



homesrus

MEGA OFFER

NEW PRICES ON ALL ITEMS
15 AUG - 30 SEPT 2023

Heart Plaza | Place Vendôme (Leasat) | Eton Mall | Al Madina
Mall of Qatar | Near Opera | City Center Doha

800 4747 7046 3999

Shop online www.homesrus.qa

 Together we can **vodafone**

You know it's a GigaHome  when speed starts at 1Gbps

 vf.qa/GigaHome

He praised the pioneering role played by the EAA as a strategic partner of the QFFD as it succeeded during the past few years in returning over 10mn children to schools. **(QNA)**

Arab parliaments conference concludes

The two-day 10th conference of the Association of Secretaries-General of Arab Parliaments wrapped up in Doha yesterday.

Organised by the Shura Council, the event witnessed the participation of over 80 participants from the general secretaries, representatives of parliaments, and Arab legislative councils, alongside several representatives of organisations and Arab parliamentary unions.

The second and final day of the conference included the convention of the 43rd general assembly meeting during which the statute was endorsed and amended, in addition to discussing and endorsing the guidance note of the secretary-general's purview in Arab parliaments.

In addition, the event featured

the signing of the draft general budget, approval of the final balance sheet, and discussion of a report on the outcome of the association's work since its last meeting held on the margins of the 34th meeting of the Arab Parliament Union convened in Baghdad, Iraq in February 2023.

The meeting discussed the proposal of changing the association's logo and decided to complete discussions in the upcoming meeting of the association.

In its meeting, the association approved the National Assembly of Mauritania's bid to join the Association of Secretaries-General of Arab Parliaments and decided to postpone the complementary elections for members of the executive committee.

On the second day of the conference, former general secretaries

in several Arab parliaments were honoured in appreciation of their efforts and services provided during their tenure.

In his remarks on this occasion, HE Shura Council Secretary-General and President of the Association, Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadala, confirmed the success of the conference.

He pointed out that during its convention in Doha, the conference addressed a critical topic, namely digital democracy, social media, and the role of parliamentary councils in bolstering them, noting the importance of keeping up with the evolution of the digital age and utilising the information and communication technology in developing, upgrading and facilitating the performance of the parliamentary action. (QNA)



Qatari aid planes arrive in Benghazi

The first two planes from the Qatari air bridge arrived at Benina International Airport in Benghazi to help brothers affected by floods and torrential rains in the east of Libya. The planes carry 67 tonnes of humanitarian and relief aid as an emergency response to the humanitarian situation in areas affected by floods and torrents. The aid included medical and food supplies provided by the Permanent Committee for Rescue, Relief and Humanitarian Aid in the disaster-stricken areas of brotherly and friendly countries and the Qatar Red Crescent, in addition to a field hospital provided by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). (QNA)

Parliamentary agreement signed

The Association of Secretaries-General of the Arab Parliaments signed an agreement with the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States under which the association received an observer status at the union. The agreement was signed on the margins of the 10th conference of the association that wrapped up its activities yesterday. HE the Shura Council Secretary-General and President of the Association, Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadala, signed the memorandum for the association, while Secretary-General of the Union of Councils of Member States of OIC Member States, Mohamed Qureshi Nias signed for the union. (QNA)



QFFD sends field hospital to aid Libya flood victims

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) yesterday sent a fully equipped field hospital to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the catastrophic floods in Libya. The hospital is intended to provide urgent and specialised healthcare to the injured. It includes specialised medical equipment, patient beds, power generators and various medical supplies, enabling it to offer comprehensive healthcare to the injured and patients. (QNA)



Registration



* With live Arabic translation

HIWARAAT CONFERENCE SERIES

THE INVASION OF IRAQ: REGIONAL REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2023

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL DOHA - QATAR

cirs.qatar.georgetown.edu/iraq

Keynote Speaker



His Excellency Dr. Barham Salih
Former President of the Republic of Iraq

Twenty years on, the geopolitical legacy of the US-led invasion of Iraq endures. Join us as scholars and experts analyze the profound impact of this pivotal event on regional security, international relations, and the emerging global order.

This conference is convened by Dr. Safwan Masri, Dean of Georgetown University in Qatar and the Center for International and Regional Studies.

Be a part of the **DIALOGUE**.
Be a part of **HIWARAAT**.

qatar.georgetown.edu/conferences

جامعة جورجيتاون قطر
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR

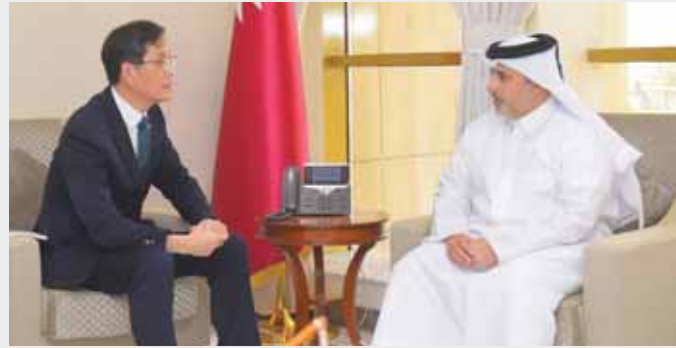
Al-Sulaiti meets Azerbaijani minister

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Seif al-Sulaiti met in Baku with Azerbaijani Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyeu. During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of bilateral co-operation in transportation, various transport activities, commercial ports and civil aviation, and ways to enhance and develop them. Qatar's ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah Hamad al-Hanzab attended the meeting. (QNA)



Al-Subaie meets Korean deputy minister of agriculture

HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with the visiting Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea Kim In-Joong. During the meeting, ways to enhance co-operation in areas of common interest, especially in agriculture and food security fields, were discussed. (QNA)



Qatar, Saudi Arabia hold second co-ordination meeting regarding Abu Samra, Salwa land ports



The second co-ordination meeting between the interior ministries of Qatar and Saudi Arabia regarding the single port project and exchanging data between the two land ports (Abu Samra Qatari Port-Saudi Salwa Port) was held yesterday at the General Directorate of Passports building, with the aim of studying the executive procedures proposed by them on this issue. Border Passports Department Director Brigadier General Nasser bin Abdullah al-Thani chaired the Qatari delegation to the meeting, while the Saudi delegation was headed by Assistant Director General of Passports for Ports Affairs Brigadier General Saud bin Bandar al-Soor. At the beginning of the meeting, Brigadier General Nasser bin Abdullah al-Thani welcomed the delegation to their second country, Qatar, wishing them success. He hoped that the efforts exerted would result in the required co-ordination, pointing out that the current meeting comes as a continuation of what was discussed in previous meetings with the aim of enhancing joint co-operation regarding the entry and exit through the Abu Samra and Salwa ports, and facilitating travel movement. During the meeting, the latest developments regarding proposals and recommendations were discussed, and appropriate measures were taken to achieve the desired goals. (QNA)

Minister of Justice: Qatar seeks to harness AI in justice, legal systems

HE the Minister of Justice Masoud bin Mohamed al-Ameri said that Qatar is working to harness artificial intelligence (AI) systems and benefit from them in its judicial and legal systems.

In his keynote at the Law and Artificial Intelligence Conference held yesterday at Lusail University, HE al-Ameri said that one of Qatar's first steps in that field was the Cabinet decision No 10 of 2021, on establishing the AI Committee in the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

He also pointed to Qatar's participation in several international events on the use of AI systems, the latest of which was the International Conference on Justice held in Riyadh in March 2023.

HE al-Ameri pointed out that AI has made great strides in recent years, as it has been used in many vital sectors such as medical diagnosis, military logistics services, self-driving vehicles and drones, applications that predict the outcome of judicial decisions, search engines, advertisements and translation.

He warned of the risks that could affect human life as a result of the use of AI systems, saying that despite the many benefits of these systems, their use is fraught with many risks that can directly



HE the Minister of Justice Masoud bin Mohamed al-Ameri addressing the audience at Lusail University.

affect human life, rights, and freedoms.

Regarding security risks, he said that the danger of AI systems lies in that they may be used for illegal and illegitimate purposes, such as advanced digital warfare and smart weapons, which may threaten international peace and security.

President of Lusail University Professor Nitham Hindi addressed the conference which is organised by the university's College of Law, and coincides with the World Law Day (Sept 13).

Artificial intelligence is one of the most important scientific

fields that needs study and discussion from all scientific and legal aspects, he said.

He highlighted that organising the conference stems from the university's responsibility and keenness to involve the Qatari and the international community in this discussion to produce recommendations capable of formulating a law regulating this field.

Prof Hindi voiced confidence that the topics presented at the conference will receive their share of in-depth discussions in light of this presence of legal experts and specialists from several Arab countries. (QNA)

Cabinet offers condolences to Morocco, Libya

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

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs stated the following: At the beginning of the meeting, the Cabinet expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Morocco, on the victims of the devastating earthquake, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

The Cabinet reaffirmed Qatar's support for Morocco and its solidarity with its brotherly people in confronting the repercussions of the earthquake, as well as providing the necessary assistance to the affected areas. The Cabinet also expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the Government of National Unity of Libya and to

the brotherly Libyan people, on the victims of the floods that swept the northeast of the country, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured, reaffirming Qatar's solidarity and its readiness to provide the necessary assistance to the areas affected by the floods.

The Cabinet then considered the topics on its agenda as follows: First - Approval of the draft decision of HE the Minister of Municipality amending Decision No 68 of 2011 Amending Geographical Boundaries of Certain Municipalities and Zones.

Second - Approval of the draft decision of HE the Minister of Municipality on banning fishing using lights (flashlights).

Third - Approval of: 1- Qatar's accession to the Digital Co-operation Organisation.

2- Qatar's accession to the Agreement on Liberalisation of Trade in Services among Arab States.

3- A draft agreement on the establishment of a regional office for the Universal Postal Union in Qatar.

4- A draft memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the field of labour between the Ministry of Labour of Qatar and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan.

Fourth - The Cabinet then reviewed the following topics and took appropriate decisions thereon: 1- Periodic report on hosting the Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha. 2- The fourth periodic report on the results of the work of the National Counter Terrorism Committee during the period from 10/1/2022 to 4/1/2023.

3- Outcomes of the 90th Annual General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (Paris - May 2023). (QNA)

CMC aims to improve bonds with govt depts

THE Central Municipal Council (CMC) in its 7th round aims to strengthen its relationship with all government service departments to establish new channels of communication and respond to the demands of the residents of all constituencies by implementing the requests and suggestions submitted by CMC members on their behalf, chairman Mohamed bin Ali al-Azbah told local Arabic daily Arrayah.

"The priorities of the agenda during the upcoming CMC round will be received from the members, whom we trust completely, given the enthusiasm and renewed ambitions we have seen in them.

In turn, the council's presidency will exert every effort to achieve these aspirations and wishes, aiming for the devel-



CMC chairman Mohamed bin Ali al-Azbah.

opment and improvement of the different areas across the country and providing a decent standard of living for citizens.

"There are plans to enhance communication between the CMC members and the residents of their constituencies.

The council's presidency will work in collaboration with the

members, utilising their expertise and capabilities, besides the assistance of various council departments that are currently being formed."

Regarding the needs of the constituencies, he said that the council's presidency is in the process of reviewing all the election programmes submitted by the members during their election campaigns.

These programmes will be revised and analysed to ensure that all available means are used to implement them.

The CMC presidency is also working on forming specialised council committees as stipulated in the regulations and laws.

Further, he stressed that there are strategic plans and ideas that the council will implement once its departments and committees are formed in the coming weeks.

Communication is the key to success, you learn and win!

HUNT FOR THE CHAMPION SPEAKERS

Communicate, Connect & Conquer

The Qatar TALKS 2023

Grand Finale

ON FRIDAY 03rd NOVEMBER 2023

VENUE: GIWANA BALLROOM, RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DOHA

VENUE PARTNER

MIE-SPPU
Institute of Higher Education
DOHA QATAR

(in collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University, India)

IMPORTANT DATES

YOUTH CONTESTS					ADULT CONTESTS				
Pre-qualifiers	Date	Day	Month	Year	Pre-qualifiers	Date	Day	Month	Year
Inspirational Contest	14	Saturday	October	2023	Inspirational Contest	13	Friday	October	2023
Humorous Contest	21	Saturday	October	2023	Humorous Contest	20	Friday	October	2023
Last Date for Application					Last Date for Application				
Inspirational Contest	30	Saturday	September	2023	Inspirational Contest	29	Friday	September	2023
Humorous Contest	7	Saturday	October	2023	Humorous Contest	6	Friday	October	2023

MEDIA PARTNERS

SILVER SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORS



‘Qatar keen to raise awareness on protecting education from attack’

Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili has affirmed Qatar's keenness over the past decades to raise awareness of the urgent need to save education and protect it from attacks, adding that one of Qatar's most important priorities was to provide quality education to all students regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, background, and circumstances.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, al-Ruwaili explained that this priority stems from Qatar's firm commitment to



Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili

the rights of the child, and its belief that providing access to safe, comprehensive, and uninterrupted education is a basic right. She called for developing effective measures to stop attacks against students, teachers, and educational institutions. She indicated that in view of the devastating obstacles that conflicts place

to learning, which negatively affect the future of entire generations and deprive them of acquiring knowledge and mastering the skills that qualify them to build and develop themselves and their countries, the ministry stresses the importance of working to develop effective measures that oblige everyone to stop attacks against educational institutions. Al-Ruwaili stressed the need for schools and universities to remain as safe havens that promote peace and development, and the need to acknowledge their civilian nature, thus, keeping them free from occupation and use in armed conflicts.

Qatar partakes in meeting of WHO Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention



Qatar is participating in the two-day meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response at the World Health Organisation (WHO), which began yesterday in Geneva. HE the Minister of Public Health and Chair of the WHO Executive Board, Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, chairs Qatar's delegation to the meeting. The meeting discusses several important topics, including an update on current public health emergencies of international concern and the strengthening and oversight of WHO's emergency health programme. The meeting will review two updates, one on the prevention, preparedness, and response to health emergencies and the second on the response to current major health emergencies. **(QNA)**

Success stories of persons with disabilities in Qatar are global model: NHRC chairperson

HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attayah has asserted that the success stories of institutions and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Qatar are considered a global model, as Qatar has consolidated a variety of sustainable development efforts in supporting this segment at multiple levels.

