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The US dual citizens released include Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, both businessmen, and Morad Tahbaz, 67, an environmentalist who also holds British nationality. The identities of the fourth and fifth US citizens were not disclosed at their request.



US-bound plane leaves Doha with five Americans freed by Iran

Reuters
Doha/New York

A US-bound plane carrying five Americans freed by Iran left Doha yesterday as part of a prisoner swap for five Iranians held in the US and the transfer of \$6bn in Iranian funds.

"Today, five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," US President Joe Biden said in a statement shortly before the US detainees descended the stairs of a Qatari jet in Doha to be embraced by US diplomats.

The White House confirmed a plane carrying the five, along with two US family members who left Tehran with them earlier, was en route to the US, where they were to be offered medical treatment by the US military as they adjust to freedom.

Separately, Iran's state-owned Press TV said the five Iranians held by the US and charged with committing crimes had been freed, an apparent reference to their being granted clemency, and that two of them had landed in Tehran.

The other three are not expected to return to Iran.

"This was purely a humanitarian action," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said after arriving in New York for the annual UN General Assembly. "It can certainly be a step based upon which in the future other humanitarian actions can be taken."

Qatar mediated indirect US-Iran talks on the detainees while



US citizens Siamak Namazi (2nd left), Emad Sharqi (centre) and Morad Tahbaz (right) are greeted upon their arrival at the Doha International Airport yesterday. Five US detainees, three previously identified as Namazi, Tahbaz and Sharqi and two who wish to remain anonymous, released by Iran landed in Doha in a prisoner swap yesterday.

Switzerland, which represents US interests in Tehran because the US and Iran do not have diplomatic relations, helped with the transfer of funds from South Korea to Qatar.

A plane sent by Qatar flew the five US citizens and two of their relatives out of Tehran after both sides got confirmation the \$6bn was transferred from South Korea to Qatari accounts, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Biden aides argue the money belongs to Iran and is being transferred from restricted South Korean accounts to restricted Qatari accounts, where it can only be spent on food, medicine and other humanitarian items with US oversight.

Earlier, two of the five Iranians

landed in Qatar, a US official said. Three have opted not to return to Iran. One of the five freed Americans had been held for about eight years on charges Washington rejected as baseless.

The US dual citizens released include Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, both businessmen, and Morad Tahbaz, 67, an environmentalist who also holds British nationality.

The identities of the fourth and fifth US citizens were not disclosed at their request.

Iranian officials have named the five Iranians released by the US as Mehrdad Mo'in-Ansari, Kambiz Attar-Kashani, Reza Sarhangpour-Kafrani, Amin Hassanzadeh and Kaveh Afrasiabi.

Al-Muraikhi takes part in SDG pavilion opening



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed participated yesterday in the official opening ceremony of the Sustainable Development Goals Pavilion funded by Qatar in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The pavilion highlights the promotion of development and peace internationally to achieve sustainable development goals. (QNA)



Amir congratulates Chile president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Chile Gabriel Boric on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Qatar slams storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque

Qatar condemned in the strongest terms the storming of the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by hundreds of settlers, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces, considering it a flagrant violation of international law and international legitimacy resolutions.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that attempts to prejudice the religious and historical status of Al-Aqsa Mosque are not only an attack on Palestinians but also on millions of Muslims worldwide.

The ministry holds the Israeli occupation authorities solely responsible for the cycle of violence that will result from these systematic escalation policy against the Palestinian people and their lands and holy sites. The ministry urged the international community to take urgent action to stop these attacks.

The ministry reiterated the firm position of the State of Qatar regarding the justice of the Palestinian cause, and the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, including the full right to practice their religious rituals without restrictions, and to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

Moroccan king thanks Qatari rescue workers

King Mohamed VI of Morocco has expressed his deep appreciation to the Qatari International Search and Rescue Group for its efforts in search and rescue operations following the earthquake that struck several Moroccan cities and provinces.

In a thanks and appreciation message to the group, King Mohamed VI expressed, on his own behalf and that of the Moroccan people, his sincere feelings of thanks and gratitude for the noble and generous participation of Qatari rescue workers alongside their Moroccan brothers in search and rescue operations following the tragic earthquake that hit the Al Haouz region.

He expressed his deep appreciation for this humani-

tarian and solidarity-based initiative, which "has greatly touched us and the Moroccan people". He pointed out these noble efforts reflect the Qatari people's acknowledged feelings of sincere fraternity and affection, and confirm the group's proven efficiency and recognised professionalism.

The Qatari International Search and Rescue Group, representing the Standing Committee for Rescue and Relief Works and Humanitarian Aids for Afflicted Areas in Brotherly and Friendly Countries, headed to Morocco to contribute to search and rescue operations, equipped with specialised machinery and equipment, in addition to providing urgent humanitarian aid to alleviate those affected by the earthquake. (QNA)

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With Islamophobia becoming a household term over the past decade, it is incumbent on scholars and practitioners to explore the historical origins and global connections of this phenomenon to fully understand and confront its current iterations. Convened by members of the Georgetown University in Qatar faculty, this conference brings together a diverse collection of professionals, academics, government officials, artists, and students to explore the global, historical, theological, and political dimensions that drive practices of Islamophobia

Experts speaking at the conference include:
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John Esposito
Georgetown University



Dalia Mogahed
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Preeya Malik, US licensed lawyer and Managing Director of GCC based investment immigration advisory firm, Step Global, offers her clientele a curated selection of the best residency and citizenship by investment programs. With more than 13 years of experience in the residency and citizenship by investment industry, she has witnessed how these programs have enhanced the personal and professional lives of her clients and their children. In this article, she explains why families living in Qatar choose to apply for one of the US EB-5 Visa, the Canada Start-Up Visa or the Portugal Golden Visa.

Who should consider the US EB-5 Visa?

Preeya has seen an increased number of families starting the process of the EB-5 program to secure their children's future in the United States. More GCC families than ever before are now using the route of the EB-5 visa to unlock educational opportunities, financial benefits, and employment stability in the US.

Under the US EB-5 program, applicants must invest USD \$800,000 in a government approved EB-5 project. The investor, the investor's spouse, and any children under the age of 21 may receive in exchange for their investment, a US green card. The capital invested is structured to be refundable after completion of the EB-5 term.

Educational Opportunities: One of the key advantages of the EB-5 program for students is the access to quality education in the United States, which has the largest number of prestigious and Ivy League universities in the world. Students with EB-5 visas can enrol in these schools and programs without submitting to rigorous quotas which have been set aside only for US residents and citizens, thereby greatly decreasing the competition for admission and opening the doors to a world class education and valuable networking opportunities.

Decreased Tuition Rates: EB-5 green card holders qualify for in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities, which can reduce the cost of education by three times, compared to international student tuition rates. These savings can often amount to more than \$140,000 over the course of one degree. This tuition savings is particularly beneficial for families with multiple children or for children who will go on to do multiple degrees in the US such as a Masters or Doctorate.

Financial Aid and Scholarships: With an EB-5 green card, students are eligible to apply to a larger number of scholarships offered only to US residents and which international students cannot avail. The various states and US government also provide grants and 0% loans which are not available to international students but are accessible only for Green Card holders and US citizens to assist in the funding of a student's education in the US.

Work and Career Opportunities: International graduates must obtain employment sponsorship once their degree is complete, in order to continue living and working in the US. Many students have been facing great disappointment when they find they are forced to leave the US after their graduation from a US program, because they are unable to secure an employer to sponsor them or they are not selected in the H-1B lottery system. EB-5 green card holders have the freedom to work in the United States without the requirement for sponsorship or an additional work visa. This can provide students with the ability to gain practical work experience during their studies via internships or jobs with top companies in the US. This experience could then in turn, assist in securing employment post-graduation.

Who should consider the Canada Start-Up Visa?

The Canada Start-Up Visa is geared toward professionals who may want to relocate for

their own career or for the future of their children – as children under the age of 22 may be included as a dependent on the application. As many professionals have aged out of other skilled worker programs in Canada, they may look toward the Canada Start-Up Visa Program which values skills and experience without the limitation of age.

The Canada Start-up Visa (SUV) is a federal government program promoting entrepreneurship and employment in Canada. The program has a total cost of CAD \$195,000 inclusive of investment and fees making it one of the most cost efficient investment immigration programs globally available.

Employment Without Sponsorship: Canadian permanent residents can legally live and work in Canada. They are not tied to an employer, job, or even a province. Canadian permanent residents can also start their own enterprise. Additionally, they have the ability to leave and enter Canada's borders using their Canadian permanent resident card, or permanent resident travel documents (PRTD).

Free Healthcare: Many immigrants choose Canada for a benefit not available in many other countries – universal healthcare. This is a system where healthcare is covered by the federal government via tax dollars, in order to equalize the availability of quality health care to each of its residents and citizens. For those thinking of retiring in Canada, or later sponsoring elderly parents, the Canadian healthcare system is extremely attractive.

Free Education and Tuition Benefits: Canada is known to have one of the most reputed education systems in the world. As a result, many immigrants choose the Canada Start-up Visa program as a path for future planning for their children. For permanent residents, primary, elementary, and secondary (high school) education is free of charge through the Canadian public school system. Post-secondary students are considered domestic and therefore are not restricted by international admissions quotas in competitive Canadian universities or graduate programs. In addition, Canadian resident tuition rates are at times one-fifth that of international tuition rates. For one child in a four-year bachelor program, a family may save up to CAD \$200,000. As with the US program, this benefit is especially helpful for families who choose to send multiple children to Canada for post-secondary education or for multiple degrees. Canadian permanent residents are also able to avail a vast array of scholarships and government grants which are not available to international students.



Who should consider the Portugal Golden Visa?

Most clients at Step Global, are now rushing to apply for the Portugal Golden Visa which is expected to end mid-October once the Portuguese President signs the new draft bill cancelling the real estate portion of the Golden Visa Program, into law. The Portugal Golden Visa program is the ideal route for those who wish to obtain a residency and EU passport while also attaining a valuable investment asset.

With the Portugal Golden Visa program, families can gain EU residency with an investment of EUR €280,000 into real estate. Most importantly for families in the GCC, all applicants need only spend 7 days on average per year in Portugal to maintain the visa, allowing for less disruption in their current careers or studies as shifting permanently to Portugal is not required. After just 5 years, investors and their eligible family members (spouse, children, and dependent relatives) can apply for Portuguese citizenship (EU Passport).

Minimum Physical Residency: The program is immensely popular among UAE residents as golden visa holders are not required to relocate to Portugal in order to both maintain their visa status or later be eligible for EU citizenship. This lenient physical residency requirement is a vast difference from the large number of other European residency and citizenship by investment programs which require a majority of time to be physically spent in the country in order to reach citizenship and a passport. With the Portugal Golden Visa, investors can continue living and working in Qatar or across the GCC.

