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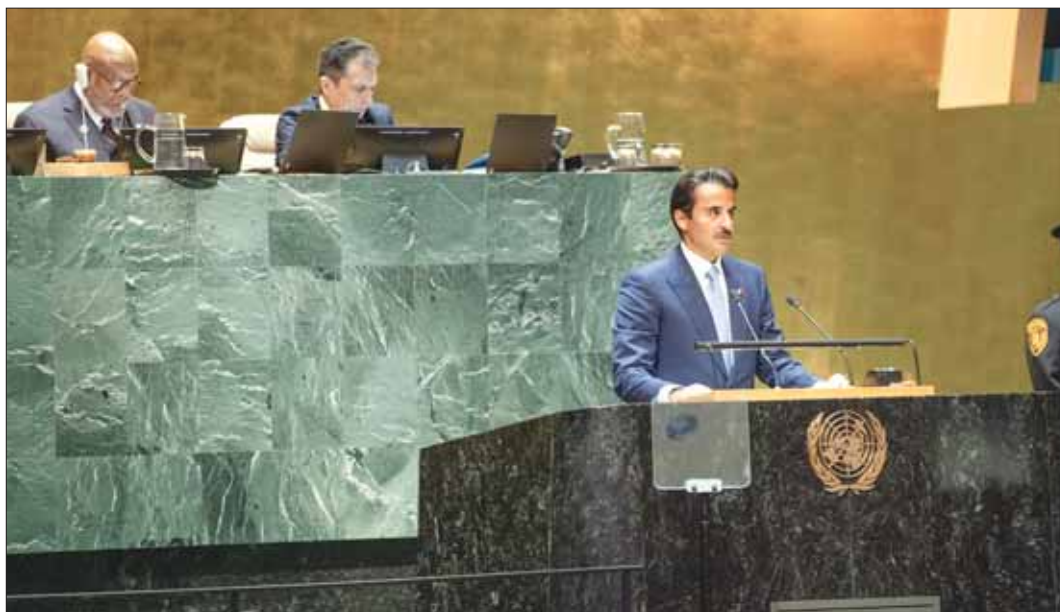
Amir calls for a just world order based on mutual respect, peace and dialogue

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani led Qatar's delegation at the opening session of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York yesterday.

The session was attended by heads of state and government and heads of delegations and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Delivering a speech on the occasion, His Highness the Amir addressed several key issues and expressed his condolences for recent tragedies while highlighting global challenges and opportunities.

His Highness Sheikh Tamim touched upon a wide range of global issues, from technological advancements to regional conflicts, highlighting the need for responsible development, international co-operation, and peaceful resolutions to conflicts for the betterment of humanity.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addressing the opening session of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York yesterday. Page 12

Amir expresses concern about the lack of progress toward a solution to the Palestinian crisis and reaffirms Qatar's support for the Palestinian people

His Highness the Amir began by congratulating Dennis Francis on assuming the presidency of the 78th UNGA session and expressing appreciation for the outgoing president Csaba Korosi. He also commended the efforts of the United Nations, led by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in pursuing its noble goals.

The Amir extended heartfelt condolences to the victims of a devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya, emphasising Qatar's solidarity with both nations in their times of tragedy.

Amir cautions against the consequences of rapid technological advancements and highlights the need for responsible development

Amir also acknowledged the increasing poverty rates, unemployment, and wealth inequality, as well as the environmental consequences of rapid development.

While recognising the potential of technologies like genetics and artificial intelligence to improve human well-being, His Highness the Amir cautioned against the misuse of these tools. He stressed the importance of responsible development and the need to address issues such as misinformation, privacy invasion, and educational disruption resulting from technological advances. He called for international co-operation and regulation in cyberspace based on the principles of international law.

In this context, His Highness the Amir mentioned the upcoming

expressing concern about the lack of progress toward a just political solution. His Highness the Amir condemned the expansion of Israeli settlements and the worsening humanitarian situation, reaffirming Qatar's support for the Palestinian people.

Amir calls for end to violence in Sudan and for a comprehensive political settlement in Syria

Regarding Syria, the Amir stressed the need for a comprehensive political settlement in accordance with the Geneva Declaration and Security Council Resolution 2254, respecting Syria's integrity, sovereignty, and independence.

challenges faced by the Lebanese people.

Regarding Yemen, His Highness the Amir called for a resolution in accordance with the National Dialogue, the Gulf Initiative, and relevant Security Council resolutions.

In Libya, the Amir reiterated Qatar's support for efforts to resolve the crisis and emphasised the importance of building a unified state.

His Highness Sheikh Tamim also mentioned Afghanistan, emphasising the need to ensure compliance with the Doha Agreement, protect human rights, including women's rights, and prevent the country from becoming a haven for terrorism.

Amir emphasises the potential and opportunities in the Middle East, the importance of combating stereotypes, and Qatar's commitment to sustainable development, peace, and co-operation

Talking about the region, the Amir reiterated Qatar's appreciation of the detente witnessed this year, as represented by constructive dialogue and re-establishment of ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran, as well as between Egypt and Turkiye.

On the ongoing war in Europe, the Amir stressed the importance of respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, and seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict.

His Highness the Amir emphasised the potential and opportunities in the Middle East, the importance of combating stereotypes, and Qatar's commitment to sustainable development, peace, and co-operation.

Highlighting the potential of the Middle East region, the Amir underscored the tolerance, humanity, and peace-loving nature of its people, which often get over-



His Highness the Amir with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



His Highness the Amir with Dennis Francis, president of the 78th UNGA session.

shadowed by stereotypes and preconceptions.

The Amir pointed to the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted by Qatar as an opportunity for the world to see the nation's true culture and values while promoting sports as a means of bridging cultural gaps and fostering communication.

His Highness the Amir discussed Qatar's journey toward becoming a prosperous nation that values well-being and prosperity for its people. He noted the significance of Qatar's liquefied natural gas (LNG) investments in addressing global energy challenges while employing advanced and environmentally friendly technologies.

Recognising the responsibilities that come with energy exports, the Amir said Qatar is committed to diversifying its income sources, including clean energy investments. Qatar is actively pursuing environmentally-friendly policies and supporting projects focused on environmental protection, exemplified by the upcoming Qatar Horticultural Expo 2023.

His Highness the Amir emphasised Qatar's role in providing humanitarian aid, mediating conflicts, and facilitating peace in the region. His Highness Sheikh Tamim acknowledged that the path to resolving conflicts peacefully is challenging but more favourable than engaging in wars. Qatar remains deeply committed to these efforts as a core component of its foreign policy.

The Amir also expressed pride in Qatar's partnership with the United Nations, highlighting the opening of the "United Nations House" in Doha, which houses 12 UN offices. Qatar hosted the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, showing its active participation in global efforts to address the needs of these nations.

His Highness the Amir welcomed the Sustainable Development

ment Goals Summit and Qatar's leading role in facilitating government negotiations on the summit's political declaration, reaffirming its commitment to addressing global challenges.

The Amir stressed the importance of co-operation in addressing the refugee crisis and combating racism and incitement against entire peoples, religions, and civilisations. He called for a collective response to these issues and called for an end to acts of desecration of sacred texts, emphasising the need to respect the sanctity of others.

Amir points out the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted by Qatar as an opportunity for the world to see the nation's true culture and values while promoting sports as a means of bridging cultural gaps and fostering communication

His Highness the Amir highlighted the duty of leaders to ensure peace, security, and a better future for their people. The Amir pointed out that international co-operation and consensus are essential to tackle global issues such as climate change, environmental concerns, poverty, occupation, racism, and war crimes. The Amir urged countries to co-operate in implementing international law to safeguard the future of entire nations.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and a number of members of the official delegation were in attendance.

Text of Amir's speech - Page 11



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and a number of members of the official delegation were in attendance.

Drawing the attention of the audience to the current global context, His Highness the Amir noted that humanity is experiencing an era of rapid technological advancement and unprecedented progress. This progress has brought about significant improvements in medicine, technology, and science, leading to longer life expectancy and higher living standards for many. However, the

ing "Web Summit 2024" in Doha, highlighting its significance as an opportunity to review technological advancements and foster global co-operation in the field.

Addressing global disparities, His Highness the Amir emphasised the duty of the international community to address the suffering of people in conflict-ridden regions. The Amir spoke about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict,

His Highness the Amir expressed regret over the violence in Sudan, condemning crimes against civilians and calling for accountability. He called for a ceasefire and a peaceful dialogue among Sudanese political forces.

In Lebanon, the Amir stressed the importance of finding sustainable solutions to political crises and addressing economic chal-

AlKhater in New York meetings



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Managing Director for Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia (EMEEA) at the Gates Foundation Joe Cerrell on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance partnerships in the field of development. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Director of Foreign Assistance at the US Department of State Tamara Wittes, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 78) in New York. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation relations, especially in the fields of development and humanitarian aid, in addition to developments in the humanitarian situation in Sudan, Syria, and Libya. (QNA)

Civic minister meets Chinese top official



HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with Yin Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and secretary of the Party Committee in Beijing, during his visit to the country. During the meeting, they discussed enhancing co-operation between Qatar and China in areas of common interest and ways of developing them between the two sides, especially in the fields of agriculture and food security, infrastructure and municipal services, and modern technology for agriculture and smart cities. (QNA)

'Amir's UNGA participation reflects Qatar's commitment to world future'

QNA
New York

President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Denis Francis has underlined the keenness of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to participate every year in the periodic meetings of the UN General Assembly, which are held at the organisation's headquarters in New York City.

In remarks to QNA, Francis stressed that the Amir's participation reflects his commitment as well as that of the government and the people of Qatar, not only to the UN and multilateralism, but also to the future of humanity and the future of the entire world, to ensure that people live a dignified life, and that the world is able to address the most pressing problems facing it, which is fully consistent with the goals of the UN.

Regarding the contribution of the strategic partnership between Qatar and the UN in facing global challenges, the UNGA president stressed that Qatar has joined the UN efforts to effectively address many of the problems and issues that face and confuse the international community today. He pointed out that Qatar's role has been manifested very clearly in the issue of education, especially the education of children, women and girls who should not be deprived of their rights to education.

He stressed that education represents one of the urgent issues that remains a major priority for Qatar.

Qatar is a major supporter of the Office of the President of the UNGA and it continues to play a major role in the negotiations related to the drafting of the political declaration for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, he said, pointing that HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani had co-chaired the 4th session of government negotiations on the political declaration of the summit, at the UN headquarters, along with Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN Fergal Mithen.

Referring to the partnership between Qatar and the UN, the UNGA President pointed out that Qatar hosts many offices of the UN, with the virtue of the exceptional commitment and dedication of the government and people of Qatar in playing key roles in supporting global development. He went on saying that Qatar enjoys a good reputation in the UN, and this reputation was based on its view of the world and its constant willingness to participate in co-operation and support the activities of the UN. This exceptional commitment exists and is maintained, he stressed.

Regarding the 78th session of the UNGA and the goals that have been set to work on, he stressed that the main issue of the current session lies in addressing the sustainable development goals and making significant progress, with a view to achieving them by 2030. He considered that achieving these goals requires addressing problems such as poverty, hunger, education, and health, and helping

people worldwide to have full access to quality healthcare.

He also pointed out that the current time also needs developing a system that can address issues of peace and security, especially in these times when conflicts are raging in many parts of the world, which undermines the long-sought calm and harmony. Speaking about the efforts of the UN, Francis stressed that finding solutions to refugee issues around the world faces great challenges, pointing in a related context to the increasing numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons due to sporadic security disturbances.

Francis said that the term "refugee" applies broadly to people in certain circumstances. Refugees are often found in conflict areas because people seek to flee in order to save their lives or provide a better opportunity for their children. However, there are refugees in other circumstances, and unfortunately, the numbers seem to be increasing, and the population is becoming more and more displaced every year, largely due to political instability and conflict around the world.

People do not want to leave their countries and it is not easy for them to risk their lives, he said pointing to the 600 people who recently drowned in a boat in the Mediterranean Sea. He underscored the need for the international community to address the factors that lead to an increase in the number of refugees, stressing that peace and stability are very important and will remain a major goal of the UN.

Qatar envoys present credentials

Minister of State at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs Noura bint Mohamed al-Kaabi received in Abu Dhabi yesterday a copy of the credentials of Dr Sultan bin Salmeen al-Mansouri as Qatar's ambassador to the UAE. (QNA)



President of Malta Dr George Vella received in Valletta yesterday the credentials of Rashid bin Abdullah al-Duhaimi as Qatar's ambassador to Malta. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's to the president, and his wishes of good health and happiness for the president and for the government and people of Malta continued progress and prosperity. For his part, the Maltese president entrusted the ambassador to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and Qatar continued progress and development. (QNA)



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Gulf Times Editor-in-Chief Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka being honoured by Ooredoo Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali bin Jabor al-Thani at the event.