During the closing activities of the two-day national forum for human rights held under the theme of rights of persons with disabilities: Protection and empowerment, HE al-Attayah said that there are a plethora of challenges facing PWDs which the forum's outcomes and recommendations addressed, adding that the panel discussions featured vibrant engagements and conversations within the framework of the backing and support received from the state ministries, government bodies, educational

institutions and several civil society institutions.

She added that work papers that were discussed during the forum demonstrated a multi-dimensional set of philosophical, legal, social, cultural, technological and health aspects of disability, in addition to discussing new issues of human rights from the perspectives of PWDs themselves, as well as presenting the success stories of disability relevant institutions.

In the closing session, HE the NHRC Secretary-General Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali presented the forum's recommendations which primarily underscored the importance of enacting a law on PWDs protection and empowerment and harmonising with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be essentially based on the existing human rights approach in handling this issue and joining the protocol of this convention. **(QNA)**



HE Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attayah



NCSA conducts cybersecurity training

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) organised a cybersecurity training course in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration of the Civil Services and Government Development Bureau of Qatar in an effort to ensure digital safety awareness in an electronic workspace. The programme aims to raise awareness and train 560 Qatari employees over two years as part of the NCSA's partnership in the Institute of Public Administration 2023 training plan, covering the training needs of 54 government agencies subject to the Civil Human Resources Law. In this regard, National Cyber Excellence Department Director at NCSA Dalal al-Aqeedi stressed the importance of the partnership and co-operation between NCSA and the Civil Services and Government Development Bureau of Qatar, especially through its Institute of Public Administration, in enhancing the country's employee cybersecurity competencies. She added that trainee needs were taken into account, whereby training programmes were offered at various dates and times. Additionally, she said that this year two cybersecurity workshops were offered: one basic level and the other advanced, delivered virtually and in person. **(QNA)**



QATAR ELECTRICITY AND WATER COMPANY Q.P.S.C STATE OF QATAR

Announces Auction of the Below Vehicles:

Auction No.	Quantity	Descriptions	Cheque or Bid Bond QAR
VEH/01J/2023	1	LEXUS LX 570 – 8 Cylinders 2015	30,000.00
	1	TOYOTA GXR – 8 Cylinders 2017	33,000.00
	1	TOYOTA GXR – 8 Cylinders 2017	33,000.00
	1	MITSUBISHI PAJERO – 6 Cylinders 2016	11,000.00

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR THE AUCTION

- Auction form can be downloaded from the below link www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders/
- Closing Date and Time: 25.09.2023 at 02:00 PM
- Offer can be submitted for one or more vehicles. The auction is conducted on an "as-is-where-is" basis.
- The vehicles will be displayed nearby Ras Abu Fontas Station at the location 25°12'35.0"N 51°36'32.5"E . For site visit please contact 55521562
- Location and Timing for Submission of Bids: QEWC Head Office , Qatar Navigation Tower in Al-Dafna Area, Zone 63, during working hours
- Auction Bids to be deposited in Auction Box allocated in Ground Floor of the above address and should be in sealed envelope (Bid Bond or Cheque + Auction Bid) addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase committee. For any inquiry please contact 55868298
- Auction Bid without Bid Bond or Cheque will be rejected.

For More Information Email to
1482@qewc.com



Invitation for Pre-Qualification of Suppliers

Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post) announces the opening of registration for pre-qualification of companies specializing in the production and manufacture of products from Metal and Laser cutting.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY:

Qatar Post, the national logistic carrier of Qatar invites companies registered in Qatar for a prequalification of manufacture of metal lockers in Qatar.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Qatar Post is seeking to pre-qualify a sheet metal fabrication factory for manufacturing a high-quality outdoor metal locker in different sizes and designs with the necessary experience, capabilities, understanding and commitment to work with Qatar Post to achieve outstanding results.

PRE-QUALIFICATION INVITATION DOCUMENT:

Interested companies can request the prequalification document by contacting us on procurement@qatarposts.com not later than **16th October 2023**.

The prequalification document contains detailed:

- Instructions
- Scope of service
- Requirements
- Vendor evaluation and selection

- Working hours for all inquiries are Sunday – Thursday (8am – 2pm)
- Management Accounting Department / Procurement Section
Contact numbers 44464320/44464441/44464219



The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

Important Notice:

Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via e-Registration system and are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website. Effective from 1st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempt from this requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond Curr.	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT23106800	14.09.2023 20.09.2023	15.10.2023	200,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: MAINTENANCE OF LIFTING AND RIGGING EQUIPMENT ON CALL-OFF BASIS WITHIN QATARENERGY OPERATIONAL AREAS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required							
2	LT23105300	14.09.2023 20.09.2023	09.10.2023	25,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: INSTALLATION OF NEW DEEP WELLS ANODE FOR ICCP SYSTEM							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required							
3	LT23MT0108	14.09.2023 20.09.2023	02.10.2023	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SALE & REMOVAL OF DRILLING, OPERATIONS, MARINE, MAINTENANCE, IT ITEMS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required							
4	LT23MT0073	14.09.2023 20.09.2023	25.09.2023	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SALE & REMOVAL OF MAINTENANCE, HEALTHCARE AND IT ITEMS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required							
5	LT23MT0104	14.09.2023 20.09.2023	16.10.2023	35,000.00	QAR	200.00	
Title of Tender: SUPPLY OF 4 SETS OF 6IN & 8IN SUBSEA REPAIR CLAMPS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required							

* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.

* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatarenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders.

* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website only.

* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website.

* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy e-Registration system on urgent basis.

* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.

* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.

* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>



أبو سدرة مول
ABU SIDRA MALL

www.abusidramall.com

LOCATION



أبو سدرة مول
ABU SIDRA MALL

تفضلوا بزيارة أبو سدرة مول
Visit Abu Sidra Mall

تسوق واربح
SHOP & WIN 2

تويوتا لاند كروزر جي إكس آر، ٢٠٢٣
TOYOTA LAND CRUISER
(GXR 2023)



**SPEND QR.50/- AND GET
A FREE RAFFLE COUPON TO
WIN 2 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER
GXR 2023 WHITE COLOR**

This promotion valid at Abu Sidra Mall on all participating outlets,
Except for outlets that provide services (Communications, Exchange, Gym, Travels)

Promotion valid from 14.09.2023 to 30.01.2024, Draw Date: 31.01.2024

المستأجر الأكبر Anchor Tenant

لولو LuLu
حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق
Where the world comes to shop

المنافذ المشاركة Participating Outlets

Splash babyshop Lifestyle



PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Brioche & Baguette
ARTISAN BAKERY



Indian Flavors
BY HAND



CAFÉZONE

LARISSA
CHOCOLATES & FLOWERS

في آي بي أوبتيكس
VEY3 P OPTICS



مركز الدودة للجمال
DOHA BEAUTY CENTRE



TUPLU
FLORALS



لي كوافير
LE COIFFEUR



Rasasi



أبياب المرشد
Atyab Al Marshoud



Family Laundry

COLORZ
كولورز

Pharma Care
Compazine Care, Total Trust.

IRIS
نظارات
إيريس

AL ANEES
الأنيس



ص.ب ٩٧٦٣ ، أبو سدرة مول ، بو سدرة . معيذر ، قطر ، تليفون: ٤٤٩٦٩٨٤٨ 44969848 Post Box: 9763, Abu Sidra Mall, Abu Sidra, Muaither, Qatar. Tel.

Shop with
Confidence
16001 2023/6954

تسوق
بثقة
16001 2023/6954



Tony Ward, a Lebanese-Italian fashion designer, has transformed his family's couture house into an international brand known for innovation and masterful craftsmanship.

By **Joey Aguilar**
Staff Reporter

For the renowned fashion designer Tony Ward, architecture is more than just buildings, it is a fountain of creative ideas. His latest collection highlights the significance of sustainability through the incorporation of upcycled couture pieces.

With a firm belief in the fashion industry's responsibility to combat pollution, Ward shares insights into his family's commitment to sustainability, from upcycling vintage pieces to educating the brand's team on eco-friendly practices.

As part of the trunk show, held at Fifty One East, Ward displayed the latest Fall Winter 2023/24 Couture Collection, which marked an important moment for the designer, as sustainability claimed a prominent role. Recognising the fashion industry as the world's second-largest polluter, Ward was driven by a sense of responsibility towards future generations.

Drawing inspiration from his family, particularly his sustainably-minded children, he embarked on a mission to revolutionise his business. This journey included upcycling vintage pieces, reducing shipping waste, and reevaluating material usage.

In an exclusive interview with *Gulf Times*, Ward, shared his vision for a sustainable future in fashion, highlighting the fusion of architectural inspirations with haute couture. Ward's innovative approach is demonstrated by his trunk show in Qatar at Fifty One East, introducing a collection that blends timeless craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology, all while prioritising sustainability.

"My children are very sustainable. They are into sustainability, permaculture and upcycling. I learned from the younger generation how important it is to listen and be aware of the importance of learning something new even though our business," he said. "We can make it function in a way that it works well and respects the environment", added Ward.

Ward's factory, home to 180 dedicated individuals, became a hub of sustainability education, underscoring responsible practices in every aspect of production.

"So digging into the collections and taking upcycling and some of the important pieces of our vintage pieces is part of it, making fewer shippings and not harming the environment, is important," he added.

However, Ward said that transitioning towards sustainability is not without its challenges. He acknowledges the tension between

When Tony Ward blends fashion and sustainability



As part of the trunk show, held at Fifty One East, Tony Ward displayed the latest Fall Winter 2023/24 Couture Collection, which marked an important moment for the designer, as sustainability claimed a prominent role.

commercial interests and environmental responsibility. He said that being truly beneficial means accepting reduced profits in the short term.

Ward views this as an investment in a better tomorrow, where environmental consciousness is not a choice but a necessity dictated by economic and political forces. His commitment to sustainable practices is rooted in his conviction that it is a path towards a more balanced and ethical future.

"Your benefit comes with less cost. Being cost-effective today means that sometimes you have to be less sustainable, which is also challenging. We're not a fine razor company, we're not a pro bono company, but I think that it is a start to building a better tomorrow. You have a choice today to make tomorrow more economical, as sooner or later the political situation will oblige companies to go towards this.

"Whenever I'm ready for this, I

will work towards complete sustainability and be able to stand on my feet while being part of a better solution. I will continue to respect the environment in a way that I feel comfortable when I look myself in the mirror," he explained.

The future of fashion: Bridging tradition with technology

Ward's innovative approach bridges traditional craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology – reflected in his latest collection, "Under My Skin". While embracing 3D printing and advanced techniques, he puts a spotlight on the irreplaceable value of hand-crafted couture and stresses the importance of respecting the past for a sustainable future in fashion.

While one piece showcases 3D printing technology, 54 others are handcrafted, highlighting the irreplaceable artistry of couture. Ward firmly believes that honoring the past and embracing sustainability is vital in shaping a

brighter future for fashion. His creations stand as a testament to the enduring value of human touch and skill.

"Couture is about unic-ity, high-end, and the work of the delicate hands of these ladies that work hours and overnight and this can never be replaced", said Ward.

"In fashion, you must honor your past to have a future. By respecting your past and over-looking how to get things done sustainably, your future in fashion will be worth keeping," Ward pointed out.

Ward said he puts the importance of both exclusivity and inclusivity in his designs. Having worked closely with Qatari clients for nearly three decades, he celebrates Qatar's vibrant and fashion-forward youth, asserting their key role in shaping the nation's evolving fashion landscape.

In Qatar's fashion scene, Ward recognises the emerging self-reliance and fashion-forward mindset of young individuals, which

influences the direction of the fashion scene in the country.

Fifty One East: A key partner
Ward lauds Fifty One East as a key partner, citing its influential market presence. In a rapidly changing landscape, he recognises the challenges faced by both retailers and designers, stressing the need to adapt to the evolving dynamics of the fashion industry.

Ward, a Lebanese-Italian fashion designer, has transformed his family's couture house into an international brand known for innovation and masterful craftsmanship. Inspired by contemporary architecture, Ward's creations attract a diverse clientele, including members of royal families, celebrities, and high-end international stores. With a background in top Parisian fashion houses, Ward's unique vision combines sculptural forms with groundbreaking techniques, earning him the moniker "The Architect of Detail."

Naseem Healthcare Shines at KidZania Doha's Educational Zummit, Championing Sustainability and Excellence



Naseem Healthcare Shines at KidZania Doha's Educational Zummit, Championing Sustainability and Excellence

Naseem Healthcare, a globally recognized healthcare provider, took center stage at the 3rd Edition of KidZania Doha's Educational Zummit, leaving an indelible mark on the event. This prestigious gathering provided an exceptional platform for Naseem Healthcare to illuminate its pioneering sustainability initiatives and its unwavering commitment to setting new standards in healthcare excellence.

The Educational Zummit offered Naseem Healthcare an outstanding opportunity to showcase its remarkable contributions to sustainability and engage with esteemed educators, teachers, and thought leaders. This event united visionaries who are actively shaping the education landscape toward a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

Alongside the exhibition, the Educational Zummit featured renowned speakers and panellists from leading organizations who shed light on how teachers can prepare students for a sustainable future aligned with the requirements of major employers. This enlightening and inspiring experience fostered valuable networking opportunities among like-minded individuals, further emphasizing the importance of sustainable education.

During the event, Naseem Healthcare proudly showcased its commitment to environmental responsibility through an array of innovative sustainability initiatives, including a comprehensive paper reduction program aimed at minimizing its environmental footprint and fostering a paperless work environment. The organization also highlighted its efficient waste management system, which focuses on waste reduction and recycling within its facilities, aligning with its mission to create a sustainable healthcare ecosystem.

Additionally, Naseem Healthcare unveiled its cutting-edge Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) reprocessing practices, resulting in significant reductions in medical waste and exemplifying its dedication to enhancing sustainability in healthcare while upholding the highest standards of patient care. Strategies for minimizing disposable item use were also presented, in line with Naseem Healthcare's commitment to reducing plastic waste and promoting eco-friendly alternatives, reflecting its determination to contribute to a cleaner and healthier planet.

