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Qatar and UAE restore diplomatic representation

•GCC, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman say the step will give a fillip for joint Gulf action

Based on Al-Ula agreement and the joint keenness on strengthening the bilateral relations, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates announced restoration of diplomatic representation between the two countries by resuming the work at the Qatari embassy in Abu Dhabi and its consulate in Dubai, and at the UAE embassy in Doha as of Monday, June 19, 2023.

The two sides underlined that this step comes as an embodiment of the will of the leaderships of the two countries, and in consolidation of the march of joint Arab action, to achieve the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples.

Meanwhile, the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman welcomed the restoration of diplomatic representation between Qatar and the UAE, based on the Al-Ula agreement held in January 2021.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi praised the blessed step which embodies the keenness of the leaders on the GCC march and the bonds of kinship, friendliness, brotherhood, history and common fate, as well as the unity of the GCC countries and the support for the joint Gulf action, to achieve the aspirations of the GCC people.

In a statement, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs commended the positive step, which affirms the strength of relations between the GCC countries and contributes to strengthening joint GCC action, in a way that achieves the aspirations of the countries and peoples of the region.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that this step embodies the spirit of distinguished relations between the GCC countries, reflects the keenness

of its leaders to strengthen the bonds of fraternity and unite the ranks in the single Gulf house, and strengthens the process of joint Gulf action, in order to achieve the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the GCC countries.

Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement reported by Oman News Agency the step is in an extension of the fraternal relations and historical ties, and a consolidation of joint Gulf action, thus strengthening the foundations of security, stability and prosperity for all countries in the region.

The United States also welcomed Qatar and the UAE's resumption of diplomatic representation and reopening of embassies, with the State Department calling it an "important step" in promoting regional stability. (QNA/Reuters)

Amir chairs SCEAI's second meeting of 2023



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment (SCEAI), chaired yesterday the council's second meeting of 2023 at the Amiri Diwan. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, the Deputy Chairman of the council, attended the meeting along with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Executive Member of the council, and members of the council. The council discussed the decisions and recommendations made in the first meeting of 2023 and the project follow-up report. It also discussed the country's economic priorities and took appropriate decisions in its regard. The council was also briefed on the presentations on the storage and transport sectors, as well as the information and communication sectors, in addition to the activities of the finance and insurance sectors. It discussed the topics listed on its agenda and took the appropriate decisions. (QNA)

PM, UAE FM exchange congratulations

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from the Foreign Minister of the sisterly UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

During the phone call, the two sides exchanged congratulations on the occasion of resuming the work at the Qatari embassy in Abu Dhabi and its consulate in Dubai, and at the UAE embassy in Doha yesterday.

HE Sheikh Mohamed welcomed the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and expressed Qatar's aspiration to promoting partnership with the UAE to reflect the depth of the fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples.

The two sides discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and means to enhance co-operation in various fields to achieve the interests of the two brotherly peoples. The meeting also touched on regional and international developments and a number of issues of common concern. (QNA)

ConteQ Expo24 to showcase modern construction, services technologies

The ConteQ Expo24 will be held from September 16-18 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs while offering investment opportunities and highlighting latest trends in development and construction sectors, it was announced yesterday.

Jointly organised by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and the Ministry of Labour, ConteQ Expo24 is described as an ideal venue for companies, construction, manufacturing, and retail industry leaders in Qatar to meet with thought leaders, suppliers and prominent industry leaders at the international level.

The event will also showcase the latest research, innovations and technologies that enhance productivity, quality of implementation, cost reduction, waste reduction and energy efficiency. The details were an-



nounced during a press conference yesterday.

A statement from president Dr Saad bin Ahmad al-Muhannadi said Ashghal is dedicated to embracing groundbreaking technologies that revolutionise the execution of construction projects. "Our emphasis lies in minimising dependence on unskilled labour while introducing innovative solutions that amplify efficiency and elevate quality. ConteQExpo24 provides a promising opportunity to ex-

plore cutting-edge advancements in technology, allowing us to uncover fresh approaches for enhancing our operations and project implementation," he said.

Projects Affairs Director engineer Yousef al-Emadi told the press conference that Ashghal, while hosting the exhibition, will establish a foundation for initiating the journey of digital and technical transformation, particularly in the vital construction and services sector. **To Page 12**

Qatar pledges \$50mn to support Sudan aid efforts

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani announced that Qatar has pledged to provide \$50mn to support efforts of humanitarian response plan in Sudan and the regional plan for refugees, stemming from Qatar's fraternal responsibility, and moral and humanitarian duty towards brothers in Sudan and in continuation of its constant humanitarian and development efforts in the sisterly Sudan.

This came during the speech delivered by His Excellency via video conferencing yesterday during the high-level pledging conference to support the humanitarian response in Sudan and the region co-chaired by Qatar along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Germany, the UN, represented by the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the European Union, alongside the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, with the participation of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdulrahman al-Saud, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenaric, Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs at the African Union (AU) Commission Julio Rakotonirina, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator Martin Griffiths, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, as well as representatives of Sudan, governments of host countries of refugees, civil society and first responders.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed that Qatar will spare no effort in standing by the brotherly Sudanese people until they overcome this crisis, asserting that the consolidated and firm position of Qatar is to support unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the sis-



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani

terly Sudan and reject any forms of meddling in Sudan's internal affairs and full respect of its people's options in freedom, peace, justice and prosperity.

In this context, His Excellency praised the regional and international efforts, especially the joint Saudi-US mediation that achieved multiple humanitarian armistices, lauding the efforts and endeavours being made by African Union and IGAD, calling for co-ordination among these efforts and endeavours, emphasising that co-ordination in this file exists between Qatar and Egypt with which Qatar aspires to closely work.

HE Sheikh Mohamed confirmed that there is no military solution for this conflict and the only way is through political solution, reiterating Qatar's call on the two parties to the conflict to stop fighting immediately, uphold the public interest of the brotherly Sudanese people, favour dialogue and peaceful means to end the crisis, establish a climate conducive to dialogue and peaceful solution for the conflict, adhere to international humanitarian law and international human rights law which compel all to protect civilians, media and civil institutions and secure access of humanitarian aid to the needy people everywhere without discrimination and with a complete impartiality in accordance with the known international humanitarian principles and standards. **To Page 6**

Transport minister participates in 54th Paris Air Show



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti has participated in the 54th edition of the Paris Air Show, which opened at Le Bourget yesterday in attendance of several ministers, senior officials from numerous world countries, CEOs of major airline and space companies, and organisations concerned with the industry. Escorted by Qatari ambassador to France Sheikh Ali bin Jassem al-Thani and HE the Qatar Airways Group CEO Akbar al-Baker, HE the minister visited the pavilion of Qatar Airways that displays three planes of the national carrier's fleet; Airbus A350-1000, the business jet Gulfstream G700 and Airbus A319, a statement from the Ministry of Transport (MoT) said. The Paris Air Show, the world's largest air show of its kind, presents a unique platform for manufacturing companies to highlight their latest aircraft technologies and air transportation equipment, given the huge growth and growing demand for aviation over the coming years. Companies also display their newest technologies, products, and capabilities in terms of technological innovation, in addition to the exchange of expertise. The Paris Air Show, which runs until June 25, is expected to attract nearly 2,500 exhibitors from some 47 countries, representing aviation, space and defence industries.



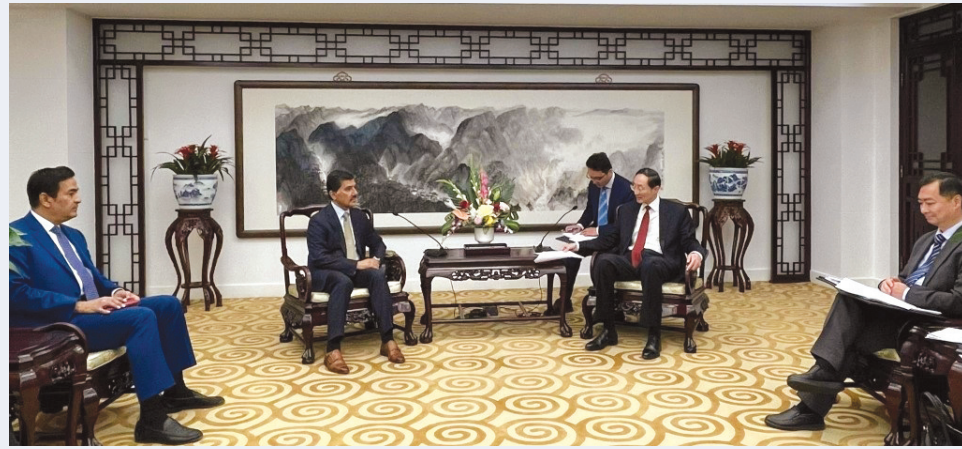
QATAR

Libya's Presidential Council chief meets Qatar's diplomat



Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, Dr Mohamed al-Menfi met yesterday with ambassador of Qatar to Libya Khaled Mohamed bin Zabin al-Dosari. They discussed bilateral co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi meets Chinese deputy FM



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met with Deputy Foreign Minister of China Sun Weidong, during his visit to China. The meeting discussed aspects of bilateral co-operation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by Qatar's ambassador in Beijing Mohamed bin Abdullah al-Dehaimi and the accompanying delegation. (QNA)

Official

Amir sends condolences to the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, on the death of Prince Talal bin Fahd bin Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Saud. (QNA)

Shura reviews regulations for recruitment of domestic workers

QNA
Doha

The Shura Council held its weekly ordinary session at Tamim Bin Hamad Hall under the chairpersonship of HE the Speaker of the Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. The council discussed the report of Public Services and Utilities Committee on the request of general discussion submitted by a number of members of the council in a previous session pertaining to reorganisation and monitoring of recruitment offices for domestic workers. Following the discussion of the report's findings by the members of the council and after exchanging viewpoints on regulations and procedures that should be reconsidered, the council decided to submit a proposal to the esteemed government regarding the aforementioned subject. The proposal included a number of suggestions

and proposals to handle this file, including escape of servants, high costs, lack of training and qualification for domestic workers, and other matters. Afterwards, the council decided to amend some provisions of Law No. 29 of 2006 on monitoring the buildings as received from the esteemed government after discussing report of Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee and items of the draft law by members of the council. The draft law mentioned above aims to preserve the image of Qatar to be positively reflected on social, environmental, and economic aspects, since the proposed amendments have authorised the concerned municipalities to take necessary measures to preserve the public landscape. The council discussed the cabinet memorandum in which the response of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is attached concerning the question submitted by member of the council



The Shura Council in session.

Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla about the ration card on which the council took the appropriate decision. On the other hand, the council approved to extend works of the Interim Committee to study the problem of "Increasing Divorce Rates in Society". During the session, the Shura Council discussed a number of reports re-

lated to participations in regional and international parliamentary events, notably: the report of the participation of member of the council Issa bin Arar al-Rumaihi in 4th session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law that was held via video conferencing in November 2022, under the theme of: "Strengthening democracies

to build back better: challenges and opportunities", report of the participation of the council's delegation in the 17th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean that was held in Rabat, Morocco, last March and report of the participation of member of the Shura Council Sheikha bint Yousef al-Jufairi in the annual meeting of the Coali-

tion of Women Parliamentarians from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women that was held in Amman last March. In addition, the council discussed the report of its participation in the fourth plenary session of the Arab Parliament within the third session of the 3rd legislative term that was held in Cairo last April, report of the participation

The council also approved to extend works of the Interim Committee to study the problem of "Increasing Divorce Rates in Society"

of the council's delegation in the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) that was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain last May and report of the participation of the member of the council Dr Ahmed bin Hamad Almohanadi in the meeting of the Steering Bureau of the High-level Parliamentary Group on Science and Technology under the Arab Parliament that was held in Morocco last May.



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Domasco unveils the New Honda advanced & sporty line-up in a Brand-New Honda Showroom

Doha Marketing Services Company (DOMASCO) proudly celebrates a new era for the Honda brand in the Qatar market by inaugurating a new state-of-the-art showroom and service centre with key stakeholders, including media and influencers.

During the event, the company also unveiled Honda's new 'Advanced and Sporty' line-up, continuing the brand's heritage of mobility and innovation, and setting the cadence for coming years.

The 'Advanced and Sporty' Honda's strategy introduced in Qatar considers three main elements –Brand, Safety & Environment – with a focus on innovative ideas, as well as new technologies developed and harnessed to turn ideas into reality. The strategy pursues an obsession to bring joy to customers through human centered engineering.

The line-up showcased included:

- The fastest-ever Honda Civic Type R
- The all-new SUV: the Honda ZR-V
- The new 7-Seater Honda CR-V
- Next-generation Honda Pilot
- The all-new Honda Accord e: HEV, the brand's first hybrid in the region

Honda further reinforces its 2025 sustainability and safety aims

In addition to announcing the arrival of the exciting fleet to the country, Honda also outlined its 2050 sustainability and safety core ambitions. These included a goal of achieving carbon neutrality across all products, increasing the production of battery-electric vehicles (EVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCVs), as well as the brand's ambition for zero traffic fatalities to support a collision-free society globally.



Marco Melani, Managing Director of Domasco Qatar, reiterated, "Honda is a renowned brand with a diverse portfolio, and we are honoured to represent the company at such an exciting moment of expansion and innovation. As customer demands grow, we are constantly looking for new ways to enhance their experience, and we believe that the new location will provide the perfect platform to delight our customers while exploring the new 'Advanced and Sporty' line-up. For our existing Honda customers, our new modern service center is a reconfirmation of our unwavering commitment to their ownership experience."

The new state-of-the-art 3S facility is purpose-built to deliver the full Honda ownership experience, from cars to service to certified pre-owned.

Located on the East Industrial Area Road, the brand-new Sales, Service and Spare Parts facility is developed with the company's customer-centric strategy in mind, aiming to provide customers with ease and convenience when it comes to new car purchases, vehicle servicing, and buying a trusted and approved pre-owned car.

Covering an area of over 3,500 square meters, it serves as a one-stop solution for new and existing customers to explore the Japanese manufacturer's portfolio of new sedans, SUVs,



and certified pre-owned cars, as well as cater to service and spare part needs with capacity to service 80 vehicles daily. The facility will also offer Honda EXPRESS service to customers, a fast, convenient, and efficient maintenance delivered in less than an hour.

The new home of Honda also incorporates a dedicated area for Honda Motorcycles and for the full line-up of power products.

Honda is exclusively distributed in Qatar by Doha Marketing Services Company (DOMASCO), a leading multi-brand company in Qatar and a part of Al-Futtaim Automotive Group, one of the region's leading automotive groups. Domasco has a diversified portfolio of passenger cars, motor bikes, commercial vehicles, marine and power products representing some of the world's most visible and award-winning brands. Al-Futtaim Automotive is one of five divisions within the Al-Futtaim Group which provides quality products and services that enrich people's lives and aspirations each and every day.





Eng Hamad bin Abdullah al-Nashira al-Marri speaking to QNA.

Former CMC chief recalls first poll experience of Qatari voters

QNA
Doha

Chairman of Central Municipal Council (CMC) in its first period (1999-2003) Eng Hamad bin Abdullah al-Nashira al-Marri hailed the democratic experience of Qatari voters and candidates during the first CMC elections as fully enthusiastic and driven by patriotism and allegiance to their country and its leadership.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Marri said the Qatari showed a model for free and fair democratic practice, and reflected the level of awareness of the importance of popular participation in decision-making.

Al-Marri added that the nation is the first winner in the CMC elections given the great interaction between all nationals, men and women, who were keen to make the elections a success and consolidate the bedrock of the suc-

cessful march whose fruits the citizens are reaping. He stressed the State's interest in holding full transparent CMC elections and motivating nationals to perform their national duty of electing their CMC representatives, a move that contributes to the advancement and development of all municipal services to achieve the sustainable development requirements.

The wise leadership attached a great interest in all phases of the elections by directing various government agencies to co-operate and co-ordinate with the CMC and follow up on its recommendations and suggestions, he said, highlighting His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani's efforts to make the experience of the first CMC a success and to consolidate its position, and to work to overcome the various challenges that may hinder its path.

Expressing his pride in being the first chairman of the CMC, al-Marri hailed the experience as a bright stage in his personal and professional career, as he

had managed to win the confidence of his fellow CMC members after winning voters' confidence.

He added that the first CMC elections saw intense competition due to the then recent experience of the Qatari society and its positive interaction with it, in addition to the insistence of all candidates at the time to present a unique image.

Al-Marri reviewed the CMC's recommendations in its first period that aimed at fully advancing municipal services in all fields, in line with the level of progress and development that Qatar seeks to achieve in various sectors.

In the same context, he commended the efforts of Ministry of Interior and all concerned parties in preparing for the 7th CMC elections scheduled for June 22, calling on nationals to actively participate to select their CMC representatives in a bid to develop municipal services across the country, in a way that contributes to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030.

Qatari Haj medical team in Makkah

The Medical Unit of the Qatari Haj Mission for the 1444 AH season has arrived in Makkah Al Mukaramah.

The Medical Unit is made up of doctors, nurses, paramedics and pharmacists, with the objective of providing comprehensive medical care to the pilgrims of Qatar during their stay in Makkah whilst they perform the various religious rituals on multiple locations. The medical crew escorting the Qatari Haj Mission consists of 34 of

the most skilful physicians in internal medicine, heart, communicable diseases, ear, nose and throat, ambulance, nursing, in addition to two fully equipped ambulance vehicles accompanying the mission in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent Society.

All medical preparations and arrangements have been finalised in coordination with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), alongside professional medical entities in Saudi

Arabia to provide essential healthcare to Qatari pilgrims in the holy sites around the clock. The unit of the Qatari Haj Mission obtained a licence from the Saudi Ministry of Health to set medical clinics in Makkah. This came as a result of the paramount attention Qatar pays to providing all potential medicines and medical treatments through high-level health services to ensure safety and health for pilgrims of Qatar and help them perform Haj rituals in best conditions. (QNA)

Minister approves first round results of SSC exams

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi has approved the results of the first round of secondary school certificate final exams for the academic year 2022-2023.

The success rate among the students of the science track was 90.53% for daytime education classes and 35.85% for adult education programmes. In the literature track, the success rate was 79.79% among daytime education classes and 35.93% for adult education programmes. In the technology track, this rate stood at 84.01 among daytime classes.

Students of Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys and the Religious Institute preparatory Secondary Independent School for Boys made a 100% success rate. The two branches of Qatar Technical Secondary Schools saw a success rate of 86.10% among daytime classes and 62.07% among adult education programmes.

This rate jumped to 100% among students of the two branches of Qatar Banking Studies and Business Administration Independent Secondary School, and stood at 60% among students of audio education schools.

In a press conference, Assistant Undersecretary for Evaluation Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) Khaled al-Harqan congratulated the successful and outstanding students for this academic year, wishing them further future excellence in their academic and practical lives. He also congratulated the schools that showed high level of excellence.

Hailing the success rates as higher than in the previous year, al-Harqan revealed that 27 male and female stu-

Minister congratulates successful students

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi congratulated the successful students and their parents, praising in this context the efforts of teachers and school principals who applied the best practices and educational methods and were characterised by sincerity and dedication throughout the year. This came during a press statement, following HE the Minister's approval of the results of the first round of the secondary certificate exams for the academic year 2022-2023, in the presence of HE the Undersecretary of MoEHE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, in which she expressed her thanks to the Evaluation Affairs Sector at the ministry for its leading role in setting and supervising exams and publishing results with objective and transparency. HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi called on students who were not lucky enough to succeed to exert more effort to improve their academic achievement in the second round exams so that they can benefit from the higher education opportunities and options provided by the country, whether enrolling in local universities or scholarship programmes, especially disciplines that serve the knowledge economy and contribute to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030. Under the educational paths policy, 13,498 male and female students undertook the exam.



HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi

ri's excellence as an unprecedented achievement over the past years.

In a related context, he said that one student in the literature track made a 100% score, stressing that these remarkable results indicate the strength and efficiency of Qatar's government schools. Al-Harqan added that 7,912 male and female students in all tracks achieved a score of 70% or higher, which allows their university admissions inside and outside Qatar.

Successful students can get their certificates within two days on the MoEHE's Public Services portal.

Director of Student Evaluation Department Khalifa al-Derham also spoke at the press conference about the mechanism of setting the tests. MoEHE's Director of Public Relations and Communication Department Maryam Abdullah al-Mohannadi inaugurated the press conference, extending congratulations for successful and outstanding students, wishing them a brilliant future in their academic and practical lives. (QNA)

students received a 100% score in the science track, including Qatari student Reem Ahmed Matar Dhabat al-Dosari from Al Kawthar Secondary School for Girls. He hailed al-Dosa-

Qatar condemns Israeli atrocities in Jenin

Qatar yesterday expressed its condemnation in the strongest terms of Israeli occupation's aggression against the city and camp of Jenin, that left martyrs dead and wounded, and considered it a new episode in the series of horrific crimes of the occupation against defenceless Palestinians, particularly women and children.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned of the fading chances of peace and the widening of the violence cycle due to Israel's provocative escalation in the occupied Palestinian territories, stressing the need for the international community to move urgently to provide the necessary protection for Palestinians, and to force Israel to stop its flagrant violations of international law and respect the decisions of the international legitimacy.

The ministry renewed Qatar's firm position on the justice of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) strongly condemned the Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinian people and their land, calling on the international community to move quickly to stop this aggression and settlement expansion policy. (QNA)



Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

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2	QRC/WHC/11-2023	Renovation of the vinyl flooring at Mesaimeer Workers Health Center	7,000	500 Q.R	19/07/2023

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.

