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MONDAY Vol. XXXXIII No. 12778
September 25, 2023
Rabia 110, 1445 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

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Lusail Circuit ready to host Qatar Grand Prix 2023

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has completed the development of the Lusail International Circuit's race track along with the main buildings, grandstands and infrastructure, it was announced yesterday.

The country is making final preparations to host Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix competitions from October 6- 8. The 5.38km race track has 16 turns.

Engineer Youssef al-Emadi, Projects Affairs director, said Ashghal has contributed once again in paving the way for hosting one of the most prominent sporting events in the world this year. "This is a new achievement added to Qatar's track record of hosting the biggest international sporting events," he noted, while explaining that the development works were completed within just seven months in accordance with the highest international specifications and the precise requirements of Formula 1.

Abdulrahman bin Abdullatif al-Mannai, president of Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation



and president of Lusail International Circuit, said the comprehensive renovation qualifies it to host the most important local

and international competitions. Engineer Saoud al-Tamimi, manager of the Roads Projects Department, said the project in-



cludes works to develop intersections and surrounding roads with a total length of 21km. Engineer Jarallah al-Marri, man-

ager of the Buildings Projects Department, said new buildings were constructed and facilities accompanying the circuit developed over

a total area estimated at 100,000sq m. "A larger fan zone was provided, and 5-star VIP areas were added, and the capacity of the grandstands and parking lots increased," he said.

Engineer Hamad al-Bader, acting assistant manager of the Buildings Projects Department and the project manager, said the project aimed to develop the race-track and upgrade the Circuit's facilities and infrastructure.

Engineer Ahmed Abu Nahia, the project manager, along with the work team expressed happiness with the completion of this important project through great co-operation and co-ordination among government entities.

The Lusail International Circuit now has new sidewalks, barriers and safety elements, lighting systems, and landscaping works around the track. Additionally, 85 external electronic screens have been installed, with a total area of 6,848sq m. Works also included the construction of three tunnels south and north of the Circuit and a pedestrian tunnel. **To Page 12**

Qatar condemns storming of Al-Aqsa

Qatar strongly condemned the storming of the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by hundreds of settlers, under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces, considering it a flagrant violation of international law and international legitimacy resolutions. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that the attempts to prejudice the religious and historical status of Al-Aqsa Mosque are not only an attack on Palestinians but also on millions of Muslims worldwide. **Page 6**

France to withdraw envoy from Niger

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said France is imminently to withdraw its ambassador from Niger, followed by its military contingent in the next months, in the wake of the coup in the west African country that ousted the pro-Paris president. "France has decided to withdraw its ambassador. In the next hours our ambassador and several diplomats will return to France," Macron said.

Karabakh Armenians to leave for Armenia

The 120,000 ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will leave for Armenia as they do not want to live as part of Azerbaijan and fear ethnic cleansing, the leadership of the breakaway region told Reuters yesterday. The Armenians of Karabakh were forced to declare a ceasefire on Sept. 20 after a lightning operation by the much larger Azerbaijani military. **Page 11**

Asteroid sample brought to Earth

A seven-year space voyage came to its climactic end yesterday when a Nasa capsule landed in the desert in the US state of Utah, carrying to Earth the largest asteroid samples ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system. **Page 11**

Forum promotes localising supply chain in Qatar

Ministry of Finance's In-Country Value Project, which is aimed at localising the supply chain in Qatar and enhancing economic flexibility, is on the spotlight at the Government Procurement Forum

By Pratap John
Business Editor

The Ministry of Finance's In-Country Value Project, which is aimed at localising the supply chain in Qatar and enhancing economic flexibility, is on the spotlight at the Government Procurement Forum here.

The opening session of the four-day forum yesterday was attended by HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-



The opening session of the four-day forum yesterday was attended by HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Mohamed bin Qassim al-Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, Public Works Authority president Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhammadi and Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdul Rahman Hisham al-Suwaidi. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Kuwari and HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani.