Powerful Passport: With an EU passport in hand, the doors of the entire European Union open including living and working legally in any EU country (not restricted to Portugal). The Portugal Passport currently

ranks #4 in the world on Passport Ranking Index and provides visa-free access to 187 countries. This makes it one of the most desirable passports in the world with a very high mobility score.

Valuable Real Estate Asset: Many have seen this investment in real estate or ownership of shares in a property in Portugal, as a chance to obtain residency or citizenship while making annual returns and also holding an asset with the chance of capital appreciation in some cases.

Free Info Sessions by Lawyers this Weekend

Come meet the Step Global lawyers for an info session on the program of your interest. Managing Director Preeya Malik, an award-winning lawyer, will be in-person to host the following sessions at Le Meridien, City Center, Doha.

- **Portugal Golden Visa:**
Friday, September 22nd at 3:00PM
- **Canada Start-Up Visa:**
Friday, September 22nd at 5:00PM
- **US EB-5 Green Card:**
Saturday, September 23rd at 3:00PM

During these free info sessions, the immigration lawyers will take attendees through the process of the relevant program and incorporate a useful question and answer session from attendees.

ABOUT STEP GLOBAL

Step Global is a leading full-service investment immigration advisory firm, headquartered in Dubai, servicing the entire MENA region. We have over 13 years of experience in the investment immigration industry, with a 100% track record of approvals across all applications with clear documentation. Our clients include individuals and their families looking to acquire alternate or second citizenship, or to migrate to another country through the ease of investment.

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Info Sessions by Lawyers

Dates:

PORTUGAL GOLDEN VISA
FRI, SEPT 22 - 3:00PM

CANADA START-UP VISA
FRI, SEPT 22 - 5:00PM

US EB-5 GREEN CARD
SAT, SEPT 23 - 3:00PM

Venue:

LE MERIDIEN, CITY CENTER, DOHA

Online sessions & additional times are available upon request.



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Contact:

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New legal officers graduate

The Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Ministry of Justice held a graduation ceremony for participants of the 20th mandatory training course for new legal officers and participants of the 13th mandatory training course for trainee lawyers.

A total of 106 legal professionals, including 10 trainee lawyers, have benefited from the two courses, completing their specialised courses for the year 2023 at the centre. During the ceremony, HE the Minister of Justice Masoud bin Mohamed al-Ameri presented training certificates to the graduating trainees and congratulated them, wishing them success in their professional lives.

HE the Minister emphasised that this batch of legal graduates constitutes a qualitative addition to the Qatari legal cadre.

He highlighted their role in enhancing the legal system to meet the country's needs and development requirements, aligning with the goals of Qatar's National Vision 2030 in its human development pillar.

He emphasised that the Ministry of Justice, represented by the Center of Legal and Judicial Studies, is keen on providing the latest training and legal qualification programmes for trainees and professionals in various legal sectors in the country, aligning with the legislative progress in the nation.

On his part, Director of The Center of Legal and Judicial Studies Saleh Ali al-Fadala affirmed the centre's commitment to achieving the legal training and qualification goals derived from Qatar's National Vision 2030.

He stressed the centre's dedication to raising legal awareness among legal professionals of all categories and continuously improving the legal training systems, methods, and content at the centre. This includes keeping up with developments in Qatari laws and amendments, enabling the training and development of legal and practical skills for trainees, aligning with the requirements of their roles in their workplaces. (QNA)



QSW launches cloud transition project

Qatar Social Work Foundation (QSW) has announced the launch of a transition project to use cloud services and infrastructure as part of its digital transformation plan, in collaboration with Microsoft. This was announced by QSW acting CEO Rashid bin Mohamed al-Hamdah al-Nuaimi and Microsoft Qatar country manager Lana Khalaf at a press conference.

The transition project in its first stage aims to transfer servers from private environments (on-premises) at the QSW centres to the unified cloud infrastructure to take advantage of cloud services within the government frame-

work agreement with Microsoft. Through this project, QSW aims to accelerate its digital transformation in line with the country's strategies and fully utilise Microsoft's Cloud data centre in Qatar while enhancing national skills in modern technology fields.

Al-Nuaimi said: "We aim to enhance QSW path in its digital transformation process for project implementation, data dissemination, and sustainability support in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030."

He also pointed out that the upcoming project may include workshops and awareness sessions on Microsoft's leading support solutions and suitable pro-

grammes to support QSW and its affiliated centres in their new projects.

In turn, Lana Khalaf appreciated the efforts of QSW in activating the transition project to Microsoft Cloud in Qatar to benefit from innovative, secure, and flexible cloud services to accelerate its digital transformation in line with Qatar's National Vision 2030.

Ahmed Khalil Abdullah, director of Information Technology Department at QWS said: "This collaboration will contribute to significant progress in the field of social work in Qatar and improve the quality of life for individuals and families in the community."

Labour minister chairs NCCHT meeting



HE the Minister of Labour and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) Chairman Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri chaired the committee's second scheduled meeting for 2023. During the session, members deliberated on the 2022 NCCHT annual report and a strategy for the years 2023-2024, focusing on strengthening efforts against human trafficking. Discussions also centred on recommendations designed to bolster protection for trafficking victims, amplify the committee's anti-trafficking role, and foster collaboration among associated entities. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi in Doha meetings



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Australian ambassador to Qatar Shane Flanagan (left). The meeting discussed bilateral ties. HE al-Hammadi also met with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt Nabil Habashi. The meeting discussed bilateral relations. (QNA)

MoT wins EFQM certification



The Ministry of Transport (MoT) was certified as a 'Qualified by EFQM' organisation, following a thorough assessment process conducted by the European Foundation for Quality Management. This makes the MoT, one of the leading government entities that aim for excellence under the new improved EFQM 2020 model, an official statement said yesterday. The certification emphasises MoT's capability of continuing improving its performance and excellence in all its operations to achieve its strategic goals, creatively and sustainably. It also reflects the MoT's continuous focus and attention to improving its services for customers and beneficiaries.

The announcement came on the sidelines of the second and concluding day of MoT's "Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations" Conference and Exhibition, held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. The EFQM model is regarded as a comprehensive quality management model and one of the best universal institutional excellence models. It is applied in over 30 countries and more than 50,000 organisations worldwide, it was explained.

The certification demonstrates the MoT's commitment to continuing its endeavours for excellence and quality. In 2018, the MoT was awarded the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Certification; one of the most important universal certifications given to organisations in recognition of their compliance to the standards set out by the ISO, the statement added.

PM stresses on SDGs

From Page 1

HE Sheikh Mohamed outlined that investment in the future of young people is a mission shouldered by all, highlighting that - through valuing the opinions of young people, empowering women and girls and engaging them in decision-making processes - nations can build more inclusive and sustainable societies.

HE the Prime Minister said the pivotal role undertaken by Qatar in the field of development globally and specifically in the education sector, promotes the vision of Qatar in human development, adding that Qatar is committed to supporting the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, in recognition of the challenges facing those nations.

HE Sheikh Mohamed noted that Qatar is still committed to harmonising its national development plans with the principles of SDGs, pointing out that Qatar has made climate change a top priority and has taken critical measures to develop the technologies associated with climate change, as well as promote clean energy. It has also set clear guidelines through Qatar Investment Authority to harmonise investment goals with the results of sustainable market and green funding. The PM welcomed the summit's political declaration, expressing his happiness that the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani was entrusted with the responsibility of facilitating the governmental negotiations on the political declaration, alongside the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations.



Qatar Stars League

Tender Advertisement

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (QR)	Document Fees (QR)	Method of Envelope Presentation	Closing Date
12/2023	Operations and Maintenance of LED Boards or Rental Solution	800000	500	2 envelopes (technical and financial)	02/10/2023

- Please note that you can obtain a copy of the documents related to the Tender in question during our working hours.
- Please deposit the amount related to the tender in QSL's account number (QA29QNBAA00000000013027075001) in QNB as well as a copy of the commercial certificate. Moreover, note that the official letter of your company must state clearly the name of the person who represents the company and who is in charge of receiving the tender documents. The letter on behalf of the company must state the tender reference number and the willingness to be part of the tender.
- Each proposal must include a primary performance bond and a letter of the guarantee for a period of 120 days. This performance bond must be from any bank recognized by the state of Qatar. Please note that no proposal will be taken into consideration without the performance bond. (A copy of the performance bond must be available in the technical proposal as well). The performance bond must be valid for 90 days starting from the day the envelopes are opened. Also note that this performance bond will be returned to all companies once the tender is completed.
- A final performance bond of 10% from the final amount of the contract must be presented and must be valid for a duration of 90 days after the completion of work, and that is 15 days after the acceptance letter.
- Place the proposal in the tender Box of QSL. The office is located in al bidda tower in the Dafna region on the 23th floor, unit 80 (Mr. Omar Al maraghi) The proposal must be directed to the Head of the tender Committee. The number of the tender must be mentioned as well as the subject and it should be register by the secretary of the tender committee which should be before 12:30PM, Doha timing from the closing date.
- Quotations must be in Qatari riyals.
- The proposal must include fixed prices.
- No modification is allowed after closing dates. If the participants wish to withdraw, the performance bond will not be reimbursed.
- Proposals must be submitted in one original and two copies along with a copy of the tender bond.
- Any proposal can be rejected if the participant is not willing to adhere to the conditions, kindly submit the technical proposal and the financial proposal in separate envelopes. **Any proposal that does not include the 2 envelopes as indicated in the policy won't be accepted.**
- For any additional information please don't hesitate to contact us by phone: (44754011) or by (fax) (44754041).



QAPCO invites qualified service providers to participate in the following tender

Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by bid 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 exempted from this requirement.

For further details, please visit ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>).

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	Submission of information & interest for bidding i	Tender fee ii	Tender publication in ARIBA iii	Tender Bond iv	Bid Closing Date
1	Tender No. P04-01-116 Replacement of the Existing Roof Sheet and Provision of Fire Safety System for QAPCO LDPE Warehouses 1 and 2	23/09/2023	QAR 1,000. 00	25/09/2023	QAR 150,000. 00	26/10/2023 12:00 Noon Qatar LT

- Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid with contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email...etc. latest by 24 September 2023.
 - Tender reference and description of the tender must be mentioned in the subject line of email.
 - Non-refundable tender fee of QAR 1000. 00 is payable to QAPCO through QNB account # 0013-001688-060 only, at any QNB branch latest by 12:00 PM on 24 September 2023.
 - Tender Document shall be issued through ARIBA system:** Link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders on 25 September 2023. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval.
- QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):**
Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to:
QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.
QAPCO Doha Office, Building No. 135, Zone 42, Street 230, C Ring Road, Doha, Qatar
P. O. BOX 756, Tel.: 4033 8104
Attention: Procurement Group Manager
- Attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Clarifications: Send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa.