Visitors, mentors, and thought leaders in attendance were treated to informative videos that provided detailed insights into these sustainability initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding of the pivotal role the healthcare industry plays in preserving our environment.

Naseem Healthcare stands as a global beacon of healthcare excellence, renowned for its top-quality medical services delivered across eight branches worldwide. The organization's commitment to exceptional healthcare is unwavering, rooted in a guest-centric approach that prioritizes accessibility, round-the-clock availability, professionalism, and the highest standards of medical care. Naseem Healthcare is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its guests and communities by providing exceptional medical services, making it one of Qatar's foremost medical providers.

Naseem Healthcare's participation in KidZania Doha's Educational Zummit reflects its dual commitment to sustainability and excellence. By merging pioneering sustainability initiatives with top-tier healthcare services, Naseem Healthcare inspires and leads the way toward a brighter, more environmentally conscious future for the healthcare industry and society at large.

“QIMC Announces the Initial Operation of its Glass Containers Project”

Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. (QIMC) announces the start of the initial operations of its (Gizaz) Glass Containers plant, located in the Small and Medium Industries Area, by the middle of next November, 2023. QIMC contributes with 50% of the capital of the project in partnership with Qatari and non-Qatari investors.



The plant aims to produce glass containers used in the food and beverage industry, including: mineral water, soft drinks, juices, dairy products, packaging of food products (pickles, oils, sauces, jams, honey, etc.). The project will contribute to the development and support of the food industry in the country, which is one of the most important sectors of the national economy in the future.

The Project will cover local market's need for glass containers, which are currently being imported from foreign sources at high costs. Also, a portion of the project's products will be exported to international and neighboring markets, especially the markets of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. These counties suffer from shortage of glass containers, as there are only a limited number of glass container factories, while the needs are high, considering the size and importance of the food industries in them. The project will have a great opportunity to compete in these as well as in other international markets.

The design capacity of the Plant in the first phase is 200 tons / day, approximately one million glass containers per day, through one furnace at a total cost of about 320 million Qatari riyals. Future expansion has been considered by adding a second furnace, which will raise the production capacity to about 450 tons per day and increase the total investments to about 400 million Qatari riyals.

The project technology is based on melting the raw materials including sand and other chemicals and additives in a special furnace at a temperature of about 1600 degrees Celsius. The raw materials mix will be converted into molten glass, using natural gas as the main source of energy. Molten glass is then formed in special molds to take the required shape, it is then cooled in stages, and the final products are packed after ensuring their quality and compliance with client's specifications.

The plant will use imported high quality silica sand in addition to the local sand available from the Qatar Sand Treatment Plant of QIMC. Other natural raw materials and



chemicals will be added in varying quantities to improve the quality and properties of the glass and reduce the melting point of sand. It should also be noted that the project team is working on the development of a project for using crushed recycled glass (Cullet) to be added to the main project.

It is worth mentioning that the Plant was designed, and its equipment and production lines were supplied and installed by a specialized Italian company (Falornitech), while the buildings and other facilities were constructed by a local contracting company



The project will contribute to the implementation of the expansion plans of the Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. enabling it to develop its existing projects and implement new projects that depend on the competitive advantages of the country in line with Qatar vision 2030. Since its inception in 1990, QIMC has contributed to more than twenty industrial projects in various industrial sectors in the State of Qatar, as it exploits natural resources and intermediate inputs available locally and regionally and adopts the investment policy of the company. The company considers its investment activity from the perspective of economic development in its broadest sense, so it seeks to maximize the direct and indirect positive effects of investment on the national economy between the industrial sector and other economic sectors. This is represented in company's various projects such as the chemical and petrochemical industries, building materials, foodstuffs, and others. In pursuit of its investment policies, the company welcomes investors and technology owners to participate in joint ventures in small and medium-scale projects.

LULU HYPERMARKET
ABU SIDRA MALL, ABU SIDRA, MUAITHER

عروض مميزة! SPECIAL OFFERS!

هذه العروض سارية فقط في هايبر ماركت اللولو أبو سدرة مول ، أبو سدرة ، معيذر
These Promotions are available only
at Lulu Hypermarket, Abu Sidra Mall, Abu Sidra, Muaither
يسري العرض من تاريخ ٢٠٢٣/٩/١٤ حتى ٢٠٢٣/٩/٢٠ Promotion valid from 14.09.2023 to 20.09.2023



Scan the QR Code
for Latest Offers

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

5.50
3.75

موز الإكوادور
1 كيلو
Banana
Ecuador 1kg

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

18.50
10.75

أفوكادو هاس
كينيا 1 كيلو
Avocado Hass
Kenya 1kg

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

3.00
1.75

شمام حلو
قطري 1 كيلو
Farm Fresh Sweet Melon
Qatar 1kg

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

2.50
1.75

طماطم إيرانية
1 كيلو
Tomato
Iran 1kg

2 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 15.09.2023

27.75
19.75

روبيان مزرعة متوسط
عماني 1 كيلو
Farmed Prawns Medium
Oman 1kg

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

36.75
27.50

لحم بقري محلي
بالعظم 1 كيلو
Local Beef
Bone In 1kg

11.00

قطع كيك صغيرة
متنوعة 5 قطع
Mini Pastries
Asstd 5pcs

9.50

كرواسان بالجبنه 5 قطع
Cheese Croissant
5pcs

22.00
15.00

زيتون أخضر إسباني
محشي 1 كيلو
Spanish Stuffed
Green Olives 1kg

30.00

جبنه فيتا
دانماركية 1 كيلو
Danish
Feta Cheese 1kg

35.00
30.00

التغذية صدر رومي مدخن 1 كيلو
Al Taghzieh
Smoked Turkey Breast 1kg

9.00

برياني دجاج
500 غرام
Chicken Biryani
500gm

10.00

دجاج مشوي
1 حبة
Grilled
Chicken 1pc

3 DAYS ONLY
حتى تاريخ 16.09.2023

10.00

بيض أبيض هندي
متوسط 30 قطعة
Indian White Eggs
Medium 30's

20.00

فيلادلفيا جبنه كريمه
متنوعة 280 غرام / حبتان
Philadelphia Cream
Cheese Asstd 280gm X 2pcs

19.75

كيري مربعات جبن 12 قطع
216 غرام / 3 حبات
Kiri Portion Cheese 12P
216gm X 3pcs

22.50
15.00

أبو قوس حليب عضوي
كامل الدسم 1 لتر / 3 حبات
Rainbow Organic
Full Fat UHT Milk
1Ltr X 3pcs

16.50

فرايسمات بطاطس
للفلي 2.5 كيلو
Frysmat French Fries
2.5kg

99.00

ساديا دجاج كامل
900 غرام / 10 حبات
Sadia Whole Chicken
900gm X 10pcs



MoPH celebrates Patient Safety Week

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) celebrates the 9th Qatar Patient Safety Week under the theme “Engaging patients for patient safety” from September 17-21 in collaboration with healthcare facilities and academic health institutions in Qatar.

The 9th Qatar Patient Safety Week aims to raise local awareness of the need for active engagement of patients, their families, and caregivers in all healthcare settings and at all levels of healthcare to improve patient safety, as well as to engage policymakers, healthcare leaders, healthcare workers and other stakeholders in the efforts to engage patients and families in the formulation of safe healthcare policies and practices.

The week also aims to empower

Several prominent landmarks and monuments in Qatar and the MoPH building will be illuminated in orange on September 17 coinciding with the celebration of World Patient Safety Day

er patients and their families to be actively involved in their own healthcare and in the improvement of safety of healthcare and call on relevant partners to act urgently on engaging patients and families, in line with Qatar's strategic plans and the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030.

On this occasion, MoPH is launching an extensive awareness campaign aimed at raising awareness about the importance

of elevating the voice of patients among healthcare providers and public. This campaign includes several events and activities, including the dissemination of messages through the MoPH social media platform and conducting events within various healthcare facilities.

Several prominent landmarks and monuments in Qatar and the MoPH building will be illuminated in orange on September 17 coinciding with the celebration of World Patient Safety Day.

Qatar Patient Safety Week is an annual national event conducted by the MoPH - Healthcare Quality Department as an educational and awareness campaign aimed at spreading the concept of patient safety among healthcare workers and patients in healthcare facilities.

Series of events at Aspetar

Aspetar, orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital is celebrating the 9th Qatar Patient Safety Week and World Patient Safety Day 2023 in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on September 17 under the theme “Engaging Patients for Patient Safety”. A series of events at Aspetar's main campus will feature a variety of activities to raise awareness of patient safety, including a panel discussion on patient engagement, a patient partner discussion, and presentations on patient engagement activities by Aspetar healthcare professionals. The sharing of success stories on patient partnership that highlight the importance of patients being involved in their own care is the main topic. The agenda includes interviews with patient partners on their experiences of patient engagement, including presentations on patient safety that display Aspetar's latest innovations. Dr Abdulaziz Jaham al-Kuwari, Aspetar's chief executive officer said: “Patient safety is our top priority at Aspetar. We

believe that by engaging patients in their care, we can make significant improvements in safety, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes. We are proud to be hosting this event to raise awareness of the importance of patient safety and to celebrate the hard work of our staff and partners in ensuring the safety of our patients.” Aspetar is a world-leading facility providing comprehensive care for athletes and patients of all ages. Aspetar is committed to providing the highest quality care and is constantly striving to raise the bar on patient safety. In November 2021, Aspetar became the first healthcare organisation in the world to achieve a perfect score on version 4 of the Qmentum International standards, Accreditation Canada International. In August 2017, Aspetar received the Patient Safety Friendly Hospital Level 3 designation. The award is administered by MoPH in partnership with the World Health Organisation.

PHCC launches oral health campaign

The Ministry of Public Health in partnership with government health institutions, has launched a joint national campaign to enhance awareness of the importance of oral and dental health and prevent diseases which may adversely affect one's health and quality of life.

“Over the course of four weeks, this national campaign stresses the importance of undergoing periodic check-ups of oral and dental health, maintaining a balanced diet, practising effective oral hygiene habits such as brushing and flossing teeth, and avoiding bad habits such as smoking and thumb sucking in children,” said Dr Rami Assad, senior consultant, Oral and Dental Surgery and director of dentistry at Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

The campaign, which highlights the strong relationship between oral health and overall health, uses a multi-faceted approach to reach different segments of Qatar's population.

The first two weeks focus on enhancing public awareness of oral health, utilising social media platforms, and engaging the National Museum of Qatar in its activities. PHCC has allocated a group of dentists to visit schools and educate students about the principles of mouth care through fun and informative activities and lectures.

During the third week, the campaign activities will be held in Qatar Rehabilitation Institute and Rumailah Hospital while providing specialised information tailored specifically to older people. The fourth week will focus on individuals who suffer from heart disease, given the clear link between oral health and cardiovascular health in general.

Additionally, the activities will be held at the Heart Hospital with targeted educational



Dr Rami Assad

materials designed to enable individuals with heart disease to maintain their oral health more effectively. PHCC's dental clinics, distributed through all health centres, provide comprehensive primary health services in both general and specialised dentistry, for all age groups. These services focus on prevention and early detection of dental and gum diseases and their treatment if they fall under the primary care level.

The services provided in the general dental clinics include preventive treatments such as fluoride varnish application, cosmetic fillings, gum cleaning in case of gum disease, such as scaling (removal of plaque and tartar), or in case of periodic preventive cleaning. In addition to root canal fillings and tooth extraction services for simple cases.

The specialised dental clinics include four specialties: Oral Surgery Clinic; Root Canal Treatment Clinic; Paediatric Dental Clinic and Gum Disease Clinic. Dr Assad added that PHCC offers a range of preventive programmes targeting all age groups that include taking care of children's health – starting from the mother's pregnancy period to children under five, then taking care of preventive health for school students.

Vodafone Qatar to open pre-orders for iPhone 15

Vodafone Qatar will open pre-orders for new iPhone 15 line-up tomorrow (Friday), a statement said. Customers will be able to pre-order beginning September 15, 2023, at 3pm, with availability on September 22, 2023.

“iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus comes with a gorgeous new design and a powerful 48MP main camera with a new 2x telephoto option, A16 Bionic chip, and USB-C, as well as iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max, Apple's lightest Pro models ever, with a strong and lightweight titanium design, powerful camera upgrades, including a more advanced 48MP main camera system, A17 Pro, and USB-C,” it was explained. For complete pricing and availability details, visit www.vf.qa/applepreorders2023 Customers may also visit select retail stores to pre-order their iPhone 15 at Villaggio, Doha Festival City, Place Vendome and Landmark malls.



Qatar Airways ‘Official Airline’ of Aramco F1 in Schools World Finals

Qatar Airways has become the ‘Official Airline’ of the Aramco F1 in Schools World Finals 2023, the global edition of Formula 1's not-for-profit STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education competition in Singapore.

Under the sponsorship agreement, all participants will be eligible for a substantial discount on Qatar Airways flights, as well as in-flight upgrades and excursions. As part of the partnership, Qatar Airways is also the sponsor of the Enterprise Portfolio award at the event. Dedicated to the marketing, finance, and sponsorship element of the competition, the recipient of the award will be determined by a panel of judges comprising industry professionals and chaired by former Jordan and Jaguar F1 Technical Director Gary Anderson.

The award will be presented by Jared Lee, vice-president (Sales) of Qatar Airways South-east Asia (SEA), Southwest Pacific & Indian Subcontinent (SWP & ISC), at the World Finals awards ceremony, at Resorts World Sentosa.

Andrew Denford, Founder and CEO of F1 in Schools, commented on the new sponsorship agreement: “We are delighted to welcome Qatar Airways as the Official Airline of our global event. In Singapore, we will see students from all corners of the world come together to experience an opportunity of a lifetime, and Qatar Airways has played an invaluable role in making



it possible for many. To have the support of the World's Best Airline is truly fantastic for F1 in Schools, and we look forward to continuing our journey together.”

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, HE Akbar al-Baker, said: “Qatar Airways is immensely proud to be flying over 450 students and members of staff from institutions around the world, facilitating the world's most exciting STEM challenge and bringing our partner Formula 1 to classrooms. Our dedication to sport, passion for Formula 1, and commitment to

fostering innovation, go hand in hand with our belief in using education to nurture the world leaders of tomorrow. By engaging with talented students in this competition, we aim to ignite their passion for learning, fuel their creativity, and pave the way for a brighter future in the aviation and motorsport industries, and beyond.”