The event is organised by the Ministry of Finance in co-operation with the Ministry of Commerce and Indus-

try and the Qatar Development Bank.

The Ministry of Finance has already launched 'Tahfeez' through the Qatar In-Country Value-ICV Project, which aims to maintain economic value within the country. **To Page 4**

MoL launches 'Istamer' to employ retirees in pvt sector

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Labour (MoL) celebrated yesterday the launch of the "Istamer" platform, which is concerned with employing Qatari retirees wishing to work in the private sector, based on its commitment to investing valuable expertise and enhancing the presence of qualified national cadres in the private sector.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, HE the President of Planning and Statistics



Ministers and other dignitaries at the launch of the "Istamer" platform yesterday.

Authority Dr Saleh bin Mohamed al-Nabit, and HE the President of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa.

The unveiling of the "Istamer" digital platform is a key component of promoting the National Programme for Job Localisation in the private sector. Its purpose is to aid retired individuals who are keen on re-entering the workforce to find roles in private institutions aligned with their expertise.

Through this platform, retirees can set up profiles, enabling platform administrators to gauge the number of retirees keen on rejoining the workforce and assess their skill set and expertise. This will facilitate matching them with appropriate institutions or companies for potential employment. **To Page 12**

Tap-in, tap-out on metrolink services

Starting from October 1, tapping in and out will be mandatory for metrolink services, Mowasalat yesterday announced on its official X account.

The service will remain free of charge, but passengers must use their Karwa Smartcard or Karwa Journey Planner App QR code to tap in and out.

Mowasalat has explained how it works in the app. "Install the Karwa Journey Planner App and sign in. Before boarding the bus, select 'Download an E-ticket', click on 'metrolink QR Ticket. Your ticket will be displayed on your screen as a golden QR code. "Scan the ticket on the ticket reader when you enter and leave the bus. You can access your QR Code Ticket on the swipeable home screen or in the 'Card Management' section of your App.

" Note: You are required to download this QR ticket only once, it will be valid for all your metrolink journeys," the message added.

TAP-IN & TAP-OUT ON metrolink ROUTES
Please note that starting from 1st of October 2023, tapping in and out will be mandatory for metrolink services. You can use your Karwa Smartcard or Karwa Journey Planner App QR code.
The service will remain free of charge.

EAA, Silatech host events to speed up pursuit of SDGs

QNA
New York

Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a leading global education organisation, and Silatech, an international development organisation, hosted four major side events to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at the 78th UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The two organisations, founded by Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, member of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocates Group, used these high-level events to mobilise the international community towards achieving the SDGs.

The events brought together over 400 leaders, experts, youth, and academics, and highlighted the importance of funding education, remote work, climate change education, and AI, in providing marginalised and vulnerable communities around the world with opportunities to improve their lives. Together, these events have made significant contributions to advancing several SDGs in developing countries, including SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The events included "The Precarious Role of AI in the Effort to Provide Inclusive, Equitable Access to Higher Education for the Most Marginalised", hosted by EAA Foundation's Al Fakhoura programme, Qatar Fund for Development, and the International Institute of Higher Education. Notable speakers included the University of the Andes (Colombia), Rutgers University and Schmidt Futures, and Jeffrey D. Sachs from the Center for Sus-

"Education is the paramount investment for society. Listen to Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser: Education Above All. Mean it"

tainable Development, Canada. Professor Sachs emphasised that the biggest hurdle to universal education was a lack of funding, and stated: "Education is the paramount investment for society. Listen to Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser: Education Above All. Mean it."

EAA Foundation's Reach Out To Asia (Rota) Programme and Silatech hosted "Investing in climate change and education for a greener future" on Sept 16. Speakers included Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar, Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada; Director, Mohamed VI Foundation for Environment Protection Kingdom of Morocco, Ayman Cherkaoui; Executive Director, BRAC, Asif Saleh; Global Director, SDSN Youth, Birlington Kaoma; Assistant Director-General for Education Unesco, Setafnia Giannini; Co-founder and CEO, Goodwill, Taha Bawa; CEO, Generation Unlimited, Unicef, Kevin Frey; and Programme Manager, Youth Economic Opportunities, Vicky Aridi.