Ooredoo hosts editors-in-chief of Qatar dailies

Ooredoo, Qatar's leading telecommunications company, recently hosted a gathering of editors-in-chief from all newspapers in Qatar, at its headquarters, a statement said yesterday. Sheikh Ali bin Jabor al-Thani, CEO at Ooredoo Qatar, welcomed the delegates to the media roundtable, thanked them for their presence and discussed Ooredoo's overarching vision and strategic direction.

During his address, Sheikh Ali underscored the vital role of the media in today's digital era, emphasising that media representatives are not merely observers but valued partners, instrumental in shaping public knowledge and perception. "Today, we come together not just to discuss Ooredoo's strategy and achievements, but to reaffirm our commitment to an open and collaborative relationship with the media," Sheikh Ali remarked. The CEO provided an overview of Ooredoo's vision and strategy; a strategy centred around innovation, with the aim of enriching customers' digital lives, upgrading their worlds, and acting as a catalyst for positive change.

He highlighted the five key strategic pillars that underpin Ooredoo's approach to excellence; Delivering Excellence in Customer Experience, Investing in People, Evolving the Core, Strengthening the Core and Refining the Value-Focused Portfolio. "As we continue to lead the telecommunications market in Qatar, our responsibility is to stay at the forefront of innovation, delivering cutting-edge solutions to upgrade our customers' daily experiences," Sheikh Ali noted.

He also highlighted Ooredoo's commitment to digital and business transformation, and to fos-



A view of the media roundtable.

tering an inclusive corporate culture with a focus on investing in young Qatari talents in order to maintain the company's position as an employer of choice in Qatar. "Ooredoo's journey has been marked by significant milestones, and our recent groundbreaking achievements - such as the 5G-powered mega sporting event in 2022 - exemplify our commitment to delivering industry-leading communications and connectivity," Sheikh Ali stated.

The CEO then shared a pioneering technological advancement in Ooredoo's service operations that was successfully tested during the 2022 global sporting event. He highlighted the successful implementation of a cutting-edge Mobile Network Fault Management system known as AGILITY, powered by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) technologies.

AGILITY employs advanced analytics and automation to monitor Ooredoo's mobile network operations in real-time, rapidly

detecting issues and potential problems, resulting in faster incident response times, improved troubleshooting, and more effective problem-solving. This proactive approach allows Ooredoo to continue to deliver excellence in customer experience by addressing network or service issues before they impact customers.

The CEO concluded his address by highlighting other recent innovations, including the launch of "Home+", a solution designed to upgrade connectivity within homes, and the revamp of Ooredoo's postpaid offerings. Following Sheikh Ali's address, the floor was opened for an interactive discussion. Media representatives in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions, share their experiences covering Ooredoo, discuss challenges faced, and outline their expectations for future collaborations.

The roundtable concluded on a high note, with an invitation to continue such dialogues in the future.

Qatar plays fruitful mediation role in critical issues: Warburg

US Department of State Regional Spokesperson Samuel Warburg emphasised the importance of bilateral relations between the US and Qatar, noting that the state plays a leadership role on the international arena and leads fruitful mediation efforts in many thorny regional and international issues.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Warburg said that the Qatari-US relations are strong, historic and very important, as they were built on many fields, including defence and security co-ordination, as well as cultural, educational and economic co-operation. He added that they are looking forward to hearing more from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani this week through his speech at General Debate of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The regional spokesperson stressed the strength and durability of the strategic relations between Qatar and his country, given that they have a common vision regarding many challenges in the region and the world, pointing out

The US regional spokesperson stressed the strength and durability of the strategic relations between Qatar and his country, given that they have a common vision regarding many challenges in the region and the world

the significance of the US choosing Qatar as a major non-Nato ally, as this classification, announced by the US president last year, is a reflection of this distinguished partnership and contributes to advancing relations between the two countries to broader horizons.

He pointed out that the close co-ordination and co-operation

between the two countries goes beyond the bilateral dimension to include various outstanding and urgent issues in the region and the world, which are particularly related to regional security, climate change, economic files, and others, pointing also to the distinguished relations between the Qatari and American peoples and the strong personal ties between individuals from both countries.

Regarding the most prominent issues on the agenda of the UN General Assembly, Warburg explained that the US administration has several main priorities, as it seeks to address issues related to the reality of the UN, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, and everything that would make these international institutions more effective and transparent to achieve the common goals of all countries.

He added that the US is focusing on strengthening its partnerships with various countries, especially with the State of Qatar, in many areas of co-operation to benefit the future of the two countries and their common interests. (QNA)

Chief of Staff meets Rwandan counterpart

HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit met with Chief of Defence Staff of Rwanda Lieutenant-General Mubarakh Muganga and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed topics of common interest between the two sides and ways to enhance and develop them. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officers in the Qatar Armed Forces. (QNA)



SPAR Qatar launches "Discover South Africa" festival



Food retail chain SPAR Qatar has recently launched its South African products festival "Discover South Africa" in SPAR Tawar Mall branch. The launch ceremony was attended by HE Ambassador of South Africa to Qatar, Ghulam Hoosein Asmal, along with a host of embassy dignitaries.

The "Discover South Africa" festival aims to showcase and highlight the finest South African products, and serve as a cultural and trade extravaganza that brings people together from both South Africa and Qatar, fostering a stronger sense of community and collaboration. "We are proud to present here today at SPAR to witness the launch of the Discover South Africa Festival." Declared HE Ambassador of South Africa to Qatar, Ghulam Hoosein



Asmal. "Such initiatives help introduce South Africa's rich culture to the Qatari market and help strengthen trade ties between South Africa and Qatar." He added.

SPAR's initiative to launch the "Discover South Africa" festival, is part of a dynamic strategy that aims to highlight international manufacturers and to help supply a market that demands their products. "We are keen

of supplying the market's demands when it comes to international products that are unfortunately not readily available, and thus became the need for festivals that highlight international products such as "Discover South Africa" and we will unveil similar festivals from other territories in the near future." Stated Cobus Lombard, General Manager - SPAR Qatar.

MoI's Forensic Medicine Centre organises introductory meeting

The Forensic Medicine Centre at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) organised an introductory meeting yesterday, which included members and prosecutors of the Public Prosecution, officers from various departments within the ministry, and several forensic doctors from the centre.

The aim of the meeting was to enhance co-ordination with relevant authorities, which are connected to the centre's work, discuss common topics, and listen to opinions and proposals, all of which contribute to achieving the desired criminal justice. Col Majed Issa al-Ghanim, the head of the Forensic Medicine Centre, emphasised the importance of the introductory meeting in light of the integration of tasks and functions between the centre, the Public Prosecution, and the specialised departments of the Ministry of Interior.

He stated that each entity is exerting maximum effort and co-ordination to preserve individuals' rights and handle all reports and cases professionally.

Cap Khaled Marzouq Bashir from the Forensic Medicine Centre presented an overview of the centre's tasks and responsibilities, highlighting the departments



The aim of the meeting was to enhance co-ordination with relevant authorities, which are connected to the centre's work, discuss common topics, and listen to opinions and proposals, all of which contribute to achieving the desired criminal justice.



within the Ministry of Interior with which it collaborates and its relationship with the Public Prosecution. The presentation also covered key meeting topics and important aspects of the working mechanism.

Dr Ibrahim al-Ramahi, the head

of the specialised forensic medicine department at the centre, discussed various common topics and issues between the centre and the participating authorities. The meeting concluded with fruitful and constructive discussions among the attendees. (QNA)



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani speaking to QNA.

Qatar takes serious steps in addressing climate change: Sheikh Faleh

QNA
New York

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani has said that Qatar has taken serious local and international steps in combating climate change.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that Qatar's participation in the Climate Ambition Summit held in New York City comes in the context of Qatar's engagement with any positive effort to deal with climate change, and its belief that this phenomenon requires redoubled efforts and co-operation between countries to prevent its escalation, pointing out that international climate indicators show that the world is moving in the wrong direction and confirm that carbon emissions have reached record levels, which warns that temperatures in the coming years will be higher than in previous years. He

added that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) realises the importance of this summit, which brings together most of the world's countries and international decision-makers, which made it participate actively and seriously through its delegation.

He said that there is no doubt that the devastating effects of climate change will greatly affect developing and limited-income countries and will also cause severe damage to fragile and vulnerable societies through natural disasters such as drought, fires, and floods, which will contribute to an increase in the pace of displacement and mass migration of these communities.

He expressed the hope that the current summit will work to rebuild confidence between developing and developed countries, which will contribute to accelerating joint climate action during the next five years.

He also pointed out that the financial commitments made by

some countries are still not fulfilled and do not meet the repercussions of the phenomenon of climate change and its global impacts.

He said that the Climate Ambition Summit will be held immediately after the Sustainable Development Goals Summit (2023 SDG Summit).

HE Sheikh Dr Faleh said that Qatar recently launched National Climate Change Action Plan 2030 (NCCAP), which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.

He added that the NAPCC identified more than 35 initiatives to reduce emissions, in addition to 300 measures to reduce the actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects.

He said that the MoECC participated in the session on investing in climate change education for a green future, in addition to the participation of young people, organized by the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) in co-operation with Silatech.

MoECC holds joint meeting to counter invasive Myna bird

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) organised a joint meeting with a number of state agencies in order to combat the invasive Myna bird, which poses a threat to the country's environmental balance and biodiversity, within the framework of the executive plan for the national project to reduce and control the numbers of this bird.

The meeting was attended by representatives of: the Directorate of Environment of the Qatar Armed Forces, the Aspire Zone Foundation, Qatar University, the Commercial Registration and Licenses Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Municipality's departments of: Livestock, General Cleanliness, Agricultural Affairs, Public Parks, in addition to the public service department of the Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation, the Private Engineering Office, the

General Authority of Customs, and the Qatari Society of Al Gannas.

In this context, Wildlife Development Department director at MoECC Mohamed al-Khanji said that the ministry developed a plan to implement the national project to limit and control Myna bird numbers in the Qatari environment, as well as to raise community awareness in supporting Myna control programmes.

At the end of the meeting, participants recommended selecting co-ordinator from all participating parties to execute the plan, in addition to establishing a field work team from the parties concerned with monitoring, controlling, and getting rid of this bird, in addition to collecting data on the numbers of birds hunted by the Wildlife Development Department team.

The recommendations also included preparing an inventory of Invasive Alien Species present in Qatar and monitoring them, as well

as conducting a study to understand the extent of their impact on local birds and animals, in addition to launching local and international initiatives to provide new scientific solutions to hunt down the invasive Myna bird, developing mechanisms to control its numbers, in line with the public safety protocol and animal welfare standards.

The recommendations also called for activating community participation in hunting Myna birds, and adopting a basic systematic to that end.

The spread of the Myna bird is one of the biggest challenges facing many countries, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) including it in the 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species in the year 2000, due to the threat to biodiversity of the local environment that the Myna bird poses, negatively affecting bird reproduction in the local environment. (QNA)



MoECC partakes in climate change education investment session in NY

QNA
New York

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) participated in the session on investing in climate change education for a green future, organized by the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) in co-operation with Silatech, on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly and the Climate Ambition Summit taking place in New York.

In his speech at the session, Assistant Undersecretary for Climate Change Affairs at MoECC engineer Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada said that Qatar has adopted a plan to raise environmental awareness among the youth, by embedding topics about the environment and climate change in school and university curricula, as well as tackling them in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Al-Sada indicated that Qatar attaches great importance to research and innovation, stemming

from its belief that knowledge is the only means to finding solutions to all problems. He pointed to the state's issuance of the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Strategy (QRDI 2030), which offers university students the opportunity to participate in a research program, which would enrich their expertise in climate change and environmental research, one of the main factors enabling the achievement of the National Climate Change Strategy 2030.

Participating under the youth category, student Bader al-Amari highlighted the important role that Qatar's youth are playing in protecting the environment and working on its sustainability, stressing the importance of climate change and environmental protection education.

During his intervention, al-Amari pointed to the facilities that numerous state institutions provide to the youth in order to achieve this vision, and to raising awareness and understanding of the topics and goals of sustainable development, especially environmental sustainability.

MoECC holds workshop on radiation protection

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has organized a workshop to detect radioactive materials at the Abu Samra border crossing, aiming at assessing the readiness and preparedness of national personnel to deal with radioactive and nuclear materials.

The workshop, conducted by the Radiation Protection Department, is part of the co-operation between the ministry and the competent authorities at the Abu Samra border crossing.

It introduced the procedures for handling radioactive sources, detection methods, and location identification. It also covered the optimal use of radiation detection gates, in addition to a practical training on using measurement devices to detect radioactive sources and materials.

