in 2007 to about \$3tn in May 2023, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

London is now 7th biggest stock market globally, trailing US, China, Japan, France, Hong Kong and India, in a powerful reality check for an institution whose history stretches back more than 200 years

Over the same period, the value of US stocks more than doubled to \$44tn.

Paris overtook London as Europe’s largest stock market in 2022.

London is now the seventh-biggest globally, also trailing the US, China, Japan, Hong Kong and India, in a powerful reality check for an institution whose history stretches back more than 200 years.

The decline began well before Brexit; the coronavirus pandemic and a deeper productivity crisis pushed Britain’s economic performance into the slow lane in relation to other Group of Seven developed nations.

New listings all but disappeared from London in early 2023, with three tiny companies floating in the first three months of the year. They raised \$14mn, marking the worst quarter for the exchange since at least 2009.

The underperformance was remarkable even in the context of a global drought in initial public offerings.

Notable, the LSE failed to secure the listing of one of the UK’s most important technology companies – Cambridge, England-based chip designer Arm Ltd.

Despite fevered lobbying by government ministers, and an offer to relax UK listing rules, Arm’s Japanese parent company SoftBank Group Corp chose New York for its return to public markets.

Aside from the relatively low valuations on offer, London’s allure has been tarnished by a glut of private equity funding and some woeful stock performances after high-profile listings, including Deliveroo, Dr Martens and Ithaca Energy.

Indeed, the London market is facing threats from multiple directions.

UK-listed companies are increasingly targeted by US buyout funds and other investors seeking to take advantage of a weaker pound and depressed valuations.

In a wider sense, Brexit has forced banks to beef up their presence in rival financial centres such as Paris, Amsterdam or Frankfurt.

London is no longer thought of as the go-to listing venue in Europe, with some companies choosing Amsterdam, drawn by a more favourable regulatory environment.

In 2022, the UK capital’s share of European IPO proceeds fell to 8%, the lowest since the global financial crisis.

Now, the Financial Conduct Authority wants to replace its premium and standard listing categories with a single offering and make IPOs less complicated and onerous.

It plans to make it easier for companies to have dual-class share structures, which are favoured by some entrepreneurs who want to keep control of their businesses even after they have gone public.