As the current Official Airline of Formula 1 and title partner for three Grand Prix, Qatar Airways has a close existing partnership with Formula 1 that has now extended to the sport's educational arm.

Robert Wan presents The Amulette Collection



Pearls have long been prized for their lucky or protective properties, and this is a theme that Robert Wan explores in its Amulette Collection with the particularity to pick the Pearl like properties translated into wishes.

The Amulette, a powerful symbol of luck, fortune and rebirth in various cultures combined with the hidden treasure represented by the Pearl supremacy intended to protect, inspire and transport. Each Amulet pendant uses gold to carry 1 to 3 pearls that promises to protect, bring luck where nurture spirituality is being reimaged with contemporary verve.

@pic.by.sabra



Seashore Phoenix Games at Aspire Zone from Sept 22

Organised by Erada Fitness and mainly sponsored by Aspire Zone Foundation, Seashore Phoenix Games third edition will be held from September 22-25 at the Ladies Sport Hall at Aspire Zone Foundation.

This year's edition features the participation of 320 athletes from 45 different countries. The men's competitions will have three different categories; the individual category, the team of three and the master's category for men above 40 with a participation of 20 athletes.

The women's competition includes two different categories; the Individual category and that of teams comprising two players. Athletes will take on three challenges per day, testing their physical fitness with various elements of strength, endurance, gymnastics skills, and others.

The competitions are divided into six events. The fifth event is consid-

This year's edition features the participation of 320 athletes from 45 countries

ered as a semi-final event, for which approximately half of the participants qualify, and the sixth and final event includes the best 10 athletes from each category.

The men's competition is on September 22 (8am-7pm) and September 23 (10am-6pm) and women's on September 24 and 25 (3pm-9pm).

Seashore Phoenix Games Fitness Competition is open for all fans free. The women's competition will be closed only for women and children below eight. On the sidelines of the competition, an entertainment area with a variety of restaurants and coffee shops is available.

عروض مميزة! SPECIAL OFFERS!

هذه العروض سارية فقط في هايبر ماركت اللولو أبو سدرة مول ، أبو سدرة ، معيذر
These Promotions are available only
at Lulu Hypermarket, Abu Sidra Mall, Abu Sidra, Muaither

يسري العرض من تاريخ ١٤/٩/٢٠٢٣ وحتى ٢٠/٩/٢٠٢٣ 14.09.2023 to 20.09.2023



Scan the QR Code
for Latest Offers

#health #wellness #sustainability



LOCATION



رقب ~~32.00~~
رقب **27.00**

نيسكافيه قهوة ١٩٠ غرام
Nescafe Red Mug
Coffee Jar 190gm



رقب ~~17.00~~
رقب **12.50**

علي كافيه قهوة
٢٠ غرام / ٣٠ قطعة
Alicafe Classic Coffee
20g X 30pcs



رقب ~~25.50~~
رقب **15.00**

أوريو بسكوييت
٢٤ قطعة
Oreo Sandwich Biscuits
Original 29.4gm X 24pcs

5 DAYS ONLY
١٤/٩/٢٠٢٣ إلى ٢٠/٩/٢٠٢٣



رقب ~~19.50~~

نايشترز جيفت أرز بسمتي
حبة طويلة ٥ كيلو
Natures Gift Long
Grain Basmati Rice 5kg



رقب ~~14.00~~
رقب **9.75**

جالاكسي شوكولاتة بالحليب
٤٢ غرام / ٤ حبات
Galaxy Smooth Milk
Chocolate 42gm X 4pcs



رقب ~~30.00~~
رقب **20.00**

البلد زيت دوار الشمس
١.٨ لتر / حبتان
Al Balad Sunflower
Oil 1.8ltr X 2pcs



رقب ~~27.00~~
رقب **19.75**

كيو أف أم دقيق رقم ١
١ كيلو / ٦ حبات
QFM Flour
No.1 1kg X 6pcs



رقب ~~23.75~~
رقب **13.50**

إريال مسحوق غسيل
نوع ١.٥ كيلو
Ariel Washing Powder
Asstd 1.5kg



رقب ~~17.75~~
رقب **11.50**

فيري وسائل غسيل
الصحون ماكس
بلاس برائحة الليمون ١.٣٥ لتر
Fairy Dishwash
MaxPlus
Lemon 1.35Ltr



رقب ~~73.00~~
رقب **39.50**

ديتول سائل
١ لتر / حبتان
Dettol Antiseptic
Liquid 1ltr x 2pcs



رقب ~~38.25~~
رقب **19.75**

هاربيك سائل منظف
٣٠٠ مل / ٣ حبات
Harpic Toilet Clean
Liquid 500ml X 3pcs



رقب ~~44.00~~
رقب **18.00**

بيرل منعم أقمشة
٣٠٠ مل / حبتان
Pearl Fabric Softener
Asstd 3ltr x 2pcs



6GB RAM | 128GB Storage
• 6.1" Super Retina XDR OLED
• Rear Camera: 48MP + 12MP + 12MP
• Front Camera: 12MP

ذاكرة رام ٦ غيغا بايت
• سعة التخزين ١٢٨ غيغا بايت
• شاشة سوبر ريتينا ٦.١ إنش
• كاميرات خلفية ٤٨ + ١٢ + ١٢ م.ب
• كاميرا أمامية ١٢ ميفيا بكسل

رقب ~~3549~~

آبل آيفون ١٤ برو
Apple iPhone 14 Pro



4GB RAM | 64GB Storage
• 6.5" PLS LCD
• Rear Camera: 50MP + 2MP + 2MP
• Front Camera: 5MP

ذاكرة رام ٤ غيغا بايت
• سعة التخزين ٦٤ غيغا بايت
• شاشة إل سي دي ٦.٥ إنش
• كاميرات خلفية ٥٠ + ٢ + ٢ م.ب
• كاميرا أمامية ٥ ميفيا بكسل

رقب ~~369~~

سامسونج آيه ٤ إس
Samsung A04S A047



رقب ~~1379~~

ساعة آبل السلسلة ٨
مم ٤٥
Apple Watch Series 8
MNPI3AE 45mm



رقب ~~6339~~
رقب **5799**

آبل ماك بوك إير
Apple MacBook Air-15
MQKQ3

• 8-core CPU
• 10-core GPU
• 15.3" Liquid Retina Display
• 8GB RAM
• 512GB SSD

• شاشة شريحة إم ٢
• شاشة ١٥.٣ إنش
• ذاكرة رام ٨ غيغا بايت
• قرص صلب ٥١٢ غيغا بايت



رقب ~~1199~~
رقب **975**

تي سي إل تلفزيون ٥٥ إنش
TCL 4K Smart LED TV
55P635

TCL



رقب ~~129~~
رقب **89.00**

ميستر لايت مصباح يدوي
إل آي دي قابل للشحن ٣ قطع
Mr.Light Rechargeable
LED Flash Light 3s MR8331

Mr. Light



رقب ~~2599~~
رقب **1599**

باناسونيك مكيف
هواء سبليت
Panasonic Split A/C
CS-UV18XKF6



رقب ~~89.00~~
رقب **59.00**

واهل ماكينة تشذيب
الحيّة قابلة للشحن
Wahl Rechargeable
Beard Trimmer 9685-027



رقب ~~349~~
رقب **269**

سوفرام طنجرة ضغط
ستانلس ستيل ٨ لتر
Soffram Stainless Steel
Pressure Cooker 8Ltr



رقب ~~899~~

شاموي سكوتر كهربائي ٤ جو
Xiaomi Electric Scooter 4 Go



رقب ~~89.00~~

دراجة أطفال متنوعة
Kids Bicycle Asstd.

Shop with Confidence 14001

تسوق بثقة 14001

LULU HYPERMARKET .COM

SHOP ONLINE



GET
5% BACK

with your Doha Bank shopping Co-branded credit card
Type "LULU" & SMS to 92610 or visit any Doha Bank Branch

0% INTEREST
Buy now, pay over 6 months



Lulu **لولو**
Where the world comes to shop

حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

GU-Q conference marks 20th anniversary of Iraq War

Georgetown University in Qatar's (GU-Q) three-day conference, 'The Invasion of Iraq: Regional Reflections,' opens today with discussions on the multifaceted impacts of the conflict and its repercussions for global diplomacy. Former president of Iraq, Dr Barham Salih, will deliver a keynote address and share further insights in a conversation with Peter Harling, founder and director of the Beirut-based Synaps Network. The conference is convened by GU-Q's dean, Dr Safwan Masri, in collaboration with the Centre for International and Regional Studies (CIRS). Dr Robert Groves, provost of Georgetown University in Washington DC, and dean Masri will present opening remarks. "It's a great honour and pleasure to have the honourable Barham Salih deliver the keynote speech at the conference.



GU-Q dean Safwan M Masri

A long-term Kurdish Iraqi politician, who served as the eighth president of Iraq between 2018 and 2022, he has a profound, personal understanding of the complexities involved in Iraq's multi-ethnic, multi-religious socio-political landscape. His participation is a significant



Iraq's former president Barham Salih.

element of the conference and will add an invaluable and authoritative voice to the discussions," noted dean Masri. The opening will also feature a high-level panel, "The Iraq War and Global Diplomacy," with senior diplomats sharing their perspectives on the role

of international diplomacy during and after the 2003 invasion. The discussion will be moderated by Al Jazeera's Laila al-Shaikhli. Running until Saturday (September 16) at the Four Seasons Doha, the conference creates an inclusive space for an exchange of perspectives among top scholars including GU-Q faculty, policymakers, journalists, filmmakers, and the wider public. "At the heart of this conference lies a dedicated effort to elevate diverse voices and perspectives from within Iraq," emphasised Zahra Babar, associate director for research at CIRS. "Our goal is to transcend the boundaries of scholarly discourse, and to ensure that the lived experiences and personal narratives of Iraqis are an integral part of the conversation."

With a focus on Iraq's current political, social, and economic dynamics, there will be a plenary tomorrow on 'Regional Security Perceptions Post-US Invasion of Iraq.' Discussions will probe youth and activism, relations with Iraq's key regional neighbours, as well as the view from Kuwait and Qatar. The closing day on Saturday will consider the obstacles confronting future generations such as the emergence of Da'esh, the role of women, global governance, and natural resource management, with a final plenary on 'US Foreign Policy towards the Region.' GU-Q's Hiwaraat Conference Series has been launched as a platform that brings together scholars, policymakers, and government officials from around the world to explore challenges and solutions for a better future.

'Shop to Win' campaign at Abu Sidra Mall from today

Abu Sidra Mall, is initiating a 'Shop to Win' campaign from today, until January 30, 2024, offering shoppers the opportunity to enter a raffle for a chance to win two 2023 model Land Cruiser GXR vehicles. To partake in this campaign, shoppers simply need to make a minimum purchase of QR50 at any of the participating stores within the mall, a statement said yesterday. Upon presenting their receipts, they will receive a raffle coupon from the customer service counter. The raffle draw for this campaign is scheduled for January 31, 2024. Harun Kadri, leasing & mall manager at Abu Sidra Mall, expressed his enthusiasm for this campaign, stating: "We cherish our shoppers and wanted to express our gratitude in a truly remarkable way. The Toyota Land Cruiser is an icon of luxury and exploration, and we're excited to make two of our esteemed shoppers proud owners." Abu Sidra Mall is the latest addition to the retail landscape of Qatar, offering a wide range of international and local brands, dining options, entertainment, and a comfortable shopping environment for the whole family. LuLu Hypermarket has a presence in Abu Sidra Mall with the largest store in the region. Popular brands such as Lifestyle, Splash, Babyshop, Homebox, and Daiso Japan, as well as KFC,



McDonald's, Papa Johns, Pizza Hut, Gazebo, Rasasi, Cheval, Broche & Baguette, Larissa Chocolates and an array of restaurants and entertainment options have opened their unique stores in Abu Sidra Mall. Abu Sidra Mall is part of Abu Sidra City, being developed by Mohamed Bin Hamad Holding Group (MBHH) as a suburban-style, mixed-use project that aims to create a vibrant living and working community in a meticulously maintained environment, the statement added.

QC, Unicef implement WASH projects for Pakistan's flood-hit

Qatar Charity (QC), in partnership with Unicef, has implemented several interventions in the field of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Rajanpur, a district in Pakistan's Punjab province, benefiting over 55,000 people affected by the devastating 2022 floods in the country.

This comes as part of QC's continued projects, implemented in several flood-affected districts of Pakistan, a statement said yesterday.

The recently implemented WASH projects included the installation of 25 solar water pumps to benefit 30,000 individuals and the construction of 10 water ponds for nearly 20,000 beneficiaries, in addition to building toilets for 500 families in Rajanpur.

The projects focus on providing sustainable WASH services to vulnerable communities to prevent infectious diseases.

Zeewar Mai, a beneficiary, said: "Due to the floods, all the clean water sources close to us were damaged. We had to travel almost a mile to collect water to meet our drinking needs. Qatar Charity and Unicef have constructed solar water pumps in my village. Now, it is easy for me to fetch water any time during the day."

Aziz Khan, another beneficiary, stated, "I have nine children including five daughters. The toilets were damaged due to the flash floods. I am very grateful



to Qatar Charity for extending timely support to us."

Abdul Rauf, community development officer at the Public Health Engineering Department in Rajanpur, said: "The clean water sources were damaged due to the 2022 floods. As a result, people had to drink contaminated

water at any cost for their living which caused water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery. I am proud to mention that Qatar Charity and Unicef were the first organisations, who constructed the water sources in the area to provide clean drinking water."