The workshop is part of a series of training sessions carried out by the Radiation Protection Department for border personnel to ensure the highest standards of radiation safety in Qatar.

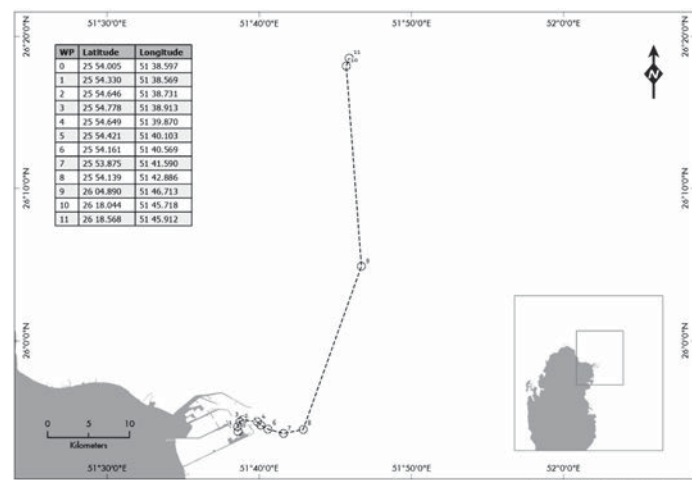
The ministry pointed out that it is committed to organizing such continuous training courses for its staff and relevant entities involved in handling these materials to ensure efficiency in regulatory work and enhance capabilities during the meticulous inspection of all imported shipments entering Qatar.

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Dolphin Energy Limited

Invitation to Tender

Tender Number	Description	Tender Bond	Deadline for Submission, 12 Noon (Qatar Time) on
ITT-QC-OPU-1753	LTSA for Workshop Management and Operations	QAR 180,000	9 th October 2023
ITT-QC-OPU-1754	Maintenance of the Gaseous Extinguishing System	QAR 55,000	9 th October 2023

Dolphin Energy Limited (Qatar) is inviting companies to participate in the above Tenders.

Only companies registered in the State of Qatar with proven experience, the required facilities and technical knowledge as well as a demonstrated track record in the supply of the services required should apply.

How to Tender

Complete instructions are included in the Invitation to Tender documents that can be downloaded from the company's website:

www.dolphinenergy.com/procurement

Al-Muraikhi attends GCC ministerial meeting with UK



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi participated in the ministerial meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries with the UK, with the participation of the foreign ministers of the GCC countries, and Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom James Cleverly, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) in New York. (QNA)

Al-Muraikhi attends GCC-ACS ministerial meeting



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi participated in the ministerial meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) in New York. (QNA)

Education ministry programme set to upskill public school leaders

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has announced the launch of a programme to develop the skills of public school leaders.

The training begins on Sept 24 and will continue until Feb 2024. Director of the Training and Development Center at the MoEHE Iman Salman al-Mohannadi said that MoEHE specifically the Training and Development Center, is working to develop the skills of all members of the educational field to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Human Development Pillar.

Al-Mohannadi stressed the importance of the role of school leadership in improving student learning and creating a school environment conducive to learning, and added that the idea of the programme

emerged to train a number of school leaders in co-operation with the Qatar Leadership Center (QLC) and Harvard University, one of the most prestigious universities in the US. She explained that the programme targets Qatari principals and academic deputies of both genders in 45 primary, middle and secondary government schools. The training modules are designed and prepared at Harvard University, and will be presented by a group of lecturers, including the head of the Harvard Graduate School of Studies.

She stated that the programme will provide field educational experiences and seven training modules, of which five will be offered in Qatar and two in the US. The trainee will receive a certificate (without a degree) from Harvard University. (QNA)



Al Bidda Metro Station receives GSAS Operations Platinum certification



Qatar Rail's Al Bidda Metro Station was awarded the Platinum rating from Gord.

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has achieved green building certification for its commitment to sustainable practices at the Al Bidda station in Doha Metro.

Evaluated through the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS), the station has earned a GSAS Operations Platinum certificate, receiving a coveted Platinum rating awarded by the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (Gord).

Al Bidda station has become the second metro station in the Doha Metro network to receive the GSAS Platinum Certificate for sustainable operations, following the Education City station, in October 2022.

In a press statement, Dr Yousef Alhorr, founding chairman of Gord, said: "Qatar Rail's dedication to implementing green building standards across its metro stations sets a commendable example for the region. Al Bidda station's achievement represents the organisation's steadfast commitment to climate action. At the same time, it highlights the success of GSAS, which, as the only system

with a dedicated Railway Scheme, has played a central role in promoting sustainability across all phases of the Doha Metro project."

Engineer Abdulrahman al-Malik, senior QSHESE director at Qatar Rail, said: "We are also pleased because of Al Bidda station's direct linkage to Al Bidda Park, the venue for Expo 2023 Doha event. This achievement reaffirms our unwavering dedication to upholding the highest sustainability standards, particularly in the operation of our facilities."

Al Bidda Metro Station has previously received recognition for its sustainability efforts, having earned the GSAS Design & Build 4-Star certificate as well as the GSAS Construction Management Class A certificate. The project's latest GSAS Operations certificate reinforces Qatar Rail's commitment to sustainable operations and environmental stewardship.

As the world's first metro project to attain accredited sustainable certification tailored specifically for railway stations, Doha Metro has accomplished this milestone through GSAS' innovative Railways Scheme.

GSAS green building framework assesses sustainability and ecological impacts across all project stages, including design, construction, and operations, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability. The GSAS Operations certification programme focuses on the environmental impacts of buildings once they are occupied, acknowledging that operational and maintenance practices directly affect the environment, the economy and occupants' health.

To attain the Platinum rating for GSAS Operations, Al Bidda Station underwent a thorough assessment across multiple facets. This included evaluating its energy efficiency, indoor environment quality, waste handling, facility management, water usage, environmental policies and awareness.

Qatar Rail's efforts to address climate change extend beyond Al Bidda Station, with the organisation implementing GSAS on all metro stations, many of which have achieved multiple certifications. More stations are expected to seek GSAS green building certification in the future.

Qatar Charity launches 'Libya Appeal' to support flood victims

Qatar Charity (QC) has launched the "Libya Appeal" campaign to stand in solidarity with the people in Libya, where the eastern part of the country, especially Derna, was struck by the devastating floods.

The drive comes to extend a helping hand to the flood-affected people in the areas of shelter, food and water, in addition to providing urgent and essential necessities for the afflicted families.

The campaign aims to provide tents for sheltering the internally displaced persons (IDPs), medical supplies for the injured, as well as food aid, in addition to providing essential items like blankets and other vital supplies for the affected families.

Director of the Emergency and Relief Department at Qatar

Charity Khalid Abdulla Alyafei said: "Qatar Charity is preparing to deliver the necessary support to the people of the disaster-stricken areas in Libya, where the humanitarian situation is very challenging, and the scale of destruction is immense.

"We call upon the benefactors of Qatar to support their brothers and sisters in Libya who are going through problematic times, as they have lost their homes and families. We aim, through the 'Libya Appeal' campaign, to contribute to meeting the basic needs of the affected families and offering the necessary support to help them overcome this ordeal," added Alyafei.

The Libyan News Agency reported that out of the 1,500 damaged buildings in Derna, 891 have been completely destroyed by the storm that struck the country a week ago. (QNA)

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- ✔ Warehouse for rent in Industrial area
- ✔ Warehouse 600 Sqm/1200 Sqm
- ✔ Municipality Approved
- ✔ Civil Defence Approved
- ✔ Secure Boundary Wall
- ✔ 24/7 Security

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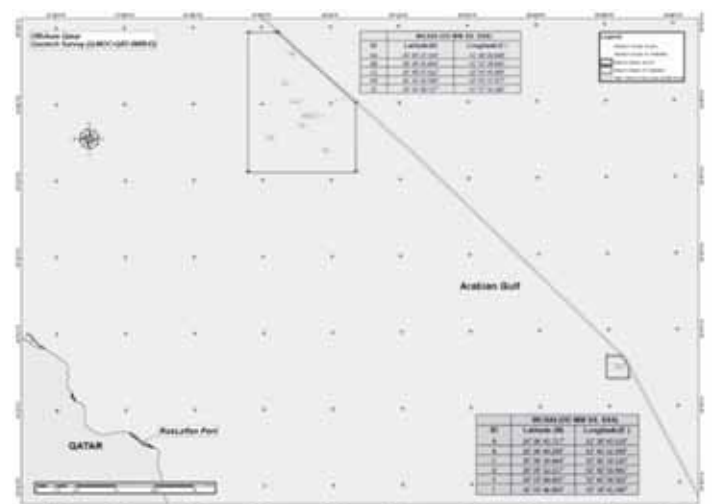
Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Marine Survey works in Al Shaheen field by Vessel GARD HORIZON
Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 14-Sep-2023 to 01-Feb-2024

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Registration and Seafarers Affairs, Ministry of Transport State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen that North Oil Company intends to undertake Marine Survey works in Al Shaheen Field in the locations bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below by Vessel GARD HORIZON.

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

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



للمعلومات بهذا الشأن يرجى الاتصال على ٦٦٨٨ ٥٨٨٧
For Queries call 6688 5887

Oscar Trading opens new showroom

Oscar Trading and Technical Services, a leading provider of commercial kitchen and supermarket equipment, has opened its latest showroom in Barwa Village, a statement said. Safari Group of Companies chairman Aboobacker Madappat and managing director Shaheen Backer, along with Oscar managing partners, Karim K T K and Sabit Ali, inaugurated the new showroom on September 18. Other management representatives from Safari Group were also present. With many years of experience in commercial kitchen and supermarket equipment sales, Oscar provides excellent service in Qatar, it was explained. The



world-class brands of commercial kitchen, refrigeration, and supermarket equipment, along with spare parts, are also available at Oscar, the management representatives added.

UDST organises 'Clubs Festival'



Close to 30 student clubs participated in 'Clubs Festival.'

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) held "Clubs Festival" on campus encouraging students to interact and engage with the diverse range of clubs available to them as part of extra-curricular life at the university. Close to 30 student clubs participated in the event, each with an interactive booth to represent the unique experience they offer to students. UDST clubs span a variety of interests including cybersecurity, animal rescue, art, e-gaming, debating, public speaking and cooking, with students also having the opportunity to start their own clubs to pursue unique interests. Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST said: "As students embark

on their new academic journey, it is important to remind them that UDST is more than just a place to learn, it's a community of people who want to see them engage in different activities, grow and succeed. Clubs Festival is an opportunity for freshers to explore new interests, enjoy campus life, make new friends, and learn new skills." Dr Christopher Bridges, UDST's vice-president, Student Affairs, said, "The clubs provide a bridge between students from different backgrounds and interests and help create a more vibrant and engaged campus community. Club management and participation can help students develop their leadership, communication, and

teamwork skills. They can also learn about new cultures and perspectives, and make lifelong friends." A standout feature of the Clubs Festival was the "for students, by students" approach, a philosophy championed by the Student Engagement Department. The approach empowered students to lead their booths, fostering a sense of ownership and providing them with the opportunity to learn from their peers. Students representing clubs at the event were encouraged to compete for awards such as "Best Booth Decoration" which was presented to the "Art Club", and "Most Engaging Club" presented to "Forever Friends Club."

MINI, Cadillac, GMC models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfordan Automobiles, has announced the recall of MINI John Cooper Works F57, Cooper F55, Cooper F56, Cooper F60, Cooper S ALL4 F60, Cooper S F55, Cooper S F56, and Cooper S F57, 2023 model, as engine fault light may display due to leakage in charge air duct, which may lead to a loss of engine power. The MoCI, in co-operation with Mannai Trading Company, has announced the recall of Cadillac XT6 and GMC Acadia, 2023 model, over a possible defect in the driver-side half-shaft, which may lead to a loss of propulsion. The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, Twitter @MOCIQATAR, Instagram MOCIQATAR. MoCI's mobile application is available on iPhone and Android devices - MOCI_QATAR

New batch of experts takes oath at Ministry of Justice



QNA
Doha

A new batch of accredited experts took the legal oath yesterday at the Ministry of Justice before judicial authorities, in accordance with regulations set forth in the law No. (16) of 2017.

Registration certificates were handed over to the experts permitting them to embark on their duties after they had registered in the rosters of experts at the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice.

The new batch includes a contingent of expert national cadres in various specialisations, including accounting, electrical engineering, and classic vehicle evaluation.

Assistant Undersecretary for the Minister's Office Ahmed Hassan al-Kuwari said the Minis-

try of Justice prepares and qualifies national cadres to enhance the efficiency of judicial entities.

He pointed out that the Ministry is also working to provide necessary technical expertise in various fields and specialisations. This is in order to achieve the goals that the Ministry of Justice seeks to achieve for the legal system.