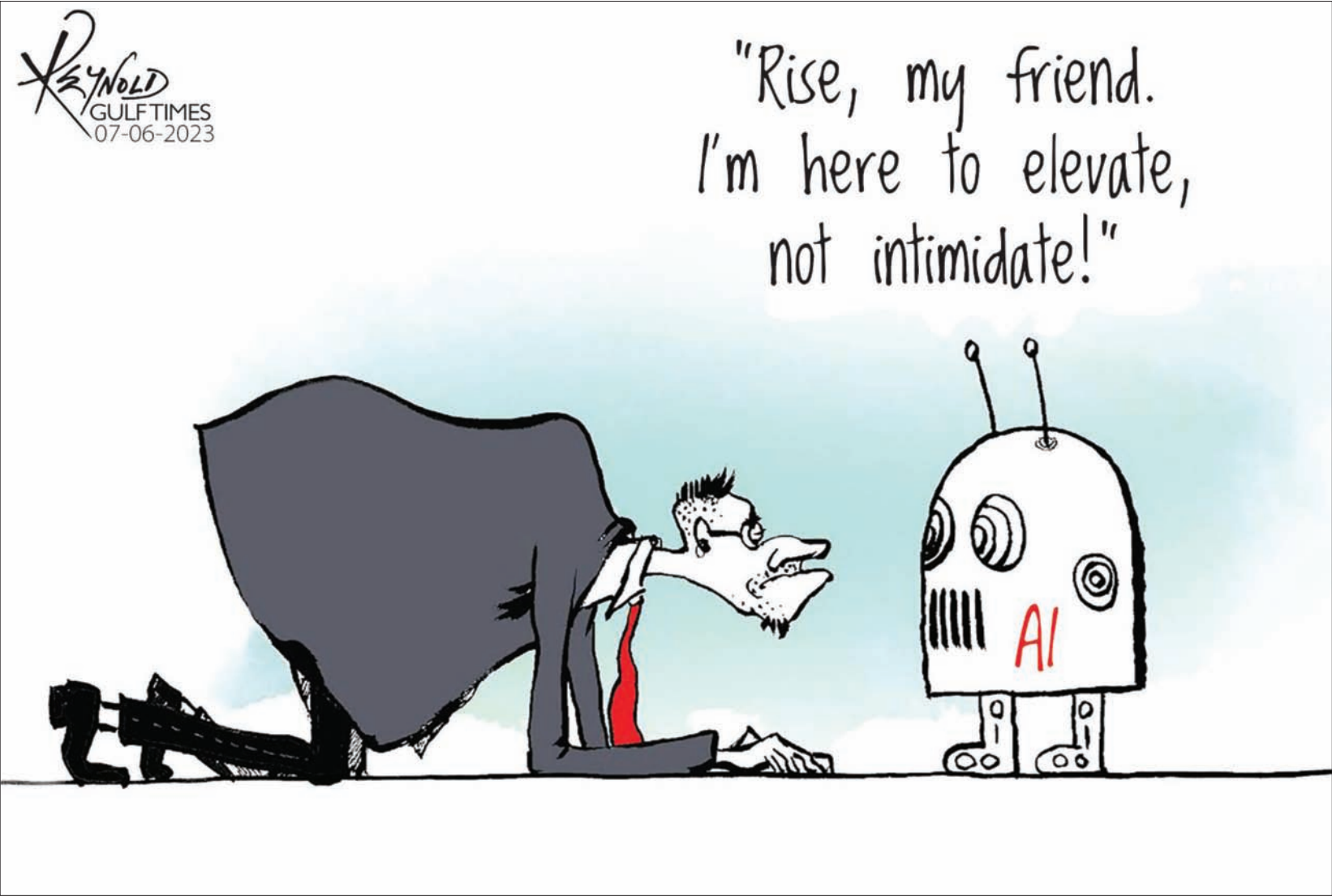
To Advertise
 advr@gulf-times.com

Display
 44466621 44418811

Classified
 44466609 44418811

Subscription
 circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2023 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



The changing face of cybercrime: insights into the evolving cybersecurity landscape



By Assad Arabi
Doha

Today, cybersecurity is a critical pillar of the modern society, particularly for countries such as Qatar, which has experienced rapid economic growth and technological advancements in recent years. With the fast-paced digital transformation that has been induced, organisations within the country are becoming increasingly reliant on technology.

While this growth in technology promises to provide significant benefits, such as enhanced productivity and more efficient resource management, it has also increased the risk of cyber threats. Due to the country’s strategic location and economic importance, it has become an attractive target for bad actors.

According to Trend Micro’s Annual Cybersecurity Report 2022, the company’s solutions detected and blocked over 16mn cyber threats in Qatar last year. Of these threats, over 4mn were e-mail attacks and

more than 7mn were malicious malware attacks. These figures are alarming and emphasise the need for organisations to take a proactive approach towards securing their digital infrastructure with a multi-layered approach. Here are the report’s key findings to guide organisations in the country on their digital journey:

Ransomware groups have evolved – In 2022, there was a significant drop of 38% in ransomware revenue worldwide, which forced cybercriminals to adjust their strategies. To create ransomware that is more difficult to detect, these threat actors started using Rust, a programming language. This development raises a red flag for companies in the region, highlighting the need to implement a strong security approach to safeguard their digital infrastructure.

Cloud security is a growing concern – The advent of cloud computing has brought about enhanced organisational agility and scalability; however, it has also introduced new security challenges. In 2022, misconfigured cloud services and insecure APIs were the leading causes of cloud security incidents. To secure cloud environments, organisations in Qatar must adopt a comprehensive strategy that enhances monitoring access control, improving encryption, and managing vulnerabilities.

The human factor remains a key challenge – The human factor remains a significant challenge in cybersecurity, with threat actors using social engineering and phishing



attacks to exploit vulnerabilities. To strengthen their cybersecurity posture, organisations operating in the country must prioritise security awareness and training for their employees. This involves educating them on the latest security threats, how to identify and respond to suspicious activity, and how to follow best practices for data protection. By doing so, employees can be better equipped to recognise potential cyber threats and take proactive measures to prevent them. Prioritising security awareness and training for employees can significantly reduce the risk of cyber threats.