According to Unicef's Frey: "Climate education needs to culminate in young people taking climate action."

He stressed that knowledge should be a catalyst for tangible, youth-driven initiatives in the fight against climate change.

This was supported by Asif Saleh who commented: "In every young leader lies the potential to drive change." Outcomes and recommendations from this session included: transparent financing for climate change education; direct

funding for local youth groups and green entrepreneurs (eco-preneurs); reduction of costs for technological tools, and public-private-non government-youth partnerships; engaging youth as key stakeholders in decision and policy making related to climate change education; and identifying innovative solutions that recognise local and indigenous knowledge.

"In every young leader lies the potential to drive change"

Silatech in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN hosted on Sept 17 "Unlocking Potential: The Power of Remote Work in Economically Empowering Vulnerable Youth"

This high-level panel advocated for the recognition and mainstreaming of remote work and freelancing as decent work and career innovations. Key-note Speakers included Special Representative of the ILO to the UN, Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon; Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development Director General, Hiba Ahmed; BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh; Microsoft, Global UN, and International Development Lead, Alexandre Pinho; and Unicef Generation Unlimited Brazil beneficiary Winner Happy de Assis Cajueiro.

The session recommended that remote work be recognised and mainstreamed, and that vulnerable communities

should have support to access remote work opportunities, also calling on the private sector to invest in infrastructure and technology to support remote work and put in place on-line security safeguards.

EAA Foundation hosted "Elevating Education as a Win-Win for the SDGs", at the SDG Pavilion on Sept 19, EAA Foundation's CEO Fahad al-Sulaiti unpacked efforts by stakeholders to unlock the potential of young people to thrive in the future world of work and bridge the digital divide using tools to improve learning and increase capacities to navigate the future.

Participants included Prime Minister of Sierra Leone David Senghe, who is former minister of education, SDG4 High-Level Steering & Transforming Education Summit Advisory Committee Co-Chair; Global Director, Education and Adolescent Development, Unicef, Robert Jenkins; Global Director for Education, World Bank, Dr Luis Benveniste, and Director General, ISFD, Dr Hiba Ahmed; Director of Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP, Marcos Neto; and Director of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Manos Antoninis, among others.

Roundtable discussants acknowledged EAA Foundation's contribution and importance and ongoing work supporting education in the developing world. The discussions emphasised the need for innovative solutions in education financing, including through community involvement, private sector partnerships, and exploring new funding sources.

Each event included clear outcomes that the partners will take forward. Follow-up meetings will be held at the WISE Summit, a biennial event fostering innovation in education, to be held in Doha on Nov 28-29, 2023.



MoI holds training course to raise port workers' efficiency

The Permanent Committee for Seaports Management at the Ministry of Interior, in co-operation with the Police Officers Institute, started yesterday a week-long training course on the methods of monitoring, inspection and security awareness in seaports.

Twenty-four officers working in the committee's departments will participate in the workshop, in which the Kuwaiti expert in maritime arbitration, Abdul Amir al-Faraj, will lecture, along with participants from various departments of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and some other agencies in the country, and two trainees from Oman.

Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Seaports Management Brigadier General Dr Abdulhadi Mohamed Zabin al-Dosari said that course comes within the framework of the committee's endeavour to raise the efficiency of port workers, through organising training courses, in line with work needs, to contribute to the capacity development of the workers, raising the scientific and practical level, and developing awareness among participants in this field.