As part of its efforts to strengthen the national cadre of experts, the Ministry of Justice is working to increase the number of experts and diversify their areas of expertise.

A system for the experts' roster was developed to document and record the various experiences in all disciplines, with the development of rules regulating how experts are registered in the rosters and authorising the experts to practice.

Applicants are given integrated training programmes before taking the legal oath.

Sixth edition of Doha Women Forum on September 30

The sixth edition of the Doha Women Forum 2023, titled 'The Future of Women: Shaping a World of Possibilities', will take place on September 30 at The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa.

Presented by Aamal Company, the event exploring the evolving roles of women in shaping the world of the future, will have a line-up of talks by women leaders, entrepreneurs, industry luminaries and influencers.

Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori, CEO of Aamal Company, will be the keynote speaker this year. He said: "At Aamal, our female colleagues play a hugely important role in the company's success and we are committed to empowering women in the local community here in Qatar. By providing opportunities, support, and mentorship, we can help women thrive and contribute to the further growth and development of our country."

The speakers are Dr Amal al-Malki, founding dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University; Hayfa al-Abdulla, innovation director of QSTP; Al Jawhara al-Thani, founder of Women of Qatar; Al-lan Villegas, founder of the Observatory of Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Nada Zeidan, Arab sport icon; Nino Kader, strategic communications expert; Dr Olga Revina, founder and chairperson, Qatar-Ukraine Council; Elmira Kahrobaie, curator, Visit Qatar; Alftoon al-Janahi, fashion icon; and Amira al-Jaziri, TV anchor and entrepreneur.

Doha Women Forum founder Conchita Ponce said: "As we focus on the future of women, our aim is to shine a light on the pivotal role that women play in shaping the world and empower them to thrive. Together, we are forging a path towards a future where gender equality and women's empowerment are not just ideals but lived realities."

More information is available on www.dohawomenforum.com



MoCI holds meeting with Qatar Foundation for Social Work



The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, held an introductory meeting for several ministry employees to introduce them to the services offered by the Foundation and its affiliated centres.

The meeting aimed to strengthen co-operation, in addition to introducing the Foundation's mission and goals and the services provided by its affiliated centres, a statement said. During the meeting, senior

officials from the Foundation and representatives of its affiliated centres gave a presentation to showcase the various aspects of their mission and the support they provide in the fields of family stability, caring for orphans and the elderly, protecting children and women, empowering the youth, and rehabilitating people who suffer from various behavioural disorders. They also presented the different services provided by the affiliated centres to the wider society.

The meeting emphasised the nature of work, the projects implemented and the services provided to the social categories benefiting from the affiliated centres. It also highlighted the role of the foundation and its contributions to the development of society, while raising awareness about the importance of supporting the social categories involved in achieving sustainable social and human development.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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MOHAMMAD MOHI

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QID No. 28705001720

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from

MOHAMMAD ANIS KHAN
MOHAMMAD MOHI

to

MD ANISUR RAHMAN

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

Stars of Science finalist leverages AI technologies to minimise cardiovascular risks

Shada Bennbaia, *Stars of Science* Season 14 finalist, invented a unique wearable tech – a smart wristband – that tracks heart health and offers a convenient and accurate solution for continuous blood pressure monitoring.

"By integrating AI and advanced technology, my device (PULSTAE) provides real-time insights and beat to beat monitoring, empowering individuals and healthcare providers to proactively manage cardiovascular health and detect risks early," says Bennbaia.

Bennbaia, looks to extend AI's role in user interactions, allowing the system to interact with users and gather information from them, and provide a more personalised experience.

"It's the fusion of cutting-edge technology, and AI makes my blood pressure monitoring solution truly innovative," she says.

"As part of my vision for the future, I see immense potential in leveraging AI for continuous health monitoring and obtaining real-time feedback. By integrating AI algorithms into the monitoring process, my platform can provide instant insights into a person's health status, helping



Shada Bennbaia

them proactively manage their well-being.

"AI can learn from each individual's data, making the system increasingly personalised over time. This personalisation will enable more accurate predic-

tions and recommendations tailored to each user's unique health profile."

Bennbaia also explains that the data collected through continuous monitoring of the patient can, through AI technologies, be harnessed to develop diagnostics and predictive algorithms, and in turn can potentially revolutionise how we approach healthcare, shifting from reactive to proactive management.

"AI has the capability to sift through vast amounts of data to identify patterns and correlations that may not be apparent through statistical analysis. By applying machine learning techniques, my device can potentially detect early signs of health risks and diseases, allowing individuals and healthcare providers to take preventive actions" she says.

For Bennbaia, her use of AI in this project marks just the beginning, and she believes that the future holds exciting possibilities, from real-time health feedback to personalised learning and advanced predictive algorithms.

She added: "It's these innovations that drive me to continuously push the boundaries of technology and AI to make a meaningful impact on people's lives."

Rwanda's sustainable tourism odyssey

A conversation with Michaela Rugwizangoga, Chief Tourism Officer, Rwanda Development Board (RDB)



Michaela Rugwizangoga with Gulf Times Advertising and Marketing Manager Hassan Ali Anwari.

In the heart of Africa, the Republic of Rwanda has emerged as a shining example of sustainable tourism, harmonizing economic growth, environmental conservation, and community engagement. At the helm of this remarkable journey is Michaela Rugwizangoga, the Chief Tourism Officer of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). With a vision to position Rwanda as a tourism hub in Africa, Michaela and her team have not only preserved the nation's rich biodiversity and unique history but also elevated its status on the global tourism map.

Our country is blessed with rich biodiversity, lush rainforests, and a unique history that the world can learn from. We are balancing tourism growth with environmental conservation and community engagement by taking a low volume, high yield approach. This means we offer a premium experience for tourists that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

We also put communities at the heart of our tourism and conservation strategies because we know that

communities are key to protecting wildlife. In fact, thanks to our efforts in this regard, former poachers are now working in our national parks and today they are the most passionate defenders of our wildlife.

Rwanda is also positioning itself as a hub in Africa for both business and travel. We are ranked the second-best destination for meetings and conferences in Africa. We are also building a world-class airport in partnership with Qatar that will serve as a hub for travellers to Africa and beyond. The airport will be capable of accommodating 8 million passengers a year and is expected to be fully operational by 2026.

Q: Rwanda's efforts to promote tourism have been commendable. Could you share some insights into the future plans and projects aimed at further enhancing the tourism sector's contribution to Rwanda's economy and cultural exchange with countries like Qatar?

A: We have several exciting projects on the horizon to further enhance the tourism sector's contribution to Rwanda's economy and cultural exchange.

Restoring and expanding Volcanoes National Park: Rwanda is embarking on an ambitious project to restore and expand Volcanoes National Park and ensure a bright future for the mountain gorillas that call it home, through nature-based community development. This once-in-a-generation initiative will expand the park by approximately 23%, increasing its size by 37.4 square kilometers (3,740 hectares). The expansion of Volcanoes National Park will improve the lives of the communities adjacent to the park and make visiting the gorillas an even more life-changing experience. This program is one of Africa's most ambitious conservation initiatives, with long-term goals that will define best practices for how governments, the private sector, and communities can partner in conserving biodiversity and empowering people.

New International Airport: We are investing heavily to develop a new international airport in partnership with Qatar. The airport will be capable of accommodating 8 million passengers a year and is expected to be fully operational by 2026.

Marketing Partnerships: Our partnerships with PSG and Arsenal, and our latest partnership with FC Bayern Munich, have led to a significant return on investment, and we plan to build on them to attract additional tourists and sporting events to Rwanda. For example, Visit Rwanda's partnership with Arsenal and Paris Saint Germain generated over \$160 million last year in media value.

Rwanda generated US \$445 million in tourism revenues courtesy of the over one million visitors to Rwanda in 2022. This revenue represented a 90 percent recovery to pre-pandemic levels, as compared to a global average of 65 percent recovery according to the World Tourism Organization.

Species Reintroduction / Introduction: Following the success of the lion and rhino reintroductions, we are also looking to reintroduce the African grey parrot to Nyungwe National Park and the African Cheetah to Akagera National Park.

Q: The influx of international travellers opting to explore various regions across Africa has been on the rise. Why do you think this trend has picked up in recent years?

A: Across the globe, travellers are looking for authentic and meaningful travel experiences - this is especially true after Covid-19. They are also looking to visit destinations where sustainability and environmental protection are valued. Rwanda ticks the box for all these factors, and I believe this is why Rwanda is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after destinations for tourists.

Travellers to Rwanda are also guaranteed a safe and seamless experience, making it the perfect destination for those looking for a taste of Africa. Successful marketing campaigns like Visit Rwanda have helped people around the world to see a different view of Africa. This has changed perspectives and led to more tourists visiting African countries, especially Rwanda.

In this exclusive interview, we explore Rwanda's inventive strategies for promoting sustainable tourism, its ambitious vision for the future, and the valuable insights it gains from its global collaborations, notably its partnership with the renowned destination of Qatar. Peer into the journey as we embark on a deep dive into the intricate balance between development, conservation, and cultural exchange, and witness how Rwanda's exceptional accomplishments stand as a worldwide wellspring of inspiration.

Excerpts:

Q: How is Rwanda effectively balancing its tourism growth with environmental conservation and community engagement, and what valuable lessons can be drawn from Qatar's experience in this regard, given the increasing global importance of sustainable tourism?

A: Qatar has successfully positioned itself as a hub for global tourism, and has earned a reputation for being a world-class destination for travellers who want an authentic experience that enables them to learn about the history and culture of the country and region at large. In Rwanda, there is much we can learn from this effort, and we aim to also position ourselves as a hub in Africa.



Qatar ambassador hails strong, growing bilateral ties with Rwanda

HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Rwanda Misfer Faisal Mubarak Al Ajab Al Shahwani has hailed the enduring bond of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and Rwanda. In a recent interview with Gulf Times, Al Shahwani expressed his optimism regarding the potential for these relations to reach unprecedented heights.

A significant driving force behind this optimism is the imminent completion of the Bugesera Airport project, which marks the pinnacle of collaboration between Qatar and Rwanda. This ambitious undertaking signifies a major milestone in their partnership, with far-reaching implications for both nations. Slated for completion in 2026, the new facility will boast a 130,000-square-meter main terminal building capable of accommodating 8 million passengers a year, a figure expected to rise to over 14 million in the following decades.

With the Bugesera Airport on the horizon, Rwanda is poised to emerge as a thriving African hub. This strategic development will not only address the requirements of tourists but also meet the demands of business ventures and diverse industries.

"We seek to strengthen relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Rwanda through cooperation in several different fields, and among our priorities are development projects that benefit the government and people of the Republic of Rwanda. In addition, we seek to ensure that the areas of cooperation are diverse and long-term in order to achieve the most common goals possible between Qatar and Rwanda," Al Shahwani said.

Ambassador Al Shahwani also highlighted Qatar's

commitment to collaborating with Rwanda to mitigate the impact of climate change on the country's economic and environmental goals. This includes the use of green energy at the Bugesera Airport project, demonstrating a shared commitment to sustainable development.

"We strive to create opportunities for cooperation in this field that will reduce the impact of these remnants on the goals that Rwanda seeks to achieve economically, developmentally and environmentally. These three points represent part of our common priorities," Al Shahwani said.

In regard to cooperation in the field of sports, His Excellency said that a memorandum of understanding was signed between the government of the State of Qatar and the government of the Republic of Rwanda in 2019, aiming to exchange visits by sports delegations, as well as participation in meetings, conferences, lectures, seminars and forums, among several other goals in the field of sports.

The Ambassador emphasized the commitment to persist in the endeavours aimed at bolstering and enriching the ties between the two friendly nations, along with a strong determination to increase Qatari investments in Rwanda.

"As I mentioned previously, we seek to strengthen relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Rwanda in several different and diverse fields with common goals. We expect that by the year 2026, with the expected date of the opening of the new airport, this station will represent a new stage in which opportunities for cooperation will multiply, and this is what we seek to achieve. Our efforts will continue until that date," Al Shahwani concluded.



HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Rwanda Misfer Faisal Mubarak Al Ajab Al Shahwani (right) and Gulf Times Advertising and Marketing Manager Hassan Ali Anwari.

Qatar's successful mediation in Iran-US prisoner swap earns praise

Academics and political analysts agreed that the success of Qatari mediation in concluding the prisoner swap agreement between Iran and the US reflects the significant trust that Qatar enjoys in the region and the world, and underscores Qatar's diplomatic capabilities and its balanced relationships with various international parties.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), they emphasised that the successful mediation, which took place on Monday, represents a new achievement for Qatari diplomacy, which has recorded numerous successes in various files. They highlighted that Doha possesses many elements of soft power to address complex issues in the region.