By adopting a risk-based approach

and implementing a multi-layered security strategy, organisations can navigate through the complexities of the modern threat landscape and safeguard their digital assets against malicious actors. The fight against cyber threats is a continuous effort that requires collaboration between organisations, industry experts, and government agencies. Let’s continue to prioritise cybersecurity and take the necessary steps to protect our businesses and the people we serve.

● The writer is Managing Director of Gulf and Emerging Markets at Trend Micro

Spend the recession away? Not the thrifty Germans

By Maria Martinez
Berlin

A drop-off in spending by inflation-hit consumers was one of the main reasons Germany fell into recession in the first quarter, even as other countries in the region managed to avoid it.

What’s more, even with inflation starting to ease across Europe, the signs are that Germany’s famously thrifty shoppers are not ready to spend their way out of recession – meaning the region’s largest economy will have to look elsewhere for growth.

“Germans are cautious by nature,” said Stephan Fetsch, Germany’s head of consumer goods at KPMG. “Unless they feel safe about the future, they remain reluctant to spend.”

German output shrank 0.3% in the first three months of the year to mark a second straight quarter of negative growth, notably weighed down by a 1.2% fall in household spending that contrasted with modest gains in France and Italy.

Its economy – described in a Sentix survey on Monday as “the biggest problem child in the euro zone” – is at a crossroads. Economists polled by Reuters are split on its second quarter fortunes: views ranged from a 0.3% GDP fall to a 0.5% gain, with a

median forecast of 0.2% growth.

Household consumption, which like elsewhere accounts for broadly half of GDP in Germany, will be key to the outcome.

However, German consumer sentiment remains below its pandemic low in the spring of 2020 and the consumer barometer from the German Retail Association (HDE) shows a similar picture.

“A significant boost in private consumption is not expected in the coming months,” the retail association said on Monday in the presentation of the barometer for June.

A number of factors are behind the subdued mood. German consumers were hit particularly hard by high energy prices, being more dependent on Russia gas. Yet the government package wasn’t as generous as in other countries, said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg.

Carsten Brzeski, Global Head of Macro at ING, further noted that Berlin introduced policies to cap energy price rises later than those introduced in France and Italy, predicting that private consumption would continue to stagnate this year.

Despite inflation easing, German consumers remain extremely cautious and, used to years of access to low prices thanks to discount retailers, remain reluctant to spend at what many perceive as excessively high prices.

“Germany is the big retailer’s nation and the discount was born here,” KPMG’s Fetsch said. “The general hunt for the best value is a very German trait.”

Now, an additional factor is starting to make itself felt: 375 basis points’ worth of European Central Bank interest rate hikes since July 2022 which are making borrowing more expensive and saving more profitable.

Commerzbank’s senior economist Joerg Kraemer calculates that on average, five quarters pass between the first interest rate hike and the hit to the economy, suggesting a further contraction in the economy in the second half of this year.

“The German consumer has reasons to be scared and the result of all the economic uncertainty is usually an increase in precautionary savings,” said Michael Burda, economics professor at Humboldt University Berlin.

The German government still hopes the economy can turn itself around this year.

For ING’s Brzeski, the decisive factor will be Germany’s exporting performance – a longstanding strength which is nonetheless often subject to sharp swings.

While latest trade data on Monday showed a surprise 1.2% rise in German exports in April, boosted by deliveries to a re-opening China, that far from made up for the sharp 6% plunge the previous month. – Reuters

Ukraine evacuates thousands after attack breaks key dam; Kyiv, Moscow trade blame

AFP
Kherson

An attack on a major Russian-held dam in southern Ukraine yesterday unleashed a torrent of water that flooded a small city and two dozen villages and forced the evacuation of 17,000 people, sparking fears of a humanitarian disaster.

Washington warned there would be “likely many deaths” as Moscow and Kyiv traded blame for ripping a gaping hole in the Kakhovka dam, which is located on the frontline and provides cooling water for Europe’s largest nuclear plant.

Kyiv said the destruction of the dam — seized by Russia in the early hours of the war — was an attempt by Moscow to hamper its long-awaited offensive, which Ukraine’s leader stressed would not be affected.

An emergency meeting of the UN Security Council was scheduled for following requests from Russia and Ukraine, diplomatic sources said.

People in Kherson, the largest population centre nearby, headed for higher ground as water poured into the Dnipro River.