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1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
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 - Bank: Al Rayan.
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'Technology harnessed to assist Qatari pilgrims during Haj'



Deputy Head of the Qatari Haj Mission Ali bin Sultan al-Misifri has affirmed that the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' keenness to harness modern technology with its various techniques in assisting Qatar's pilgrims and facilitating their performance of e-Haj, QNA reported from Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

In an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Misifri said that a smartphone App called "Haj Guide" has been prepared and said it can be downloaded. He explained that the application includes pilgrims' permits issued by the Saudi electronic track, a set of Haj fatwas, the sites of the Qatari Haj campaigns, and means of communication with the Com-

munication and Support Unit Center at Qatar Haj Mission to request assistance when needed. Deputy Head of the Qatari Haj Mission indicated that preparations of the camps in the holy sites have been completed, and that they will be handed over by the company responsible for the equipment within three days, and stressed their full readiness to accommodate the pilgrims,

as the camps will be distributed to the campaigns in the coming hours. Regarding the arrival of the pilgrims from Qatar, he explained that the first batch will arrive at the holy site on 3rd Dhul-Hijjah. He also noted the efforts of the Saudi Ministry of Haj and the authorities concerned in providing facilities and all the needs of

the Qatari Haj mission and campaigns, as well as the keenness of all parties to implement a successful Haj season and a wonderful spiritual experience for all visitors to the holy site. He also hailed the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' keenness to implement an electronic system to evaluate the services provided to pilgrims (QNA)

High-standard camps prepared for Qatari pilgrims at holy sites



The Qatari Haj Mission and its administrative and technical support units continue to create appropriate conditions, and harness all capabilities for the pilgrims of Qatar, equipping camps in the holy sites in Makkah, and in providing integrated services to enable them to perform Haj smoothly and easily.

In a statement, Deputy Head of the Qatari Haj Mission Ali bin Sultan al-Misifri said periodic meetings would be held with members of the advisory committee and the heads of the administrative and technical units supporting the mission on the latest preparations.

He pointed to the mobilisation of all efforts to provide the best services to the country's pilgrims in order to make the Haj season for the year 1444 AH a success and to work to provide the best conditions that enable the pilgrims to perform their rituals easily.

In a related context, the Mashaer and logistics unit is preparing camps in the holy sites at Mina and Arafat for all Qatari campaigns and providing all services and facilities for pilgrims of Qatar.

Head of the Mashaer and logistics unit Hammad al-Muhanadi said all members of the unit are continuously following up on the works of the company with which the mission has contracted to prepare the tents and that all workers are exerting their maximum efforts to finish preparations, arrangements, facilities and services. (QNA)



Marza Hypermarket to open at Musherib



Al Raheeb international, one of Qatar's famous group of companies will be opening its 5th hypermarket branch near Musherib. "The inauguration ceremony will be held on 21 July by Panakkad Munavar Alli Shihab Thangal", declared Mayan Haji Kandoth, Chairman of Al Raheeb international group, at a press meet. "The grand opening scheduled to take place at 3 pm will be attended by eminent business personalities and government officials", he added.

The hypermarket with an area of 15000 sq.ft. offers grocery food, non-food, fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh fish, meat, salad, bread & bakery, diary, frozen, fashion, footwear, lifestyle, perfume, technology, households, sports, toys and stationery. Apart from these, mobile phone and watch counter, cosmetics shops as well as churidar materials, designing and stitching are also available at the hypermarket.

As a part of the inauguration, a variety of promotions including a first 3 days offer with cash discounts are awaiting the customers. Apart from that henna for families, games, DJ and entertainments are also being organized on the day of inauguration.

The first hypermarket of Al Raheeb group started in 2010 at Ain Khaled was named as Park and Shop hypermarket. Over the years, Park and Shop hypermarket succeeded in reaching out to a wider range of people and became a success. Encouraged by this, the company extended itself to retail stores and was rebranded as Marza, two years ago, according to Mayan Haji.

"Two more retail showrooms are to be set up in 2023 including 11000 sq.ft. multi cuisine restaurant at Salwa road and an Arabic sweets bakery and chocolate at Izghawa, to be opened under the name of Marza", said Jafar Kandoth, Managing Director of Marza hypermarket.

QPPC embarks on ambitious expansion plan to drive Qatar National Vision 2030

Qatar Plastic & Wooden Products Company W.L.L. (QPPC), one of the prominent downstream enterprises in Qatar, renowned for its cutting-edge technology in the development and production of flexible packaging materials and heat-treated wooden pallets for the petrochemical industry, is undergoing an expansion



phase aimed at bolstering Qatar's efforts to realize its ambitious National Vision 2030.

QPPC is led by Dr. Mohammed Yousef Al-Mulla, the Managing



Director and CEO of QAPCO, serving as the Chairman, and Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Ansari, the CEO of QIMC, as the Vice-Chairman. The company's shareholders consist of QIMC (Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company) with a majority stake of 66.66%, and QAPCO (Qatar Petrochemical Company - QSC) with a stake of 33.34%.

In the year 2000, QPPC initiated its film application production, focusing primarily on catering to the petrochemical industry, which accounts for approximately 95% of its output. The remaining portion is supplied to various other industries within Qatar. Since its inception,

QPPC has diligently engaged in research, development, and enhancement efforts, enabling the provision of top-notch packaging products of superior quality to all major petrochemical and other companies in Qatar, including QAPCO, QATOFIN, Q-chem, QAFCCO, and Qatar Steel.

In 2013, QPPC underwent a significant expansion by establishing Qatar Wooden Products Company W.L.L. (QWPC). This expansion included the implementation of fully automatic and semi-automatic pallet production lines, in addition to a Heat-Treatment Facility. The Facility has the capacity to manufacture 1.6 million units annually, with the

primary objective of supplying wooden pallets to the petrochemical and other industries in Qatar.

QWPC has successfully upheld a track record of sustainability and has consistently operated without any failures since its inception.

In the year 2022, QPPC achieved remarkable financial results, generating revenues of QR 188.368 million and recording a net income of QR 30.029 million. These figures highlight the company's strong performance and its ability to thrive in its operational activities.

The recent expansion undertaken by QPPC is aimed at providing support for upcoming projects and fostering growth

within the petrochemical sector. The developments implemented in this expansion include:

Recently Completed Expansion: QPPC has successfully completed an expansion project within its existing facility to meet the growing demand for FFS (Form-Fill-Seal) bags. This expansion was specifically undertaken to cater to the needs of the petrochemical sector located in Mesaieed city, ensuring a reliable supply of these essential products.

Tawteen FFS bags requirement: QPPC is currently undergoing an expansion to fulfill the increasing demands of the petrochemical sector. This expansion involves the construction of a new state-of-the-art plant dedicated to the production of FFS bags. The objective is to enhance the company's capacity and capabilities in meeting the specific requirements of the petrochemical industry.

New Projects Plans: In alignment with Qatar Vision 2030, and the ongoing expansion in petrochemical sector, QPPC is actively engaged in the development of a new facility. The expansion entails the addition of production lines to significantly increase the total capacity of film application

from the existing 15,000 MT to 30,000 MT. Additionally, the plan includes the production of 3 million units of pallets, doubling the current capacity of 1.5 million units.

These advancements will enable QPPC to effectively serve the packaging and palletizing requirements of the Petrochemical sectors in Ras Laffan in the future.

QPPC is currently engaged in the construction of a state-of-the-art plant, and the selection of machine technology from our supplier has already been finalized. This advanced facility will have the capacity to produce 10,000 tons of packaging film and 1.1 million wooden pallets. The total investment for this project amounts to QR 140 million. The establishment of this modern plant will significantly enhance QPPC's production capabilities and further strengthen its position in the industry.

QPPC is actively aligning its operations collaborating with the petrochemical companies and is ready to invest and cater any additional need of FFS bags, shrink film, stretch film and wooden pallets with the upcoming demands of the Petrochemical sector projects in future.



Qatar Charity, QFFD undertake effective humanitarian role in Sudan's healing



Qatar is one of the first countries to initiate the launch of an urgent relief campaign in response to the deteriorating situation being witnessed by Sudan due to the bloody conflict that erupted on April 15 this year.

Consequently, Qatar scrambled to launch an urgent air bridge through which it has provided 301 tonnes in food and medical aid and evacuated 1,784 Qatari ID holders.

Qatar has been constantly supporting the brotherly Sudanese people through its charitable organisations: where Qatar Charity (QC), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) undertook an effective role in the crisis, in terms of providing effective support to counter the deteriorating humanitarian challenges and crises.

Meanwhile, QC revealed that the total number of beneficiaries from the aid that were provided to the people affected by the conflict in Sudan reached over 70,000 people until June 4, 2023, and said it continues to provide aid in three major fields: food supply, shelter and health in collaboration and co-ordination with QFFD.

Qatar Charity has provided aid to three main states; namely Port Sudan, Al Jazirah and Northern Sudan, in addition to providing essential support to Sudanese people who are cross-



ing the Chadian borders due to the crisis in shelter and food, and pointed out that it continues to deliver shipments of food items and other materials via the Qatari air bridge in collaboration with QFFD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ninth air shipment arrived in Port Sudan on June 4, 2023, with 30 tonnes of food baskets onboard, QC added, pointing out that the total number of food item shipments it had provided through the Qatari air bridge had reached tens of thousands of tonnes. It noted that the total number of beneficiaries from the food items distributed within the Red Sea camps and Al Zahraa camps in Al Jazirah state and Arqin crossing on the Sudanese-Egyptian borders reached 35,834 beneficiaries, and included 30,000 hot meals that were distributed to the Red Sea and Al Jazirah states.

With regard to health, QC established a mobile medical clinic that provides medical services to patients in camps. QC visited 13 shelter camps, conducted medical examinations for south-

ern patients, provided free-of-charge medicines and treatments to stranded patients and displaced persons in Port Sudan, in addition to providing blood bags and medical solutions, along with a myriad of blood-test devices that were distributed to a variety of hospitals in Al Jazirah, Red Sea and Northern Sudan states. Pertaining to sheltering operations, QC asserted that it had provided relief aid of shelter materials to Sudanese people who are crossing to the Chadian borders due to the crisis as refugees in Chad.

In the same context, QRCS launched an urgent relief campaign under the slogan: "Help Sudan" in response to the deteriorating situation due to the conflict, which targets the collection of QR50mn to provide relief aid to 100,000 families, including 700,000 people. The campaign will last for 18 months to save lives and to alleviate humanitarian suffering of the affected people.

In statements to QNA, QRCS confirmed that the projects will focus on providing support in

health, shelter and food security for people in the affected areas, in step with local associations, adding that the projects' implementation includes a two-pronged phase. The first one is "Urgent Relief" project which is due to be carried out during six months and includes health service, non-food items, food items, water and sanitation services.

The second phase includes "Recovery" during 12 months, with supply of the rest of the medical equipment required for hospitals, supply and receipt of required ambulances, supply of medicines and medical consumables, supply of laboratory materials, sterilisation materials as well as provision of gift vouchers to meet the basic needs of 500 families who lost their shelter for a period of 12 months, as well as provision of non-food relief aid to the affected families, restoration and repair of damaged homes (500 homes), and furnishing of repaired homes.