Note: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the supplier registration process during the tendering period (Detailed steps about ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

For more information about QAPCO please visit our website: www.qapco.com

Qatar Rail highlights achievements in sustainable transportation solutions

Qatar Rail participated in the “Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations” conference and exhibition, presenting its operational accomplishments in providing sustainable transportation solutions and services.

The two-day event, organised by Ministry of Transport under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, concluded yesterday.

Qatar Rail highlighted its dedication to sustainable practices embodied in its projects, the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram, at the event, a statement said.

The company underscored the significance of the Doha Metro Network and shed light on its role in the development of an integrated public transportation system.

Engineer Abdulrahman al-Malik, senior QSHESE director at Qatar Rail, said: “Our involvement in this significant event afforded us the opportunity to showcase our contributions in the advancement of sustainable transportation solutions while embracing the highest sustainability standards in our operations.

On the first day of the conference, Raimund Hanauer, director of Transport Planning at Qatar Rail, took part in a panel discussion titled “Public Transportation...Multimodal & Integrated”.

During this discussion, he focused on the role of the Doha Metro Network in the context of Integrated Public Transport.

He emphasised how this integration is realised through cooperative efforts involving key stakeholders and transportation sector partners, enabling a seamless transportation experience.



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti visits Qatar Rail booth.



Raimund Hanauer at the event.



Engineer Abdulrahman al-Malik

Hanauer addressed the Doha Metro's key relevance in hosting mega-events, considering Qatar's ongoing transformation into a rapidly growing tourism destination in the region.

He explained how Qatar Rail's infrastructure and its integration into the overall transportation system contribute to the successful execution of these major events and support the nation's tourism goals.

As an illustrative example, he showcased the successful delivery of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, where the Doha Metro network played a crucial role in ensuring efficient and eco-friendly transportation during this major event.

Hanauer also provided insights into Qatar Rail's sustainability efforts during the session, highlighting the company's notable achievements in sustainability and the specific practices it employs to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

On the sidelines of the event, Qatar Rail unveiled the successful completion of the trial operation involving electric buses for transporting its employees from the stations to the Integrated Control Centre (ICC) at Al Wakra Depot.

Throughout the trial operation phase, one bus ran every 10 minutes during off-peak hours, while during peak hours, two buses operated every five minutes, with a rotation system in place to ensure sufficient time for recharging.

Maryam al-Sayeri, Sustainability & Environmental Specialist at Qatar Rail, a leading team member of the electric bus initiative, said: “Integrating electric buses into the transportation of our employees to and from the metro network and Al Wakra Depot reflects our commitment to expanding sustainable solutions for facilitating their mobility across various vital facilities connected to the network. Since the commencement of the trial operation for this service, we've noticed a considerable level of interest and uptake in electric buses. Following the trial phase, we will assess the service to ensure it operates with the utmost efficiency, continually evolving and expanding it for full implementation.”

She added: “One electric bus can reduce emissions by 100 tonnes of CO2 annually when compared to its conventional fuel-powered counterpart. Coupled with their low maintenance expenses, electric buses also contribute to reducing noise pollution. With advancements in battery technology, extended range, and improved charging infrastructure, these buses have emerged as a more comfortable and sustainable transportation alternative.”

During the event, Qatar Rail seized the opportunity to promote the Corporate Yearly Pass Programme, designed specifically for corporate and business sectors. This programme offers practical staff travel solutions using the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks, as well as complementary services like metrolink buses and metroexpress vehicles.

The core aim of the programme, according to Qatar Rail, is to promote cost-effective transportation for businesses while supporting sustainability by reducing the use of private vehicles, leading to a decrease in harmful CO2 emissions.

At its booth, Qatar Rail displayed its sustainable transportation initiatives and featured an interactive tool called the Passenger Journey Carbon Calculator. This tool helps individuals assess the carbon emissions they can reduce by opting for the metro over private cars.

MoT conference and exhibition wraps up; minister honours sponsors



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti along with other dignitaries at the wrap-up of the conference yesterday.

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti honoured the sponsors of the “Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations” conference and exhibition by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), which wrapped up yesterday.

The two-day event was held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

Minister al-Sulaiti honoured the strategic sponsors: Qatar Airways Group, Mwani Qatar, Qatar National Bank, and Ecotranzit Solutions; the platinum sponsors: Qatar Rail and QTerminals Group; the gold sponsors: Mowasalat (Karwa) and Leonardo Qatar; the silver sponsor: Fusion Group Holding, and the bronze sponsors: Milaha, Al Abdulghani Motors, GBM and Alfardan Automobiles.

Day two of the conference featured three panel discussions. The first, “Maritime Transportation & Enhancing the Economic Development” featured speakers from the MoT, Mwani Qatar and QTerminals. They tackled Qatar's maritime transportation accomplishments and the capabilities of Hamad Port and Al Ruwais Port and their strategic role regarding supply chains and economic development.

The second, “Civil Aviation System... Accelerating Growth & Active Role in Development” hosted speakers from Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, Qatar Airways, and Qatar Aeronautical Academy. They reflected on Qatari air transportation sector's accomplishments and excellent performance during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. They also highlighted Qatar's successful full management of its Doha Flight Information Region.

The third, “Transportation Sector & Enhancing the Business Community” featured speakers from the MoT, Qatar Chamber, Qatar Free Zones Authority, and entrepreneurs. They discussed how air transportation is supporting the business community and manufacturing, trade, and logistics industries, aiming for economic diversification in step with the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The MoT's “Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations” conference and exhibition saw large participation and high public turnout. Visitors and guests were familiarised with the latest advancements on Qatari land, maritime and air transportation systems through events and panel discussions, in addition to latest technological trends on sustainable transportation.



Qatar Rail's booth at the conference.

MoT reveals more EV charging stations installed

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) yesterday announced that Alfardan Automotive has installed several electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and they are now ready to use.

This came at the second and concluding day of MoT's 'Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations' conference and exhibition, an official statement said.

“Alfardan Automotive's new stations conform with the country's approved standard specifications and will be maintained regularly by the company, as per

an MoU the company had signed with the MoT at an earlier time.

“The announcement came in step with the strategy of switching to electric vehicles the ministry had developed in conjunction with the entities concerned and in the context of MoT's support for bigger private sector engagement in the transportation and mobility projects.

“The stations have been installed in multiple locations carefully selected by the MoT to serve as many EV users as possible,” the statement added.

Hayaakum Festival at Al Shaqab

The Equine Education edition of the Hayaakum Festival will take place on September 22-23 at Al Shaqab Longines Arena from 4pm-8.30pm, featuring an array of activities that cater to horse enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds.

Attendees can look forward to a thrilling lineup of events, including: gymkhana, pony rides, lead rein riding sessions, bouncy castles, archery, arts and crafts, play station, vaulting and many more, a statement said.

A diverse range of food and beverage vendors will also be on hand. As a special highlight, the second day of



the event will kick off with a training show starting at 3pm, featuring talented riders and their equine partners in a captivating display of skill and

co-ordination.

For more information and registration details, please visit <https://alshaqab.com/en/hayaakum-al-shaqab-1>



Announcement Qatar Central Bank


Qatar Central Bank ("QCB") announces the opening of registration in its supplier list, for the companies that wishes to participate in QCB's tenders in the following areas:

First: Services Sector	Second: Supply Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Consultation Services including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Management and Strategic Consulting– Engineering Consulting– Legal Consulting– Other specialized consulting– Internal Auditing Services– External Auditing Services– Development and Maintenance of Information Systems and Information Security Systems.– Insurance Services.– Construction Contracting.– Maintenance of Facilities and Infrastructure.– Maintenance, Security, Control/monitoring and Safety devices.– Maintenance of IT Equipment/devices and Infrastructure.– Training/learning and Development Services.– Events Management Services.– Security Services.– Hospitality Services.– Cleaning Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Supplies of IT equipment and supplies.– Supplies of Printing and Communication equipment and supplies.– Supplies of Money Counting and disposal devices.– Supplies of Surveillance and Security equipment/devices.– Supplies of Safety equipment/devices.– Hospitality supplies.– Supplies of Food.– Cleaning Supplies.– Supplies of Stationary.– Supplies of Furniture.– Supplies of Gifts, Publications and Public Relations Materials.

For the registration, please submit the following documents, to the Procurement Department in Qatar Central Bank procurement@qcb.gov.qa

- Company Profile (contains an overview of the company in addition to a statement of services. type of products provided, previous experience, manpower, etc)
- Supporting documents for commercial Power of Attorney (if any).
- A copy of the identity card of the owners of the facility
- A copy of the valid trade license
- A copy of the commercial registry
- A copy of the facility's registration
- A copy of the tax card
- A copy of the classification certificate
- A copy of the valid membership certificate of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Attach a letter stating the names of those authorized to sign the agreements or to modify the work information (shall contain a copy of the signature)
- A copy of the authorized signatory's card
- IBAN Certificate from the bank (contains the account name and information)
- A license to practice the profession in the case of real estate business and audit work, such as classification of contractors, public security license, etc.
- The Company's financial statements for the last three years.

For any inquiries, please contact us at 44225709/44222391 or e-mail: procurement@qcb.gov.qa




Invitation to Auction

In accordance with the following conditions:

Auction / Auction Number	Subject	Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Auction Bond	Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/AUC/2023/01	Call-Off Agreement for Selling-Off Used and Waste Oil for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Services")	200 QAR	2,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	26 Sep 2023 01:00 PM

- Auction Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.doc@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
- Auction Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Auctions and Auction Committee. Auction reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Buyers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Auction Fees are nonrefundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050-651111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 651111 006)**. Auction reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Auction Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without Auction bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Auction Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Auction Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Buyers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Auction Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Auction closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded buyer is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the Auction.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's Auctioning terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the Auction except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at Fax Number: **44479559** or email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa



Qatar co-sponsors WHO-Unicef report on developmental delays, disabilities



HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari.

Qatar co-sponsored the launch of the joint WHO-Unicef Global Report on “Developmental Delays and Disabilities”, entitled “Children with Developmental Delays: From the Margins to the Mainstream” and the “Digital Health for Children with Developmental Disabilities” initiative project held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Qatar was represented at the launch of the report by HE the Minister of Public Health and Chairperson of the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari.