ICRC, Qatar Charity partner to support Sudanese refugees

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Qatar Charity (QC) have signed an agreement, under which Qatar Charity provided a grant worth \$350,250 in support of the ICRC's cash assistance programme for Sudanese refugees, a statement said yesterday. The programme will provide multi-purpose cash assistance for nearly 10,000 vulnerable Sudanese refugees to meet their most basic needs. The fighting in Sudan has led to thousands of casualties, more than 2mn people displaced from their homes, and hundreds of thousands of refugees seeking safety in neighbouring countries,

most notably Egypt, South Sudan, and Chad. Cherine Pollini, ICRC's head of delegation in Qatar, expressed appreciation for QC's generous contribution. The signing of the agreement signifies the shared vision of the ICRC and QC to strengthen worldwide humanitarian action. "The ICRC looks forward to continuing working hand in hand with Qatar Charity to provide impartial and neutral humanitarian assistance to those in need in Sudan and beyond," she added. Nawaf al-Hammadi, chief of operations and international programmes sector at QC, expressed his gratitude for the

partnership with the ICRC. "This grant agreement will help strengthen our collaboration in supporting Sudanese people affected by the conflict and address pressing humanitarian issues in neighbouring countries. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts with the ICRC to make a positive impact on the lives of people in need." Set to conclude in December 2023, this five-month endeavour aims to deliver essential multi-purpose cash assistance to an estimated 10,000 vulnerable Sudanese refugees. The funds will empower recipients to address their most pressing humanitarian basic needs, the statement added.

QRCS launches drinking water project in northern Jordan

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched its 'Contributing to Improving Access to Drinking Water in Northern Jordan' project through its representative office in Jordan, in partnership with the Jordanian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The rehabilitation work will improve access to drinking water for approximately 120,000 people, including 27,600 refugees, with a budget of approximately \$200,000.

The objective of the project is to improve the supply of drinking water in the northern regions of Jordan through the enhancement of operational efficiency of specific water pumping stations situated in Irbid and Mafraq governorates. This will be achieved by repairing or replacing pumps, main valves, and chlorination systems.

In the same context, a team from the QRCS office in Jordan, in collaboration with its partners, the Jordanian Red Crescent and ICRC, conducted a visit to the five water pumping stations that are scheduled for rehabilitation and maintenance under the project.

A formal agreement signed be-



tween the ICRC and the ministry of water and irrigation governs the project and defines the scope of

work along with technical specifications for a successful implementation.

Doha poised to be a global coffee hub, says expert

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Doha has a huge potential to become an international coffee hub, thanks to the surging popularity of specialty coffee creations and signature drinks crafted by skilled baristas in the country, an industry expert said.

Ronnie Llorin, Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) barista trainer at Partners&Partners, told Gulf Times that Doha has become the birthplace of numerous signature coffee concoctions, utilising an array of carefully sourced and high-quality coffee beans from diverse regions worldwide, including South and Latin America, and Africa.

"I see Qatar to be a very popular destination for coffee lovers and connoisseurs. There is a flourishing coffee business here and a growing community of skilled and passionate baristas, which I think is a direct response to the rising demand for skilled professionals in this field," he said.



Ronnie Llorin showcases some of the best and most expensive coffee machines. PICTURES: Joey Aguilar

It is learnt that this surge in interest has also driven many companies to join forces in organising various coffee-related events in Qatar: from major exhibitions to trainings, seminars and coffee-tasting activities, adding to the country's appeal as a haven for coffee lovers.

Different coffee events and activities are scheduled to take place in Doha in



A 24-karat, gold-plated coffee machine at Partners&Partners pegged at QR270,000.

the coming weeks, including the inaugural Doha International Coffee Exhibition 2023, which will be held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre from tomorrow until September 16.

Organised by the Qatar Specialty Coffee Association, this premier global coffee trade show promises to be a caffeine-fuelled extravaganza, offering a dynamic platform for

innovation, education, and coffee trade.

Following this event, Qatar is slated to present the "Growing Kopi, Drinking Qahwa; Stories of Coffee in Qatar and Indonesia" exhibition at the National Museum of Qatar on October 24. This immersive exhibit, a collaboration with the National Museum of Indonesia, highlights the global history of coffee by exploring the distinct coffee cultures of Qatar and Indonesia.

The exhibition, a key highlight of the Qatar - Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture and Qatar Creates, will be on display until February 17, 2024.

This November, participants at Hospitality Qatar 2023 will have the chance to exhibit their offerings, which include coffee, along with associated equipment and expertise, to a large audience.

In addition, organisers said they will also have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the Qatari market.

Llorin said that several coffee activities such as coffee tasting, seminars and workshops, and competitions will also be organised at Al Bidda Park dur-

ing the six-month Doha Expo 2023.

Citing the demand surge for coffee, he said coffee booths at events like the Qatar International Food Festival have become popular hubs for visitors, contributing to the vibrancy of the country's culinary and food & beverage scene.

Llorin pointed out that these major events, which feature numerous selections of food and beverages, particularly coffee, attract huge crowds and strengthen Qatar's position as a popular and must-visit destination.

Apart from several local specialty coffee roasters, Llorin noted that Qatar is also home to a wide range of high-end coffee machines, including a 24-carat gold-plated equipment.

Many visitors echoed a similar view, saying that Qatar offers not only classic and traditional drinks such as cappuccino, Spanish latte, and macchiato, in addition to the popular Arabic coffee, but also several highly sought beverages from other countries such as Turkish coffee, karak or chai latte, and other tea blends.



أبو سدرة مول
ABU SIDRA MALL

www.abusidramall.com

Participating Outlets

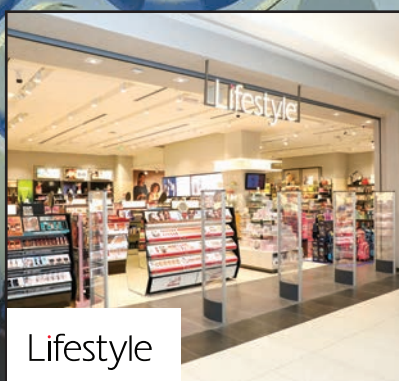
LOCATION



Splash



babyshop



Lifestyle



McDonald's



Pizza Hut



KFC



Starbucks



PAPA JOHN'S



BROCHE & BAGUETTE



KARAK MAKANI



Indian Flavours



CAFÉZONE



LARISSA



VEY3P OPTICS



BATH & BODY WORKS



DOHA BEAUTY CENTRE



ALDANA



Twenty One Beauty and Spa



TULU FLORALS



HOME BOX



AL SHEKHA STYLE



LE COIFFEUR



DAISO JAPAN



Le Cheval



Rasasi



Korner



Atyah Al Marshoud



MADAM PRESTIGE



GULMEH PHARMACY



Pharma Care



AL ANEES

المستأجر الأكبر Anchor Tenant

لولو®
Where the world comes to shop
حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق



Fears mount of surging death toll in Libya flood disaster

AFP
Derna, Libya

Libya was reeling yesterday from a massive flood that left nearly 4,000 dead and thousands more missing, wreaking havoc in the eastern city of Derna where bodies wrapped in blankets lined the ravaged streets.

Relief missions gathered pace with Turkiye, Egypt and the UAE among the first nations to rush aid to the war-scarred country after the disaster that also displaced tens of thousands.

The Mediterranean coastal city of Derna was hit by a huge flash flood

late Sunday that witnesses likened to a tsunami after two upstream dams burst when torrential rains brought by Storm Daniel battered the region.

Footage broadcast by state media showed an catastrophic landscape in the city, with debris littering streets and people lifting sheets off bodies lying on sidewalks to try to identify them.

Satellite images of Derna after the surge of water showed coastal neighbourhoods almost entirely submerged.

The United Nations has pledged \$10mn in support for survivors, including at least 30,000 people it said

had been left homeless in Derna.

The wall of water ripped away buildings, vehicles and the people inside them. Many were swept out into the sea, with bodies later washing up on beaches littered with debris and car wrecks.

Traumatised survivors have dug through the mud-caked ruins of shattered buildings to recover bodies, scores of which were lying out in the open before being buried in mass graves.

The confirmed death toll reached 3,840 by yesterday afternoon, said lieutenant Tarek al-Kharraz, spokesman for the eastern-based government's interior ministry.

The figure includes 3,190 victims who have already been buried and at least 400 foreigners, mostly from Sudan and Egypt, Kharraz said, adding 2,400 people were still missing.

Some media reports have quoted officials giving higher tolls.

Tamer Ramadan of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Tuesday "the death toll is huge" and is likely to grow.

He added the organisation had independent sources saying that "the number of missing people is hitting 10,000 persons so far".

Oil-rich Libya is still recovering from the war and chaos that fol-

lowed the Nato-backed uprising which toppled and killed longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The country has been left divided between two rival governments – the UN-brokered, internationally recognised administration based in Tripoli, and a separate administration in the disaster-hit east.

Derna is ringed by hills and bisected by a riverbed that is usually dry in summer, but which became a raging torrent that also destroyed several bridges.

Mudslides and flooding also hit nearby areas where aid group the Norwegian Refugee Council said "entire villages have been over-

whelmed by the floods".

"Communities across Libya have endured years of conflict, poverty and displacement. The latest disaster will exacerbate the situation for these people."

Erik Tollefsen, head of the weapon contamination unit at the International Committee of the Red Cross, warned of risks posed by landmines planted during the war.

"Derna flood waters have shifted unexploded ordnance into areas previously free of weapon contamination. This means more risk for survivors and those providing humanitarian assistance," Tollefsen said on X, formerly Twitter.



A relative cries while waiting outside a funeral house during the identification of victims of the major fire at an apartment block in Hanoi yesterday. Dozens of people have been killed after a huge fire at an apartment block in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, state media said yesterday.

‘Whole family gone’

AFP
Hanoi

Hundreds gathered outside a morgue in western Hanoi yesterday, waiting to hear if their families and friends were victims of a devastating apartment fire that killed more than 56 people.

The fire in the 10-storey building, which had only one exit and wire-barred balconies, started as residents fell asleep on Tuesday night.

Neighbours and residents of the building in the capital's southwest said they heard screaming as people struggled to escape the flames and thick smoke.

Police said 56 people were killed and 37 injured, while state media reported that three children were among the dead.

At the morgue in a military-owned hospital, officials appeared at the entrance every half hour to announce through a loudspeaker that there was another victim for families to identify.

Holding out a photo on a mobile phone or simply describing the dead, medical workers asked desperate relatives if they recognised their loved ones.

Cries broke out each time a match was found. Authorities tried to prevent families talking to journalists, but one man, who did not give his name, said his daughter had died and feared his wife had also perished. "I lost my daughter, who was staying with her mother," he said through tears. Unsure where his wife was, he said: "I guess she did not make it either."

One group of five women, sitting

on the floor outside the morgue, said their "whole family had gone".

Elsewhere in the morgue, families who knew their loved ones had died sat waiting for hours to collect the bodies. One man, who gave his name as Dung, said his two young cousins, a man and a woman, were among the dead. They had come from their home in nearby coastal Thai Binh province to study.

"They were at university here. Our family bought them this small apartment.

"We are waiting here to bring back them back to our home province for burial, but we don't know when they are going to release the body." State media reported that Hanoi would provide around \$1,500 to families for each adult who had died. Compensation would also be given for those who had lost a child.

Apartment block blaze claims 56 lives in Hanoi

AFP
Hanoi

Fifty-six people died in a fire at an apartment block in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, police said yesterday, with witnesses reporting screams from inside and a small boy thrown from the building.

Vietnam's deadliest fire in 20 years started just before midnight on Tuesday in the parking floor of the 10-storey building, an area packed with motorbikes, witnesses said.

"56 people have been killed and 37 people injured," Hanoi police department said in a statement.

At least three children were among the dead, state media reported.

The owner of the apartment block has been arrested on suspicion of violating fire prevention regulations, Hanoi police said.

A woman who lives near the block, who gave her name only as Hoa, said: "I heard a lot of shouts for help. We could not help them much."

"The apartment is so closed with no escape route, impossible for the victims to get out," she said at the site.

Photos of the scene showed flames and smoke billowing from barred balconies.

The blaze was out by yesterday morning but rescuers still struggled for hours to get into the build-

ing, which is down a narrow alley in a residential area of southwest Hanoi.

The complex's small balconies were surrounded by iron bars, with the apartment block having only a single exit and no emergency ladder on the outside.

Pictures showed a line of charred motorbikes on the ground floor, where the fire began.

Around 150 people lived in the complex, authorities said.

Another witness, Huong, said a small child was thrown from an apartment to escape the flames.

"The smoke was everywhere. There was a little boy thrown from a high floor, I don't know whether he survived or not although people used a mattress to catch him," she said.

Neighbours reported several others jumping from the block.

"There was a middle-aged woman jumping down onto my terrace here. She hit her arm and broke it. Another person also jumped down here and broke their legs," said Dao To Nga.

"A child was put into a plastic basket and lowered down".

Some were able to flee the building using her roof. "This rooftop of my family helped 14-15 people escape," she said.

One survivor, Nguyen Thi Minh Hong, said her family waited in their seventh-floor apartment at the back of the building for five hours before help arrived.

"We were sleeping when sud-

denly we felt very hot because the power had been cut. My husband opened the door and we heard people shouting for help and we saw smoke," the 34-year-old said.

The family, which included her two children aged six and nine, tried to escape to the roof but were forced back into their apartment due to the heat of the fire.

"I was so scared. We stayed inside the room for five hours... I just tried to calm my kids down by holding a wet towel to their face," she said from Hanoi's Bach Mai Hospital.

"We were between life and death." Hundreds of people gathered later outside a Hanoi morgue, waiting to hear if their family members and friends were among the victims.

One group of five women, sitting on the floor outside the morgue, said their "whole family had gone".

"They were our children and grandchildren," they said.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, who visited the site yesterday as well as survivors in hospital, ordered an investigation into the fire.

Vietnam has experienced several deadly fires in recent years, often at entertainment venues.

A year ago, a karaoke bar blaze near commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City killed 32 people and injured 17. The owner was later arrested on charges related to breaching fire prevention regulations.

US billionaire's family to return looted artefacts to Cambodia

A billionaire family in the US will return more than 30 looted ancient artefacts to Cambodia after agreeing it "wrongfully possessed" the treasures, the Cambodian government said yesterday.

Years of civil war followed by the genocidal Khmer Rouge rule saw historical sites looted with near-impunity in Cambodia, which is famed for its Angkor Wat temple complex.

A trove of stolen artefacts has been sent back to Cambodia in recent years from Western museums and private collectors. Now, 33 items from the Lindemann private collection will be "voluntarily" returned to Cambodia, its ministry of arts and culture said yesterday.