The course addresses topics and axes related to the work procedures of seaports and inspection mechanisms, which contribute to the development of ports, including assessing security risks and threats,



identifying weak points, control and access authorisation, mechanisms of providing security services, identifying and reporting violations, verifying documents, and a host of other related topics. (QNA)

Qatar stresses youth's role in climate action

QNA
New York

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), in co-operation with the Global Green Growth Institute, organised a discussion session on the sidelines of the Climate Ambition Summit, at the Microsoft building in New York City.

Speaking at the session, Assistant Undersecretary for Climate Affairs Eng. Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada outlined Qatar's efforts to enhance its climate ambitions, stressing the importance of the role of youth in achieving the country's aspirations.

For his part, Director General of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Dr Frank Rijsberman thanked Qatar for the co-operation with the institute, pointing out the importance of increasing youth representation in implementing plans and proposing initiatives that contribute to the implementation of decisions.

The session was moderated by Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa of the Global Green Growth Institute



Dr Mahamadou Tounkara. Youth were also represented by the session's moderator, student Badr al-Ammari.

The lively dialogue between youth from the Generation Sustainable Development Network in Qatar, the US, Mexico, India and others led to an interesting exchange of opinions, views and

ideas on a number of topics, which addressed the role of youth-led initiatives in driving climate action innovations, and what strategies can enable them to become climate activists.

The session discussed supporting and developing more youth-led projects to address climate challenges specific to local communities, given that climate change represents a global crisis, but its impact is often felt more acutely at the local level, in addition to many ideas about the role of technology in mobilising youth to climate action and what digital tools and platforms can foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among young climate activists. (QNA)

Two Qatari aid planes arrive in Benghazi



Two more planes from the Qatari air bridge arrived at Benina International Airport, Benghazi, yesterday to assist the people affected by floods in Libya. The 7th and 8th Qatari planes carried 58 tonnes of urgent humanitarian and relief aid in the flood-affected areas, bringing the total Qatari assistance to 267 tonnes. The aid included shelter essentials, electricity generators, foodstuff, as well as relief and medical items provided by the Standing Committee for Rescue and Relief Works and Humanitarian Aids for Afflicted Areas in Brotherly and Friendly Countries, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Red Crescent Society, alongside Qatar Charity. Qatar affirms its solidarity with Libya and its brotherly people in facing the disaster. (QNA)

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Amir congratulates Guinea-Bissau president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embalo on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Geraldo Martins. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi meets outgoing Kyrgyz envoy

HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Kyrgyz ambassador to Qatar Chyngyz Eshimbekov on the end of his tenure. HE Dr al-Hammadi thanked the ambassador for his efforts in enhancing and promoting bilateral relations, and wished him success in his new duties. (QNA)



QMC chairman meets Algerian ambassador

HE the Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met yesterday with Algerian ambassador to Qatar Salah Attia. The meeting discussed media relations between the two countries and ways to support and upgrade them. (QNA)



Qatar vows support for humanitarian work

Qatar participated in the UN side event on ‘Saving Lives Reproductive Health Response in Humanitarian Settings,’ which was held at the UN Population Fund headquarters in New York. Assistant Minister for Health Affairs at the Ministry of Public Health Dr Salih Ali al-Marri represented Qatar at the meeting. In his speech during the event, Dr Salih affirmed Qatar’s commitment to humanitarian work while maintaining the principles of co-operation, partnership, integrity and impartiality, adding: “One of the priorities of Qatar is to remain a pioneering country in the efforts aiming to alleviate human suffering, especially for the most vulnerable groups.” He explained that Qatar has been keen

to support the UN initiatives in various fields, referring that Qatar announced in 2018 a multi-year, non-earmarked support for the core resources of the UN organisations, with a total amount of \$500mn in order to enhance their capabilities to implement their mandates. He said: “Promoting the reproductive health response and the access to its life saving services in humanitarian settings is critical and will contribute to reducing maternal and newborn mortality.” He also affirmed the keenness of Qatar to protect the rights of women in conflict areas and empower them pointing out that the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), along with other strategic partners, launched a new global initiative called “Women

in Conflict Zones,” that is backing the empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected areas through humanitarian aid and developmental assistance. The event discussed the rising challenges faced in responding to reproductive health needs in humanitarian settings and the importance of increasing investment in services, enhancing systems and co-ordination; in addition to the role of midwives in reducing maternal and newborn mortality in humanitarian settings, and the role of partners, including donors and local partners, in promoting sustainable, effective, life-saving reproductive health responses in humanitarian settings. (QNA)