To follow up on activities and procedures, QRCS activated the Disaster Information Management Center to obtain the latest news on the armed conflict with data and statistics, in addition to information pertinent to all response activities it had carried out, and subsequently dispatched a relief aid team consisting of four persons from its office in Doha, to support the office in Sudan. (QNA)

Qatar always supports Sudan in all circumstances and crises, says envoy

Sudanese ambassador in Doha Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Mohamed Hassan Siwar al-Dahab appreciated Qatar's permanent support to Sudan and its people in all circumstances and crises throughout history, including the current crisis facing the country.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador said: "We must express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the steadfast support of His Highness the Amir, the government and the people of the brotherly State of Qatar. They have been standing by Sudan in all the crises and challenges throughout history, including the current crisis that began on the morning of April 15, 2023." He praised the significant

humanitarian assistance provided by Qatar to support those affected by this crisis in the areas of food and medicine.

He also commended the swift response to the appeal made by the Sudanese government to the international community in this regard. He said this has contributed to alleviating suffering and addressing the shortages of those needs, especially in light of the crisis which has caused a deterioration in basic services in the capital city of Khartoum and other cities that have been affected by the influx of displaced citizens.

Qatar co-chaired a high-level conference in Geneva yesterday, along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Germany, the UN represented by the Office

for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the European Union and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The purpose of the conference is to announce commitments to support the humanitarian response in Sudan and the region.

On Qatar's participation in the high-level conference in Geneva, the ambassador stated that it confirms the state's firm stance towards the Sudanese people.

The Sudanese ambassador also expressed his sincere appreciation to Qatar for its response in evacuating a large number of Sudanese nationals who are Qatar ID holders as well as their families from Sudan, through a Qatari relief aircraft. (QNA)

Qatar's envoy pledges permanent support for Sudan in all difficulties

QNA
Port Sudan

Qatar's ambassador to Sudan Mohamed bin Ibrahim al-Sada affirmed the depth of the fraternal relations between the two countries and people, pointing in a related context to Qatar's permanent support for Sudan in all crises and difficulties faced by the brotherly people.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador noted that from this standpoint and under the generous directive of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar operated an air bridge to support the Sudanese people, noting that the number of Amir Air Force carrying food and

medical aid, provided by the Qatar Fund for Development, the Qatar Red Crescent and Qatar Charity, had reached 10, which highlights the support of the Amir, the government and the people of Qatar to the people of Sudan.

He pointed out that the Sudanese people welcomed, at the official and popular levels, what was agreed during the phone call that His Highness the Amir received from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in terms of co-ordination and for the need to take into account the humanitarian aspects.

In addition to facilitate the flow of aid to those affected by the fighting in Sudan, as well as to spare civilians the consequences, and to provide support and assistance to mitigate the effects of the crisis, especially among Sudanese refugees.

Qatar hosts GCC Roaming Working Group meeting



Participants in the '22nd Meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Roaming Working Group.'

Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), hosted the '22nd meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Roaming Working Group', which concludes today (June 20).

Representatives from Qatar, along with delegates from the Secretariat General of the GCC and the GCC member states, participated in the meeting, which discussed matters related to international roaming services.

One of the key discussion topics was the findings of a benchmarking study on roaming services within the GCC states. The study carried out in collaboration with telecommunications regulatory bodies in the GCC, aims to assess the impact of roaming services price limits that they previously implemented. It also aims to propose future price development in this area.

The meeting agenda included several important

items, such as a presentation on the summary of the final report comparing international practices in roaming services agreements. Additionally, a summary of the initial report on the outcomes of a study was presented, focusing on the effects of the current regulation of roaming service prices among the GCC states. Furthermore, various related options for the future were discussed, highlighting their advantages and disadvantages.

The meeting held significant importance as GCC member states convened to exchange insights and experiences in the field of international roaming. They engaged in discussions concerning the study's outcomes, proposed options, and the subsequent steps to be taken. The ultimate objective is to ensure that telecom consumers in the GCC states have access to advanced and high-level telecom services while ensuring a balance between the obligations of service providers and the rights of consumers.

Qatar pledges \$50mn to support Sudan aid efforts

From Page 1

He said Qatar's moral and humanitarian obligation necessitates full solidarity with the brotherly Sudanese people in overcoming the consequences and challenges Sudan is facing, pointing out that Qatar always stands by its brothers in Sudan and its humanitarian and development efforts have been continuing, along with its efforts related to stability and peace in Sudan, adding that Doha agreement for peace in Darfur that was signed in 2011 had been at the forefront of these efforts.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs added that since the breakout of the current armed conflict and the consequent humanitarian crisis, Qatar has taken the initiative to stand by the Sudanese brothers through operating an air bridge to deliver

about 318 tonnes of aid until the date of the last plane that delivered aid which included medicines and clothes worth over \$4mn, in addition to evacuating 1,784 people through the efforts of some institutions in Qatar, namely: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Health, Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar Charity, and Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

His Excellency thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross for its efforts, praising Qatar's partnership with this committee in this crucial file.

He pointed out that the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Sudan requires an urgent response and ample funding to bridge the funding gap in the humanitarian response plan for Sudan and the regional plan for refugees. Therefore, it is essential to provide ample pledges and donations to simultaneously fulfil

them as soon as possible to entirely counter and contain the crisis and curb its potential spillover into Sudan's neighbourhood.

HE Sheikh Mohamed said the meeting constitutes a landmark event where eyes of brothers in Sudan are directed to this meeting, therefore, a solidarity message is sent to them from the meeting's platform to confirm that everyone stands by them.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs called on regional and international partners to provide essential donations and financial contributions to mitigate the serious consequences suffered by those affected by the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Sudan. His Excellency thanked Saudi Arabia, Egypt, international partners and UN agencies for their efforts in responding to the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Sudan, expressing Qatar's pride in patronising this conference. (QNA)

Qatar stresses continuing dialogue with Afghan parties to protect human rights

Qatar has stressed the importance of continuing co-operation and dialogue with all Afghan parties in order to promote and protect human rights.

This came in a statement delivered by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva Dr Hind Abdulrahman al-Muftah (pictured) during Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. "The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls", within the framework of the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Dr al-Muftah pointed to the exacerbation of the hu-



manitarian and development challenges and the deterioration in human rights conditions suffered by the Afghan people due to the protracted conflicts as a result of the security, political, economic and financial crises through which Afghanistan is going.

She also called on the international community to redouble efforts to support the Afghan people and enable them to face all challenges and to preserve the gains that have

been made. She added that Qatar had expressed deep concern about the suspension of education for girls in high schools and the prevention of Afghan women from working in non-governmental organisations and international organisations operating in Afghanistan, and it had warned of the serious impact of these practices on human rights and development. Qatar had also called on the caretaker government to reconsider its decisions.

She noted that Qatar organised, in partnership with Indonesia, an International Conference on Afghan Women's Education in the Indonesian city of Bali in December 2022, and that it will host the second edition of this conference from November 28-29, 2023. (QNA)

DI opens registration for new programme

The Language Centre at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) has announced the opening of registration for the Residence Programme in Advanced Arabic and Social Studies.

It is considered a unique forum for academic and cultural exchange of DI's predominantly native Arabic-speaking graduates and teachers from across the Arab World and their international non-native speakers or heritage peers, a statement said yesterday.

Dr Alaa Eljebali, director of the Language Centre, stated that the programme of one semester and which takes place in Doha is meant to meet the linguistic, cultural and academic needs of advanced Arabic learners as well as the heritage students who wish to strengthen their language and cul-

ture skills. The programme is delivered entirely in Arabic. It provides the students with expertise in their academic majors and allows them to interact professionally in Arabic. In addition, it offers dedicated classes in language, translation, content among others.

The students will benefit from the diversity of the courses available at the DI in Arabic through its two schools: School of the Social Sciences and Humanities and the School of Economy, Administration and Public Policy.

The DI offers an exemption from tuition fees and provides free accommodation for a limited number of academically distinguished students. Interested students can apply through the DI website until August 15, 2023. The programme will start on January 7, 2024 and end on April 25, 2024.

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Al Faleh Educational Holding celebrates Doha Academy 2023 graduating classes

Al Faleh Educational Holding celebrated Doha Academy 2023 graduating classes at ceremonies on June 17 for Year 12 students, a statement said yesterday.

Graduation day is the culmination of many years of hard work in the British system at Doha Academy, it was explained.

Just prior to this important event, students complete their A Level examinations, together outlining their commitment and success as members of the happy and purposeful community at Doha Academy.

At the graduation ceremonies, students were surrounded by family, friends, and classmates.

The programme included a march of students, speeches from guest speakers, a reading of the Holy Qur'an, diploma awards, and the official moment when the graduates were declared.

Graduation ceremonies were attended by Edward Cooper (Doha Academy Schools' principal), Shane Foley (deputy principal of Doha Academy Schools), David Mate (head of Secondary), Jeannette Azouz (head of Secondary Girls), DA schools' academic staff, parents, and friends.

The major part of the ceremony

was taken up by the distribution of certificates to all the students and those who also gained recognition for their achievement in specialist subject areas.

David Mate shared a heartfelt message congratulating the students on their outstanding achievements. "To our graduating students, cherish this moment. All these years of school behind you, now over. You are at a unique point in your life. You are young adults, without any, or at least very few of the responsibilities and commitments that come with adulthood. Enjoy yourselves, it's probably one of the most exhilarating times of your life. A time to say goodbye to yesterday and a time to meet tomorrow with courage, a time to celebrate all that you are and all that you may become. Go out there, grab life by the horns and hang on for the ride of your life. I wish you all the very best for what's to come."

Thereafter, Edward Cooper, addressed and advised the students to become the authors of their own lives, taking responsibility for decisions and learning from them always. He thanked them and wished them all a remarkable future.

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LG launches latest AC range in Qatar

LG Electronics (LG) announced the launch of its latest air conditioner (AC) line-up for 2023 in the Qatar as part of the Life is Cool with DUALCOOL campaign, a statement said yesterday. LG's latest range of ACs is equipped with the most advanced cooling system to provide maximum comfort, even at temperatures up to 65°C. The flagship of the range, LG's DUALCOOL Inverter Residential AC, provides 60% faster and more consistent cooling.

The LG's Dual Inverter Compressor constantly adjusts speed to maintain desired temperature levels with minimal fluctuation, expelling air farther and faster and ensuring greater cooling performance. It also allows the AC to provide up to 65% energy savings.

LG's DUALCOOL Inverter ACs also have a sleek and modern



design that complements any home or location.

The smart display feature allows users to easily monitor the AC's status, while the exclusive anti-corrosion Gold Fin coating ensures long-lasting performance, making the AC durable against dust and sand.

LG ACs are easy to install and maintain regardless of the surroundings. The Dual Protection Filter captures dust particles

larger than 10µm in size. The ACs are equipped with LG's unique skew fan to operate at low sound levels.

LG Electronics has also introduced Jetcool range of ACs, with the most advanced cooling system. Customers have the option to choose as per room size 18000 BTU or 22000 BTU. Jetcool ACs are also equipped with anti-corrosive Gold Fin, which can withstand the salty air, rain and other corrosive elements. Unique blue hydrophilic fin ensures that the AC runs efficiently with enhanced heat transfer. With the availability of smart mode, at the press of a button the AC enters fuzzy logic operation directly and temperature as well as fan speed are automatically set based on the room temperature. These newly launched air-conditioners are available at all leading hypermarkets and Jumbo retail stores across Qatar, the statement added.