The move "sets an excellent and proper example for other museums and private collectors... to follow and return our national treasures," Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Phoeurng Sackona said.

Looming bushfire season



The Sydney Harbour Bridge is shrouded by smoke yesterday after a ring of controlled blazes burned on the city's fringes in preparation for the looming bushfire season.

Japan PM reshuffles cabinet, promises 'drastic' measures

AFP
Tokyo

Japan's prime minister promised "drastic" economic measures yesterday after reshuffling his cabinet and increasing the number of female ministers in an effort to boost his flagging popularity.

Fumio Kishida's poll ratings and standing within the ruling party have dived since taking office in October 2021, with voters hit by rising prices in the world's third-largest economy.

Support for the government stood at just 36%, according to a poll released Monday by broadcaster NHK. Another survey showed most voters unhappy with efforts to tackle inflation.

Kishida said yesterday he will order his new cabinet to form a "drastic" economic package to address the impact of rising prices on voters.

"With regard to economic measures, we must create dras-

tic economic measures that are backed by the necessary budget under the new cabinet team, and implement them as soon as possible. I want this to be our top priority," Kishida told a news conference. He stuck with his economic team in the reshuffle, with Shunichi Suzuki staying as finance minister and Yasutoshi Nishimura still in charge of economy and industry.

But the overhaul saw Yoko Kamikawa, a 70-year-old former justice minister, named Japan's first female foreign minister since 2004. She is one of five women in the new cabinet, equalling the previous highest number in Japanese political history.

Minoru Kihara, 54, became defence minister, just as Japan beefs up its military to face a rising threat from North Korea and deteriorating relations with China.

Kihara is a senior member of a non-partisan group aimed at promoting ties with Taiwan, the self-ruled island that Beijing sees as part of China.

VERDICT

UK ocean rower sentenced after crew member lost at sea

An experienced ocean rower has been handed a suspended prison sentence after a crew member on a trans-Atlantic record bid was swept overboard, the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency said yesterday. Simon Chalk appeared in court in Bristol, western England, and pleaded guilty to failing to take all reasonable measures to ensure the safe operation of his vessel, the Toby Wallace. The charge, under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, was brought after 21-year-old Michael Johnson was swept from the craft on February 15, 2016. The British-Zimbabwean national was part of an eight-member crew attempting to cross the Atlantic in 32 days.

DECISION

UK to block Chinese cameras from govt sites

Britain's lower house of parliament approved a law that would ban Chinese surveillance technology from government buildings and military bases days after news of an alleged spying scandal in parliament. The law that sets government procurement rules comes at a time of anxiety about China after it was revealed at the weekend that a parliamentary researcher in Britain was arrested in March on suspicion of spying for China. The House of Commons approved the legislation that would strip out substantial amounts of Chinese equipment from government sites. The legislation will go back to the House of Lords for approval before it becomes law.

CLARIFICATION

No law banning iPhone use in govt agencies, says China

China yesterday said it was following media reports about suspected security issues with iPhones but insisted there was no ban on its officials using the devices. The *Wall Street Journal* previously reported that China had prohibited officials at central government agencies from using iPhones. At a regular press briefing, China's foreign ministry said it "had indeed noted many recent media reports exposing security incidents relating to Apple mobile phones". However, "China has not issued any laws, regulations, or policy documents prohibiting the purchase and use of smartphones made by foreign brands such as Apple", spokesperson Mao Ning said.

AGREEMENT

Indonesia buys UK submarine rescue vessel

Indonesia's defence ministry said it has signed an agreement to buy a submarine rescue vessel for \$100mn from a British company, the latest move to modernise the country's ageing military equipment. The deal between a company appointed as the defence ministry's partner, PT BTI Indo Tekno, vessel producer Submarine Manufacturing & Products and Houlder was signed on the sidelines of a defence expo in London. It's the latest in a series of big-ticket military purchases, among them 42 Dassault Rafale fighter jets for \$8.1bn, 12 new drones from Turkish Aerospace worth \$300mn, and 12 used Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets worth \$800mn.

X a ‘habitual non-compliant platform,’ says India

Reuters
New Delhi

India's government has told a court that Elon Musk's X is a "habitual non-compliant platform" and for years has not followed many orders to remove content, undermining the govern-

ment's role, according to a legal filing reviewed by Reuters. The remarks were contained in an August 24 non-public filing by India's IT ministry to the High Court in the southern state of Karnataka, which is set to hear a challenge brought by the social media platform over a government fine in coming days. X and India's IT ministry did not

respond to a request for comment. Formerly known as Twitter, X has an ongoing legal tussle with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration over what New Delhi alleges is non-compliance with content removal orders. In June, Karnataka's High Court fined the platform Rs5mn (\$60,291) and said it had not complied with many blocking orders

without any plausible explanation. Twitter challenged that ruling to a higher bench in the court and argued New Delhi could be emboldened to block more content and broaden the scope of censorship. Separately, it has sought court's intervention to block the fine. In its 28-page filing, the IT ministry said X's plea should be thrown out, argu-

ing the company had undermined "the role of the government in a democratic setup" and in the past unblocked some accounts - which government ordered to be blocked - without its knowledge. X's "compliance rates with government requests have been significantly low," the ministry's filing stated. "It is the duty of the gov-

ernment to ensure that platforms are doing business in a legally compliant manner." India and X have had strained relation for years. The tussle dates back to 2021 when the social media platform declined to block certain accounts New Delhi ordered to be taken down, related to farmer protests against the Indian government's policies.

Reliance Retail ‘in \$1.5bn Gulf, Singapore funds talks’

Reuters
Mumbai/New Delhi/Dubai

India's Reliance Retail is in talks with existing investors including the sovereign wealth funds of Singapore, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia for combined new investments of around \$1.5bn, three sources with direct knowledge of the plan said.

Reliance Retail is India's largest retailer and is led by Asia's richest person Mukesh Ambani. The talks with investors are part of an internal target to raise \$3.5bn which the company wants to close by the end September, Reuters has reported.

Singapore's GIC, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) are looking to invest at least \$500mn each in Reliance Retail at a valuation of \$100bn, one of the sources said. GIC, ADIA declined to comment, while PIF did not respond to requests for comment. Reliance said: "we do not comment on media speculation and rumours".

A second source said some of the three investors could end up putting in less than \$500mn, and talks were also on with at least one or two further investors for the fund raising.

"All the three investors have evaluated the company quite seriously," said the first of the three sources, all of whom declined to be named as the discussions are private.

The final investments or funding plans could still change.

GIC, PIF and ADIA are among the world's biggest investment funds and together they own a 4.4% stake in the Indian retailer.

Reliance Industries, the retail arm's parent, also has plans to invest in the ongoing fund raising round of \$3.5bn, two of the sources said.

Reliance sold a 10.09% stake in its retail unit in 2020, valuing it at Rs4.68tn (\$56.4bn). At that time, GIC and ADIA invested \$664mn each, while PIF pumped in \$1.15bn, based on current exchange rates.

A fourth source briefed on the deal-making said the 2020 fund raising agreements had a clause that allowed existing investors to increase their stakes, and those investment funds were showing keen interest.

Ambani's Indian retail empire has more than 18,000 stores, with operations ranging from groceries to electronics. It includes foreign partnerships with brands such as Marks and Spencer and competes with Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart in one of the world's biggest markets.

When ADIA invested in Reliance Retail in 2020, it said it was part of its strategy of targeting market leading businesses in Asia linked to the region's consumption-driven growth.

Last month Ambani said in a speech that "several marquee global strategic and financial investors have shown strong interest" in his company, but gave no names.



Residents fix a sign reading "Nipah containment zone" on a barricade, put up to block a road after the authorities declared the area a containment zone, to prevent the spread of Nipah virus in Ayanchery village in Kozhikode district, Kerala, India, yesterday.

Kerala shuts schools, offices to curb Nipah virus spread

Reuters
New Delhi

India's southern state of Kerala shut some schools, offices and public transport yesterday in a race to stop the spread of the rare and deadly Nipah virus, which has killed two people.

An adult and a child were still infected in hospital, and more than 130 people have been tested for the virus, spread via contact with the bodily fluids of infected bats or people, a state health official said.

"We are focusing on tracing contacts of infected persons early and isolating anyone with symptoms," said the state's Health Minister Veena George, who told re-

porters the virus detected in Kerala was the Bangladesh variant, which spreads from human to human with a high mortality rate but has a history of being less infectious.

"Public movement has been restricted in parts of the state to contain the medical crisis," she said.

Two infected people have died since August 30 in the state's fourth outbreak of the virus since 2018, forcing authorities to declare containment zones in at least seven villages in the district of Kozhikode.

Strict isolation rules have been adopted, with medical staff being quarantined after contact with the infected. The first victim was a small landholder growing bananas and areca nuts in the district's vil-

lage of Marutonkara, said a government official who retraced the movement of the victim to track down all the people he could have interacted with and the places visited before his health started to deteriorate.

The victim's daughter and brother-in-law, both infected, are in an isolation ward, while other family members and neighbours are being tested.

The second death followed contact in hospital with the first victim, an initial investigation has shown, but the two were not related, added the official, who sought anonymity as he was not authorised to talk to the media.

Three federal teams, including experts from the National Virol-

ogy Institute, arrived yesterday to conduct more tests and to survey the fruit bat population from the isolated villages. The Nipah virus was first identified in 1999.

Outbreaks are sporadic and previous infections in South Asia have occurred when people drank date-palm sap contaminated with bat excreta.

In Kerala's first Nipah outbreak, 21 of the 23 infected died, while outbreaks in 2019 and 2021 claimed two more lives.

A Reuters investigation in May identified parts of Kerala as among the places most at risk globally for outbreaks of bat viruses. Extensive deforestation and urbanisation have brought people and wildlife into close contact.

India, Russia to widen maritime co-operation

India and Russia will explore the possibility of using new transport corridors such as the Northern Sea Route and Eastern Maritime Corridor to widen maritime co-operation, the Indian government said yesterday. A decision to work towards this was made during a meeting between India's Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Russia's Development of the Far East and Arctic minister, A O Chekunkov, in Russia's Vladivostok. New Delhi and Moscow have enjoyed a close relationship for decades and India has refused to condemn Russia for the war it has waged on Ukraine since last year. Russian-Indian trade has instead risen to a record high, driven largely by a ramping-up of Indian imports of Russian oil. The two countries also agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, which is equipped with simulator facilities.

Afghans urge India to extend visas



Hundreds of Afghan college students living in India despite the expiry of their student visas staged a protest in New Delhi yesterday to urge the Indian government to extend their stay and allow them to resume their studies. India has in the past offered scholarships to thousands of overseas students from countries such as Afghanistan to pursue undergraduate and post-graduate degrees.

Kashmir farmers protest cut in levy on US apples

Reuters
Srinagar, India

Apple farmers and political activists in Kashmir yesterday protested against the federal government's decision to remove an additional 20% duty on the fruit imported from the US saying cheaper American apples will hurt local growers.

The decision to remove the additional duty was one of six World Trade Organisation disputes India and the US resolved when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington in June but it was implemented only last week.

India had imposed the additional 20% customs duty on apples from the US in 2019, on top of an existing 50% duty, as a retaliatory measure for Washington increasing tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium products.

"We appeal to the government to reconsider the decision," Ba-

shir Ahmad, president of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union, said at the rally involving dozens of protesters in Srinagar.

Lowering the tax will hurt the livelihoods of more than 3mn people who depend on the \$1.2bn apple industry in Kashmir, he said. "We are already suffering due to imported apples and were urging the government to raise import duties to support local growers, but they have done the opposite," he said, adding that the industry had already suffered a 40% loss this year due to bad weather.

Kashmir produced 1.7mn tonnes of apples in the fiscal year 2021-22, accounting for more than two-thirds of India's output, government data showed. India imported nearly 4,500 tonnes of apples from the US in the fiscal year 2022-23, down from a high of nearly 128,000 tonnes in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Indian firms linked to cough syrup deaths ‘had received warnings’

Reuters
New Delhi

The deaths of 12 children in northern India between December 2019 and January 2020, police allege, were caused by adulterated cough syrup made by drugmaker Digital Vision. It was not the first time the company's medicines have come under scrutiny.

Indian drugs regulators found quality shortfalls in drugs made by Digital and its unit Orison Pharmaceuticals at least 22 times between 2012 and July this year, ac-

cording to a review of records from five states and India's federal drugs regulator CDSCO.

The medicines either did not contain the claimed volume of ingredients or failed to dissolve quickly enough for absorption by the body, according to the records.

Digital Vision founder Parshotam Goyal downplayed the shortfalls. "Drug samples of every company fail on some criteria every now and then: small mismatches in the quantity of medicines and things like that," he said, when asked about the regulators' warnings.

Tests by government laboratories in 2020 found that a batch of Digital Vision's COLDBEST-PC cough syrup taken by the children in the northern region of Jammu and Kashmir contained high levels of toxic chemicals. The company has denied this and said its syrup was not to blame for the wave of poisonings, without providing proof.

Maiden Pharmaceuticals - whose cough syrups have been linked to deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia last year - had also been alerted by regulators to quality shortfalls in some of its drugs.

Regulators found at least 10

medicines produced in India by Maiden were "not of standard quality" according to records shared by India's department of pharmaceuticals with parliament in March. The eastern state of Bihar in 2011 banned the company for five years for selling substandard medicines there.

India's health ministry and the CDSCO did not respond to requests for comment.

Maiden, which has denied its cough syrup was responsible for the deaths in Gambia, did not respond to requests for comment.

When Maiden produced the syrups exported to Gambia in late

2021, its founder, Naresh Kumar Goyal, and technical director Mahender Kumar Sharma were already on bail since March 2018 in a separate case on charges of illegally storing substandard medicines, according to documents from a court in Haryana state.

Goyal did not respond to requests for comment; Sharma could not be reached.

The court documents show that inspectors visited Maiden's factory in 2014 after Vietnam had banned the company the previous year for allegedly selling another heartburn drug there that did not meet specifications.

Maiden's lawyers told the court in Haryana its own testing had shown the drugs discovered by the Indian inspectors fell short and it had not intended to sell them.

But the court in February this year found "substandard quality medicines were kept for the purpose of its sale to derive undue gain" and that "such types of substandard quality drugs were also exported" to Vietnam.