Forum promotes localising supply chain in Qatar

From Page 1

The programme is designed to support the growth of Qatar’s private sector development, create jobs and promote further exports of local products to the world. It consists of three pillars - Qatar In-Country Value (QICV), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). One of the most important aspects of Qatar In-Country Value is the adoption of the In-Country Value policy designed to reward contractors, suppliers, and service providers who fulfil their contracts by contributing to the growth of the economy. Ministry of Finance yesterday said ICV aims to contribute to Qatar’s sustainable economic growth within the country, encourage dealing with Qatar-based suppliers and using local materials in manufacturing, production and

supply. It encourages companies to enter the local market and enhance competition among them to provide high quality products and services. By localising the supply chain in Qatar, Ministry of Finance said the project will enhance economic flexibility and reduce total dependence on imports and external services. The private sector stands to gain, the Ministry of Finance said, as new investment opportunities will be created. This will enhance the capabilities of the private sector and tap investments into the local economy. The opening session was attended among other dignitaries by Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, Public Works Authority president Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi and Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdul Rahman Hisham al-Suwaidi. Several ministries and government bodies are participating in the first edi-

tion of the forum, including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Municipality, Public Works Authority, Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation and Qatar Chamber. In a statement, Ministry of Finance said: “The forum is based on presenting the general plan for government procurement for the year 2024 in order to evaluate the work and expected needs, in addition to discussing many working papers presented by the parties involved. “The working papers discuss framework contracts and their role in supporting local industry, factory guide (model factory), governance, risk management, and compliance. Benefits and exemptions provided to national factories and small and medium-sized companies are also discussed.”

MoI arrests 64 for cybercrimes

The Economic and Cyber Crimes Combating Department at the Ministry of Interior’s General Directorate of Criminal Investigations has arrested 64 individuals of various nationalities, who had been involved in fraudulent activities. They had been impersonating investment companies and establishing counterfeit businesses to illicitly collect substantial funds, and were intending to take the money outside the country. When confronted, the suspects admitted the charges against them. A sum of QR4mn was found with them at the time of arrest, alongside other foreign currencies and electronic devices used in their fraudulent activities. Subsequently, the arrested individuals and the confiscated items were handed over to the Public Prosecution to initiate the necessary legal procedures.



QU launches second innovation, entrepreneurship award for startups

The Centre for Entrepreneurship & Organisational Excellence (CEOE) at Qatar University (QU) has launched the 2nd edition of innovation, entrepreneurship, and excellence award for startups. The award aims to pay tribute and encourage the talented owners of Qatari and regional startups, teaching staff, as well as excellent students of QU, in addition to bolstering innovation and caring for budding entrepreneurs. The edition of this award featured a host of honorees in its quest of paying tribute to various accomplishments of startups, as this year’s edition includes businessman award, best businesswoman award, social entrepreneur award, best startup award, as well as awards for best companies in fintech, education technology and health technology. The awards include one for best startup in e-commerce, best startup in green technology regionally, award for best startup in deep tech regionally and award for studying special case for researchers from teaching staff and students. In addition, QU called on entrepreneurs and startups in Qatar and the region to submit their applications, adding that a jury committee consisting of experts in industry and academics will evaluate the submitted applications based on innovation, inferentiality, scalability, and growth potential. It pointed out that interested entrepreneurs and startups can submit their requests to compete for the second edition of the award on the official website (<http://qatarentrepreneurshipawards.com/>). (QNA)