Ford Mustang models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford Mustang, 2015-2017 models, due to damage of the wiring harness in the right-side luggage compartment lid hinge, which may lead to intermittent rear view camera operation, and loss of satellite radio reception in affected vehicles.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer 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

Rixos debuts first ever Eid Al Adha celebration with exquisite experiences this summer

Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha holds its first Eid Al Adha with an array of unforgettable experiences for guests seeking the perfect getaway. From all-inclusive staycations to daycations, premium cabanas, Mr. Tailor Brunch, Akte Hour, afternoon tea, kids' activities, and captivating entertainment, Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha has something for everyone.

Families with kids will be swept away by the all-inclusive staycation as they indulge in the ultimate relaxation and fun-filled vacation, where every detail is meticulously taken care of. Luxurious rooms, gourmet dining experiences, unlimited fun, kids' activities, access to exclusive fitness classes and kids' activities ensure a blissful and worry-free stay.

"We have curated exceptional Eid experiences at Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha," said General Manager Sherif Kassab. "Our goal is to combine comfort, exclusivity, and memorable moments, allowing our guests to unwind and create lasting memories as they celebrate Eid this year."

To enhance guests' comfort, Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha presents the Exclusive Rixos Premium Cabanas, offering a secluded sanctuary with personalized service and unlimited food and drinks. From sunbathing on plush loungers to refreshing dips in crys-



tal-clear waters, Rixos provides a serene setting that rejuvenates both mind and body while enjoying your time in your private area.

Culinary enthusiasts will be delighted by the array of dining options at Rixos Gulf Doha. The Mr. Tailor Eid Brunch is a culinary masterpiece featuring the finest cuts of meat and exemplary service. With the finest meat cuts, seafood dishes and a wide selection of desserts, Mr. Tailor Steakhouse offers a fusion of flavors and textures to satisfy every palate.

Guests can also indulge in a relaxing Afternoon Tea experience at Crust, enjoying fine teas and a variety of sweet and savoury treats meticulously crafted to please discerning palates.

For a 360 degrees views of the Arabian sea and Doha skyline, vibrant entertainment and a lively atmosphere, Akte Pier 51 at Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha is the place to be. Guests can enjoy the energetic ambiance, socialize, and experience an unforgettable night of fun and excitement.

To complete the Eid experience, Anjana Spa offers a rejuvenating 90 minutes Anjana Spa Hydrating Facial, providing a relaxing treatment to nourish the skin and leave guests feeling refreshed and radiant. Guests who choose Anjana Spa facial treatment will indulge in a complimentary 30 minutes reflexology massage.



Graduates Maryam Muthanna Almansoob, Waad Amir Osman Ahmed, Areej Khaleed Baraka, Layan Sukik, and WCM-Q's Shaikha AlQahtani and Dr Khaled Machaca at the graduation luncheon.

WCM-Q boost for upcoming local researchers

Six aspiring biomedical scientists acquired key research skills and experience by completing Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar's (WCM-Q) Biomedical Research Training Programme (BTRTP) for nationals. They are Layan Sukik, Dalal Zafer AlQahtani, Areej Khaleed Baraka, Waad Amir Osman Ahmed, Wadhwa Ahmed al-Attiya, and Maryam Muthanna Almansoob.

Apart from Waad, who graduated from the University of Huddersfield, all others are graduates of Qatar University.

The programme is designed to give Qatari nationals and long-term residents who have recently graduated from college, a firm foundation in practical laboratory and research administration skills, and experience of conducting real clinical research projects while working alongside WCM-Q's scientific faculty in the college's state-of-the-art laboratories.

The interns were presented with certificates at a graduation ceremony. So far, BTRTP has provided training to 50 interns since its launch in 2011, including this year's cohort.

The WCM-Q faculty who provided mentorship were Dr Khaled Machaca, professor of physiology and biophysics/senior associate dean for research, innovations, and commercialisation; Dr Laith Jamal Abu Raddad, associate dean for extramural research funding/professor of population health sciences/director of the biostatistics, epidemiology, and biomathematics research core; Dr Rayaz Malik, professor of medicine and assistant dean for clinical investigations; Dr Lotfi Chouchane, professor of genetic medicine and professor of microbiology and immunology; Dr Ali Sultan, professor of teaching in microbiology and immunology; and Dr Nayef Mazloum, assistant professor of microbiology & immunology/assistant dean for student research.

Graduates from the previous cycles have gone on to publish in leading journals, have been ac-

cepted to graduate school programmes in Qatar and abroad, while others have established careers in research at prestigious institutions across Qatar such as Qatar National Research Fund, Anti-Doping Lab Qatar, Sidra Medicine, Qatar University, Hamad Medical Corporation, the Ministry of Public Health, Qatar Foundation, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), and WCM-Q.

Besides providing individuals with a wide variety of research skills, the BTRTP is aimed at growing a generation of highly skilled scientists from the local talent pool in order to equip Qatar with the capacity to build the knowledge-based economy of the future.

Shaikha AlQahtani, BTRTP alumna and biomedical research training manager at WCM-Q, said: "In its 11th cycle, the programme has mentored many interns who continue to excel in the field of research. We feel honoured to see our previous BTRTP graduates attend the graduation ceremony to celebrate our latest group of graduates. This helps build a strong bond amongst different cohorts and through that we have created a network of researchers over the years."

Graduate Areej said: "BTRTP is the best experience I have ever had. I enjoyed learning by following my passion in science and helping patients with the clinical research team."

Waad, another graduate said: "The biomedical research training programme gave me an opportunity to have hands-on experience in medicinal chemistry and drug discovery in the field of cancer research."

Dr Machaca said: "We are delighted for the growing BTRTP alumni community, and this will support the continuity of the BTRTP mission of building excellent careers in research in Qatar. The graduates are a great asset to the research and development sector in Qatar."

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas launches summer and Eid offers

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas have announced its summer and Eid offers, a statement said yesterday. Guests can enjoy the Eid Staycation and adventures at Qatar's largest waterpark, with a discount of 20% on rooms and villas, inclusive of breakfast, throughout the summer season. The Salwa Summer Beach Fest on June 23 will offer a day filled with music, food stalls, kid's activities, and the pool and beach for QR200, which can be redeemed on food and drinks. Guests can enjoy a selection of authentic flavours from the signature restaurants; The League, Dante Italiana Cucina, Souk kitchen, Levantine and Miss Wong.

The resort has a range of activities - poolside lounging, water sports, beach volleyball, kids club or a dolphin cruise - to keep guests entertained. Complimentary access to Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park is guaranteed with any room or villa booking at the resort. The weekday family package



Etienne-Charles Gailliez

gives access to four persons for QR500. Ladies night at the waterpark will take place every Wednesday until October 25. The attractions include 28 rides and slides, as well as canyoning, go-karting, laser tag, an arcade full of fun games and a diving centre, and the latest aquatic adventure "AquaGlide", a 15-minute experience guided by



Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas - an aerial view.

expert instructors. Serenity Tuesdays for ladies at eforea spa is a big hit, and includes a refreshing drink, one-hour treatment with all-day access to thermal facilities, 30-minute full body scrub, three-course meal at Dante Italiana Cucina, as well as pool and beach access with a private cabana and towels.

Commenting on the summer offerings, Etienne-Charles Gailliez, general manager, Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas and country general manager, Hilton, Qatar said: "We eagerly await the arrival of visitors who are looking for the ultimate summer experience at our resort, which we proudly proclaim as the

perfect destination for creating cherished memories with friends and family - a place that truly stands apart from anywhere else." Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas is sprawled across 3.5km of prime coastline, along the shores of the Arabian Gulf, on the southwestern tip of Qatar, the statement added.

Ethiopian Airlines keen to diverse market base

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Ethiopian Airlines is actively working to diversify its market base and attract more corporate and leisure travellers not only to Ethiopia but also to all African destinations, the carrier's area manager Surafel Saketa Geleta said.

"That's why we're working closely with the (Ethiopian) embassy and the travel partners to help us change the perception of Ethiopian Airlines and also carry more leisure passengers," he said on the sidelines of a recent tourism promotion event in Doha.

To achieve this, Geleta said Ethiopian Airlines has been collaborating closely with embassies and travel partners: by packaging flights with African destinations and partnering with hotels and resorts across the region.

The airline is well-positioned to provide convenient travel options throughout the African continent, which is increasingly eager to attract tourists as countries recover



Surafel Saketa Geleta

from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"First thing we're selling convenience, second thing, we're selling economies of scale... we're producing these packages in a volume so that we can get a volume advantage," he said, noting that the airline leverages its brand strength and negotiates advantageous deals with corporate companies, hotels, and resorts. This, he added, enables the airline to offer competitive prices and secure excellent value for their customers.

Geleta said that safety, security, and customer service are additional areas where Ethiopian Airlines excels. With its strong reputation as an airline, he said the company is investing in the hospitality and tourism sector, further enhancing its competitive advantage.

About the possibility of offering visa on arrival for residents in Qatar - similar to systems implemented by Georgia and Armenia - Geleta said Ethiopian Airlines is keen to increase movement and expand the market.

As a business, he said the airline believes that simplified visa processes and open borders are catalysts for increased movement, leading to a thriving market.

Geleta explained that simplified visa procedures such as visa upon arrival would eliminate paperwork and on-line applications, providing travellers with a hassle-free experience. He stressed that the focus remains on boosting movement, creating a seamless travel experience, and delivering high customer satisfaction.

VCUarts Qatar announces summer programme

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) has announced the next edition of its popular High School Summer Programme.

The Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university's three-week programme, with an optional extra week of portfolio classes, offers an introduction to the different majors at Qatar's renowned art and design university, a statement explained.

Following a week-long overarching introduction to the various academic pathways at VCUarts Qatar, students get to choose one discipline from graphic design, interior design, fashion design and painting and printmaking. They will spend the second and third weeks exploring this discipline in depth.

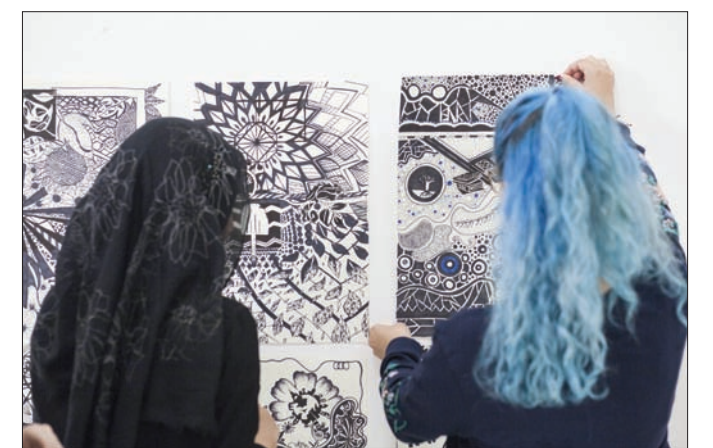
This is followed by an optional fourth week of classes devoted to portfolio development skills. This additional week will help prospective students who are



submitting their portfolios as part of the application processes for art, design and architecture universities.