In addition to Qatar, WHO, Unicef and Autism Speaks co-sponsored the launch of the report. Dr al-Kuwari stressed the significance of the Global Report and confirmed the commitment of the Government of Qatar to continue working with partners to put youth with developmental disabilities at the forefront of efforts to achieve universal health coverage and to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Over the past 15 years, public awareness of autism has improved significantly. The efforts of the Government of Qatar were at the forefront of global efforts that resulted in the adoption of the United Nations resolution designating April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day in 2007, and the subsequent World Health Assembly resolution on comprehensive and co-ordinated efforts for the management of autism

spectrum disorders in 2014. “In 2017, we also launched the Qatar National Autism Plan (2017-2021), based on research and proposals from six task forces, technical guidance from the World Health Organisation, and contributions from family associations. Under Qatar National Autism Plan, policymakers, healthcare leaders in the public and private sectors and civil society organisations worked to achieve 44 goals, with a focus on early diagnosis, quality of care, comprehensive health services, and lifelong support continuity. Key to this approach is to strengthen inter-ministerial co-ordination and document good practices to influence the social engagement of people with autism spectrum disorder.”

The minister stressed that the global report on “Developmental Delays and Disabilities” is a very important achievement. It illustrates the need to accelerate efforts to promote change at all levels – individual, family and community – to build inclusive environments and responsive care systems for children and youth with developmental disabilities. Most importantly, it identifies principles and priority areas of action for policies, services, support and monitoring.

She appreciated the report’s focus on strengthening strategies to track progress in achieving health outcomes in countries and globally. She stressed that achieving improved data is a key pillar to achieve increased accountability for the world’s children with developmental disabilities.

“It is time to accelerate action and increase investments at all levels to improve health pathways, quality of care for people with developmental disabilities, and inclusive environments in communities, both globally and locally,” she added.

The report is a call to action for the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in global and national efforts to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and proposes a number of actions to achieve inclusion and equity in health. Unicef’s “Digital Health for Children with Developmental Disabilities” project proposal also addresses child growth monitoring, and explains that throughout the child’s early years (0-3), there are multiple opportunities to support parents in providing a caring environment to promote child development, identifying children at risk of delay and developmental disabilities, and providing early interventions for children who need more support and intensive follow-up.

Silatech partners with BRAC to aid self-employment in Bangladesh

Qatar-based Silatech has announced a partnership with BRAC, the world’s largest development organisation, to promote youth income generation through financial inclusion, and to unlock access to finance for 684,212 youth in Bangladesh to become self-employed.

The project, Unlocking Financial Solutions for Youth Enterprise Development was signed on the sidelines of the 78th edition of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Sunday.

It aims to address the lack of access to traditional financing resources for the youth of Bangladesh who seek to sustain, start, or expand their income-generating ventures.

Over the course of three years, the project will provide financing products to young people who do not have access to traditional banking services. Moreover, it will offer financial literacy and entrepreneurial training programmes to enhance the sustainability of their ventures and improve the financial literacy and capabilities of youth entrepreneurs.

The lack of access to formal financing is a significant challenge for small and medium enterprises



(SMEs) in Bangladesh, with the World Bank estimating a financing gap of \$2.8bn. This gap is particularly pronounced for women-led SMEs, as 60% of them lack collateral.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges, leading to reduced income, job loss, and limited financial access for youth. The project seeks to bridge this financial gap and create meaningful economic opportunities for young people and their families.

“Bangladesh has a huge youth population with few opportunities as it is the densest country in the world, and we are excited to partner with BRAC, the world’s

largest development organisation to help reduce the suffering of many youth due to lack of access to financial solutions,” said Hassan al-Mulla, Silatech CEO.

Asif Saleh, the executive director of BRAC said: “BRAC believes in power of youth to drive economic growth. We are extending microfinance services and combining it with financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training to young entrepreneurs from marginalised backgrounds. Our client-centric approach ensures tailored financial products, while mentorship and capacity building would help the young entrepreneurs fuel the growth of their businesses.”

Qatar Charity receives GIFA Excellence Award for Islamic Social Responsibility

Qatar Charity (QC) has been awarded the Excellence Award (Islamic Social Responsibility) 2023, as part of the 13th Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) 2023, in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

The winners were honoured at a ceremony attended by the Senegalese President Macky Sall and several senior officials and experts in the field of Islamic finance from around the world, a statement said.

The award was bestowed on QC, in recognition of its outstanding contributions to Islamic finance through various instruments like Zakat and alms-giving (Sadaqah), distributed to low-income families and other vulnerable people.

In addition to QC, three more organisations have been nominated in the same category. The award was received by Manaa al-Ansari, director of Field Offices at QC. CEO Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, expressed his delight at QC being honoured with the prestigious global award, in recognition for its outstanding efforts in the field of social responsibility, as it serves



impooverished people and communities through the assistance programmes aimed at combating poverty and creating developmental impacts that make a difference in their lives.

He pointed out that QC has previously received other awards in the field of social responsibility and reaffirmed the continuation of the developmental efforts worldwide as part of its humanitarian and societal duty towards vulner-

able and marginalised groups and communities.

Held annually in various parts of the world, GIFA, since its inception in 2011, has been celebrating achievements and contributions of institutions and individuals towards the development and expansion of the Islamic banking and finance industry. GIFA has emerged as the most authentic market-led Islamic finance awards programme in the world.

Fire Station announces eighth Artist in Residence programme

Fire Station: Artist in Residence (AIR) announced the launch of its 8th edition yesterday, accompanied by the unveiling of the selected artists.

This year’s programme will run until June 18, 2024.

In a press statement, Fire Station director Khalifa Ahmad al-Obaidly said: “This initiative has consistently demonstrated our dedication to nurturing and empowering Qatar’s emerging artistic talents. As these artists embark on a journey of creative exploration, we look forward to witnessing the evolution of their work and the impact they make within our artistic community and beyond.”

With more than 120 applications during the Open Call that took place between February 15 and April 15, some 17 artists have been selected.

Participating artists for the eighth edition include Hannah Fakhri, Abdulla AlSallat, Shuaa al-Kuwari, Noora al-Hardan, Aljaze AlNaimi, Zainab AlShibani, Aisha al-Abdulla, Mohamed AlEmadi, Alkhuzama Alharami (all from Qatar), Somaia Dorzadeh (Iran), Oleksandra Umanska (Ukraine), Charlotte Roden-



berg (US), Marco Bruno, Simone Carena (both from Italy), Ann Mc Nally (Ireland), Alanoud Alghamdi (Saudi Arabia), and Maryam AlTajer (Bahrain).

Saida al-Khulaifi, head of Programmes and Exhibitions of Fire Station, added: “Guided by our commitment to fostering creative talent in Qatar, our annual Artist in Residence programme provides a dedicated nine-month period for participating artists to refine their artistic practices across disciplines such as visual arts, photography, film, sound art and design. Beyond individual growth, the programme offers a unique platform for artists to forge connections, drawing mutual inspiration from one another.”

QU announces Future Tech Forum 2023

Qatar University (QU) has announced the Future Tech Forum 2023, to be held from October 22-25 coinciding with Cyber Security Week and World AI Week.

The forum will be co-organised by QU’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Organisation and the QU KINDI Centre for Computing Research, it was announced yesterday at a press conference.

KINDI Centre for Computing Research director Dr Abdulaziz al-Ali, QU student activities director Abdullah al-Mulla, communications and public relations director Dr Hitmi al-Hitmi, and the AI Organisation president Moslem al-Qawwami were present.

Dr al-Ali, said: “AI is not just a technology; it is a catalyst for innovation in various sectors.



Officials announce Future Tech Forum 2023.

Qatar University is committed to advancing research in the field of artificial intelligence, and we are proud to be part of the Future Tech Forum to explore its potential.”

The conference organisers stressed that the forum will bring together the brightest minds in the fields of AI and cybersecurity. They also stressed that the forum intends to become a gathering point for leaders and innovators in the field. The student-led AI

Organisation aims to spread awareness about AI and its importance in modern societies, through events, workshops and seminars, and hosted by experts in the field.

The KINDI Centre facilitates and supports Computer and Information Science and Engineering research at QU by capitalising on the existing critical mass of research work in this important field, and by leveraging existing local and international partnerships.

QU Health hosts RCSI lecture

Qatar University (QU) Health’s Research and Graduate Studies Department recently organised a lecture for a delegation from the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland (RCSI).

The gathering included Dr Asmaa al-Thani, vice-president of Health and Medical Sciences at QU, and Prof Darran O’Connor, the dean of Graduate Studies, RCSI, along with several esteemed faculty members from QU Health.

During the lecture, valuable insights were shared regarding research topics and research teams at RCSI, with its distinguished heritage spanning several centuries. It is globally recognised as an institution dedicated to surgical and medical education, training, and research, continually contributing to healthcare delivery, making it a prestigious partner for academic and research co-operation. The objective of Prof O’Connor’s presentation was to facilitate the



Among the goals of the lecture was to understand the research landscape at RCSI.

initiation of vital partnerships with esteemed researchers at the Royal College and enable faculty members at QU to explore new prospects in healthcare and scientific research. The educational goals of the session included understanding the research landscape at RCSI and empowering faculty members to identify potential collaborators in research.

Mashaal al-Shafai, director of Graduate Studies at QU Health, stated: “We are glad to collaborate

with RCSI and to initiate our dual degree PhD programme in Health Sciences, which we started this year. We have two students who will be part of this dual degree and will be supervised by two supervisors, one from QU and another from RCSI. It is a great opportunity for our students to learn from the experience of faculty on both sides, to get the chance to work in two different labs with various facilities, and to learn new research methods and techniques.”

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PM hosts ministerial dinner on Middle East



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, President of the International Peace Institute Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Husseini, and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell hosted a ministerial dinner yesterday on the Middle East, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the dinner, they discussed the latest regional developments and ways to enhance regional security and stability. **(QNA)**

PM heads Qatar's delegation at GCC-US ministerial meeting

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired yesterday Qatar's delegation at the ministerial meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) with the US, with the participation of the foreign ministers of the GCC countries and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed ways to enhance the strategic partnership between the GCC countries and the US, as well as the latest regional and international developments, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. The meeting was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and members of the delegations of the GCC states and the US. **(QNA)**



Supporting education globally tops Qatar's agenda: minister

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi said that supporting education globally tops Qatar's development agenda, highlighting the country's up to \$2.3bn aid to support education worldwide through strategic partnerships.

This support enabled millions of students to access quality learning opportunities, as these programmes achieved tangible results, enabling young people to contribute to the development and well-being of their communities, she said.

The remarks came during her participation in the High-Impact Initiative on Transforming Education, under the theme 'Learning to build a better future for all', on the sidelines of the 78th UNGA meetings in New York.

HE Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani attended the session.