Qatar Stars League

Tender Advertisement

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

- Please note that you can obtain a copy of the documents related to the Tender in question during our working hours.
- Please deposit the amount related to the tender in QSL’s account number (QA29QNBAA000000000013027075001) in QNB as well as a copy of the commercial certificate. Moreover, note that the official letter of your company must state clearly the name of the person who represents the company and who is in charge of receiving the tender documents. The letter on behalf of the company must state the tender reference number and the willingness to be part of the tender.
- Each proposal must include a primary performance bond and a letter of the guarantee for a period of 120 days. This performance bond must be from any bank recognized by the state of Qatar. Please note that no proposal will be taken into consideration without the performance bond. (A copy of the performance bond must be available in the technical proposal as well). The performance bond must be valid for 90 days starting from the day the envelopes are opened. Also note that this performance bond will be returned to all companies once the tender is completed.
- A final performance bond of 10% from the final amount of the contract must be presented and must be valid for a duration of 90 days after the completion of work, and that is 15 days after the acceptance letter.
- Place the proposal in the tender Box of QSL. The office is located in al bidda tower in the Dafna region on the 23th floor, unit 80 (Mr. Omar Al maraghi) The proposal must be directed to the Head of the tender Committee. The number of the tender must be mentioned as well as the subject and it should be register by the secretary of the tender committee which should be before 12:30PM, Doha timing from the closing date.
- Quotations must be in Qatari riyals.
- The proposal must include fixed prices.
- No modification is allowed after closing dates. If the participants wish to withdraw, the performance bond will not be reimbursed.
- Proposals must be submitted in one original and two copies along with a copy of the tender bond.
- Any proposal can be rejected if the participant is not willing to adhere to the conditions, kindly submit the technical proposal and the financial proposal in separate envelopes. **Any proposal that does not include the 2 envelopes as indicated in the policy won’t be accepted.**
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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/095/23	Four (4) Years Call off Contract for Supply of Compressed Gas in Cylinder for Laboratory Helium	300/-	Qrs. 75,000/-	15 th October 2023
2	QTC/096/23	Three (3) Years Call off Contract for Supply of Winter Jackets	300/-	Qrs. 25,000/-	15 th October 2023

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date** : From **Monday, 25th September 2023** (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time** : 08:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees** : As shown above, **(non-refundable)** can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 2. Proper Identification
 3. Copy of Company’s Commercial Registration
 4. Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)
 5. Valid ICV Certificate (Mandatory for Tender No. QTC/095/23)



Asean ambassadors and guests at the event.

Food festival in Doha celebrates 56th Asean founding anniversary

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Association of Southeast Nations (Asean) Committee in Doha (ACD) marked the 56th founding anniversary of Asean with the grand inauguration of a week-long food festival at the Isaan restaurant at Grand Hyatt Hotel recently.

Comprising the embassies of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, and Brunei Darussalam, the ACD gathered distinguished dignitaries from Qatari ministries, members of various diplomatic missions, and special guests to celebrate this milestone with the theme “Asean Matters: Epicentrum of Growth”.

In a post on its social media pages, the embassy said Philippine ambassador and current ACD chair, Lillibeth V Pono, opened the event as she addressed attendees, lauding the region’s progress since its inception.

“Asean is a region marked by vitality and dynamism. In fact, with a combined GDP of around \$3trillion, Asean is poised to become the fourth largest economy in the world,” she noted.

Pono also lauded Qatar’s accession to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia last year, citing it as a testament to the deepening relations between Asean and its external partners. Thailand ambassador and lead organiser of the Asean Food Festival, Sira Swangsilpa, put a spotlight on the festival’s concept as he invited guests to embark on a culinary journey through the distinctive flavours of Southeast Asia, which was prepared by Isaan, the



ACD showcases Asean culture and traditions at the celebration.



event’s partner restaurant.