“There is shooting, now there is flooding,” said Lyudmyla, who had loaded a washing machine onto a cart attached to an old Soviet car.

“Everything is going to die here,” added Sergiy as water from the dam poured into the city which was the scene of heavy fighting in 2022.

Ukrainian authorities said 17,000 people were being evacuated and a total of 24 villages had been flooded.

“Over 40,000 people are in danger of being flooded,” Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin said, adding that 25,000 more people should be evacuated on the Russian-occupied side of the Dni-pro River.

Vladimir Leontyev, the Moscow-in-stalled mayor of Nova Kakhovka where



A satellite image shows the damaged Nova Kakhovka Dam in Kherson region, Ukraine yesterday. **Right:** A local resident walks on a flooded street after the breach. (Reuters)



the dam is located, said the city was underwater and hundreds of people had been evacuated.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of blowing up the dam and said authorities expected up to 80 settlements to be flooded, urging the world to “react.”

“This crime carries enormous threats and will have dire consequences for people’s lives and the environment,” Zelensky told a Vatican peace envoy, Italian cardinal Matteo Zuppi, in Kyiv, the presidency said.

He later said in a Telegram message that the explosion “did not affect Ukraine’s ability to de-occupy its own territories.”

Kyiv also called for a meeting of the UN Security Council and warned of a potential “ecocide” after 150 tonnes of

engine oil spilled into the river.

Western powers also blamed Russia for the damage, with EU chief Charles Michel calling it a “war crime,” while Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg said the dam breach was “outrageous”

The United States “cannot say conclusively what happened at this point,” National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

Russia however said the dam was partially destroyed by “multiple strikes” coming from Ukrainian forces and urged the world to condemn Kyiv’s “criminal acts.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the destruction was the result of “deliberate sabotage by the Ukrainian side.”

The Soviet-era dam, built in the 1950s, sits on the Dniro River, which

provides cooling water for the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant some 150 kilometres away.

Moscow and Kyiv offered conflicting versions on the safety of the facility.

The Russian-installed director of the plant, Yuri Chernichuk, echoed the UN agency and said that “at the moment, there is no security threat to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.”

“The water level in the cooling pond has not changed,” he said, adding that the situation was under control.

But Ukraine, which in 1986 suffered the devastating Chernobyl nuclear disaster, sounded the alarm.

“The world once again finds itself on the brink of a nuclear disaster, because the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant lost its source of cooling. And this danger is now growing rapidly,” Zelensky’s

aide Mykhaylo Podolyak said.

The Ukrainian nuclear operator, Energoatom, said the water level of the Kakhovka reservoir was “rapidly decreasing, which is an additional threat to the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.”

The UN humanitarian agency said it was concerned about “the severe humanitarian impact on hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the front line.”

“Flooding and fast-moving water can move mines and explosive ordnance to new areas which previously had been assessed as safe, thus putting more people in danger,” it added.

News of the damage came after Russia said Ukraine had begun a long-expected counter-offensive to claw back lost territory after Moscow invaded in

February, 2022.

Yesterday, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announced that Moscow had halted Kyiv’s offensive but lost 71 soldiers over the past three days, an extremely rare admission of Russia’s losses.

On Monday, Zelensky praised his troops for advances claimed near the devastated city of Bakhmut.

Kyiv already accused Moscow of mining the dam as combat raged nearby in October, during the last major offensive by Ukrainian forces seeking to regain lost territory. Russia denies the claim.

The Kakhovka dam has strategic value as it pumps water into the North Crimean Canal, which starts in southern Ukraine and crosses the entire Crimean peninsula.

Abuse claims against rocker



UNDER FIRE: Till Lindemann

AFP
Berlin

Germany’s families minister has called for better protection for fans at concerts following a wave of sexual assault claims against the frontman of veteran rock band Rammstein.

Several women have recently accused Till Lindemann, 60, of grooming and sexually assaulting them at after-show parties, according to German media reports.

The Olympiapark in Munich, where Rammstein are due to play four gigs this week, said yesterday all after-show parties for the concerts had been cancelled.

“Young people in particular must be better protected from assault,” Families Minister Lisa Paus told AFP.

Paus called for protected areas for women at concerts as well as the use of so-called awareness teams to deal with suspected sexual assaults.