HE al-Nuaimi stressed the importance of the joint commitment towards providing quality education for all, and that education is a common global interest and an essential driver for the progress of all 17 SDGs.

The session is part of endeavours to strengthen global efforts to accelerate achieving the fourth SDG



HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi

on the quality of education, and to ensure the continuity of the global movement towards following up on the implementation of the commitments of the Transforming Education Summit (TES) which UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for in the previous UNGA, in a bid to place education atop the world's political agenda.

The initiatives programme included several sessions that focused on countries' experiences on education transformation agenda, transforming education financing and presenting initiatives towards

achieving investment in a greater, more efficient and equitable manner; and exchanging the views of youth and students and their responses to the experiences of their countries.

Qatar is one of the five pioneering countries leading the education transformation process, as it was chosen at the invitation of the UN secretary-general during the TES 2022. This selection reflects the extent of the interest that Qatar attaches to supporting education at the national and international levels. **(QNA)**

PM chairs Qatar's delegation in GCC foreign ministers' co-ordination meet

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the delegation of Qatar in the co-ordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, which was held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen fraternal relations between the GCC countries and the latest developments in regional and international situations, especially in Morocco, Libya, Sudan, Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territories. Also, the meeting discussed the



call on Iraq to take serious and urgent steps to address the negative effects of the developments resulting from the ruling of the Federal Supreme Court regarding the agreement concluded in 2012 between Kuwait and Iraq

on the regulation of maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah. The meeting was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying HE the Prime Minister and members of the GCC states' delegations. **(QNA)**

'Amir's UNGA speeches always receive positive feedback'

Adviser to HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari has stressed that Qatar's continuous participation in the meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) always receives positive feedback, especially towards the speeches of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr al-Ansari said that Qatar — as a proactive and influential partner in the international community and an effective member of the UN — always works to strengthen its position in this international body, in particular, and the international community in general through its active participation in the UNGA meetings.

He added that the annual speeches of His Highness the Amir before the UNGA include a clearly delivered group of visions and ideas, setting the directions for Qatar's foreign policy and its work within the multilateral international framework.

He stressed that participating in the UNGA meetings represents an annual opportunity to emphasise Qatar's foreign policy firm stances and a chance to push toward clear directions regarding basic issues in which Qatar believes.

Thus, there are always constants in the Amir's speech that always form an essential part of Qatar's foreign policy, on top of which are the Palestinian cause and regional issues.

He pointed out that the Amir's presence in the UNGA draws the attention of various parties and that the meetings held on the sidelines of His Highness' participation in the UNGA represent the bedrock of Qatar's foreign policy.

He said that this annual gathering, which brings together a large number of leaders of world countries under one umbrella, gives a chance to push forward the agenda for Qatar's foreign policy. In addition, the great respect that His Highness the Amir enjoys through his participation in the UNGA confirms the success of this participation and its importance in the international context.

He indicated that Qatar's participation in the UNGA meetings also includes the launch of a number of important initiatives by Qatar, as in 2022 a group of initiatives were launched, led by the "Women in Conflict Zones" initiative, in addition to holding an event on combating child trafficking in sports. Another side event came to commemorate the adoption of the Doha Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries, in addition to the "The Scoring Moment" for sustainable development, which was held two months ahead of hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

He noted that all the initiatives put forward by Qatar in the UNGA are part of the State's continuous active role in the UN through its Permanent Mission in New York headed by HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, as the mission makes immense efforts to consolidate Qatar's relation with the UN and ensure that Qatar's role is generally influential within the or-



ganisation. Dr al-Ansari said that the issue of mediation and resolving disputes by peaceful means comes at the heart of Qatar's international influential roles, especially since it comes within Qatar's foreign policy constants.

He added that the mediation role played by Qatar is not a marginal issue in its foreign policy but rather a principle stipulated in its permanent constitution to consolidate international peace and security by promoting the peaceful resolution of international disputes.

He indicated that out of that role, Qatari diplomacy engaged during the past few years in several successful mediations, including putting an end to the presidential vacuum in Lebanon in 2008, signing the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), mediating between Eritrea and Djibouti, the release of hostages in Syria, in addition to working to achieve reconciliation between the Palestinians.

In the same context, a peace agreement was achieved between the US and Taliban, which required a tremendous effort and ended the longest war in the history of the US and the suffering of the Afghan people that lasted for more than 20 years. In addition, Qatar hosted the intra-Afghan negotiations, the indirect talks between the US and Iran regarding the nuclear deal, and the signing of Chadian parties on the Doha Peace Agreement. Qatar's latest mediation efforts was between the US and Tehran to release some prisoners and open a humanitarian channel in the same agreement. Dr al-Ansari stressed that Qatar's success in mediation is a direct result of the wise leadership's interest in the success of any negotiations and also of the political will in Qatar that makes sure to have a clear role regarding resolving conflicts and peaceful solutions. **(QNA)**



HE the ambassador Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani speaking to QNA.

Al-Qahtani: Qatar has no hidden political agenda

HE ambassador Dr Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani has asserted that good endeavours, mediation and dispute settlement through peaceful means represent a strategic option and core pillar of Qatar's foreign policy.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Qahtani said Qatar gives top priority to the principle of consolidating international peace and security in its foreign policy, which is one of its most important and fundamental principles of the UN Charter, through encouraging the pacific settlement of regional and international disputes; stressing that this principle is derived from the directives and vision of the wise leadership of Qatar, and is based on the permanent constitution of Qatar, its history, culture and the true Islamic religion.

Qatar's wise leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has powerful desire and consolidated belief in the importance of moving forward to pursue mediation approach and exert good endeavours to bolster regional and international peace

and security and consolidate Qatar's status globally, he added.

HE Dr al-Qahtani pointed out that Qatar has gained an accumulative expertise spanning over more than a quarter-century in mediation and good endeavours which conspicuously consolidated its regional and global reputation and stature as a fair and independent mediator to achieve peace and security in the region and worldwide.

He emphasised that Qatar — through its experience and expertise — gained the confidence of the international community and remained welcomed and acceptable mediator by virtue of the approach Qatar pursues in mediation which is consistent with the provisions of the international law, in addition to its adherence to principles of transparency, credibility, impartiality, observing cultural sensitivity of parties to the conflict, respecting religion, customs and traditions, as well as maintaining confidentiality of negotiations and commitment to high professionalism during engagement with a variety of concerned parties.

Qatar has no hidden political agenda and does not seek pub-

licity when undertaking its role as mediator to settle disputes, as such efforts stem from its keenness to build peace, stability, and development both in the region and worldwide, HE Dr al-Qahtani added. Qatar exists in a region that witnesses many conflicts and tensions and has a consolidated belief in the significance of taking mediation role to settle disputes and exert good endeavours to resolve differences to avoid conflict, along with its consequential human, economic and development costs, he noted.

HE Dr al-Qahtani pointed out that Qatar does not impose itself as mediator in conflict resolution or addressing any regional or international crisis without parties to the conflicts consent to engage in mediation, because such a matter is related to nations sovereignty, he said, adding that Qatar does not invite itself to interfere without approval of parties to the conflict.

He touched on several crises that have been resolved through Qatari mediation, whether at the level of nations or political entities and groups, as well as the current efforts in some regional and international files. **(QNA)**

Leading US residency programme directors visit WCM-Q

Residency programme directors from elite US academic health centres visited Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) to learn about the college's education programmes and offer career development advice to students. The Visiting Professorship Programme (VPP), which began in 2013, is held annually to help establish strong collaborative links between WCM-Q and other elite medical institutions around the world. During their visit, the professors toured the state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities at WCM-Q, Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medicine, Aspetar and other healthcare sites, took part in a panel discussion with students, viewed research posters created by students, exchanged ideas with WCM-Q faculty, and saw students present medical case studies.

The visiting professors also visited Qatar Foundation HQ. This year, the VPP welcomed 16 residency programme directors from 15 leading US medical schools, including the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science, Duke University School of Medicine, the University of California, Los Angeles, Case Western University School of Medicine, and McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas, among many others. The visiting professors are directors of residency programmes specialised in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, paediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery, family medicine, and anaesthesiology. Dr Thurayya Arayssi, vice dean for



Residency programme directors from leading US medical colleges visit WCM-Q.

curricular and academic affairs, said: "It is a great pleasure to welcome so many highly qualified professors from such

renowned institutions to WCM-Q. Their insights are invaluable to our medical students as they make important

decisions about the next steps in their careers in medicine and their personal and professional development."

ICONE Voices of Design Made in Italy opens tomorrow

Italy and its exceptional design production is set to present a unique exhibition, titled "ICONE. Voices of Design Made in Italy", at Msheireb's M7 from tomorrow until December 20.

The exhibition, curated by Rossana Orlandi and designed by Lucio Micheletti, is promoted by the embassy of Italy in Doha and hosted by Qatar Museums.

It was the idea of Orlandi, a leading figure on the international creative scene, Compasso d'Oro 2022 winner, and ambassador for "good design," to have a signature exhibition design by Micheletti of Micheletti+Partners.

The exhibit, which emerges on the back of two keywords: emotion and education, promises a sensorial experience, enveloping visitors within the customised layout exploring original ideas around exhibition design.

The most advanced lighting, digital and audio technologies will engage the audience and render the visit as immersive as possible.

The exhibit is divided into two parts. In the first, the showcase transforms the objects into actors. The second, which is dedicated to the companies of Made in Italy design, introduces video compilations recounting their stories under the supervision of Francesca Molteni.

In a press statement, Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi said: "The ICONE exhibit represents an opportunity for the Italian system inserted within the highly visible international



context of Doha, which is increasingly becoming an epicentre of culture and creativity with a global focus, not to mention a market greatly concerned with quality and beauty – descriptors synonymous with Made in Italy design.

"Thanks to the crucial collaboration with Qatar Museums and the partnership with its Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al

Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, we have been given an opportunity to bring the excellence of the Italian design industry to Qatar, entrusting its curatorship to Rossana Orlandi, an internationally recognised figure within the field."

Special initiatives will also animate a calendar of events punctuating the three-month duration of the exhibit.

HEC Paris empowers Qatari talent through executive leadership programmes at QNB

HEC Paris in Qatar, designated No 1 in the world by the *Financial Times* Executive Education ranking for the second year in a row, has announced its collaboration with QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, to design two customised executive education programmes.

In support of Qatar's national workforce, this collaboration aims to empower Qatari talent in pursuit of managerial roles with specialised skills and insights.

The 'Management Development Programme' and 'High Impact Leadership Programme' will provide participants with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their roles and drive impactful organisational change.