Besides the culinary experience, the festival also treated attendees to enchanting performances of traditional Southeast Asian dances and music, accompanied by a captivating exhibit of national dresses, providing a vivid cultural backdrop to the festivities. The Asean Food Festival concludes today (September 25) at Isaan restaurant.

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Game-changing inventions revealed in season 15 of Stars of Science



The seven contestants who have advanced to the next stage.

After three rounds of casting, the seven remaining participants vying to win season 15’s *Stars of Science* have advanced to the next stage, also known as the ‘Proof of Concept’.

This crucial stage will see them push the boundaries of their scientific knowledge, collaborate with industry experts, and demonstrate their scientific ideas to a panel of judges.

Stars of Science, Qatar Foundation’s edutainment TV initiative, offers Arab entrepreneurs and innovators a platform to transform their innovations from ideas to tangible solutions with the support of experienced mentors.

This season’s participants are employing artificial intelligence to improve health outcomes in both humans and animals.

Mohamed Ishag Hassan Gama from Sudan introduced his invention, a smart bone-fracture cast, equipped with different sensors to monitor the

healing process, pain, and other biometric signals, while Aly Magdy Mohamed from Egypt presented a multi-purpose smart marine drone lifeguard that can help rescue lives at sea, with its carbon-free model also supporting the biodiversity of marine life.

Utilising artificial intelligence for healthcare diagnostics, Saeed Zahran from Lebanon is looking to develop an electronic nose that detects and predicts an epileptic seizure episode early and notifies the patient beforehand.

Abdallah Alhaj Sulaiman from Syria, also a PhD candidate at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, found a novel way to mitigate the environmental harm caused by the disposal of whey by dairy companies while producing ethanol.

Through his invention, a milk whey fermentation for efficient ethanol production, he aims to demonstrate that fermenting the lactose in whey produces an ethanol-tolerant yeast, which

can act as a viable source of energy.

For Mohamed Laouacheria and Amir Mattar Jaber Mattar Alenezi, from Algeria and Bahrain, respectively, their passion for animal life lies at the heart of their individual projects.

Laouacheria has devised a wearable device utilising auscultation sensors, a microcontroller, and wireless communication tools to monitor bio-signals from cows, thereby safeguarding veterinarians and healthy cattle against exposure to pathogens from sick animals, while Alenezi has created a falcon training device to help automate the sport while enhancing the falcon’s stamina during training.

Mohamed Abbas Albaumijdad, a Saudi mechanical engineer, is seeking to revolutionise safety standards for inspection at construction sites with his wall climbing robot, which he intends to use on vertical surfaces to perform safety checks.

LG unveils cutting-edge Pixel Lab with Jumbo Electronics

Jumbo Electronics, a leading name in innovative technology solutions, yesterday announced the grand opening of its groundbreaking LG Pixel Lab in Doha.

As a pioneer in the electronics industry, Jumbo Electronics continues to set new standards by introducing the Middle East’s first-ever facility dedicated to the repair of any LG LED Video Wall Screens with pixel pitch starting from 0.9mm, which was explained in a statement.

The LG Pixel Lab represents a major leap forward in the realm of Micro-LED repair and enhancement. Strategically located in the heart of Doha, this state-of-the-art facility showcases Jumbo Electronics’ commitment to revolutionising the repair and maintenance industry across the Middle East region.

“We are thrilled to introduce the LG Pixel Lab, a milestone achievement that reflects our dedication to pushing the boundaries of what’s possible in technology repair,” said C V Rappai, director and CEO at Jumbo Electronics.

“The Middle East has long been at the forefront of embracing cutting-edge technology, and with the LG Pixel Lab, we are taking that commitment to the next level. Our customers in Qatar can now benefit from a facility that can restore the visual brilliance of their displays, ensuring seamless and enhanced viewing experiences.”