The programme runs from July 2-20, 2023, without the portfolio development class. The optional fourth week of portfolio development classes runs from July 23-27. The daily class timing is from 10 am to 1 pm.

Registration for the High School Summer Programme is now open on the website <https://qatar.vcu.edu/community/summer-program>. More information is available from VCUQcommunity@vcu.edu or the WhatsApp number 00974 30133448.



Ooredoo ONE customers get 10 times more speed



Ooredoo - Qatar's leading provider of home Internet and entertainment - has upgraded the home Internet experience for all existing and new Ooredoo ONE customers, delivering up to 10 times more speed at no extra cost. With this latest upgrade, the diverse selection of content - which includes options catering to most resident national groups in their

preferred languages - will be delivered at Giga speeds of up to 1Gbps for three months without any extra charges, a statement said. Existing and new 1Gbps customers will enjoy 110 credits that can be redeemed against TV and streaming services of their choice. Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, Director PR, Ooredoo, said: "In line with our strategic aim of complete

customer satisfaction and our commitment to upgrading our customers' worlds, we're delighted to launch this latest promotion." In addition to the complimentary speed boost, new Ooredoo ONE customers will enjoy service installation at no charge and a discount of 20% on plan price for eight months.

Training workshop for families of children with cerebral palsy

The paediatric physical therapy outpatient department (PPT-OPD) at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) hosted a training workshop for parent caregivers of children with cerebral palsy.

The workshop, held at Bayt Al Dhiyafah in Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City, was inaugurated by Noora al-Mudhaka, assistant executive director of Clinical Services (physical therapy) at HMC.

The workshop, themed "Well-being, Information, Support and Empowerment (WISE)", aimed to improve the partnership and engagement of families of children with cerebral palsy in all aspects of their care. It is also designed to equip parents with information about various strategies to stimulate the child by capitalising on the brain's capacity to rewire connections in order to improve function and their participation in the community, the most enriching outcome.

The activity was headed by Suzan Ibrahim, supervisor of paediatric physical therapy at HMC,



Participants of the workshop.

along with members of her team.

The evidence-based workshop was developed to meet the gaps in family engagement as identified through parent surveys conducted as part of a research study carried out to identify family-centredness of care and challenges experienced by families of children with neuro-motor disabilities attending outpatient paediatric physical therapy services.

The study was a paediatric physiotherapy department initiative awarded in the Internal Research Grant Cycle (IRGC), led by Joel Anison, specialist in paediatric physical therapy, al-Mudhaka, along with two senior paediatric physical therapy researchers, Dr Gillian Ferguson from the University of Cape Town and Dr Eugene Rameckers from the University of Maastricht (The Netherlands) and Hasselt (Belgium).

The findings of the study highlighted the need to empower the caregivers of children with neuro-motor disabilities in Qatar, in order to help the children participate in the community.

Several in-house experts led the training sessions delivered in both English and Arabic and shared up-to-date information on the utility of various assistive aids to enhance function and participation of the



The staff and faculty.

child in the community.

They provided information on basic facts about cerebral palsy, the importance of participation according to the international classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF), and consideration of the six 'child development F- words' (function, family, friends, fun fitness and future) for a better participation outcome.

Parents were also taught

strategies to improve their general wellbeing. A session on the opportunities of modified sports available for children with cerebral palsy irrespective of their disabilities was an eye-opener to the audience.

Special sessions for the children and their siblings, such as fun games and face-painting, were also conducted during the workshop.

During the workshop, fami-

lies watched a video presentation featuring a testimony from a child with cerebral palsy who receives paediatric outpatient services at Bin Omran.

The video highlighted how the child's participation, facilitated by his parents, transformed him into a more independent member of the community, with the help of his assistive aid. The child's ability to play his favourite sport (football), have fun with friends, visit new places, and even pursue his dream of becoming a YouTuber, served as a motivating moment for the audience, especially for other participating families and their children.

Encouraging more engagement of parents in the care of their child with cerebral palsy, in addition to the emphasis on functionality and participation of the child in the community, rather than trying to make the child, fit into a traditional normality framework, was the thread that ran throughout the workshop.

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Argentina faces crunch IMF talks to defuse looming debt bomb

Argentina and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have a \$44bn dilemma, with the two sides set to meet for crunch talks to revamp the country's huge, wobbling debt deal, key to avoiding default on billions in looming debt payments.

The South American country, a serial defaulter that has struggled for years with inflation and currency crises, struck a \$57bn loan deal with the IMF in 2018, which failed and was replaced last year with a new \$44bn programme.

But with net foreign currency reserves estimated to be in negative territory, hit by a major drought that sunk the key soy and corn harvests, Argentina is at risk again of missing debt repayments, with \$2.7 billion due to the fund this month alone.

Economy Minister Sergio Massa is expected in Washington as early as this week to try to unlock talks to accelerate IMF disbursements and ease economic targets attached to the deal, with investors and traders watching closely.

"The fund knows that Argentina is a problem, it is its main debtor, but it seems to me that the negotiation has stagnated. One does not see significant progress," said Ricardo Delgado of Argentine financial services firm Analytica.

In a sign of potential holds-ups, an economy ministry source said on Friday that Massa's trip, previously briefed to happen in the next few days, could be delayed depending on how virtual talks progressed.

"Until everything is sealed, no one travels. When everything is ready, they'll travel to put things on paper. And when everything is written, Massa will travel," the source said.

On the streets of Buenos Aires pressure is rising. Inflation has hit 114%, hurting salaries and spending power, reserves have tumbled and one-in-four people is in poverty, with many blaming – not for the first time – austerity linked to the IMF.

"We must change these economic policies, we must break with the dependence on the IMF," said Hugo Godoy, a union leader marching on Friday in Buenos Aires as part of protests against the government's handling of the economy and austerity.

"Some 43% of Argentines live below the poverty line and 4.5mn, 10% of the population, suffer from hunger," he said.

Many worry that even sped-up IMF payouts won't solve Argentina's problems for long

The government is hoping to bring forward over \$10bn in IMF disbursements scheduled for this year, though is reluctant to agree to tough austerity measures with an eye on October general elections where it faces likely defeat.

"Investors are paying real attention to signs from the IMF negotiations," said economist Gustavo Ber.

"Receiving fresh funds – or at least rescheduling disbursements and payments – would be crucial to reduce exchange and financial tensions at this stage."

Meanwhile Argentina has been rolling over local debt to push back peso-denominated repayments, has extended a currency swap line with China, and faces a wall of obligations with private foreign creditors next year.

The local debt exchanges and hopes of progress with the IMF have nudged up Argentina's dollar-denominated bonds from high-20 cents on the dollar in May to mid-30 cents now, though they remain mired in distressed territory.

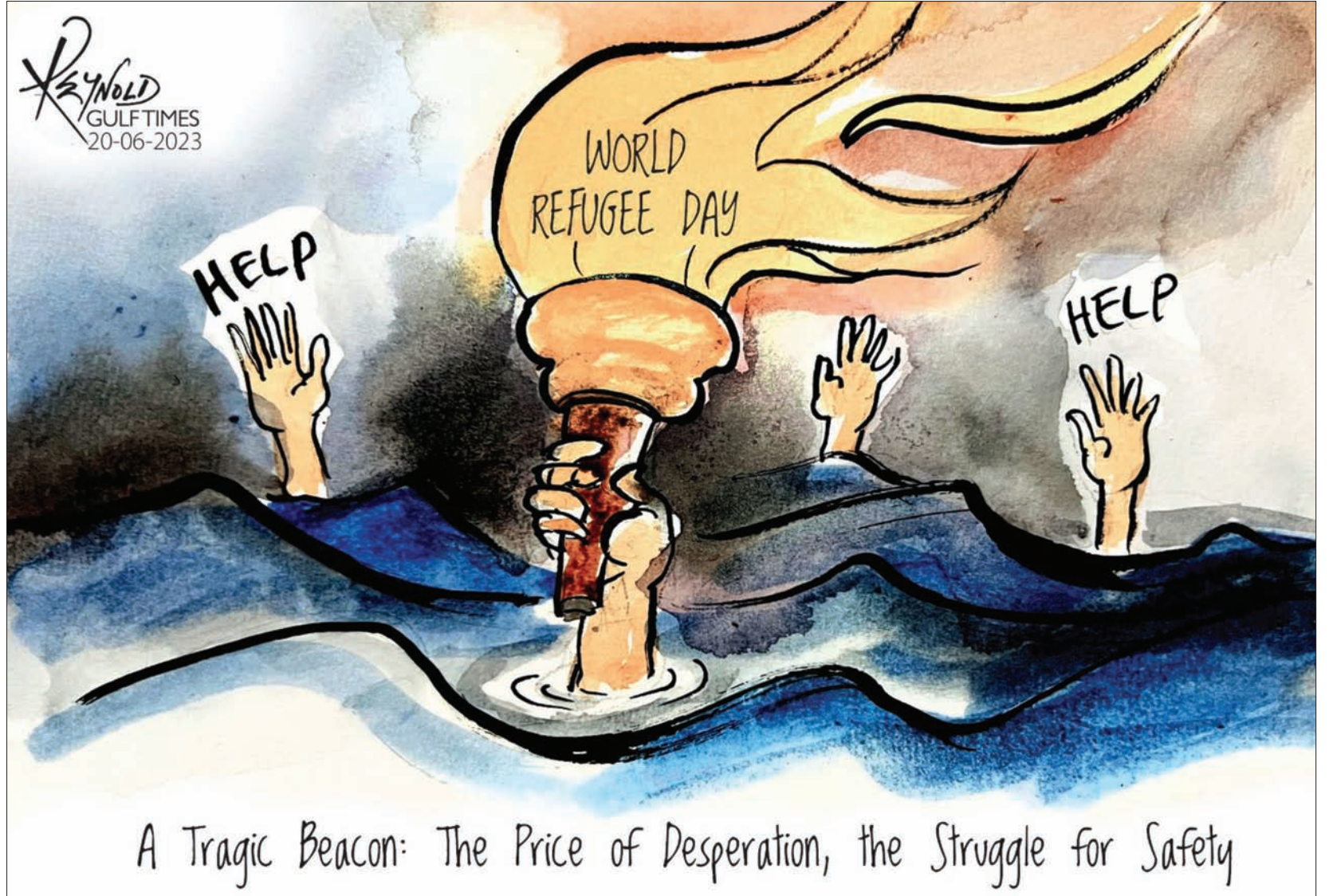
And many worry that even sped-up IMF payouts won't solve Argentina's problems for long.

"Frontloading disbursements could be a 'damage control' solution until the end of the current government's term in December," the Institute of International Finance, a Washington-based banking trade group, said in a report.

Argentina got a hint of good news this week with monthly inflation cooling in May for the first time in half a year and coming in below analyst expectations, though it was still an eye-watering 7.8% for the month.