It sentenced Goyal and Sharma to two-and-a-half-years in jail. They pleaded not guilty, appealed in a higher court, and have been on bail again since March while their petition is heard.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
 editor@gulf-times.com
 44350478 (News),
 44466404 (Sport),
 44466636 (Home delivery)
 44350474
 facebook.com/gulftimes
 twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
 instagram.com/gulftimes
 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

GULF TIMES

The key to sustainable food systems

The fabric of our global food system is fraying under the strain of climate change and an ever-expanding population. To prevent it from unravelling, we must embrace distributed renewable-energy solutions, which are critical for reducing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, boosting resilience and productivity, and cutting costs. Failure to do so would jeopardise efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and threaten our very survival.

Halfway to the 2030 deadline, progress toward the SDGs – conceived as a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet” – is lagging significantly. In July, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York and the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome underscored the importance of ensuring access to modern energy (SDG 7) and achieving zero hunger (SDG 2), respectively.

When it comes to strengthening the long-term resilience and adaptability of the global food system, these two objectives are interlinked. Translating this into public policies has taken on new urgency, given that rapid global warming, population growth, public-health crises, volatile energy markets, and conflict have exposed the food system's unique vulnerabilities and shortcomings.

Past solutions and approaches will no longer work; on the contrary, they contributed to the current problems. Previously, concerns about food supply – including high prices during the 2008 global financial crisis – invariably led to agricultural intensification and mechanisation, as well as an increase in land use. As a result, agribusiness (including the production, transport, and storage of food) today accounts for roughly one-third of all GHG emissions, which in turn threaten the future of agriculture.

Reinforcing the fabric of our global food system requires a new framework and renewable energy must be its foundation

While the effects of climate change are felt throughout the global food system, they are disproportionately borne by those least responsible for the problem: smallholder farmers in the Global South. For example, Sub-Saharan Africa, which relies on rainfed agriculture, already experiences one-third of the world's droughts and is vulnerable to higher temperatures and other extreme weather. The International Monetary Fund has found that a single drought can lower an African country's medium-term economic-growth potential by one percentage point.

That conclusion reflects agriculture's central role in the developing world: in some of the least-developed countries, it accounts for more than 25% of GDP, while 52% of employed people in Sub-Saharan Africa are active in the sector. Given this, achieving sustainable and climate-friendly food production in the Global South could lead to significant welfare improvements. This will require a shift to distributed renewable energy, which can be used in primary production, post-harvest processing, storage, and cooking – the agricultural activities that tend to consume the most energy in developing countries.

To be sure, decentralised renewable energy is not a panacea. But it could contribute significantly to stabilising the global food system by lowering energy costs, a crucial factor for boosting productivity; by facilitating financing for productive applications, which could democratise access to yield-enhancing technologies; and by reducing GHG emissions and promoting climate-change adaptation. Last but not least, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and decentralising energy production can help shift global power dynamics within the food system.

Solar-powered irrigation, for example, has significantly improved water access and enabled multiple cropping cycles, increasing productivity and reducing GHG emissions. Solar-powered pumps have boosted farmers' incomes by more than 50% in India and led to significant increases in yields in Rwanda. The Ethiopian Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands – which one of us heads – recently banned the import of diesel irrigation pumps to support the rapid transition to renewable-energy solutions.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, solar milling machines could make grinding grain into flour more efficient, affordable, and sustainable. Additionally, the expansion of mini-grids to power post-harvest processes can bring more economic and environmental benefits by enabling communities to preserve their produce locally.

Cold storage and refrigeration are crucial for extending shelf life, reducing food loss, and maintaining product quality. Decentralised cold-storage solutions that are powered by renewable energy could improve market access and reduce spoilage for smallholder farmers and remote communities. By converting existing infrastructure to renewable energy sources, we can cut GHG emissions and make cold chains more environmentally friendly and affordable.

All the above examples demonstrate the diverse applications of distributed renewable energy, and each solution contributes to a more resilient, sustainable, and climate-friendly food system. By scaling up these innovations, we can address the energy challenges faced by smallholder farmers, processors, and consumers while reducing our carbon footprint.

Reinforcing the fabric of our global food system requires a new framework designed to reduce land use, enhance productivity, minimise food loss, and cut GHG emissions. Renewable energy must be its foundation. Otherwise, developing countries will be unable to raise agricultural yields and end hunger, stop and reverse environmental degradation, or democratise energy access. – Project Syndicate

To Advertise

gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

44466621
 44418811

Classified

44466609 44418811
 gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2023 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



Qatar, El Salvador eye promising partnership

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and El Salvador President Nayib Armando Bukele discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them in various fields, besides discussing several global issues of common concern.

The Amir's official visit to El Salvador and his talks there will advance relations between Doha and San Salvador to new horizons.

Qatar and El Salvador are linked by distinguished relations and bonds of friendship and co-operation. The two countries signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations on Sept 24, 2003. In April 2006, El Salvador established its embassy in Doha while Qatar established its embassy in San Salvador in 2009. Since then, bilateral relations have seen significant qualitative development, with exchanges of visits by officials from both sides.

There are a set of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) that regulate relations between the two countries in politics, diplomacy, trade, industry, finance, culture, education, sports, tourism, civil aviation, co-operation and joint news exchange, in addition to co-ordination in international platforms such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Several Salvadoran officials are invited to attend meetings and forums organised by Qatar such as the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH).

In December 2019, His Highness the Amir met the El Salvador president on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2019, where bilateral relations and the prospects for developing them were discussed.

President Bukele's visit to Doha was aimed to strengthen diplomatic, political and commercial relations, as well as enhance co-operation and investment relations with Qatar.

He had expressed El Salvador's interest in collaborating with Qatar in various fields, especially in oil and gas since his country has great oil wealth and co-operating with Qatari companies would help take advantage of it.

El Salvador is a gateway to Latin American markets due to its location. The president had expressed his aspiration to see Qatari investments in El Salvador, especially since it is one of the most stable countries in the region and has a free trade agreement with the US and has great relations with China and other countries in the world.

In March, Doha hosted the second round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of Qatar and El Salvador. It discussed bilateral co-operation, in addition to other issues of joint interest.

Qatar provided El Salvador with medical aid, equipment



'Amir's visit will broaden bilateral relations'

Charge d'affaires of the Qatari embassy in San Salvador Fahad bin Salem al-Marri hailed the existing relations between Qatar and El Salvador as strong, highlighting that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to El Salvador reflects years-long efforts to bolster bilateral relations and elevate them to broader horizons. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Marri said the Amir's visit would be an opportunity to seal five agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between the two countries on agriculture, livestock, military co-operation, health, and legal and public prosecution. He said ever since Qatar and El Salvador signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations on Sept 24, 2003, bilateral relations have consolidated and maintained gradual development. Al-Marri added that the two countries' agreements and MoUs covered areas of education, scientific research, youth and sports, air services,

political consultations, news, co-operation between central banks, mutual exemption from visas for holders of diplomatic passports, tourism, culture, as well as judicial co-operation. Under President Nayib Armando Bukele, El Salvador has been a strategic ally of Qatar through supporting Qatari nominees for various UN international bodies and organisations, he said, stressing that the country had maintained a firm position in support of the positions of Qatar. Qatar supported El Salvador in providing the basic needs for families affected by a tropical storm. Qatar also made donations to teach foreign ministry staff Arabic language, support a programme to develop competencies and capabilities of the country's National Civil Police personnel, face the health emergencies over the Covid-19 pandemic, help Salvadoran Red Cross purchase medical and personal protective equipment for volunteers and medical workers, and renovate some mosques. (QNA)

and various supplies to support the country during the Covid-19 pandemic. Food and supplies were also provided to affected families.

Qatar also provided support to El Salvador after the country was struck by a tropical storm, floods and torrential rains in 2011 which destroyed many infrastructures, including the El Espino school in the municipality of Comasagua, which was later reopened with Qatar's support.

In June of last year, Qatar thanked El Salvador for joining the initiative to plant 10mn trees ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the first ever carbon-free tournament. El Salvador's contribution includes providing 125,000 trees annually, out of a total contribution of 1mn trees until 2030.

To strengthen ties with

Latin America, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani made several visits and tours in a number of its countries in 2015, 2016 and 2018. These visits contributed to expanding co-operation and opening doors for strategic partnerships. They also enhanced the Qatar's position on the international scene and embodied its foreign policy of positive openness, humanitarian co-operation and building long-term partnerships.

The presence of 14 Latin American embassies in Doha underscores the strong Qatari-Latin American relations which can be described as strong and good, especially at the level of the countries' leaderships. Doha also hosted the second Summit of South American-

Arab Countries on March 31, 2009, in which Doha announced its support for the strategic relations between the two regions.

In recent history, Latin America has maintained close ties with the Arab people, opening its heart and doors to them without any discrimination. It has also shown sympathy towards Arab issues and supported them in international forums, most notably the Palestinian cause.

Latin America is the world's fourth-largest region in area and the fifth-largest in population. It possesses vast water resources and some of the most fertile agricultural lands globally. Additionally, several Latin American countries have significant reserves of oil, iron ore, steel, and account for a quarter of the world's copper reserves. These resources will play a vital role in future markets. Furthermore, there is a significant focus on automation software, artificial intelligence, and smart industries, with an expected annual revenue of \$500bn by 2030.

El Salvador is a mountainous country in western Central America, bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the south, Guatemala in the west and Honduras in the north, and it shares maritime borders with Nicaragua. It is the only country in Central America that does not have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 21,000sq km, El Salvador is the smallest Central American country and has a population of about 6,400,000 people.

El Salvador is known for its volcanoes. There are 23 dormant volcanoes and five volcanic fields, in addition to three lakes and many rivers. Agriculture is key to El Salvador's economy, as it provides about two-thirds of the country's exports and employs a third of its workforce. It is also one of the most important countries in Central America in the industrial field which includes the industries of cotton textiles, sugar and petrochemicals.

Over the past decade, El Salvador was able to achieve political and economic stability and witnessed great economic development, pushing its economy to new heights. Recent reports indicate an upward path in the economic index of El Salvador, which reflects the country's commitment to creating a strong and prosperous economy which has contributed to decreasing poverty and increasing growth rates as well as raising confidence among investors, which will further enhance El Salvador as a rising economic power in and out of the region.

El Salvador seeks to further develop the its tourism which has many beautiful natural monuments and archaeological and cultural sites that would attract many people from all over the world. (QNA)

Human activity jeopardising life-support systems: study

By **Riham Alkousaa** and **David Stanway**
Berlin

The Earth's life-support systems are facing greater risks and uncertainties than ever before, with most major safety limits already crossed as a result of planet-wide human interventions, according to a scientific study released yesterday.

In a "health check" for the entire planet published in the *Science Advances* journal, an international team of 29 experts found that the Earth is now "well outside of the safe operating space for humanity" due to human activity.

The study, expanding on a 2015 report, said the world had now crossed six of nine "planetary boundaries" — the safe limits for human life in areas such as the integrity of the biosphere, climate change and the use and availability of fresh water.

In all, it said, eight of the nine boundaries are under more pressure than in the 2015 assessment, with only the sky's ozone layer improving — raising the risk of dramatic changes in the Earth's living conditions.

"We don't know that we can thrive under major, dramatic alterations of our conditions," lead author Katherine Richardson from the University of Copenhagen told a news conference.

The authors said crossing the boundaries did not represent a tipping point where human civilisation would just crash, but could bring irreversible shifts in the Earth's support systems.

"We can think of Earth as a human body, and the planetary boundaries as blood pressure. Over 120/80 does not indicate a certain heart attack but it does raise the risk," Richardson said.

The scientists sounded the alarm about increasing deforestation, the excessive consumption of plants for fuel, and the proliferation of manmade products like plastic, genetically modified organisms and synthetic chemicals.

"There are hundreds of thousands of human-made chemicals that are thrown

into the environment now," Richardson said. "We're constantly surprised by the effects of these human impacts."

Of the nine boundaries assessed, only ocean acidification, ozone depletion and airborne pollution — mainly soot-like particles — were judged to be still within safe limits. The ocean acidification boundary, however, was close to being breached. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, has risen to around 417 parts per million, significantly higher than the safe level of 350ppm.

The current rate of species extinction is also estimated to be at least tens of times faster than the average rate over the past 10mn years, meaning the planet has

already crossed the safe boundary for genetic diversity.

Johan Rockström, the study's co-author and director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said he hoped the world would see the findings as a wake-up call.

"In my career I've never been sitting on so much evidence as today and can be so clear in our communication," Rockström said, adding that he was disappointed with the outcome of last week's United Nations Global Stocktake report, which will form the basis of the COP28 climate talks in Dubai later this year.

"It is a complete failure...and it's a large risk... We're still following a pathway that takes us unequivocally to disaster."

EU to investigate Chinese subsidies for electric cars

Brussels will investigate Chinese state subsidies for electric cars, the EU chief said yesterday, vowing to defend Europe's industry from unfair competition. The move is a victory for France which has expressed concerns that Europe will fall behind during the green transition if it is not more assertive when confronted with China's alleged protectionism.

But some EU member states, including Germany, are wary of angering Beijing, since they rely on trade relations with China, although Berlin welcomed the probe yesterday.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen announced the anti-subsidy investigation, vowing to defend Europe's manufacturers.

"Global markets are now flooded with cheaper Chinese electric cars. And their price is kept artificially low by huge state subsidies," von der Leyen said, during a speech at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The probe could lead the European Union to impose duties on those cars that it believes are unfairly sold at a lower price, thereby undercutting European competitors.

"Europe is open for competition but not for a race to the bottom," the European Commission president said.

A Chinese official accused the EU of "protectionism" in a social media post.

Pennsylvania fugitive captured

A convicted murderer who escaped from a Pennsylvania jail was captured yesterday with the help of a heat-sensing aircraft and a police dog, ending an intense, two-week manhunt that unnerved residents in the Philadelphia suburbs, authorities said.