She also called for the abolition of

Rammstein’s “Row Zero” system, which offers a VIP concert experience to a select group of fans, including the chance to stand right in front of the stage before access to an aftershow party.

New protective measures must be discussed “quickly and concretely,” Paus said, calling for “a serious debate about the responsibility of artists and promoters towards their fans”

A spokesman for the Olympiapark told AFP there would be no Row Zero at Rammstein’s Munich concerts.

The scandal erupted after a young Irish woman, Shelby Lynn, posted on social media that she had been drugged and propositioned by Lindemann at a backstage party in Vilnius.

Several other women have since come forward with allegations of grooming and assault at Rammstein concerts.

In a poll published yesterday, *Bild* daily said a majority of people called for the group’s remaining European tour gigs to be cancelled until the allegations are cleared up.

The band has denied the claims.

“The accusations have hit us all very hard and we take them extremely seriously,” it wrote in a statement posted on Instagram.

“It is important to us that (fans) feel comfortable and safe at our shows — in front of and behind the stage,” the statement said.

The industrial metal band founded in 1994 is known for their grinding guitar riffs, taboo-breaking antics and theatrical stage shows heavy on pyrotechnics.

Girl from Ipanema singer Astrud Gilberto dies at 83



Brazilian singer Astrud Gilberto, the voice of Bossa Nova whose soft and dreamy version of *The Girl from Ipanema* was an international success in the 1960s, has died at the age of 83, her family said. Gilberto died on Monday at her

home in Philadelphia, her granddaughter Sofia Gilberto said on social media.

“Life is beautiful, as the song says, but I bring the sad news that my grandmother became a star today and is next to my grandfather Joao Gilberto,” the granddaughter wrote.

Joao Gilberto, who died in 2019, was Astrud’s former husband and the pioneer composer and songwriter of *Bossa Nova*, which mixed Brazilian samba music with “cool jazz” in the late 1950s.

He collaborated with US saxophonist Stan Getz in 1963 on the album *Getz/Gilberto* that popularised the new Brazilian sound worldwide.

Astrud performed the vocals in English, including the duet *The Girl from Ipanema* which became the album’s major hit. *Getz/Gilberto* won three Grammy Awards including Album of the Year, the first time a jazz album received the accolade. *The Girl from Ipanema* was the first song the 22-year-old Astrud recorded and launched her career almost by accident. In later interviews, she said she was in the New York studio where Getz and her then-husband were recording and he suggested she do the song as he did not sing in English.

China, Russia conduct air patrol over Sea of Japan

AFP
Beijing

China and Russia conducted joint air force patrols over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea yesterday, as South Korea said it had deployed fighter jets in response to warplanes near its airspace.

Beijing and Moscow “staged the sixth joint aerial patrol in accordance with an annual military co-operation plan between China and Russia”, the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement.

The statement gave no further details of the manoeuvres, which took place over waters bordering Japan, the Korean peninsula and Taiwan.

South Korea said four Russian and four Chinese military aircraft had entered its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) around lunchtime yesterday, prompting it to scramble fighter planes.

An ADIZ is an area wider than a country’s airspace in which it tries to control aircraft for secu-

rity reasons, but the concept is not defined in any international treaty.

The South Korean military “identified the Chinese and Russian jets before their entry into the air identification zone”, Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

“We deployed air force fighters to conduct tactical steps in preparation in case of an emergency,” it added.

The eight foreign jets did not violate Seoul’s airspace, the JCS said.

The incident comes after the defence ministers of South Korea, Japan and the United States on Saturday agreed to set up real-time data sharing on North Korean missile launches by the end of the year.

South Korea has supported Western sanctions on Russia over the war in Ukraine and has sent humanitarian aid to Kyiv.

But it is bound by its own regulations prohibiting the supply of lethal aid to countries in conflict. China says it is a neutral party in the Ukraine war. It has been criticised by West-

ern countries for refusing to condemn Moscow and for its close strategic partnership with Russia. In February, Beijing released a paper calling for a “political settlement” to the conflict, which Western countries warned could enable Russia to hold much of the territory it has seized in Ukraine.

During a March summit in Moscow, Chinese leader Xi Jinping invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Beijing and the two leaders declared that ties were “entering a new era”.

Analysts say China holds the upper hand in the relationship with Russia, and that its sway is growing as Moscow’s international isolation deepens.