"Inflation continues to be very high and affects the entire economic scenario, but the fact that it has eased somewhat with respect to April helps to remove some pressure," an Argentine banker said, asking not to be named.

"It is like the sick patient with a fever that has gone down slightly. But the patient is still sick and still has a fever." – Reuters



Qatar and Singapore: Small states, big dreams



By Jai S Sohan
Ambassador of Singapore

The first female President of the Republic of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob, is currently on a state visit to Qatar, at the invitation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. This is a momentous occasion that marks a milestone in the last four decades of friendship between Singapore and Qatar.

It is particularly significant as Mdm Halimah's visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of the successful reign of His Highness the Amir, who is a special friend of Singapore and the people of

Singapore. In fact, after Mdm Halimah took office in September 2017, the first foreign leader whom she received was His Highness the Amir in October 2017. Under His Highness the Amir's able stewardship, the relations between Singapore and Qatar have grown from strength to strength. Singapore is the only country to have a High-Level Joint Committee (HLJC) with Qatar, an institutionalised platform that charts the strategic direction of bilateral relations. I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, to Singapore this year to co-chair the next round of the HLJC.

Singapore enjoys excellent relations with Qatar. As small states, we share common interests and challenges. In spite of our size, our two countries have always striven to be active, responsible, and constructive members of the international community. We may be small in size and population, but that does not limit us from seeking to play a meaningful role regionally and globally. As Mdm Halimah said recently, diplomacy today is a far more complex task. We cannot assume that open markets and globalisation are part of the 'natural order', especially in the face of rising protectionist, insular and nationalist sentiments. In this regard,

I am pleased to note that both Singapore and Qatar have been strong proponents of an open and rules-based multilateral trading system. Singapore was the first country to conclude a Free Trade Agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), signed in Doha during Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's Official Visit in December 2008.

Singapore sees tremendous economic potential in the GCC, and we view Doha as an important energy, aviation, logistics, and sports hub. In 2022, the total trade between Singapore and Qatar amounted to over US\$6.1bn, a steady increase of 6% from the previous year. The investment linkages between the two countries have also grown deeper over the years, particularly after Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) set up its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore in 2021. Today, economic co-operation between Singapore and Qatar spans the energy, infrastructure, urban planning, and technology sectors, among others. During Mdm Halimah's visit, our two

countries will sign important agreements in several areas, such as cybersecurity, food security, innovation exchanges, technical co-operation, and low-carbon technology collaborations. These will pave the way for new frontiers in our bilateral ties.

In Singapore, we have great admiration for the Qatari leadership for its long-term vision and seriousness to develop the country, while preserving its rich cultural heritage. Over the course of my tenure here, I have seen remarkable developments in Qatar – I was especially fortunate to witness the spectacular FIFA World Cup 2022! In spite of the rapid changes, the Qatari leadership has always made it a point to retain its Qatari identity. This quest to balance modernity and national identity is yet another similarity that binds our two countries together. We wish Qatar well in its journey towards National Vision 2030, and look forward to working together to further enhance the special bond between our two countries and people.

Global tax deal at risk as first pillar teeters

By Leigh Thomas
Paris

One of the two pillars of a global corporate tax overhaul due to come into force next year is at risk of collapsing as plans over how to share taxing rights on the 100 biggest, most profitable multinationals fall victim to domestic US politics.

Nearly 140 countries are supposed to start implementing from next year a 2021 deal rewriting outdated rules of international taxation to deter multinational companies like Alphabet's Google or Amazon from booking profits in low-tax countries.

The deal, aimed in particular at mainly US-based digital giants, is built on a first pillar that aims to reallocate taxing rights on about \$200bn in profits from the companies to the countries where they do business.

The second pillar aims to end a decades-long race to the bottom on tax rates. It tries to ensure companies with revenue greater than €750mn (\$820mn) pay a global minimum rate of 15% by allowing governments to apply a top-up tax on revenues earned in countries with lower rates.

"Pillar I has a much rockier path forward. Indeed it is quite likely that it will ultimately fail," said tax lawyer Peter Barnes, who heads industry forum the International Fiscal Association.

Countries had originally hoped to have a high-level signing ceremony in July for a new multilateral treaty – needed to redistribute taxing rights. But officials now say the hope is simply to have a viable text ready by then as ironing out some countries' concerns proves tricky.

Even if the details are hammered out by July and G20 leaders sign off on the treaty at a summit in



September, some officials said Republican opposition and a lack of Democratic enthusiasm spells trouble for its ratification in the US Congress.

"Pillar I will not be implemented by the United States. It will not pass Congress," said one official close to the discussions at the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

While the global minimum tax was always expected to bring in far more revenue, the collapse of plans to redistribute taxing rights would not come without consequences.

The Biden administration backed the deal in 2021 in part because it requires other countries to abandon existing or planned digital services taxes targeting big US tech groups.

France, which the Trump administration hit with tariff action over its digital services tax before the Biden administration suspended it, has said that it will keep the tax in place as long as Pillar I of the deal is not resolved.

If Washington does not ratify the treaty, some of the more than 30 countries that have digital taxes or are

thinking about imposing them are likely to go ahead, another official involved in the discussions at the OECD said.

Against that background, US companies are eager to see progress on a multilateral solution that would get rid of unilateral digital services taxes.

"The proliferation of digital services taxes continues to fragment the global tax system, severely impacting all industries that do business around the world," said Megan Funkhouser, senior director of the Information Technology Industry Council, which represents many US tech firms.

The spread of digital services taxes could be a red flag for Republicans in Congress, who introduced a bill last month for a reciprocal levy on countries that target US companies with "unfair taxes" under the global minimum tax.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told CNBC last week that the bill had little chance of passing and that the United States would get on board with the global minimum.

"I think that over time as other countries adopt this minimum tax, and put in place penalties designed to encourage countries that are not part of it to adopt it, that the United States and members of Congress will see that it is sensible and appropriate for us to put it in place as well," she said.

Barnes said big changes to the US tax code were unlikely before 2025 – after next year's presidential election and when Trump-era tax cuts expire – but that US multinationals would need to put pressure on Congress to get the United States in sync with global rules.

"We face a crazy situation with enormous compliance burdens and tax revenues going to other countries. For me that's the issue to watch," he said. – Reuters

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Culture minister, accredited ambassadors to Qatar visit DIBF



By Tawfik Lamari

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday toured the ongoing 32nd the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), accompanied by

many ambassadors and representatives of international organisations. The dignitaries learned about the treasures of manuscripts as well as the most important modern publications on various topics presented by Arab and foreign publishing houses. A major attraction was the

Ministry of Culture's pavilion, which has showcased rare manuscripts and books, the pavilion of Expo Doha 2023, as well as the Saudi pavilion, the guest of honour of the exhibition. They were also briefed about the many cultural and children's activities at the exhibition. Held under the

slogan 'With Reading We Rise', the event, at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, kicked off on June 12 and runs through June 21. The event brought together more than 500 publishers from 37 countries. Saudi Arabia has been named the guest of honour for this edition. (QNA)

Culture minister attends launch of 2 new publications



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani attended the launch of two new publications within the activities of the cultural salon at the ongoing 32nd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), being held under the slogan "With Reading We Rise". They are Ibn Batuta's Secret Manuscript (by the writer and journalist Jassim Salam) and published by Dar al-Wated and al-Rafidain and The Development of The story in The Tales of Sinbad by Lubaba Amin al-Hawari. The DIBF is concluding tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Distinguished Omani participation in DIBF



The Omani Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has a special pavilion at the ongoing 32nd Doha International Book Fair. Official Jamal Abdullah al-Nuaimi said: "We are keen every year to participate with a collection of books and publications specialised in medicine, literature, science, history and in the Arabic language. With regard to the new publications, we have a collection of titles launched in Muscat International Book Fair, including the Omani Manuscript Book."



Novel by youngest writer launched at DIBF

The Cultural Salon at the ongoing 32nd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) witnessed the launch of a book by Laiba Abdelsamad, who holds a Guinness World Record as the youngest novel writer in the world. She published her first book at the age of nine. The book in English, titled *The Book of Legends* is part of a series of three books titled *The Order of Galaxies*. Laiba said that her book is a fantasy story about four children who go to school, but one of them gets kidnapped and his friends try to save him. The young author is seen with her parents (right) and officials.

DIBF symposium highlights role of reading in light of rapid tech developments

A symposium discussing the role of reading in promoting soft power in light of the rapid developments in technology was organised on Sunday as part of the activities of the 32nd Doha International Book Fair. Director of the Arab Educational Training Center for Gulf States Dr Fatma Ghanim al-Maadeed and Dr Mohamed Mustafa, an educational expert, attended the symposium which was moderated by Director of Qatar Media Center of the Ministry of Culture Iman al-Kaabi. Dr Fatma al-Maadeed stressed the importance of using modern technology to attract children to reading by listening to recorded and online stories, and through their favourite activities, in addition to the programmes available for reading on the Internet. She noted that Qatar organises many activities to promote reading, and has public libraries to encourage students to read and borrow books to develop the reading habit, pointing to the possibility of transforming modern technology into a factor that helps in the actual promotion of reading. Dr Mustafa said that technology nowadays helps reading everywhere and anytime. There are many websites that offer a large collection of books for free, in addition to sites for audiobooks that enable the browser to listen to the audio of the books they want. The rapid development of sites, including Arab and foreign sites, has made the process of browsing and searching easier for the reader. In addition, digital devices are easy to move and allow reading from anywhere in the world, he added. (QNA)

Symposium on pillars of national identity in Qatari founder's poetry

The cultural salon of the Qatari Forum for Authors organised a symposium entitled "Components and pillars of the Qatari national identity in the poetry of Sheikh Jassim", as part of the cultural events of the 32nd Doha International Book Fair which is held under the slogan "With Reading We Rise". Researcher and historian Khaled bin Ghanem al-Ali spoke during the symposium that was presented by academic and researcher in history Dr Ali Afifi Ali Ghazi, in the presence of a large audience at the book fair. The lecturer dealt with the components and pillars of the Qatari identity and cited historical events experienced by the people of Qatar as well as through the poems of the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani, and linked that to the collective memory. (QNA)



TotalEnergies joins Dadu as Founding Family Member

TotalEnergies Qatar has signed an agreement with Qatar Museums (QM) to become a "Founding Family" member of Dadu, the Children's Museum of Qatar, a statement said yesterday.

This partnership further reinforces TotalEnergies' ties with the QM, building upon the success of the Qatar-TotalEnergies playground at the National Museum of Qatar (NMOQ).

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

The museum will be Qatar's

first publicly funded museum, with all donors, families, and corporations directly contributing to the future of Qatar and its people.

Dadu will be dedicated to the continuous enrichment of the lives of children and their families.

The museum is being designed to nurture, challenge, and inspire Qatar's future leaders and caretakers, fuelling their creativity and encouraging empathy and understanding.