In line with QNB's strategic Qatarisation plan, HEC Paris in Qatar's Executive programmes harness world-class expertise to enhance the competitiveness of the local workforce by nurturing leaders who can navigate complex global challenges, localise international best practices, and contribute to the country's sustainable economic growth.

"These programmes will be an integral part of our Qatarisation policies and ongoing commitment to developing and supporting emerging national leaders in line



HEC Paris in Qatar dean Pablo Martin de Holan addressing the programme participants.

with our five-year plan," commented Amal Mohd al-Kuwari, executive vice-president – QNB Group Talent Learning and Development.

"In this era of unprecedented change, we need leaders who do not only recognise the opportunities in these transformations but also possess the skillset to drive strategic, organisational and cultural change."

The 'Management Development Programme' empowers emerging leaders to enhance their management capabilities on organisational and individual levels, build meaningful working relationships and gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic business landscape, enabling them to drive change and transition into leadership roles within the organisation. Meanwhile, the 'High Impact Lead-

ership Programme' aims to equip leaders with advanced management and problem-solving skills to navigate complex business environments, make informed decisions, and effectively lead their teams.

"QNB recognises the value of investing in its key asset, its people, and the future of the Qatari nation," commented Dr Pablo Martin de Holan, dean of HEC Paris in Qatar. "By partnering with HEC Paris, it is leveraging the expertise of an institution recently ranked by the *Financial Times* as the No. 1 executive education provider for the second year in a row. We look forward to delivering these programmes and demonstrating our unwavering commitment to fostering leadership excellence while driving a positive impact."

GWC organises blood donation drive

Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC) recently held its annual blood donation drive as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) mandate.

The drive was conducted at the company's logistics hub in Ras Bufontas Free Zone, in association with Hamad Medical Corporation, which deployed its mobile blood donor unit. The campaign attracted many donors.

"Donating blood is a noble cause, and it plays a critical role in saving lives. The blood donation drive is a key initiative of GWC's CSR policy and our way of serving the larger community," said GWC group chief executive officer Ranjeev Menon.

GWC has been organising blood donation campaigns for more than a decade now and has seen an uptake in the number of participating donors, thus exemplifying the spirit of giving.



HBKU College of Law hosts discussion on legal issues in motorsport

Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Law and the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) co-hosted a panel discussion highlighting legal issues in motorsport.

The session was held in advance of the second Qatar Grand Prix, scheduled for October 6-8.

Titled "Legal Issues in Motorsport: Preparing for the Qatar Grand Prix," the event's panel featured renowned local and international experts including Amro al-Hamad, executive director, QMMF; Fatima al-Qaedi, communication and marketing manager, QMMF; Mark Buckley, partner, Fladgate; Mohamed Bhaimohmed, senior counsel – head of legal, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022; and Zachary Calo, professor of law, HBKU and senior counsel, McNair International. Al-Hamad gave introductory remarks, underlining the



importance of Qatar's hosting of a prominent motorsport event. His comments set the stage for a lively discussion about governance, dispute resolution and intellectual property – all relevant subjects since motorsport, particularly at the

Grand Prix level, is highly rules based.

An important aspect of the session involved Bhaimohmed presenting lessons learned from the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which al-Hamad and al-Qaedi discussed in connection with the

Qatar Grand Prix.

A second key feature was the examination of the complex regulatory and dispute resolution processes in motorsport, which Prof Calo detailed and Buckley, who has been involved in numerous cases, discussed from a legal counsel's perspective. The session also gave students and faculty the chance to network with fellow motorsport enthusiasts. Susan L. Karamanian, dean, HBKU College of Law, noted that "The second Qatar Grand Prix reflects the exponential growth experienced by the Mena region's motorsports sector. It will require locally-based legal professionals, well-versed in the law in this field, to continue its development, which falls under our mission to build regional capacity with global relevance."

Gord Academy holds training in sustainable building practices

Gord Academy, a centre of excellence within the Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord), recently hosted in-person workshops for bolstering the adoption of green building practices under the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS). The workshops catered to professionals pursuing GSAS Design & Build and GSAS Operations Certified Green Professional (CGP) licences.

Together, the two workshops drew more than 60 practitioners working on prominent building and infrastructure projects across Qatar.

In attendance were representatives from Qatar Investment Authority, Public Works Authority, Hamad International Airport, Primary Healthcare Corporation, Naufar, Qatar University, Carnegie Mellon University, Meeza and other representatives from leading entities in the region.

Dr Yousef Alhorri, founding chairman of Gord, said: "GSAS workshops serve a dual



Attendees at one of the workshops.

purpose. On a theoretical level, they provide professionals with an in-depth comprehension of the GSAS framework, its principles, categories, and the necessary procedures for implementing sustainability best practices in building and infrastructure projects. On a practical level, they empower individuals to assume the role of green professionals, enabling them to make a tangible impact on the ground and support the transformation of

the built environment towards a sustainable future."

The three-day GSAS Design & Build workshop offered attendees the essential knowledge required for evaluating the sustainability performance of new building and infrastructure projects.

GSAS Operations Green Professional workshop, spanned a day and equipped attendees with the knowledge, tools and expertise to evaluate the environmental impact of existing building and infrastructure projects.

The workshops garnered participation from various representatives from local and regional bodies and institutions.

These events marked the beginning of a series of in-person training sessions for equipping engineering teams with comprehensive knowledge of GSAS principles. The ultimate objective of these capacity-building workshops is to firmly integrate green building practices in alignment with GSAS standards throughout all government and private structures in the region.

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TIMES

Sri Lanka’s dangerous debt restructuring

More than a year after the mass protest movement known as the Aragalaya ousted Sri Lanka’s president Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother, prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lankans have once again taken to the streets.

The impetus for the resurgence of public discontent is the recent bailout agreement between the International Monetary Fund and President Ranil Wickremesinghe’s government. The deal, which aims to address the country’s ongoing balance-of-payments crisis, offers Sri Lanka less than \$3bn over four years – a tiny fraction of what the country needs to meet its debt-servicing requirements and just one-sixth of its foreign-exchange earnings, which amounted to roughly \$18bn in 2022.

In exchange for this emergency loan, the IMF imposed a series of conditions that have significantly exacerbated Sri Lanka’s wage and cost-of-living crises. The mandated shift to market exchange rates, in particular, immediately led to a sharp currency devaluation, causing imported fuel and food prices to skyrocket and contributing to a 165% increase in electricity tariffs between June 2022 and February 2023.

As fiscal restraints were imposed, the economy continued to spiral down, with GDP shrinking by 7.8% in 2022 and 11.5% in the first quarter of 2023. This has had an adverse impact on employment, livelihoods, and the viability of small and medium-size enterprises. Consequently, real wages fell by 30-50% in 2022 and have remained stagnant.

Despite paying lip service to the importance of combating corruption and curbing illicit financial flows, the IMF plan falls short of tackling these issues effectively. Although it includes a modest increase in corporate income taxes, it neglects the possibility of imposing wealth taxes. Moreover, its focus on highly regressive measures, such as nearly doubling the value-added tax to 15%, means that the bulk of additional revenues will be generated through indirect taxes that disproportionately affect ordinary people.

The current wave of protests is partly a reaction to the government’s decision to comply with the IMF’s demand to restructure both external and domestic debt. Instead of focusing on lowering the external debt to a sustainable level, however, the agreement aims to bring down total debt, thereby reducing the haircut imposed on foreign creditors to just 30%.

This has exacerbated the crisis and is difficult to justify. In countries that do not issue global reserve currencies, there is a clear distinction between domestic and external debt. Governments can and do service domestic debt using their own currencies, the supply of which is controlled by their central banks. By contrast, foreign currency-denominated debt necessitates either foreign-exchange earnings or new borrowing.

Sri Lanka’s crisis is largely the result of the country’s inability to service its external debt due to insufficient foreign-currency reserves. Since 2016, the government has preferred to take on new international loans, primarily from private lenders, to repay its foreign creditors, including bilateral and multilateral lenders. In early 2022, the government chose to default on its foreign loans rather than explore alternative solutions.

But restructuring domestic debt in an economy already in decline is both painful and unnecessary. Sri Lanka’s domestic debt is held by various entities, including the central bank, commercial banks, and pension funds. Given that the country’s banking system is already severely weakened, pension funds will almost certainly bear the brunt of the expected adjustment.

This will have a significant impact on the retirement savings of workers who have already been hit by massive price increases. By reducing the interest rates on sovereign bonds held by Sri Lanka’s largest pension funds from more than 20% to 12%, and then to 9% from 2025 until maturity, the government aims to reduce its interest burden by 0.5 percentage points of GDP annually.

Recent estimates by Ahilan Kadirgamar suggest that this will result in a 30% decline in the value of retirement funds a decade from now. Moreover, these pension funds, often holding the only financial assets of working people, will be subject to a 30% tax on their returns – higher than the tax rate applied to many in the corporate sector.

Many workers whose life savings are invested in these retirement funds earn wage incomes well below the minimum taxable rate.

These groups have already experienced an alarming decline in living standards. Nearly 56% of Sri Lanka’s 22.2mn people are now grappling with multidimensional vulnerabilities, with women and girls being the hardest hit. Official estimates suggest that roughly 43% of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, as do a growing number of pregnant and lactating women.

A genuine resolution to Sri Lanka’s prolonged economic crisis would require a dramatic change in strategy. — Project Syndicate

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A close encounter with ‘alien bodies’ in Mexico

By Cassandra Garrison Mexico City

For Jaime Maussan, a Mexican journalist and long-time UFO enthusiast, they are one of the most important discoveries in the history of humankind.

But for many scientists these two tiny mummified bodies with elongated heads and three fingers on each hand, images of which were beamed around the world this week when they were presented to Mexico’s Congress, are an already-debunked – perhaps criminal – stunt.

At Maussan’s office, in the Mexico City business district of Santa Fe, staff members carefully carry the two closed boxes with glass lids containing the bodies into a green-screened studio, where Reuters had exclusive access on Friday.

Everyone huddles around to get a better look. The bodies appear ancient and share characteristics with humans: two eyes, a mouth, two arms, two legs. Maussan claims they were found around 2017 in Peru, near the pre-Columbian Nazca Lines.

He says he can prove they are unlike anything known on Earth. On social media and in the hearing, he shared scientific analysis and study results he argues proves the bodies are about 1,000 years old and not related to any known Earthly species.

One of them, described by Maussan as a female, was discovered to have eggs inside, he said.

“It is the most important thing that has happened to humanity,” Maussan, 70, said of



Mexican journalist and ufologist Jaime Maussan.

his crusade to bring awareness to the findings, sitting in his office that is heavily decorated with colourful alien-themed artwork and paraphernalia.

“I believe that this phenomenon is the only one that gives us the opportunity to unite,” he added.