Beijing and Moscow were Cold War allies with a tempestuous relationship but in recent years have drawn closer, especially in the economic and military realms.

Both countries have touted what they call a “no-limits” partnership and played up what they frame as a close friendship between presidents Xi and Putin.

Apple unveils Vision Pro, a \$3,500 headset, in Meta challenge

Apple has unveiled its first-ever mixed reality headset, challenging Facebook owner Meta in a market that has yet to tempt users beyond videogamers and tech geeks.

The release was the most significant product launch by the iPhone maker since it unveiled the Apple Watch in 2015.

The Vision Pro, which was generally well received, will cost a hefty \$3,499 and be available early next year in the United States only, the company said. “There are certain products that shift the way we look at technology and the role it plays in our lives,” said Apple CEO Tim Cook as he unveiled the sleek VR device that resembled ski goggles.

“We believe Apple Vision Pro is a revolutionary product with the performance, immersion and capability that only Apple can deliver,” he added.

The headgear, which Apple referred to as a spatial computer, was introduced at the close of an Apple event in Cupertino, California in which the

company announced a long list of product updates. The product has been in development at Apple for years, and will focus on gaming, streaming video and conferencing. Company executives insisted that the Vision Pro offers an unchallenged experience, making the hard sell on tech that has yet to win the hearts of the greater public.

Unlike its rivals, the Vision Pro is focused on being a mixed reality technology that “clearly situates the user in their environment,” said Steve Severinghaus of Insider Intelligence. “Whereas Meta Quest and other devices are virtual reality-first, Vision Pro keeps the user in the present and emphasises the mixed reality features — unless they choose otherwise,” he added.

Apple went to great lengths to preserve its signature design minimalism, at least to the extent that it could, given the technology squeezed into the Vision Pro. The device has a glass front, an



Apple’s new Vision Pro virtual reality headset is displayed during Apple’s Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) at the Apple Park campus in Cupertino, California. (AFP)

aluminium frame, five sensors, 12 cameras, a display for each eye, and a computer that is cooled with a fan. Smaller than a scuba diving mask,

Vision Pro will run mainly by being plugged into the wall in a clear effort to preserve a sleeker design than bulkier headsets. A cord-attached

battery pack, which would slide into your pocket, would work for no more than two hours.

Tech companies have struggled to sell virtual reality headsets to a wider audience that is uncomfortable with wearing a mask. In an effort to overcome that resistance, internal cameras on Apple’s version will project the user’s eyes on an external screen.

“As a non VR believer, I was actually blown away by how seamless the experience is,” said tech analyst Carolina Milanesi of Creative Strategies.

“I was in an immersive experience and somebody started talking to me and that person materialised next to me. I could see them and they could see my eyes and we could have a conversation,” she added.

Milanesi added that she would feel safer wearing the Vision Pro compared to their headsets that leave you blind to the outside world. Disney partnered with Apple for the launch and the Mickey Mouse

company teased content from Marvel, Star Wars and live sports that would be available on the device and provide an immersive experience. Apple said that over 100 video games would be available from the day of release.

The release puts Apple on a collision course with Meta, which had taken a head start on doubling down on virtual worlds.

Just days before Apple’s event, Meta ramped up its line of much cheaper Quest virtual reality headgear. A new-generation Quest 3 will be available later this year at a starting price of \$500.

Meta’s experience with the so-called metaverse has been humbling despite it being a leader in the emergent sector and many questioned whether Apple would in the end jump in. Less than two years after changing its name to Meta to reflect a metaverse priority, the Facebook giant has fired tens of thousands of staff and promised to get back to its social media basics.

History of Qatari military music explored

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

A seminar on Qatari military music was held at Katara Drama Theatre on Monday evening under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, represented by the Music Affairs Centre (MAC), in in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence and Qatar Armed Forces Band Regiment.

Major-General Salem Fahad al-Hababi, Commander of the Military Performances and Music Centre, was a key speaker at the symposium, which was moderated by MAC deputy director and poet Abdul Hameed al-Youssef.

The seminar is the first of its kind in Qatar and part of the Music Salon seminars presented by the MAC.

It was preceded by an open-air military parade at Katara, announcing the seminar with 50 brass musicians.

On the stage, there were 45 musicians who presented special military music melodies much to the delight of the audience.