Tactical teams surrounded the fugitive, Danelo Cavalcante, at around 8am in a rural area about 30 miles west of Philadelphia. As he tried to crawl away, a police dog subdued him and he was forcibly taken into custody, Pennsylvania State Police Lieutenant Colonel George Bivens said. Cavalcante, who was armed with a rifle that he had stolen from a garage, was taken into custody without further incident. Bivens said he did not have the opportunity to use the firearm. Cavalcante broke out of the Chester County Prison two weeks earlier by climbing between two walls that formed a narrow corridor in the jail house yard and scrambling onto the roof, according to police. "It's never easy to find someone who doesn't want to be found in a large area," Bivens said in response to a question about the extended manhunt during yesterday's news briefing.

Putin, Kim in talks on military matters, Ukraine war, satellites

Reuters
Moscow/Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a rare summit yesterday at which they discussed military matters, the war in Ukraine and possible Russian help for the secretive Communist state's satellite programme.

Putin showed Kim around Russia's most advanced space rocket launch site in Russia's Far East and discussed the possibility of sending a North Korean cosmonaut into space. Kim, who arrived by train from North Korea, asked detailed questions about rockets as Putin showed him around the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

After the tour, Putin, 70, and Kim, 39, held talks for several hours with their ministers and then discussed world affairs and possible areas of cooperation one-on-one, followed by an opulent lunch of Russian "pelmeni" dumplings stuffed with Kamchatka crab and then sturgeon with mushrooms and potatoes.

Kim raised a toast to Putin's health, to the victory of "great Russia" and to Korean-Russian friendship, predicting victory for Moscow in its "sacred fight" with the West in the Ukraine war.

"I firmly believe that the heroic Russian army and people will brilliantly inherit their victories and traditions and vigorously demonstrate their noble dignity and honour on the two fronts of military operations and building a powerful nation," Kim told



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un shaking hands during their meeting at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Amur region yesterday. (AFP)

Putin. "The Russian army and people will certainly win a great victory in the sacred struggle for the punishment of a great evil that claims hegemony and feeds an expansionist illusion," Kim added.

US and South Korean officials have expressed concern that Kim could provide weapons and ammunition to Russia, which has expended vast stocks in more than 18 months of war in Ukraine. Moscow and Pyongyang have denied such intentions.

Putin gave numerous hints that military co-operation was discussed but disclosed few details. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu attended the talks. The Kremlin said sensitive discussions between neighbours were a private matter.

When asked by Russian media if Moscow would help Kim build satellites, Putin said: "That's

why we came here."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres signalled Moscow had to tread carefully.

"Any form of co-operation of any country with North Korea must respect the sanctions regime that was imposed by the Security Council," Guterres told reporters, adding that it was "extremely relevant" in the case of Russia and North Korea.

For Russia, the summit was an opportunity to needle the United States, the big power supporter of Ukraine, though it was unclear just how far Putin was prepared to go in fulfilling any North Korean wish lists for technology.

Putin said Kim now planned to visit military and civilian aviation factories in the Russian city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur and to inspect Russia's Pacific fleet in Vladivostok.

Russian Foreign Minister Ser-

gei Lavrov will visit Pyongyang for more talks next month, the Kremlin said.

Putin and Kim called each other "comrades" at lunch and Putin repeatedly reminded Kim that it was the Soviet Union that backed North Korea — and was first to recognise it just over 75 years to the day since it was established.

Amid the Ukraine war, which has become a grinding artillery war of attrition, the United States and Kyiv's other allies are watching to see if Kim's visit paves the way for a supply of artillery shells to Russia.

Russia has joined China in opposing new sanctions on North Korea, blocking a US-led push and publicly splitting the UN Security Council for the first time since it started punishing Pyongyang in 2006.

Asked about military co-operation, Putin said Russia complied with international rules but that there were opportunities to explore.

The choice to meet at Vostochny Cosmodrome — a symbol of Russia's ambitions as a space power — was notable, as North Korea has twice failed to launch reconnaissance satellites in the past four months.

After showing Kim around a building where the Angara, Russia's new 42.7-metre space launch rocket, is assembled, Putin said Kim had shown a "great interest in rocket engineering" during the visit.

Ahead of his meeting with Putin, Kim signed the visitor book in Korean: "The glory to Russia, which gave birth to the first space conquerors, will be immortal."

ChatGPT diagnoses ER patients 'like a human doctor': study

Artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT diagnosed patients rushed to emergency at least as well as doctors and in some cases outperformed them, Dutch researchers have found, saying AI could "revolutionise the medical field".

But the report published yesterday also stressed ER doctors needn't hang up their scrubs just yet, with the chatbot potentially able to speed up diagnosis but not replace human medical judgement and experience. Scientists examined 30 cases treated in an emergency service in the Netherlands in 2022, feeding in anonymised patient history, lab tests and the doctors' own observations to ChatGPT, asking it to provide five possible diagnoses.

They then compared the chatbot's shortlist to the same five diagnoses suggested by ER doctors with access to the same information, then cross-checked with the correct diagnosis in each case.

Doctors had the correct diagnosis in the

top five in 87 percent of cases, compared to 97% for ChatGPT version 3.5 and 87% for version 4.0.

"Simply put, this indicates that ChatGPT was able to suggest medical diagnoses much like a human doctor would," said Hidde ten Berg, from the emergency medicine department at the Netherlands' Jeroen Bosch Hospital.

Co-author Steef Kurstjens told AFP the survey did not indicate that computers could one day be running the ER, but that AI can play a vital role in assisting under-pressure medics. "The key point is that the chatbot doesn't replace the physician but it can help in providing a diagnosis and it can maybe come up with ideas the doctor hasn't thought of," Kurstjens told AFP.

Large language models such as ChatGPT are not designed as medical devices, he stressed, and there would also be privacy concerns about feeding confidential and sensitive medical data into a chatbot.

And as in other fields, ChatGPT showed some limitations. The chatbot's reasoning was "at times medically implausible or inconsistent, which can lead to misinformation or incorrect diagnosis, with significant implications," the report noted.

The scientists also admitted some shortcomings with the research. The sample size was small, with 30 cases examined. In addition, only relatively simple cases were looked at, with patients presenting a single primary complaint.

It was not clear how well the chatbot would fare with more complex cases. "The efficacy of ChatGPT in providing multiple distinct diagnoses for patients with complex or rare diseases remains unverified."

Sometimes the chatbot did not provide the correct diagnosis in its top five possibilities, Kurstjens explained, notably in the case of an abdominal aneurysm, a potentially life-threatening complication where the aorta artery swells up.

Musk says AI 'referee' needed after meeting US lawmakers

Reuters
Washington

American technology leaders including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai met with lawmakers at Capitol Hill yesterday for a closed-door forum that focused on regulating artificial intelligence.

Lawmakers are grappling with how to mitigate the dangers of the emerging technology, which has experienced a boom in investment and consumer popularity since the release of OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot.

"It's important for us to

have a referee," Musk told reporters, adding that a regulator was needed "to ensure that companies take actions that are safe and in the general interest of the public."

New Jersey Senator Cory Booker praised the discussion, saying all the participants agreed "the government has a regulatory role" but crafting legislation would be a challenge.

Lawmakers want safeguards against potentially dangerous deepfakes such as bogus videos, election interference and attacks on critical infrastructure.

"Today, we begin an enormous and complex and vital undertaking: building a foundation for bipartisan

AI policy that Congress can pass," US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, said in opening remarks. "Congress must play a role, because without Congress we will neither maximise AI's benefits, nor minimise its risks."

Other attendees included Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, and AFL-CIO labour federation President Liz Shuler.

Schumer, who discussed AI with Musk in April, said attendees would talk "about why Congress must act, what questions to ask, and how to build a consensus for safe innovation."



(L to R) SpaceX, Twitter and electric car maker Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Palantir CEO Alex Karp, AFL-CIO President Elizabeth Shuler and Google CEO Sundar Pichai attend a bipartisan AI insight forum at the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC yesterday. (AFP)

Khan's jail remand extended by 2 weeks

Former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan's jail remand related to charges of leaking state secrets was extended by two weeks yesterday, his lawyer said.

The 70-year-old former cricket star has been at the centre of a political crisis since he lost a controversial confidence vote in parliament in April 2022, and his conviction in a separate corruption case last month resulted in him being barred from contesting national elections.

In late August, a high court suspended Khan's prison sentence for corruption just weeks after he was jailed, but a prior order for his remand in custody in the state secrets case prevented his release.

The latest extension of the remand order will keep Khan in jail until September 26, lawyer Naeem Panjutha said in a post on X messaging platform.

In the state secrets case, Khan is charged with making public contents of a confidential cable sent by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States and using it for political gain, according to a Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) document seen by Reuters.

Khan alleges that the cable proves the United States had pressed Pakistan's military to orchestrate the fall of his government because he had visited Russia shortly before its invasion on Ukraine in February 2022.

Washington and the Pakistani military have denied Khan's accusations. But a report in The Intercept, a reputed American online investigative news outlet, which published the cypher at the heart of the case last month appeared to back Khan's claims.

In the hotly disputed corruption case, Khan was sentenced to three years in jail for unlawfully selling state gifts during his time as prime minister from 2018 to 2022. As a result, the election commission barred him from contesting elections for five years, and although the prison sentence was suspended last month the conviction still stands.

President Arif Alvi, of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, yesterday suggested in a letter to the Election Commission that it seeks guidance from the judiciary on holding elections within 90 days of the dissolution of a government. The elections should be held on November 6, he said, according to a statement from his office. The commission had earlier announced that an election date was its decision.

New Chinese envoy presents credentials to Taliban PM

A new Chinese ambassador presented his credentials to the Taliban's prime minister in Kabul yesterday, Afghan officials said, adding it was the first appointment of a foreign envoy at the ambassadorial level since the Taliban took power in 2021.

The Taliban have not been officially recognised by any foreign government. It was not immediately clear if yesterday's appointment signalled any steps by Beijing towards formal recognition of the Taliban. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to request for comment.

"Mohamed Hassan Akhund, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, accepted the credentials of Mr Zhao Xing, the new Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, during a ceremony," said the Taliban administration's deputy spokesman, Bilal Karimi, in a statement. A Taliban administration foreign ministry spokesman confirmed he was the first ambassador appointed since August 2021 when the Taliban took over as foreign forces withdrew.

Amir accorded official reception at the presidential palace in San Salvador



An official reception ceremony was held for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani upon his arrival at the presidential palace in San Salvador.



Amir ends visit to El Salvador

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left San Salvador yesterday after an official visit to El Salvador. His Highness was seen-off at El Salvador San Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez International Airport by El Salvador's Vice-President Felix Augusto Antonio Ulloa Garay, Qatari charge d'affaires in San Salvador Fahad Salem al-Marri and members of the Qatari embassy. His Highness the Amir sent a cable to President Nayib Armando Bukele in which he expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude for the warm and generous hospitality he and the accompanying delegation received during their visit to El Salvador, expressing confidence that the agreements and memorandums of understanding signed during the visit will contribute to promoting bilateral relations and co-operation between the two countries for the good and interest of the two peoples. He expressed deepest appreciation and best wishes to the president for good health and wellness, and to the people of El Salvador continued progress and prosperity. The Amir was accompanied by an official delegation. (QNA)



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the accompanying delegation were received upon arrival at the El Salvador international airport among others by Vice-President Felix Augusto Antonio Ulloa Garay. (QNA)

Promotion available at all Safari outlets on: 14-09-2023 ٢٢٣/٩/١٤ العرض متاح في جميع منافذ سفاري بتاريخ:

17.00 QR

لحم بقري باكستاني بالعظم ١ كجم
Pakistan Beef With Bone 1kg

37.50 QR

سلمون نرويجي طازج ١ كجم
Fresh Salmon Norway 1kg

6.75 QR

بورى عمانى طازج صغير ١ كجم
Fresh Mullet Small Oman 1kg

26.75 QR

سمك قاروص طازج ١ كجم
Fresh Sea Bass Turkey 1kg

3.50 QR

موز إكوادور ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1kg

3.50 QR

رمان مصري ١ كجم
Pomegranate Egypt 1kg

5.50 QR

تايوكا سريلانكا ١ كجم
Tapioca Sri Lanka 1kg

2.00 QR

بطاطا باكستاني ١ كجم
Potato Pakistan 1kg

8.50 QR

خضار هندي ١ كجم
(درايمستيك/راجة الفرع/القرع المر/القرع اللبالب)
Indian Vegetable 1kg
(Drumstick/Bottle Gourd/Bitter Gourd /Ivy Gourd)

7.75 QR

مجبوس الدجاج - ٥٠٠ جم
Chicken Majboos 500gm

10.00 QR

البياض الأبيض الطازج ٣٠ حبة
Fresh White Egg 30pcs Set

12.50 QR

تايج برتقال علية ٧٥٠ جم
Tang Orange Tub 750gm

12.50 QR

صحتين صدور دجاج طرية ١ كجم
Sahtein Chicken Tender Breast 1kg

17.00 QR

أبو فوس حليب عضوي كامل الدسم ١ لتر × ٣ حبة
Rainbow Rtd Organic Full Cream Milk 1ltr x 3 Pcs

11.50 QR

ساديا دجاج شوية ١٣٠٠ جم × ١ حبة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1300gm x 1pc

6 KG GOLD

1st Prize 250gram Gold 22 Carat Gold x 1 Winner

2nd Prize 150gram Gold 22 Carat Gold x 3 Winners

3rd Prize 100gram Gold 22 Carat Gold x 3 Winners

Spend QR.50/- & get an E-Raffle coupon to Win 6 kg Gold Win 1 kg Gold in Every Lucky Draw

PROMOTION STARTS FROM: 20-07-2023 to 20-04-2024

2nd Lucky Draw On :17-10-2023 At Safari Hypermarket,Salwa Road

BUY 21 GET FREE*

ON READYMADE, GARMENTS & FOOTWEAR

(Excludes Undergarments)

Promotion Valid Till: 27-09-2023

*The lowest priced items will be free Offer available at all safari outlets

Safari Mall, Abu Hamour, Tel: +974 44191441, Safari Hypermarket, Salwa Road, Tel: +974 44099088, Safari Hypermarket, Al Khor, Tel: +974 44482555, Safari Hypermarket, Barwa Village, Tel: +974 44118704, Safari Hypermarket, Industrial Area, Tel: +974 44689058

www.facebook.com/safarihypermarket www.instagram.com/safarimallqatar