Elsa Tomasto-Cagigao, a respected Peruvian bio-anthropologist, is frustrated such claims are still being given publicity, citing similar alleged finds that were found to be frauds.

“What we said before still stands, they are presenting the same rehash as always and if there are people that keep believing that, what can we do?” she said by phone. “It is so crass and so simple that there is nothing more to add.”

Previous such finds have been dismissed by the scientific community as mutilated mummies of pre-Hispanic children, sometimes combined with bits of animal parts.

David Spergel, former head of Princeton University’s astrophysics department and chair of a Nasa report into unidentified anomalous phenomena, said on Thursday that such samples should be made available for testing by the world’s scientific community.

Testing conundrum

Maussan shared on social media and in his presentation the results of DNA and carbon dating tests that he said he commissioned on “the beings.”

A Mexican scientist, at the request of Reuters, reviewed the results and concluded they indicated normal life on Earth.

Maussan told Reuters on Friday that the test results were not directly related to the two bodies that he showed Congress this week, however. In fact, he said, they were conducted on an entirely different body, known as Victoria, that remains in Peru.

“They were found in the same place. They have the same

physical appearance, they are the same,” Maussan said of Victoria and the two bodies he presented in Mexico. Testing was not done on those two bodies in order to avoid damaging them, he said.

Maussan is no stranger to controversy. He has made claims about other remains in the past that have been widely criticized. He participated in a 2017 TV documentary about other remains found near the Nazca Lines, which experts like Tomasto-Cagigao and palaeontologist Rodolfo Salas-Gismondi have said appeared to feature doctored mummies.

Now, he has angered Peruvian officials.

Peruvian Culture Minister Leslie Urteaga has questioned how the specimens, which she said were pre-Hispanic objects, left Peru and says a criminal complaint has been filed.

“I’m not worried. I have done absolutely nothing illegal,” Maussan said.

How the bodies arrived in Mexico is a question he says he cannot answer. Borrowed by Maussan for the hearing, they are in the possession of a Mexican man, who was in Maussan’s office on Friday and who declined to be identified.

When asked how the bodies – whom he called Clara and Mauricio – came to be in his possession, the man replied only that he would reveal all “at the appropriate time.”

Jose de Jesus Zalce Benitez, Director of the Health Sciences Research Institute of the Secretary of the Navy, participated in the congressional hearing, bolstering Maussan’s claims. Now joining him at his office, he calmly explained his interpretation of the science.

“Based on the DNA tests, which were compared with more than one million species ... they are not related to what is known or described up to this moment by science or by human knowledge,” he said.

Julieta Fierro, the scientist at Mexico’s National Autonomous University’s (UNAM) Institute of Astronomy who reviewed Maussan’s test results for Reuters, sees far less mystery in the data.

She said that the presence of carbon-14 in studies done by UNAM proves that the samples were related to brain and skin tissues from different mummies who died at different times.

The proportion of the radioactive carbon-14 isotope that is absorbed by living organisms into their tissue decays over time, which allows scientists to determine the approximate year of death of the specimen.

On other planets, the amount of carbon-14 in their atmospheres would not necessarily be the same as on Earth, she said.

All in all, the results “do not show anything mysterious that could indicate life compounds that do not exist on Earth,” Fierro said. — Reuters



A tiny body of a specimen, that Mexican journalist and UFO enthusiast Jaime Maussan says is not related to any known Earthly species and which he presented along with another one to Mexico’s Congress earlier this week, is pictured, in Mexico City, on Friday. (Reuters)

Amir’s participation in UNGA meetings reflects our global presence: Sheikha Alya

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s annual participation in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) meetings in New York, and his presiding over Qatar’s delegation to the 78th UNGA session reflects the state’s important and distinguished global presence, said HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Sheikha Alya stressed that the Amir’s speech at the UNGA opening session due today is highly anticipated by heads of state and government, with His Highness defining Qatar’s stances and priorities on many regional and international issues.

She said that Qatar would participate in the General Assembly High-level Week 2023 with a high-profile delegation that includes HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and several ministers and officials.

Qatar will participate with a distinguished delegation in the 2023 SDG Summit to help put the world back on the right track towards a greener, cleaner, safer and more just future for all, she added, highlighting Qatar’s presence in several other meetings covering the UN future and issues including health, combating current and future epidemics, climate change,



and education. Commenting on Qatar’s active regional and international roles and its close partnership with the UN, HE Sheikha Alya said that the worldwide confidence in Qatar enabled it to establish a close and elevated partnership with the UN that culminated in the inauguration of the Doha-based UN House in March, on the sidelines of Qatar’s hosting of the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5).

She added that the UN House, which comprises 12 international organisations and agencies concerned with important international issues such as combating terrorism,

sustainable development, child protection, and education, and has close relations with Qatar, reflects the importance of the international role of the State’s active diplomacy within the framework of multilateral work and its prominent role in several files such as mediation and dispute resolution.

The Doha-based UN House is a testament to the close, strong and deep Qatar-UN partnership in several areas and provides an ideal model for several countries to follow in Qatar’s footsteps in upholding the role of the UN in the region and the entire world, she added.

Qatar plays a prominent international role, possesses active diplomacy

that has enabled it to occupy a distinguished position at the global level, and earn the confidence of the international community, she stressed.

HE Sheikha Alya highlighted the September 13 high-level event, organised by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), Unicef and Unesco, to mark the fourth International Day to Protect Education from Attack, at the UN headquarters.

She noted that the event which brought together high-profile participants was part of the celebration of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, which was unanimously approved by the UNGA in May 2020 based on a draft resolution submitted by Qatar. The resolution urged the international community to mitigate the plight of students in armed conflicts.

She highlighted Her Highness Chairperson of EAA and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate Sheikha Moza bint Nasser’s speech during the event which discussed the sufferings and challenges faced by school and university students in several armed conflict-ravaged countries.

HE Sheikha Alya stressed that Qatar had contributed strongly over the past decades to promoting education for the most marginalised children worldwide, and had worked to provide quality

education opportunities for the children and youth in need, especially those whose education has been disrupted due to emergencies and conflicts.

The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is a call to take urgent and concrete measures to protect education from attacks, by enforcing the provisions of international law related to education, she added, hailing the event as annual platform to strengthen advocacy and mobilize concrete actions to protect education and achieve sustainable peace for all.

Her Excellency lauded Qatar’s efforts at various levels to find solutions to crises, play the role of effective mediation in many regional and international issues, and support humanitarian and development endeavours in the communities and countries most in need. Qatar’s support for international anti-terrorism efforts was highly praised by all UN-affiliated bodies and strengthened the confidence of the international community in the role that it can play, Her Excellency added.

Qatar has been the primary option in the region for the UN and various international community parties to contribute to solving various issues in recognition for its sincere pro-humanity approaches, and its unrelenting efforts to solve suspended issues in the Arab and Islamic region and beyond, Her Excellency concluded. **(QNA)**

‘Appointing Qatari to fight corruption an appreciation of Amir’s support for UN goals’

Qatar’s support for the UN organs upon directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, earned it a prestigious global position and demonstrated its growing influence worldwide, said HE the UN Special Advocate on the Prevention of Corruption Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), His Excellency hailed Qatar’s positive roles within the international organisations, particularly the UN, highlighting the Amir’s approaches to support the achievement of the UN goals, most notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will not be achieved without fighting corruption.

Qatar’s great support prompted the UN to appoint a Qatari official as UN Special Advocate on the Prevention of Corruption in appreciation and gratitude for all Qatar’s anti-corruption efforts, which is closely linked to achieving the SDGs, he added.

Dr al-Marri noted that the Amir’s annual participation in the UN General Assembly meetings is a demonstration of Qatar’s interest in the UN, the international community and all global issues.

The UN, in return, highly appreciates and respects Qatar thanks to its great and effective roles within the UN, he added, highlighting that countries are globally judged by the extent of their global influence rather than their areas or economies.

He stressed that Qatar’s interest in actively participating in



The United Nations anti-corruption lawyer during the interview.

UN meetings and its vital roles in various global issues stems from its clear strategy that earned it a prestigious world position and a wide welcome from various UN agencies.

In 2021, Qatar announced an over \$2bn contribution for the UN for peace and refugees, especially from refugees from Syria and Yemen, and support for Yemen, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Afghanistan and other crises, His Excellency highlighted.

Dr al-Marri stressed that the UNGA meetings constitute an annual opportunity to affirm the principles upon which the UN is based, as well as a platform for effective action on various international issues.

Commenting on His Highness the Amir’s participation at the UNGA meetings, Dr al-Marri said it has many implications, at top of which is the State of Qatar’s full commitment to global issues, most notably refugees and humanitarian issues, in addition

to the ongoing interest in the Palestinian cause and other issues of concern for the Islamic and Arab nations.

The UNGA meetings are an opportunity for heads of state and government to hold talks that are no less important than the UNGA meeting.

Qatar’s participation is also an opportunity to affirm the country’s financial and political support for the UN’s calls for international peace and security, His Excellency said, highlighting Doha’s leading anti-corruption efforts to help the UN achieve SDGs.

Dr al-Marri stressed that Qatar left no stone unturned in fighting corruption, both locally and globally, highlighting the UN launch of the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award in the name of His Highness the Amir, in appreciation of his role in fighting corruption and supporting corruption fighters worldwide. **(QNA)**

Special adviser to UN secretary-general: Qatar role effective in settling regional, international disputes

HE the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Finance Dr Ahmed bin Mohamed al-Muraikhi affirmed Qatar’s outstanding role in finding political solutions to international crises by employing preventive diplomacy and good offices as a tool to resolve disputes, noting that Qatar is among the most effective countries regionally and internationally.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said Qatar has always been keen on participating in the meetings of the UN General Assembly on an annual basis, and pointed out that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s participation in the UN General Assembly meetings and his speeches explain Qatar’s positions regarding solutions to the challenges facing humanity.

He pointed out that the Amir, in his speech before the UN General Assembly, seeks to direct the institutions of the international community to put forward solutions to the issues of poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development. This indicates the interest of the Amir and Qatar in the necessity of solidarity and the existence of justice and equality among peoples.

He added that the Amir always



emphasises Qatar’s keenness to be a positive and effective party and to have a constructive role at the international level through balanced and multilateral political and economic relations.

On a question about Qatari initiatives in support of world peace, HE Dr al-Muraikhi said that Qatar has excelled in finding political solutions, and has also excelled in using diplomacy, mediation and good offices in settling these disputes.