Dr Mohamed al-Musfir, a political analyst and professor of political science at Qatar University, stated that this achievement is not the first-of-its-kind for Qatari diplomacy, as Qatar has succeeded in many files, including in Lebanon, Sudan, Afghanistan, Chad, and other countries, indicating its high diplomatic capabilities.

He noted that the release of detainees is not unprecedented, as Qatar has previously played a role in similar cases, stressing that the current release of detainees and frozen assets adds significant value to this successful mediation.

This success adds to Qatar's track record in mediations and encourages further efforts and it is not unlikely that Qatar may be asked to mediate in reaching understanding and in addressing contentious issues and crises in the Arab and Islamic world, Dr al-Musfir added.

He emphasised that Qatar's mediation is characterised by trust within the international

community, absolute neutrality, and adherence to a well-recognised political logic accepted by all parties, as Qatar's goal is to achieve international peace and security.

Dr Ahmed Mohamed Ghaith al-Kuwari, an expert in international relations, noted that Qatar's success in this matter is a continuation of its ongoing efforts to enhance regional security through diplomatic finesse, and recognised by the international community.

He stated that Qatar, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has been keen on establishing balanced relationships with regional and international countries. This approach is reflected in its role as a mediator in resolving numerous complex issues. Qatar, under its wise leadership, has succeeded in harnessing all its diplomatic tools and capabilities to promote peace and security worldwide and has become a platform for global peace, receiving praise and commendation from the international community, Dr al-Kuwari said.

Dr Bakeel al-Zandani, a professor of international affairs at Qatar University, stated that the success of Qatari mediation is a new diplomatic achievement for Qatar that reaffirms its ability to employ soft power in addressing many complex issues. Qatar has been consistent in using its diplomacy and soft power to resolve crises for over a quarter of a century, he explained.

He added that Qatar's successful efforts in concluding the prisoner exchange agreement between Iran and the US are a continuation of this approach.

This achievement serves as a new indicator that Qatar can take

on roles in other complex files, thanks to its capabilities, which are measured by the success of its policies and strategies on various fronts, he pointed out.

Dr al-Zandani emphasised that Qatari mediation is characterised by absolute transparency and complete neutrality as Qatar does not favour one side and maintains an equal distance from all parties. Qatar works patiently, steadfastly and sincerely employs its relationships with the region and the world to achieve the desired success.

Dr Ahmed Qasim Hussein, a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and the editor-in-chief of "Siyasat Arabiya" journal, said Qatar is considered one of the most influential countries in the international system when it comes to employing preventive diplomacy, mediation, and benign efforts as tools for settling regional and international disputes.

Dr Hussein emphasised Qatar's significant role in various international issues that have an impact on global peace and security, adding that Qatar has exerted considerable efforts to mitigate the political, economic, and humanitarian consequences of these issues in places like Palestine, Afghanistan, Sudan and Lebanon. He noted that the success of Qatar's mediation efforts in the detainee exchange between the US and Iran is another testament to its commitment to peace and stability.

Khaled Waleed Mahmoud, a Jordanian political writer and analyst, commended Qatar for its effective diplomacy, which played a crucial role in facilitating the swift and smooth exchange of prisoners between Tehran and Washington, as well as the transfer of frozen Iranian assets. (QNA)

Al-Khulaifi meets Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met on Monday with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs of Iran Dr Ali Bagheri, the chief Iranian negotiator for the return to the nuclear agreement, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting dealt with bilateral co-operation and ways to support and develop them, as well as the latest regional and international developments, particularly efforts related to negotiations to return to the joint action plan. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs also extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to Qatar for its successful efforts in mediating the US-Iranian agreement regarding the detainees. (QNA)

Amir 'favours dialogue as way to resolve international disputes'

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi has affirmed the keenness of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to express the pulse of the Arab and Islamic people and their aspirations for justice, security and stability, before the international community through his active participation in the meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its successive sessions.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE al-Khulaifi said that anyone who follows the Amir's speeches at the opening sessions of UNGA over the past years sees his focus and great interest on issues affecting the present and future of the Arab and Islamic nations, as well as developments on the regional and international arenas and other issues that affect the security, stability of the region and the world.

He added that the Amir's interest over the concerns of the Arab and Islamic people is evident in his constant renewal in his speeches before the General Assembly of Qatar's solidarity with the brotherly Palestinian people in their aspiration for justice, while emphasising that the arrogance of force will not conquer the resistance of the Palestinian people, and the Amir's emphasis on the right of the Palestinians to form their state and to stop settlement by the occupation forces.

Moreover, His Highness does not neglect to warn against some seeking to turn the page on the tragedy of the Syrian people without compensation and ignoring the great sacrifices made without a solution that achieves their aspirations for peace and stability.

The minister said the repeated

calls of the Amir, during his participation in UNGA meetings to complete the political process in Libya and agree on the constitutional basis for elections and to unify state institutions and his permanent aspirations to achieve national consensus in both Lebanon and Sudan, in addition to the emphasis on Qatar's permanent support to enhance stability in Iraq, as well as the emphasis on the lofty international principles of good neighbourliness, has shown respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, and preferring dialogue as a platform for resolving disputes.

He affirmed the focus of the Amir's speeches at successive sessions of the UNGA on reminding the international community of the need to protect civilians in Afghanistan, combat terrorism, respect human rights, women's rights, right of girls to education, and to achieve national reconciliation among the segments of the Afghan people, in addition to the rejection of the international treatment of the phenomenon of terrorism with double standards based on the identity of its perpetrators or linking it to a religion, race, civilisation, culture or society.

Regarding the efforts of Qatar to achieve international peace and security, HE Dr al-Khulaifi said that the State attaches the utmost importance to issues of international peace and security and the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) stipulates that Qatar will be an active and responsible member of the international community in the processes of establishing international peace and security, through political and economic initiatives and development and humanitarian aid, and that Qatar has the ability to manage its international relations, which it

derives from its focus on adapting to the changes occurring at the international level, which allows it to participate in effective diplomacy.

In this regard, he noted the mediations of Qatar in the files of Yemen, Lebanon, Darfur, Afghanistan, and Chad and its efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation between the Fatah and Hamas movements, in addition to its hosting of indirect talks between the US and Iran to revive the nuclear agreement and its role in restoring diplomatic relations between Somalia and Kenya, and pointed out that over the past years, Qatar has received many regional and international praise for the successes of its effective diplomacy as a reliable international partner in putting an end to a number of conflicts. This affirms that Qatar has a special place in terms of promoting international peace and security.

He pointed out that the UN Security Council (UNSC) praised, in one of its sessions, the role of Qatar and its sponsorship of the negotiations between the US and the Taliban in Doha, which culminated in the signing of the agreement to establish peace in Afghanistan in 2020, in addition to the message of the UN secretary-general that he addressed to Qatar on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Qatar's accession to the membership of the international organisation, which affirmed that over the past fifty years, Qatar has made multiple contributions in the fields of sustainable development, conflict prevention and resolution, combating terrorism, and work in the field of climate and health at the regional and global levels.

He added that Doha has become an important centre for diplomacy which facilitates some of the world's most complex conflicts. (QNA)

Qatar-US ties witnessing new leap: political analyst

Mohamed al-Satouhi, a writer and political analyst in the US, has affirmed that Qatari-American relations are witnessing a new leap in light of the developments taking place at various levels and the importance of Qatar's regional and global role.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Satouhi stated that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani was the first Arab and Gulf leader to visit the White House in an official visit after the current US administration took office, as President Joe Biden received him in early 2022. The visit witnessed the announcement that Qatar is a major non-Nato ally of the US, he added. He considered that granting Qatar the special exceptional status as a major non-Nato ally has implications for relations between the two countries, whether from a security, military or commercial and economic perspective.

He pointed out that this matter is not only related to Washington but also conveys a message to the US-allied nations about the nature of the strategic relation-

ship between the two countries. Al-Satouhi emphasised that Qatari-American relations are very strong at all levels, and classifying Qatar as a major non-Nato ally provides the greatest stability to the nature of this relationship.

He stressed that regardless of the results of the upcoming US elections, the nature of strong and stable relations between the US and Qatar will not be affected by any transformation that may occur in the White House. Al-Satouhi added that there are fixed fundamentals in US foreign policy, and this will not change Washington's view of Qatar, its importance, and its regional and global role. He noted that the world is witnessing geostrategic shifts.

In this context, he said Qatar has succeeded in asserting its position amid the political and economic challenges facing the world. He stressed that Qatar's importance has been greatly highlighted in its ability to maintain energy supplies and alleviate pressure, especially on European countries affected by the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war. (QNA)

Qatar playing active role within the UN community

The spokesperson for the secretary-general of the UN Stephane Dujarric has affirmed that the partnership and co-operation between the UN and Qatar is highly productive and deep.

He said Qatar plays a very active role within the UN community. Qatar not only hosts UN offices within its borders but also actively engages in diplomatic efforts. Moreover, Qatar has a consistent track record of fostering international co-operation and has made substantial contributions across multiple domains.

Dujarric also highlighted, in an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), that Qatar is one of the largest donors and supporters of UN agencies. He added that its assistance has a positive impact on all those in need and who the UN seeks to assist. In this regard, he noted that the UN handles about half of the humanitarian aid that is distributed worldwide,

and it would not be possible without the active participation and voluntary contributions like those provided by Qatar.

In reference to the participation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in UN meetings, the UN spokesperson emphasised the importance of every member state, out of the 193 in the UN, being represented at the highest level in the General Assembly. This representation signifies Qatar's commitment to the work of the General Assembly and the actions of the UN, as well as its support for diverse participation, which is strengthened when member states are actively involved.

Regarding Qatar's role in contributing to global peace and its significant efforts in facilitating diplomatic relations and geographical connectivity, Dujarric pointed out that HE Qatar's Permanent Representative to the

UN Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, played a key role in the political declaration on Sustainable Development Goals. He anticipated positive developments in the adoption of this declaration, demonstrating Qatar's collaborative efforts, alongside Ireland, the other co-facilitator.

Qatar is one of the largest donors and supporters of UN agencies

Another noteworthy contribution Qatar made was hosting talks concerning Afghanistan, which involved discussions between the Taliban and the international community. This diplomatic effort showcased Qatar's diplomatic prowess and its ability to leverage its geographic location to facilitate dialogue in the aftermath of approximately two

decades of conflict in Afghanistan.

When addressing the necessity of finding effective solutions to the world's crises, the UN spokesperson conveyed his belief that there is no alternative. He emphasised that the present time is marked by significant uncertainty and multipolarity, with different nations pursuing diverse directions. This raises concerns about potential divisions among various groups of nations. The UN spokesperson stressed that the world cannot ignore the challenges it faces, including climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. He asserted that member states and leaders must be capable of making compromises and reaching agreements to navigate the way forward.

With regard to the work of the UN Security Council, it was noted that significant divisions within the council have hindered its effectiveness. Ongoing ten-

sions among some of the world's most powerful nations have caused operational challenges. In this context, it was emphasised that countries like Qatar can play a pivotal role in bridging gaps and bringing people together.

The UN spokesperson emphasised the importance of the forthcoming call by the Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, during the General Assembly meetings. The secretary-general is expected to call for efforts to prevent destruction and loss of life in many parts of the world. He warned about the critical times the world is going through and underscored the significance and role of international institutions like the UN.

Regarding the effectiveness of these institutions, it was suggested that they need to be more representative of the current world. The UN, its Security Council, and international financial institutions like the World

Bank and the International Monetary Fund were established after World War II when many current member states did not exist or were not yet independent. Consequently, there is a need for deep reform of the international system, requiring agreement among member states.

On the issue of the climate crisis, the spokesperson for the UN secretary-general stressed the necessity of comprehensive solutions to the climate crisis, which poses a threat to humanity. He highlighted the importance of reducing carbon emissions and the need to collaborate with the private sector.

While awareness of climate issues has grown worldwide, there is often a lack of political courage at the leadership level to take significant action.

While challenges persist at the national level, there are places where decisions can only be made at the national level. (QNA)

QNL, British Council hold literacy programme for talabat riders

Qatar National Library (QNL), in partnership with the British Council Qatar, recently hosted an adult literacy programme aimed at enhancing the English literacy skills of talabat riders. Led by a seasoned trainer from the British Council Qatar, a group of 25 talabat riders underwent a specialised literacy programme yesterday at QNL. By the end of the session, participants received membership cards and learned how to continue their learning journey beyond the literacy programme. In a press statement, Abeer al-Kuwari, director of Research and Learning at QNL, said: "We believe that knowledge should be within everyone's reach. Every partnership we undertake and every programme we launch aims to inspire and support our community. As we look to the future, the Library stands not just as a repository of books, but as a beacon for lifelong learners in Qatar." Dr Waseem Kotoub, country director of the British Council in Qatar, said: "This collaboration with Qatar National Library



underscores our collective commitment to empowering individuals with the essential skills they need for personal and professional growth." Francisco Miguel Condeco Caetano De Sousa, managing director of talabat, said: "We are grateful to our partners from the

British Council and Qatar National Library for working with us to provide adult literacy sessions which will undoubtedly foster progress in riders' personal and professional growth." Lynne M Fraser, senior English writing specialist at QNL, said: "By contributing



to the growth and success of talabat riders, we hope to widely demonstrate the tremendous value that lifelong learning can offer and the role of the library in making such opportunities accessible to the wider community." talabat rider Kasagga Frank said: "The

workshop has helped me greatly in understanding the best ways to communicate with customers. It has been very helpful." An additional group of 25 talabat riders will be hosted at QNL tomorrow for a similar experience.