In the presence of QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and HE Dr Mohamed bin Saleh al-Sada, president of the Dadu Advisory Committee, a special

ceremony was organised at the NMOQ during which Matthieu Bouyer, the managing director of TotalEnergies EP Qatar and country chair, and QM chief executive Ahmad al-Namla signed the sponsorship agreement.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa stated: "We are pleased to welcome TotalEnergies, a valued long-term partner, as a 'Founding Family' member of Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar."

"This collaboration symbolises our shared commitment to the holistic development of children through meaningful play," she said. "TotalEnergies brings a unique perspective that aligns with our mission, and their active involvement will undoubtedly



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with officials and dignitaries at the ceremony.

edly enhance our ability to provide enriching experiences for our young visitors."

In his opening speech, Bouyer conveyed: "We are delighted to contribute to this new innovative project of Qatar Museums, Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, where the children of Qatar will be able to learn in an innovative and friendly environment."

"Our partnership is based on a shared vision – that foresees the development of an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation,"

he continued. "Both organisations – Qatar Museums and TotalEnergies – are making strides in their respective domains towards building a more sustainable society, and that starts with education."

Dadu is pioneering a transformative approach to children's learning and development.

The museum will foster an environment that allows children to develop essential skills, stimulate creativity, and engage in shared experiences, the statement added.



CSGDB partners with MoEHE, CCQ for academic initiative

The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CSGDB) has launched the first edition of an academic competencies initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) that aims to employ Qatari holders of postgraduate university qualifications (PhD and Master degrees) for the upcoming academic year through the Kawader National E-Recruitment Portal.

This came during a press conference held on Sunday in the presence of MoEHE Undersecretary Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, CSGDB Civil Service Affairs director Saif Ali al-Kaabi, and Community College of Qatar (CCQ) president Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Horr.

Dr al-Nuaimi said that the MoEHE prioritises support for the higher education sector and promotes its regional and in-



The officials at the press conference.

ternational competitiveness, emphasising that this cannot be done unless academic jobs are localised through adopting a series of localisation initiatives.

He said that holders of PhD degrees will be directly employed within the CCQ's teaching staff, while holders of Master degrees will be employed for one year.

Subsequently, the scholarship department will follow up on those who have been employed based on this initiative to further complete their postgraduate studies at one of national universities in Qatar.

Dr al-Nuaimi said that the MoEHE spares no effort to employ Qatari holders of postgraduate qualifications within

the ranks of its educational structure, and co-ordinates with various state sectors and their institutions to provide best methods of investment in human resources to meet the needs of the community and the labour market.

He noted the level of co-operation and co-ordination among national institutions and the authorities, with the CSGDB being at the forefront in job localisation to achieve the sustainable development goals and Qatar National Vision 2030.

CSGDB Civil Service Affairs Director al-Kaabi said that such an initiative is a vital step for Kawader Portal in terms of attracting Qataris to the higher education sector, towards the goal of knowledge-based sustainable development.

He outlined that co-operation with the MoEHE and CCQ is pivotal for the development of

the human resources sector.

Al-Kaabi said that the CSGDB will embark on updating jobs within the academic competencies initiative, following up on the programme and dedicating the Kawader Portal to those who wish to enrol in the programme.

He stressed the importance of the CCQ's role in empowering holders of PhD and Masters qualifications, to prove their aptitude and capabilities in achieving academic excellence, developing their knowledge and skills to support the educational structure, and promote performance and educational curricula.

Dr al-Horr said the CCQ will henceforth receive those who wish to enrol in the programme through the Kawader Portal.

He urged Qatari holders of university qualifications or higher in one of the disciplines laid out in the programme – in-

cluding those who are interested in college teaching and want to build and refine their abilities and skills through completing their postgraduate studies in of national universities in Qatar – to enrol in order to achieve their ambitions in developing the higher education sector.

Dr al-Horr said that such an initiative is crucial in promoting sustainability within the higher education sector, through attracting and employing national talents capable of discharging their duties in building future generations, in addition to creating national talents who are vested with the responsibility of advancing the community.

He said that the CCQ is an excellent academic destination with an educational environment that stimulates innovation and creativity, and attracts numerous academic talents. – QNA



CMC voters urged to focus on quality of candidates

Voters should assume their responsibility in selecting the proper candidate from their constituency in the upcoming seventh round of elections to the Central Municipal Council (CMC), a number of Qatari citizens have stressed.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, they said that the selection process should be mainly based on the efficiency and qualification of the candidate, his or her campaign programme, and how practical it is.

They reiterated the important role of the CMC in promoting the demands of the citizens regarding the development and upgrade of various municipal services and infrastructure in their areas across the country.

Jabir al-Kubaisi said that the CMC elections over the past years have increased the awareness of citizens and enhanced their knowledge about such democratic practices.

He also called on the winning candidates to maintain active communication with their voters and discuss with them their demands for development while working out effective solutions.

Al-Kubaisi added that there is a need for a special recreation project for the elderly and people with special needs that the CMC members should promote.

Ali al-Zakiba urged voters to select candidates based on their efficiency and practical programmes, considering this as a national duty.

The winners should be serious about their responsibility and the interests of their voters.

Saqr al-Muftah said that CMC candidates should be honest and realistic about their campaign promises and tell their voters only the things they can really achieve through the council.

He said that he prefers candidates who enjoy active social roles and careers which will make his or her job easier.

Hamad al-Obaidly said the candidate should approach the people of his or her constituency to have a closer look at the issues that interest them most regarding municipal services.

Nasser al-Malki said he prefers candidates who have new and innovative ideas for municipal development and can suggest new ways of resolving issues.

They should be able to actively follow up on the development and upgrade of such services for the good of the inhabitants of the constituency, he added.



Some of those attending the event.

QU Health honours clinical faculty members

Qatar University (QU) Health Sector organised the first annual Clinical Faculty Members Appreciation Day recently.

The event saw more than 300 attendees from different healthcare institutions, including the Clinical faculty, QU Health stakeholders, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Healthcare Corporation (PHCC), Sidra Medicine, and Aspetar.

The objective was to appreciate the efforts of clinical faculty and reflect the collaborative endeavours with the HMC, PHCC, Sidra Medicine, and other healthcare institutions.

Prof Asmaa al-Thani, vice-president for Health and Medical Sciences and the director of the Biomedical Research Centre, welcomed the guests and lauded the remarkable efforts of the clinical faculty, who are often practicing professionals themselves

and provide invaluable mentorship, guidance, and support to QU Health students.

Dr Medhat Askar, associate vice-president for Clinical Affairs, pointed out the importance of the clinical faculty's role in shaping the learning experience at QU Health, imparting practical knowledge, and fostering a deep understanding of patient care within the next generation of healthcare professionals.

ConteQ Expo24 to showcase modern construction and services technologies

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"We are currently witnessing an impressive surge of progress and digitalisation across all industries," al-Emadi said. "To keep up with this rapid advancement, it is crucial to swiftly act and provide a platform for innovators, enthusiasts, and technical experts to convene with decision-makers and creators."

Ministry of Labour assistant undersecretary Mohamed Hassan al-Obaidly said that ConteQ Expo24 represents a pivotal stride towards realising the objectives and policies pursued by Qatar. "It not only facilitates the actual dig-

ital transformation within crucial sectors, such as construction and services, but also attracts specialised and skilled workers while curbing the reliance on unskilled labour," he said. "This endeavour bears significant positive implications as it enhances productivity and facilitates the execution of major projects in the country's construction and services sectors, adhering to the requisite standards."

"Moreover, it enables us to remain abreast of advanced digital solutions, emerging requirements, and evolving trends," al-Obaidly added. "This, in turn, fosters initiatives and ongoing endeavours in the realm of digital trans-

formation within the construction and services fields."

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Public Relations Department head, Jassim Mohamed al-Naama, said that ConteQ Expo24 embodies the ministry's commitment to advancing technology in the construction and services industry.

"The exhibition will showcase advanced technologies and innovative solutions in the services sector, and provide a platform for companies, industry experts and innovators to meet with their counterparts and explore opportunities for co-operation and growth," he said. "We are excited to showcase



new technologies that will automate many processes and thus simplify them and enhance efficiency in these areas."

Exhibition organising committee manager engineer Salem al-Shawi said the organisers are delighted to bring the world's thought leaders and respected industry peers together with Qatar's construction, manufacturing, and retail industry figures to digitise and advance the construction, manufacturing, and retail industries.

"Digital transformation and its evolution are imperative to business and economic advancement," he noted.

"It enables collaboration, information flow, increased efficiency, productivity, sustainability, and safety."

"Showcasing the latest cutting-edge digital solutions, ConteQ Expo24 will be an exceptional event for companies striving for growth and advancement," al-Shawi said.

The press conference also marked signing of sponsorship contracts with UCC Holding (UrbaCon Trading & Contracting) as the Official Sponsor, and Nafco Qatar as the Platinum Sponsor, and AMANA company as the Gold Sponsor.

QRDI Council contributes to scientific research, innovation: official

Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council secretary-general engineer Omar Ali al-Ansari has affirmed that the QRDI Council's mission lies in providing a fertile intellectual environment for the scientific research and innovation community in Qatar.

He said in an interview with the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the Council endeavours to provide opportunities for co-operation with the relevant authorities from various countries of the world, with the aim of exchanging information and expertise and promoting scientific and technological progress.

Al-Ansari said that the QRDI Council has adopted a unified national strategy for innovation and scientific research, to maximise the impact of the research and innovation sector.

He noted that the Council has launched the Qatar Strategy for Research, Development and In-

novation 2030, which consists of seven strategic transformation axes.

The official stressed that the Council plays a key role in encouraging innovation by supporting the business sector to be more competitive, localising research, development and innovation activities for international companies, and transforming Qatar into a prestigious regional innovation centre.

He added that the Council is about to launch a new initiative to support innovation in the private sector.

Under this would be new platforms and programmes to explore innovation opportunities in a limited range of major national companies and some government agencies.

Al-Ansari said that the QRDI Council is currently studying projects submitted by companies based on technology development.

These projects relate to opportunities to expand

and localise innovation centres for international companies in order to develop, adapt and test new technology in Qatar.

The official said that this development would create a unique market in the region, targeting early adoption of the technology developed in Qatar, and expanding the creation of new economic activities related to innovation in the business sector.

Al-Ansari indicated that the QRDI Portal is a source for all records of innovation and scientific research projects in the country.

According to the latest statistics in the first quarter of 2023, the portal contains 2,863 projects, 11,869 research publications, 266 new facilities, 4,273 research devices, and 268 research services.

The portal also connects more than 51 government entities, companies, universities, institutes, research laboratories, and others.

Al-Ansari added that the QRDI Council has

launched a number of initiatives within the framework of innovation programmes, among them the Qatar Open Innovation (QOI) programme, which aims to support large companies and government institutions to find innovative solutions provided by a group of local and international innovators.

He said that the QOI programme has received, since its launch, more than 400 submissions from innovators across Qatar and the world.

Al-Ansari also cited the Product Development Management Programme, which is being implemented in co-operation with the Qatar Development Bank, and has attracted 25 participants from 11 small and medium local companies.

He also mentioned the Government Innovation Leadership Programme, which has seen the participation of 30 senior government employees (directors and heads of departments) from 10 ministries. – QNA