“We always say that finding radical solutions and addressing the root of the problems through political and diplomatic means is better than dealing with them through humanitarian aid only,” he said. He noted that Qatar National Vision 2030 is based on maintaining international peace and security, and the best

example here is the contributions of Qatar to education. Qatar deems education as one of the most important things because countries cannot advance without education, and we find that civil society organisations are following this approach, led by the Education Above All Foundation, which is one of the initiatives of Her Highness the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. Over the past years, more than 5mn beneficiaries have benefited from this Foundation which is moving towards returning 10mn children to education, and this initiative succeeded in establishing the importance of education and the return of students to schools, he added. **(QNA)**

UNDP hails Qatar’s role in maintaining peace, resolving conflicts

QNA
New York

Administrator of UN Development Programme (UNDP) Achim Steiner stressed the importance of Qatar’s role in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, mediation, and developing new co-operative relations, highlighting the state’s commitment to development and humanitarian responses to crises.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Steiner said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s participation in the 78th session of the UN General Assembly is a very strong signal of the support that Qatar provides to the UN, its centrality in international relations and the rule of law, and its ability to also support countries through reaching agreements to address issues that perhaps in the past may have seemed secondary, but became very central today, especially responses to epidemics, emergencies, economic transformations, and reform of the international financial architecture.

He pointed out that the co-operation between the UNDP and Qatar is increasing, especially in aspects related to women, peacekeeping, and women in conflict situations. “We have developed partnerships with different ministries and we have initiated some very significant global partnerships, particularly the accelerator labs today present in almost 100 countries, and without the partnership between UNDP, Qatar and Germany as the third partner, that would not have happened.”

Steiner explained that Qatar and the UNDP’s partnership has been characterised by pro activity and objectivity with regards to development issues or specific initiatives, pointing out, “for instance, Qatar investing in the accelerator labs, which have become a very significant partnership between UNDP, the State of Qatar, Germany and others. But also UNDP has established a presence in Doha. We are collaborating both with government ministries, but also with some of the academic institutions that are now in Qatar, and that I think provides us with significant potential and opportunities for the future.”

Regarding the amount of annual support that Qatar provides to the Programme, Steiner said, this support “falls into different categories,” noting that Qatar became a core contributor to UNDP.

About the contribution of the UN House in Doha to promoting the Programme’s projects in Qatar and abroad, he said that “the opening of the UN House in Doha was actually officiated during the secretary-general’s last visit to Doha. I think everybody realised during that opening ceremony what a tremendous opportunity Qatar has created for the UN family. That UN House has become the platform for quite a number of agents.”

He added that for the UNDP, the UN House in Doha is “both a



The administrator of the United Nations Development Programme during the interview.

practical and a policy opportunity. Practical because it gives us the possibility of housing our staff and our experts in Doha in an optimal working environment, and it has allowed us to deepen the co-operation between different parts of Qatar and institutions that are also operating out of Doha. So very practical, but also very promising in terms of future co-operation.”

He added that Qatar is one of the first financiers and contributors to the ABADEI programme, noting that the Qatar Fund for Development provided a contribution of \$5mn to the UN Trust Fund for Afghanistan to support the region-based approach to development emergency initiatives led by the UNDP in Afghanistan, with the aim of restoring access to basic and necessary services.

He expressed his hope that Qatar will continue to view this partnership as one that focuses on the needs of the Afghan people, as well as on the strength that Qatar can bring to actually facilitating UNDP’s engagement at this moment there.

Regarding the widening development gaps in the Arab region, Steiner said that despite some extraordinary development successes, improvements in living conditions, governance, health and education indicators, we have in certain parts of the region catastrophic setbacks, pointing out that over the last eight years of conflict, Yemen has lost according to UNDP’s reports and analysis 20-25 years of its development gains.

He added that there is a lot of suffering, so the ongoing conflict there has had a tremendous impact not only on people in terms of their ability to survive, but also in terms of the development gains that it had achieved.

He also noted that Libya is another country still caught in conflict, which is an ongoing challenge according to the UNDP’s definition of the region, stating that we see again conflict causing enormous harm. I think our ability, as the UN family of humanitarians, as well as UNDP in the development side, to help people cope with these enormously painful disruptions has been critical to avoiding even more harm, he said, stressing that peace is always a precondition for successful development, so, we must continue to focus on peacemaking, sustaining development and protecting assets.

In his interview with QNA, the Administrator of UN Development Programme spoke about the call made by the Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals, saying: “I think many today talk in terms of the failure to achieve the indicators and targets that the world agreed upon in 2015 when it adopted the SDGs. I think my point would always be when we adopted those SDGs, we did not expect a global pandemic to hit us. We did not expect to find ourselves in the year 2023 with more wars, civil wars and conflicts than we have seen for decades happening around the world. We have a major financial and debt crisis unfolding for many developing countries. Their ability to even pay the interest on their debt is now forcing them to cut their education and health budgets.”

He stressed the SDGs are in fact a common and shared agenda on how to move forward, explaining, “I think it is important that we remind ourselves the pandemic, the increase in poverty and inequality, the setbacks we have through conflicts. All of these are in fact what the SDGs are meant to avoid in the future, so they are still as relevant as ever, even if the indicators and targets are not very good news right now.”

Regarding development financing, Steiner said that wealthier countries are able to recover from these shocks faster, while poorer countries are recovering much more slowly or not at all, noting a divergence in the economic pathways that ultimately will create more political tension.

He emphasised the need to de-escalate tensions and conflicts that set the world into a mode of competing with one another rather than co-operating with one another, adding that “part of what we see in the year 2023 is the inability of countries to come together to solve problems and as a result of that, every citizen on the planet is suffering more.”

He also explained that the implementation of the SDG is ultimately a responsibility of every country, pointing out that during the pandemic, countries did some miraculous things when it came to inclusion, from social safety nets to digitalisation, attributing the increase in investment in renewable energy and clean energy infrastructure to the fact that energy security has become a driver of investments. **(QNA)**



Qatar attends meeting on ‘Peace Day Effort’

Qatar participated yesterday in a ministerial meeting on “Peace Day Effort: An Effort for Middle East Peace” on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Qatar’s delegation was headed by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mo-hamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi. In his statement before the meeting organised by Saudi Arabia, the Arab League and the European Union, in co-operation with Egypt and Jordan, HE al-Khulaifi emphasised that the Israeli occupation of Palestine represents a model of colonial occupation that has caused one of the worst ongoing humanitarian crises, pointing out that the situation in the occupied territories has reached an unprecedented level of danger. He added that Qatar has made numerous calls for peace in Palestine, reaffirming Qatar’s un-wavering belief that peace, stability and security in the region can only be achieved through a fair and comprehensive settlement based on international legitimacy.

He called for assuming the humanitarian, moral and legal responsibilities and taking appropriate measures to ensure that the Palestinians obtain their legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination, return, and the establishment of their independent state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

Qatar launches two boats to boost pollution control, navigation safety



Qatar yesterday pressed into service two boats for combating pollution and NAVAIDS (navigational aids) maintenance as part of its efforts to adopt eco-friendly practices and to ensure safe and efficient traffic along ports.

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti launched the boats at Doha Port. The two vessels are the latest units to have joined Mwani Qatar’s fleet of vessels.

This came on the sidelines of



the second day of Ministry of Transport’s “Sustainable Transportation and Legacy for Generations” Conference and Exhibition. The event concluded yesterday.

‘Aljurula’ is a multifunctional garbage and oil spill collection vessel, used in cleaning the basins of Doha Port, Hamad Port and Al Ruwais Port using the best eco-friendly practices.

The 12.6m-long ‘Aljurula’ can collect spilled oil and garbage. Its full capacity is 25,000 litres. It can collect spilled oils in an area of 200m. Its draft is 1m deep.

The second boat, ‘Alsamlah’, is 32.7m long and used in maintenance of navigational aids such as the buoys, in addition to the maintenance of commercial and tourism ports, thereby contributing to providing safer, more efficient traffic for all types of vessels in Qatari waters.

The launching of the two boats reflects the ministry’s commitment to protecting the Qatari marine environment and maritime navigation safety and security. This helps achieve the goals of Qatar’s national plan to combat oil pollution, and relevant regional and international conventions.

The launching event was attended by Qatar Tourism deputy chairperson Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, and chairperson of the Permanent Committee for the Management of Maritime Ports Brig Dr Abdulhadi Mohamed Zabin al-Dosari, and several Mwani Qatar officials.



‘Miniatures Exhibition’ opens at Doha Design District

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The ‘Miniatures Exhibition’ by Al Mana Maples opened yesterday at Doha Design District at Msheireb, featuring 100 meticulously crafted 1:6 scale tiny reproductions of classical seats.

The unique show, running until October 16, offers a chance for design enthusiasts and aficionados to explore the complex interplay between design and industrial production, in addition to providing all visitors with an engaging and educational experience.

“Through these miniatures, you’ll have a unique opportunity to delve into the world of design and gain insights into the intricate processes of industrial production. It’s a chance to see how design evolves from concept to creation,” Msheireb Properties’ Interior Design senior manager Shaikha al-Sulaiti told attendees, adding that the show serves as a satellite exhibition to Vitra’s Masterpieces of Furniture Design (on display until December 9).

She was joined by Al Mana Maples general manager Emad al-Shoubaki who presented detailed



The expo displays 100 Classical Seats in precise 1:6 miniature replicas.



insights into the intricate craftsmanship in creating each miniature masterpiece, spanning from 1836 to 1999.

The event’s opening also introduced visitors to the essence of the Doha Design District, underscoring its importance as a thriving creative hub. “Design Districts are more than just geographical locations; they are vibrant communities that serve as focal points for creative expression, cultural identity, and collaboration.

“The Doha Design District offers a diverse range of facilities and amenities, including studios, galleries, boutiques and creative workshops, with plans to unveil a makers’ space for creatives in the near future,” al-Sulaiti said.

She also announced the forthcoming launch of a materials library at the Doha Design District



early next year, which forms part of the exhibition’s emphasis on industrial production.

Al-Sulaiti described a materials



Emad al-Shoubaki and Shaikha al-Sulaiti at the opening of ‘Miniatures Exhibition’ at Msheireb’s Doha Design District. PICTURES: Thajudheen



library as a curated collection of both physical and digital resources that designers rely on for reference and inspiration throughout their projects.

“The materials library at the Doha Design District will be a collection of unique, artisanal materials, with planned masterclasses offered by brands supplying material on an ongoing basis,” she explained.

This library is set to meet the increasing demand for unique materials and varied design requirements in Qatar and the region. It will give designers the needed resources to make well-informed decisions. As an important addition to Qatar’s creative scene, it also aims to enhance the region’s design capabilities even further. In addition to these exhibitions, M7 announced recently that it will offer an extensive lineup of public programmes, including discussions, masterclasses, hands-on workshops, and exclusive tours.