Qatar Arabic Language Association holds short story forum at Katara

The Qatar Arabic Language Association held the first symposium of the short story forum at the Cultural Village Foundation - Katara, with the participation of several writers and enthusiasts.

The forum, which is scheduled to be held monthly by the association, aims to artistically analyse the linguistic landscape in the short story, identify the artistic changes that have occurred in the language in the narrative text, as well as determine the future of linguistic development in the structure of the Arabic sentence within the artistic text.

"The importance of holding this forum comes from it being a literary and linguistic space in which participants can understand the nature of the artistic and literary language through the short story"

During the forum's first symposium, critic Dr Hassan Rashid spoke on the future of the short story in Qatar, professor of Literature and Criticism at Qatar University Dr Murad Mabrouk discussed the short story and forms of interactive writing, while writer Jamal Fayeze presented the artistic features of the short story.

Questions raised in the forum included the artistic features of the language of storytelling, the changes that have occurred in the Arabic language and its artistic levels in the short story, in addition to addressing the artistic future of the language in light of information revolution and artificial intelligence.

Chairperson of the board of directors of the Qatar Arabic Language Association Dr Maryam al-Nuaimi said that choosing the topic of the forum was aimed at strengthening the language not just for writing but also an artistic language that requires a set of characteristics, structures and metaphorical levels that change according to the specific experience.

Dr al-Nuaimi added that the importance of holding this forum comes from it being a literary and linguistic space in which participants can understand the nature of the artistic and literary language through the short story.

The forum also has a role in being a place for the association and those interested in Arabic to overview the artistic language and the multiple developments it went through, thus achieving the Qatar Arabic Language Association's goal of dissecting the language, its nature and its components, she explained. (QNA)

Katara exhibition highlights growing Qatar-China ties

The Cultural Village Foundation - Katara has opened a photo exhibition at Katara Building 47 titled "Welcome Beijing" in co-operation with the Chinese embassy in Doha.

The exhibition coincides with the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Qatar. It includes about 80 photographs, which introduce the viewers to Beijing's culture, the vitality of its renaissance and the charm of its civilisation.

Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara, said that the exhibition reflects the common and permanent ambition to increase communication, co-operation and cultural exchange between Qatar and China.



He also stressed the role of art in the cultural understanding between people and strengthening ties.

"The photos in the exhibition have a great impact in spreading

Beijing's beauty, discovering its nature and spreading China's history and its ancient civilisation," Prof al-Sulaiti added.

He pointed out that this exhibition reaffirms the deep and strong

relations between Qatar and China and their close relations which further enhances cultural co-operation so that diverse and distinctive cultural events can constantly be held.

Meanwhile, charge d'affaires Chen Yue said the exhibition reflects the co-operation between Katara and the Chinese embassy.

He also highly appreciated the strategic partnership between the two friendly countries and expressed his hopes that the Chinese-Qatari relations will have more fruitful outcomes in the future.

Yue pointed out that co-operation and cultural exchange between Doha and Beijing has become a model to be followed in building relations and cultural ties between countries. - QNA

Doha Debates hosts The Negotiators podcast for third season

The podcast launched yesterday, invites listeners inside the room where a pivotal negotiation has taken place to hear a gripping play-by-play directly from one of its key players

Season three of *The Negotiators* podcast from Doha Debates explores how resolution depends on a careful process of give-and-take between expert negotiators, usually behind closed doors.

The podcast launched yesterday, invites listeners inside the room where a pivotal negotiation has taken place to hear a gripping play-by-play directly from one of its key players. The podcast is collaboration between Qatar Foundation's Doha Debates and global affairs publication Foreign Policy.

Hosted by Foreign Policy deputy editor, Jenn Williams, former senior foreign editor at Vox, "The Negotiators" features mediators, diplomats and troubleshooters describing how they navigated high-stakes conflicts, including political crises, strikes, gang violence and hostage situations.

The third season begins with the 25th anniversary of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which effectively ended the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Tony Blair's chief negotiator Jonathan Powell describes how this historic event unfolded.

Other episodes in season three of *The Negotiators* include:

A behind-the-scenes look at the 1992 Watts Truce with Aqeela Sherif, who drew on the 1949 armistice agreement between

Egypt and Israel (which ended the Arab-Israeli war) to broker a peace agreement between rival gangs in the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots.

Secretary-General for the Global Centre for Pluralism Meredith Preston McGhie describing how Kofi Annan helped to end the 2008 Kenyan election crisis and avert a civil war.



"We're thrilled to bring The Negotiators back for its third season and to spotlight the master problem-solvers behind some of the world's most critical negotiations"

An interview with Cindy Parlow Cone, head of the US Soccer Federation, who talks about securing an historic equal pay deal for the US women's national team in 2022.

Amjad Atallah, managing director of Doha Debates, said: "We're thrilled to bring *The Negotiators* back for its third season and to spotlight the master problem-solvers behind some of the world's most critical negotiations."

Dan Ephron, executive editor for podcasts at Foreign Policy, added: "The episodes on this podcast cover a range of topics, from high diplomacy to hostage ordeals to talks between rival gangs trying to bring peace."

Innovative artwork showcased at 'The Present: The Future of the Past' exhibition

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Charlene Kasdorf, an accomplished illustrator and advocate for visual literacy, has taken a unique approach to her participation in the Fire Station: Artist in Residence (AIR) programme.

Her latest artwork, inspired by archival elements and aesthetics from children's books in the region, aims to deconstruct and repurpose them, allowing individuals of all ages to create new and imaginative characters.

"I've been an illustrator in Qatar for 11 years, and for so long I was looking for inspiration from children's books and illustrations. Most of the elements are coming from the library at the Liwan Art and Design Labs of Qatar Museums (QM)," Kasdorf said.

The Fire Station, where the residency is based, played a crucial role in enabling Kasdorf to bring her vision to life. Her work is on display at the "The Present: The Future of the Past" exhibition, along with 30 other alumni from QM's AIR programme.

Featuring works stemming from artists' residencies, which cover 2021-2022 (AIR 6) and 2022-2023 (AIR 7), the exhibition offers visitors a glimpse into the inner workings of artists' studios and their unique approaches.

"I started maybe a year and a bit ago, and it grew. The Fire Station really enabled me to do something unexpected with it. I could make stamps out of it because they have a fabrications lab, and that's 3D, which is not my area of expertise. But they helped me make stamps and do three-dimensional work, and it was fun," she explained.

The Artist in Residence programme provided Kasdorf with a supportive environment that goes beyond her own abilities.

It is learnt that the diverse range of artworks on display at the Fire Station highlight how the AIR programme consistently promotes artists to embrace their uniqueness and explore uncharted territories. This entails thinking beyond conventional boundaries, venturing into unfamiliar mediums, experimenting with



Charlene Kasdorf's work engages visitors.



Charlene Kasdorf latest artwork, inspired by archival elements and aesthetics from children's books in the region, aims to deconstruct and repurpose them, allowing individuals of all ages to create new and imaginative characters.

novel materials, and engaging with elements they may have never previously encountered.



Charlene Kasdorf at the exhibition, showcasing her unique work. PICTURES: Thajudheen

"It enables you to do things past your own ability because you have this support system from the fab lab, the wood shop, which I used both extensively and unexpectedly. It wasn't in my plan; it was unexpected, and they were really nice to work with, generous, and easy," she said.

Originally from Canada, Kasdorf has called Doha her home for 11 years and has lived internationally for 20. Her diverse background in graphic design, illustration, fine art, and international education culminated in a master's degree with distinction in Museum and Gallery Practice from UCL Qatar in 2020.

In her website, Kasdorf said her passion for visual literacy and creativity led her to collaborate with museums, institutions, and publishers in Qatar, focusing on research-driven picture books. Additionally, she has shared her knowledge through classes and workshops.

In 2021, she launched a participatory drawing initiative, encouraging spontaneous character sketching through platforms like sketchy-karakters.com and @sketchykarakters.



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GULF TIMES

Cost of occupation: How Israel stifles Palestinian economy

The devastating Israeli occupation for decades has brought down the Palestinian economy to its knees. Israel controls every access point, which enables it to oversee all imports and exports. It creates bureaucratic hurdles that Palestinians say kill entrepreneurship.

Israel's restrictions and rising fiscal constraints in the Palestinian territories are severely impacting the economic conditions of Palestinians and hindering their access to timely life-saving healthcare, the World Bank said on Monday.

Poverty in the Palestinian territories is on the rise, with one out of four Palestinians living below the poverty line.

Israel's restrictions on movement and trade in the occupied West Bank, the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and the divide between the two Palestinian territories are among several factors that had put the Palestinian economy at high risk, according to the World Bank.

The restrictions, including "a lengthy, bureaucratic regime of permits", often makes it hard to provide timely life-saving healthcare to Palestinians, Stefan Emblad, the World Bank's director for the West Bank and Gaza, said.

Thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip cross annually into Israel for medical treatment unavailable in the impoverished Palestinian territories.

Israel's restrictions stifle much of Palestinian economic life.

Palestinian economic growth is expected to soften in 2023, the World Bank said in May.

While the economy had continued to rebound at a rate of 4% in 2022, this was driven by the ongoing recovery of private consumption as Covid-19 restrictions eased.

Poverty in the Palestinian territories is on the rise, with one out of four Palestinians living below the poverty line

accounts, and reducing unemployment in a meaningful manner will all require significantly higher growth rates, Emblad said in the May report.

While the Palestinian Authority (PA) continues to try to cover the fiscal gap, the large and growing stock of arrears to the private sector, the pension fund, and public employees pose risks to long-term macroeconomic stability.

The exposure of the banking sector to the public sector remains high, which requires continued monitoring by the authorities.

"The Palestinian Authority should continue to advance priority reforms to increase revenues, strengthen debt management, and improve fiscal sustainability. However, the PA cannot do it alone. Donor support and cooperation by the Government of Israel are vital to achieve fiscal consolidation and put the economy on a more solid footing," Emblad said.

The reform efforts should continue to tackle the size of the wage bill and the generous public pension system, as well as increase the efficiency of public expenditure, notably by better targeting transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable, he added.

Israel's all-encompassing stranglehold over the Palestine territories explains the plight of an estimated 6mn people.

The Palestinian economy is dependent on foreign aid and affected by Israel, which, citing security concerns, enforces travel restrictions in the occupied West Bank.

Overall, the Palestinian economy has been stagnating for the past five years, Emblad said, adding it was not expected to improve unless policies on the ground change.

"Given population growth trends, income per capita is thus expected to stagnate," the World Bank said.

The restrictions in the West Bank and the near-blockade imposed on Gaza remain among the most important obstacles to stability, growth and private sector development in the Palestinian territories as cited by previous World Bank reports.

If not eased or lifted, the Palestinian economy is expected to continue operating well below its potential.



Mexico, Qatar: Building for a common future



Guillermo Ordorica R
Ambassador of Mexico

This year, Mexican people celebrate with joy the 213th anniversary of the beginning of our National Independence Movement. It is an outstanding date for all Mexicans, which evokes the effort and heroism of the women and men who, between 1810 and 1821, fought for the country's freedom and sovereignty. It was the beginning of the struggle for transforming Mexico into a nation governed by the rule of law and committed to social justice and friendly relations with the international community.

Born as the first truly globalised country, in the 16th century Mexico became the axis of connectivity between north, south, east, and west. Making the most of this condition, along with its history, the country has strongly contributed to universal systems of knowledge and its society has participated in a universal dialogue, in which all the peoples are called to learn from each other. Proud of its history and cultural identity, modern Mexico is known as a responsible actor in the world arena, which benefits from its privileged geographical location and competitive logistic infrastructure, its condition as partner in free trade agreements with 50 countries, and its membership in

different multilateral organisations. Mexico's economy is stable and successful, offering the conditions for making the country the number one exporter in Latin America. With 49 customs in borderlines, internals and maritime; 58 ports and terminals in the Pacific Ocean coasts; 59 in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean; and 15 road corridors, industries have access to main trade destinations in a shorter average time and with less interruptions in the value chain.

The agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (T-MEC), represents modern business and trade opportunities in North America and defines innovative trade rules to face the challenges for the 21st century in terms of environmental protection, labour market regulation, gender equality promotion, among many others. As the 9th foreign direct investment recipient in the world, Mexico presents itself as an attractive partner that is ready to create favourable ecosystems for innovative enterprises.

Having in mind the advantages that the country offers as an international partner and as a domestic market with growing purchasing power, there is no doubt that Mexico and Qatar can continue strengthening their bonds and adding value to their exchanges in a variety of domains. Since 1975, when the two nations established diplomatic relations, the agenda has been steadily growing and offers outstanding opportunities to each other. With this in mind, we are working to deepen co-operation in fields of strategic importance. Simultaneously, we are improving the already promising political dialogue and reinforcing our bonds through instruments designed for serving as the best platforms for our exchanges.

We are proud of the course events are taking in the relation with Qatar and we will continue working enthusiastically to create the better conditions for closer ties between our peoples and governments. Distant in geography, Mexico and Qatar's societies are closer every day. Just as

an example, the two countries enjoyed the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which offered the opportunity for our nationals to meet and know each other better. This amazing sports event will always be remembered in my country, due to the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the numerous Mexicans that travelled to Doha to attend the World Cup.

During 2023, the embassy fostered different initiatives, among others, we presented important art exhibitions and performances that were enjoyed by the people of Qatar. At the moment, we have several projects in progress in a variety of fields, including cooperation in higher education, trade, investment, and culture. Of special importance is the confirmation of the participation of Mexico in the Expo 2023 Doha, an event that will offer the opportunity to showcase its commitment to sustainability and biodiversity. We are certain that Expo Doha will increase mutual knowledge regarding desertification and other environmental challenges that are already being addressed by their governments, NGOs, scholars, specialists, business people, and opinion leaders, among other actors. Similarly, at this year's Qatar Travel Mart, Mexico will have the chance to present itself as one of the top tourist destinations, which benefits from world-class infrastructure and readiness to make business with Qatar in the hospitality industry.

In an interdependent world, our countries have to face common challenges with a spirit of co-operation, openness, and solidarity. I am convinced that Mexico and Qatar have a promising future. With Qatar, a leading country in the Middle East and the world, Mexico will continue working for building peace, and more stable and resilient economies. On this 213th anniversary of the beginning of its National Independence Movement, the people and government of Mexico are ready to continue embracing Qatar for the betterment of our shared world.

EU, Italy talk tough on migration but any action won't be easy

By Alvise Armellini
Rome

Three years ago, when EU naval mission "Sophia" was shut down after rescuing 45,000 migrants in the central Mediterranean, Italian opposition leader Giorgia Meloni was jubilant. Now, as prime minister, she wants to bring it back.

But this time she is calling for the European Union ships to focus on blocking migrant departures from North Africa rather than saving lives at sea, something experts on migration and international law say is unfeasible.

Meloni's change of tack comes after seeing her right-wing government's election promises to stop sea arrivals from North Africa undercut by landings on the island of Lampedusa.

Well over 10,000 migrants reached the Italian island — whose permanent population is about 6,000 — last week.

Lampedusa sits in the Mediterranean between Tunisia, Malta and the larger Italian island of Sicily and is a first port of call for many migrants seeking to reach the EU. "It (the Sophia mission) is exactly the proposal I intend to bring to the next European Council when we talk about immigration," Meloni said in a television interview on Sunday, hours after visiting Lampedusa with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"Sophia" like previous EU and Italian naval missions, was opposed by Meloni and other right-

wing politicians because they said it encouraged migrants to sail to Europe, often on flimsy boats, in the likelihood they would be rescued.

Critics say her idea of redeploying the ships to block departures is against the law and impracticable.

"Trying to put together a naval blockade would be an illegal, unthinkable act of war ... that would have devastating effects," said Ferruccio Pastore, head of the International and European Forum for Research on Immigration (Fieri).

Pushing back boats would violate international asylum rules and the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as being operationally dangerous, Pastore said, evoking a precedent involving Italy and Albania. In 1997, an Italian navy ship enforcing a naval blockade that Rome and Tirana had agreed on to stem migration across the Adriatic Sea collided with a migrant boat. The shipwreck killed 81 people.

Reviving "Sophia" would also raise the issue of where to send rescued migrants. In 2020, it was discontinued as other EU nations balked at Italian requests to have them redistributed around the bloc.

"European solidarity meaning 'let's share the burden' is not going to work at least until (May's) European (Parliament) elections and I think it won't work even afterwards," Pastore said, referring to increased partisanship during campaigning. Signs of this have emerged in recent weeks, with France and Austria stepping up border controls to prevent migrants crossing over from Italy.

Rome is continuing to violate the Dublin accord stemming from the 1990s intended to ensure asylum seekers do not leave the EU country they first arrive in, a senior German official told Reuters, asking not to be named.

Italy says it is so overwhelmed by new arrivals that it is unable to respect the Dublin rules.

In Lampedusa, von der Leyen stopped short of endorsing Meloni's naval blockade plan, saying only that she supported "exploring options to expand existing naval missions in the Mediterranean or to work on new ones."

She presented a "10-point action plan" that mostly consisted of an offer of more help for Italy from existing EU policy tools and a pledge to speed up an EU-Tunisia deal aimed at curbing migration, which is not yet operational.

Other EU states have not commented publicly on the idea of a naval blockade, which Italy says would also need the consent of North African states. But Germany is against it, according to diplomatic sources in Brussels.

"It seems to me that there are few new ideas, a lot of rhetoric, a lot of anxiety, a lot of dramatisation," Maurizio Ambrosini, Professor of Sociology of Migration at the University of Milan, said about the latest EU and Italian proposals.

Meloni's cabinet on Monday adopted measures to build more detention centres for migrants with no legal right to remain in Italy and lengthen the maximum time they can be held awaiting repatriation to 18 months, from three months. — Reuters

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Amir at UN calls for ending injustice in accordance with international law

■ Says unacceptable for Palestinians to remain prisoners of the Israeli settler occupation arbitrariness

QNA
New York

Following is the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening session of the 78th UN General Assembly (UNGA), which was held yesterday in New York.

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful Your Excellency the President of the General Assembly, Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the UN, Honourable Audience, May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

At the outset, I congratulate His Excellency Mr Dennis Francis on assuming the presidency of the 78th Session of the General Assembly, wishing him success, also I express my appreciation to His Excellency Mr Csaba Korosi for his efforts in presiding over the 77th Session. I commend the efforts made by His Excellency Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, and the personnel of the UN for fulfilling its noble goals.

Allow me first of all to offer my sincere condolences to His Majesty King Mohamed VI and to the brotherly Moroccan people for the victims of the devastating earthquake. I also extend my condolences to the government and people of the brotherly state of Libya for the victims of the floods there. We ask Almighty God for a speedy recovery for the injured and that the deceased be filled with His mercy. I affirm our full solidarity with them in this tragedy.

Mr President, God has bestowed a favour on us by living in an era of unprecedented accelerating progress, in which an innovative spirit prevails in the fields of medicine, technology and science in general, and wherein the human ability of exploiting the resources enabling the provision of a decent life for all of humanity has multiplied. The sequent innovations have brought about productivity, prosperity, and a level of communication between humans in a way close to realising science fiction visions.

Although this evolution has enabled us to realise many wishes, yet it has come at a cost for the people of the world, our planet and its resources. The average life expectancy and standard of living for the majority of humanity have risen, and this has clearly manifested itself in population growth. Nevertheless, poverty and unemployment rates have also increased, and there is a growing awareness of the lack of justice in wealth distribution, in addition to the dire consequences on the environment.

In areas such as genetics and artificial intelligence, the possibilities for realising the well-being of all humanity are increasing. But the gap between possibility and reality is also widening. However, as these possibilities are unfolding in the same era, there are peoples who are grappling with child labour, starvation, unemployment, and civil wars, while developed countries guard their borders against the influx of refugees fleeing this suffering, as if the peoples on earth are living in two different eras.

The rapid technical development and the growing reliance on it opens up unprecedented prospects for humanity to develop for the better. Undoubtedly, science and technology are crucial for increasing productivity and improving human life quality.

But celebrating the means without responsible thinking about the ends for which they are used has led to major disasters such as using nuclear weapons, conducting dangerous experiments on humans, and the genocide in concentration camps.

It is incumbent on us to keep pace with the scientific and technical development and encourage it in our countries, and that barriers between countries in this field must be removed. At the same time, it is not plausible to ignore the worsening risks in terms of reality falsification, invasion of personal privacy, educational process disruption by facilitating plagiarism, and spiralling effect of disinformation and human deception plots.

Therefore, in addition to the necessity of co-operation and investment in developing these technologies, we reiterate the call for unifying the efforts to prevent the misuse of cyberspace and regulate this vital aspect on the basis of the rules of international law.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addressing the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday.

In this context, the "Web Summit 2024" will take place in Doha. The convening of this event constitutes an important opportunity to review development in the field of technology, and create new co-operation opportunities in the realm of technology for the benefit of all humanity. This is an occasion to welcome everyone to Doha.

Mr President, we must not forget that there are peoples around the world, especially in our region, who are absorbed by the present tragedies, and who consider their involvement in the issues which I have mentioned as a sort of luxury. If we truthfully constitute an international community, and not a merely diverse entities, it must be our duty to strive towards ending the injustice afflicting them, at least in accordance with what is required by the resolutions of this body, and entailed by interna-

"In Qatar, we have had a dream that our country would be one of the prosperous nations whose people would enjoy well-being and prosperity, and we invested decades of planning and comprehensive development work to make this dream come true. We have achieved a lot, thanks to God, and the solidarity of everyone in Qatar"

tional law. It is not acceptable for the Palestinian people to remain prisoners of the Israeli settler occupation arbitrariness, and the rejection of any just political solution in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy by successive Israeli governments. You have to bear in mind that the failure of the international organisation to take actions against the occupation provided and continues to provide the opportunity for Israel to undermine the foundations of the two-state solution by means of settlement expansion until the occupation has brazenly taken the form of an apartheid regime in the broad daylight of the twenty-first century. Even some of Israel's close friends have taken notice of this. Israel also responds to Arab peace and normalisation initiatives with more nationalist and ultra-orthodox intransigence and extremism that is reflected in government coalitions and further settlement expansion, in addition to the Judaisation of Jerusalem, attacks on holy sites, besides using heavy-handed means against those languishing under the occupation, and tightening the noose on the Gaza Strip.

Qatar provides political, humanitarian and development support to the brotherly Palestinian people and contributes towards rebuilding the Gaza Strip which is reeling under the siege, in addition to its continuous contribution to UNRWA funds. It also continues its adherence to the firm stance regarding the fairness of this cause, which has become a credibility test for world politicians in relation to

the Middle East region.

In the case of Syria, it is not permissible to condone the gross injustice that has befallen the brotherly Syrian people as if it is destiny. The crisis is still awaiting a comprehensive settlement through a political process leading to a political transition, in accordance with the Geneva Declaration-1 and the Security Council Resolution 2254, in a way that meets the Syrian people's aspirations while maintaining Syria's integrity, sovereignty and independence.

It is regrettable to witness the outbreak of violence in Sudan this year, which has left a dire impact on the brotherly Sudanese people and exacerbated refugee crisis.

We condemn the crimes perpetrated against civilians in the capital Khartoum and the Darfur region, and we call for holding perpetrators to account. We also

call for cessation of fighting, resort to the voice of reason, and spare civilians the consequences of fighting. We affirm our support for all regional and international efforts to facilitate reaching a ceasefire and hold a dialogue between the Sudanese political forces about the future of Sudan, with only one army charged with protecting rather than ruling the country.

In brotherly Lebanon, where danger hangs over the state's institutions, we stress the need for finding a sustainable solution to the political vacuum, introducing mechanisms that thwart its recurrence, and forming a government capable of addressing the aspirations of the Lebanese people and getting them out of their economic and developmental crises. The prolonged suffering of this brotherly people, caused by political and personal calculations, is regrettable.

In Yemen, we call for the crisis to be resolved in accordance with the resolutions of the National Dialogue, the Gulf Initiative, and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Concerning the Libyan issue, we reiterate our unwavering support for the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, and his efforts to achieve tangible results to resolve Libyan crisis.

It is clear that the solution in all sisterly countries that I have mentioned lies in reaching consensus on state's entity and citizenship.

Regarding the situation in Afghanistan, we continue to co-

ordinate international efforts and facilitate dialogue between the UN, the countries concerned, and the caretaker government of Afghanistan to ensure compliance with the Doha Agreement, in a way that ensures non-recurrence of past mistakes, in order to prevent Afghanistan from sliding into a difficult-to-manage humanitarian crisis or becoming a haven for terrorist individuals and groups and to ensure that the Afghan people receive the international support and assistance they need, and enjoy human rights, particularly minority rights and women's rights in education and work.