The seminar was presented by journalist Abdul Hameed al-Youssef. Major-General al-Hababi reviewed the history of military music in Qatar, which was founded in early 1949.

“We started with the trumpet, which was used in military procedures such as gathering, leaving, raising the flag, lowering the flag and saluting the leader. The brass band, bagpipers and percussions were formed in 1954 to begin a new phase under the name of the ‘Music Unit of the



Maryam al-Hammadi and Khaled al-Salem honoured Major-General Salem Fahad al-Hababi and others on the occasion.

Armed Forces’, and then it became the Qatar Armed Forces Band Regiment,” he recalled. “The first and second bands were formed in 1982, and from 1998-2010 it became four integrated music bands, in addition to the Symphony Band Music School.”

Major-General al-Hababi continued: “The music school has a major role in the battalion, as it trains the soldier through a group of musical courses, on top of which is the foundational music course, which lasts for two years.

“There are also several courses such as the progressive course and the leadership of small bands, wherein the school trains the musician to perform at all kinds of ceremonies, including marches, waltzes, selections and common pieces.

“There is no doubt that the

band regiment shoulders a great role, the most important of which is the Amiri Diwan ceremony to receive the guests of His Highness the Amir, the celebration of Qatar National Day, and the graduation of the Armed Forces’ training colleges and institutes. It also contributes to the graduation ceremony of male and female students of Qatar University and Doha University for Science and Technology, the Scientific Excellence Day, and sports events in Qatar.”

A regular soldier needs 8-10 years of training to be able to play the national anthems of different states and a range of selections of melodies, he added.

The speaker stressed that band regiment has participated in several international festivals in countries such as the US, France, the UAE, Oman, Italy,

Germany, China, Russia and Bahrain.

“The band regiment won the admiration of people in those countries, especially with their Qatari melodies and Western instrumentals using bagpipes. We also saw the participation of the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra in the 2022 World Cup. The orchestra has also been competing with orchestras from other countries in performing international instrumentals, and state officials have praised it.”

The Armed Forces Band Regiment performed several melodies at intervals during the seminar and crowned the show with two popular songs, ‘Oh Qatar, You Are the Life’ and ‘God, O My Life, Qatar’, which won the admiration and enthusiasm of the spectators. Maryam Yassin al-Hammadi, director of the Culture and Arts Department at the



The Armed Forces Band Regiment performing at the event. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



An open-air musical parade.

Ministry of Culture, and Khaled al-Salem, director of the MAC,

honoured all those in charge of organising and implementing

the seminar, both civilians and military, at the end of the event.

Katara hosts show of artworks by creative differently abled people

The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara opened yesterday an exhibition for members of the Qatar Society for the Rehabilitation of Special Needs, in the presence of a number of Katara officials.

Held annually at the end of each academic year, the Golden Fingers exhibition includes artworks of male and female students registered in the centres of the Qatar Society for the Rehabilitation of Special Needs. The event will conclude today.

Talib Afifa, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society said the event, which is organised for the second time in Katara, presents the various artworks, which demonstrate the students’ capabilities and skills as a result of the training they received in the centres affiliated to the Society.

Tariq al-Essawi, a consultant at the Society, said that the centres include people with intellectual, simple and moderate disabilities, cases of Down syndrome, autism and dual disabilities. (QNA)



Qatar Olympic Committee celebrates World Challenge Day



The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) yesterday celebrated the 2023 World Challenge Day at the Qatar Women's Sport Committee arena, with the goal of improving women's health and raising awareness on the importance of integrating sports as part of people's daily routines. This one-day event was organised by the QOC's sport affairs department in collaboration with the Qatar Women's Sport Committee and Center for

Empowerment and Elderly Care (Ehsan). Around 50 elderly women participated in a group of sports activities, mental exercises and entertainment games, etc, from 9am-11am, supervised by elite female trainers from First Step Center. In a post-event statement, Amna al-Qasimi, the QWSC executive director, said: “We are truly happy to host this amazing event that brought together a big

number of ladies. We believe in sports and its inspiring role to improve physical and mental health for all.” Noora Abdullah al-Malki, executive and follow-up specialist from the Awareness and Community Connection Department at Ehsan, said the event received a positive reaction from this age group of women, and “we're hopeful that these programmes and events will increase in the future.”