In the context of talking about our region, we reiterate our appreciation of the detente witnessed this year, as represented by constructive dialogue and re-establishment of ties between the sisterly countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Turkiye.

Mr President, the war in Europe drags on. Along with Russia and Ukraine, it has consumed the entire Europe, and has been affecting the whole world in vital areas such as energy and food.

In the absence of a prospect for a permanent political solution, and due to the ability to keep the war raging indefinitely by major international blocs engaging directly or indirectly in the war, a long-term truce has become the most looked for aspiration by people in Europe and all over the world. However, this cannot be the basis for long-term stability. Based on the harm that befallen the peoples of the two countries and the peoples of the world, and because this status quo cannot be accepted, we reiterate our call on all parties to comply with the UN Charter and the international law, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and resort to a radical peaceful solution that is based on these principles.

Mr President, our region is awash with tremendous potentials and opportunities, and our peoples are tolerant, humane and peace-loving, a fact that has been distorted by stereotypes and preconceptions.

During the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, there was an opportunity for interaction between peoples, and for the world to see our people as they are, to learn about some aspects of our culture and values, besides Qatar's stature as a global destination and nexus between East and West, and we emphasised the role that sport plays in building bridges of communication and rapprochement between peoples and cultures. I hope that we have contributed, through this tournament, to breaking the stereotypes, and presented a new exciting and safe tournaments' formula to the world.

In Qatar, we have had a dream that our country would be one of the prosperous nations whose people would enjoy well-being and prosperity, and we invested decades of planning and comprehen-

sive development work to make this dream come true. We have achieved a lot, thanks to God, and the solidarity of everyone in Qatar.

While investing in liquefied gas was a leverage to realise this dream, this investment has enabled us to play an important role in addressing the energy challenge around the world with a realistic vision that takes into account the world needs for a diverse mix of different energy sources by using the highest levels of advanced technology which is, at the same time, environmentally friendly.

We realise that energy export imposes obligations on us, as a reliable partner, towards the world countries, while at the same time, imposes obligations on us towards our people and the future generations as well. Hence, Qatar continues to develop its sovereign fund and diversify the sources of its income, including the investment

"We are pleased that the State of Qatar is once again playing a leading role in major debates under the umbrella of the UN, the most recent of which is working with Ireland to facilitate government negotiations on the political declaration adopted by the Sustainable Development Goals Summit"

in clean energy. The State of Qatar pursues environmentally-friendly policies and supports various projects for protection in this respect. It is in this context that we are going to host the Qatar Horticultural Expo next month.

The responsibility also prompts the state to strengthen its role in providing humanitarian aid, exerting mediation efforts and resolving conflicts that affect our region.

The path to resolve conflicts through peaceful means is a long and strenuous path, but it is less costly than wars, and our commitment to continue our efforts in facilitating and making peace is a firm commitment deeply rooted in the core of our foreign policy.

Mr President, we affirm that we are proud of our partnership with the international organisation, and there is no clearer evidence of this than the opening of the "UN House", which includes twelve UN offices, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the UN last March in Doha until now.

In March of this year, my country hosted the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which is considered one of the most prominent international forums. It galvanised efforts to achieve the ambitious goals of the Doha Action Programme for the benefit of the least developed countries for the decade 2022-2031. While we affirm that the State of Qatar is a major and active partner in the endeavours to respond to the priorities and needs of these countries, we welcome the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held yesterday. We are pleased that the State of Qatar is once again play-

ing a leading role in major debates under the umbrella of the UN, the most recent of which is working with Ireland to facilitate government negotiations on the political declaration adopted by the Sustainable Development Goals Summit yesterday.

We believe that co-operation in these areas contributes to stem the waves of refugees, which have become a real problem for Europe as well as for African and Asian countries.

Allow me to pinpoint the necessity for combating racism and campaigns of incitement against entire peoples, religions, and civilisations. On this occasion, I would say to my Muslim brethren that it is implausible for us to get distracted by an idiot or a biased person whenever it occurs to him to provoke us by burning the Holy Qur'an or by other forms of triviality. The Qur'an is too Holy to be

desecrated by a witless person. God Almighty said: "Embrace forgiveness and enjoin what is right and turn away from the ignorant." At the same time, I would say to all those who seek to justify these hideous acts as freedom of expression: compromising the sanctity of others deliberately should not be seen as an example of the freedom of expression.

In conclusion, it is the duty of leaders to empower their people with the means to live in peace and security and to look forward to a better future for their posterity. There are obstacles at the level of the international community, mainly represented in the failure to subject contradictions and competition between major countries on transient issues to minimum binding principles owing to the variations in governance systems. These issues which concern all of humanity include climate change, environmental matters in general, poverty, and the blatant injustice represented by occupation, racism, and war crimes.

This is the consensus that must take place here in this international organisation, so as to avoid getting bogged down in details, and so as to safeguard the future of entire peoples from loss due to the unwillingness of these countries to cooperate in implementing international law.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

(HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and a number of members of the official delegation were in attendance.) (QNA)

Amir chairs Qatar's delegation at 78th UNGA opening session



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday chaired Qatar's delegation at the opening session of the 78th UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The session was attended by heads of state and government and heads of delegations and governmental and non-governmental organisations. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani delivered a speech at the session. (QNA)

UNGA president: War, climate change, food and energy crises impact lives, well-being of billions of people

President of the 78th session of UN General Assembly Dennis Francis said yesterday that the General Assembly Hall and rostrum stand as a living testament to multilateralism and to the extraordinary role and compelling influence of the UN over the 75 years of its existence.

In his inaugural speech before the 78th session of UN General Assembly, Francis touched on challenges facing the world, including wars, climate change, debts, food and energy crises, as well as famine, pointing out that these crises are directly impacting the lives and well-being of billions of people around the world.

He said that horrendous war has unleashed untold suffering and destroyed countless families, communities, and lives.

"Its cascading impacts have also spooked many developing countries – in far-flung corners of the globe – unleashing acute shortages of essential commodities, triggering

food insecurity and volatility in energy prices. It has even revived the unconscionable threat of nuclear warfare," Francis added.

He urged world leaders who gathered in the UN assembly yesterday to listen, learn, and rebuild trust and reignite global solidarity, in addition to finding common ground to address the challenges the world faces.

"Allow me to pause here and reiterate my deepest condolences to the governments and peoples of Morocco and Libya. The twin disasters of earthquakes and flooding have left thousands dead and untold more suffering. It is my sincere hope that resources and relief can be expedited to support all those who now find themselves in desperate need," he said.

As a citizen of a climate-vulnerable region, Francis urged Member States to recognise the continued and escalating impacts of climate change – and to deliver real, transformative results. (QNA)

Amir meets UN chief and UNGA president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the UN headquarters in New York. The meeting discussed a range of regional and international developments at the forefront of which is the situation in the Middle East. They also discussed co-operation relations between the State of Qatar and the UN. In this regard, the secretary-general praised Qatar's efforts in humanitarian solidarity with the peoples affected by natural disasters, as well as Qatar's support for the UN and its various agencies.

His Highness the Amir also met with President of the 78th session of UN General Assembly Dennis Francis at the headquarters of the UN in New York. At the beginning of the meeting, His Highness the Amir congratulated Francis on assuming the presidency of the current session of the Assembly, wishing him success in his duties. For his part, the president of the General Assembly expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Amir for the support provided by Qatar to the international organisation, especially to the humanitarian and relief projects in various parts of the world.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest regional and international developments, in addition to a number of topics of common interest, especially those on the agenda of the 78th session. The two meetings were attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, and HE Qatar's ambassador to the US Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad al-Thani. (QNA)

Amir meets several leaders participating in 78th UNGA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with a number of leaders and heads of delegations of brotherly and friendly countries, participating in the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, at the UN headquarters in New York.

His Highness met with King Abdullah II Ibn al-Hussein of Jordan; the representative of Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Sabah Nawaf al-Hamad al-Sabah; Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedow; South African President Cyril Ramaphosa; Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky; Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei, Crown Prince of Jordan Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II; and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

The meetings dealt with discussing a range of topics on the agenda of the 78th session of the UNGA and the latest regional and international developments.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and a number of members of the accompanying official delegation were in attendance. (QNA)



Turkish ambassador lauds Amir's speech

Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu has lauded the speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday, especially the emphasis on adhering to peaceful methods in resolving disputes.

Ambassador Goksu stressed the consensus of visions between Turkiye and Qatar regarding the call for dialogue and a peaceful solution to international crises, praising His Highness the Amir's speech in which he said: "The path to resolving conflicts by peaceful means is long and arduous, but it is less costly than wars."

Goksu stressed that Qatar's rich experience in the issue of diplomatic mediation to resolve disputes represents the best practical confirmation of what the Amir made.

The Turkish envoy appreciated the Amir's renewal of his country's position in support of the Palestinian cause and the call to



Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu.

resolve the worsening crises in Libya, Yemen and Syria.

He also stressed the importance of what the Amir mentioned regarding the breakthrough that the region witnessed in relations between countries, represented by constructive dialogue and the

restoration of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Egypt and Turkiye.

Ambassador Goksu stressed that Turkiye and Qatar share a diplomatic policy that seeks stability and harmony in the region.

He also praised what His Highness Sheikh Tamim said in his speech about Qatar's hosting of the World Cup, and the opportunity it represented for interaction between peoples, and for the world to learn about the peoples of the region, aspects of our culture and values, and Qatar's position as a global destination linking East and West. The Turkish envoy said this goal was fully achieved.

Ambassador Goksu also appreciated Doha's position in its donation and initiative to support Morocco and Libya after the earthquake and floods disaster, recalling Doha's position in supporting Turkiye after it was affected by earthquake at the beginning of this year.

PM meets Irish counterpart



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and avenues to support and strengthen them, particularly in energy, economy, and trade fields. The two sides also discussed avenues to reinforce joint development efforts in empowering women and minorities, in addition to discussing a range of regional and international issues of common concern. (QNA)



Amir says future of next generations hinges on eliminating present tragedies

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani underlined that the future of peoples and next generations hinges on the elimination of the present tragedies. His Highness stressed the importance of unifying the international community's efforts to counter the hurdles facing mankind as a whole.

In a post on His Highness's official account on social media platform 'X', the Amir said the future of peoples and next generations hinges on the elimination of the present tragedies, adding that efforts of the international community should be unified to counter hurdles facing mankind as a whole, such as poverty and blatant injustice represented in occupation, racism, and war crimes, through cooperation in enforcing the international law. (QNA)

UNOCT hails Qatar's role in countering terrorism

Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov applauded the prominent position of Qatar in countering terrorism, referring in this context to its strategic role during the Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week held in New York in June.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Voronkov noted that the Third Counter-Terrorism Week consisted of three parts: the first was to review the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; the second one was devoted to a high-level conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of member states, while the third part included the organisation of 40 side events.

Voronkov highlighted an important role played by Qatar during the discussion of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy including consensus-building on this very important document.

He noted a record number of 160 member states attending the high-level conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of member states this year, adding that discussions on countering terrorism were very productive and result-oriented.

With 40 different side events held on the margins of the Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week, Qatar organised five events together with its partners. "This is another proof of the leadership of the State of Qatar with regard to counter-terrorism agenda of the United Nations," Voronkov added.

On the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact, he said: "The Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact is a very important organisational structure for coherent and organised activities of the UN on countering terrorism, and the State of Qatar plays a critical role in supporting this platform as its primary financial contributor."

Speaking about capacity building or technical assistance, Voronkov confirmed that UNOCT manages 19 global programmes, 12 of which are implemented with the financial support of Qatar. He complimented the small and medium sized countries in having more and more active role in supporting the implementation of the UN counter-terrorism agenda.

He expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Qatar for the strong support for the UNOCT activities through vital political, financial, and expert contributions to UNOCT.

He also highlighted the critical support of Qatar to the UNOCT's global programme on countering terrorist travel which currently counts 68 beneficiary countries since the programmes launch four years ago as well as a continuous high demand and interest among member states to join the programme.

Voronkov expressed his full support for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's way of thinking on the need to eliminate terrorism around the world. He reiterated that eradicating terrorism is a complex issue linked to addressing such issues as improving social life, economic life, transportation, infrastructure. "We need to establish firm ground, which would prevent the dissemination of terrorism," he said.

When asked about hostilities against Islam and Muslims in some countries, he said: "Terrorism is against any religion and is an offence to fundamental human rights, UN values and principles. There is a rise of terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief in many countries. The UN is working towards preventing this kind of propaganda and ideology through a number of programmatic activities. (QNA)