Jumbo is official distributor for LG product and services across Qatar and the enhanced partnership with LG business solutions will help customers receive the best possible support serv-



ices for complete peace of mind while purchasing LG LED. Jumbo Electronics’ team of highly skilled technicians boasts extensive experience in pixel level repair, guaranteeing that even the most complex display issues are resolved to perfection. The LG Pixel Lab is equipped with the latest tools and equipment, enabling precision repairs across a wide range of display technologies. With a focus on efficiency, the LG Pixel Lab promises swift turnaround times, ensuring that customers’ devices are promptly repaired. Jumbo Electronics offers comprehensive repair solutions, encompassing a wide variety of display types, from large-scale commercial installations to personal use electronics. “We have always kept an eye on the changes in consumer behaviour over the last four decades or so,” said Sajed Jassim Mohamed Sulaiman, vice-chairman and managing director of Jumbo Electronics, Qatar.

“In the past 43 years, we have witnessed remarkable advancements in various aspects such as our range of brands, support infrastructure and customer service. Jumbo has been a pivotal player in shaping the landscape of electronics retail and we take immense pride in our accomplishments,” he added.

Qatar’s new specialist healthcare services offer advanced care

The remarkable growth of Qatar’s public health sector has resulted in the opening of many new specialist services and facilities, enhancing the quality of care provided to patients.

In recent years, Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) have launched multiple new virtual and telemedicine services, health and wellbeing services, and specialist facilities. “At PHCC we place great focus on preventive health and wellbeing services to support Qatar’s population in staying healthy. Our Annual Health Checks, Nutrition Clinics and Smoking Cessation Clinics are all helping people live healthy lifestyles and lower their risk of ill health,” said Dr Samya al-Abdulla, senior consultant, Family Medicine and executive director of operations at PHCC.

“We have also significantly strengthened our oral health service provision through the National Adult Oral Health Screening Programme and Paediatric Dental Specialty Clinics have been launched at 19 primary health centres.”

Patients are also benefitting from more



Dr Yousuf al-Maslamani

convenient access to healthcare services following the launch of many virtual and telemedicine services across PHCC and HMC. They include: The National Mental Health Helpline – providing professional mental health care and support; HMC’s Urgent Consultation Service – offering telephone consultations for urgent conditions without prior appointment; Telemedicine consultations – for various specialities at HMC and PHCC; and Medication home delivery – convenient delivery service for medications from HMC and PHCC.

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“As the main provider of specialist healthcare services in Qatar, delivering approximately 85% of hospital services in the country, HMC is committed to the continued expansion of specialist services and facilities across our hospital network,” said Dr Yousuf al-Maslamani, medical director of Hamad General Hospital.



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

Important Notice:

Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via e-Registration system and are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy can “Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document” from QatarEnergy website.

Effective from 1st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempt from this requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period		Tender		Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
		Start Date	End Date	Start Date	Closing Date				
1	GT23107600	25.09.2023	01.10.2023	22.10.2023		300,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender:		PROVISION OF COATING, CORROSION AND IMS INSPECTION SERVICES AT OFFSHORE LOCATIONS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required							
2	LT23MT0028	25.09.2023	01.10.2023	16.10.2023		2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender:		SALE & REMOVAL OF MOV SPARES							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required							
3	LT23MT0029	25.09.2023	01.10.2023	16.10.2023		2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender:		SALE & REMOVAL OF HVAC UNITS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required							
4	LT23MT0115	25.09.2023	01.10.2023	16.10.2023		10,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender:		SUPPLY OF PHOTOCOPIER PAPERS ON CALL-OFF AGREEMENT BASIS							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required							
5	LT23MT0117	25.09.2023	01.10.2023	23.10.2023		20,000.00	QAR	200.00	
Title of Tender:		SUPPLY OF GENERIC BEARINGS ON LONG-TERM AGREEMENT BASIS.							
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required							
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required							

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Qatar publishing industry's key aspects showcased at Amman book fair

A symposium on the publishing industry in Qatar was held within the Qatar cultural programme accompanying the Amman International Book Fair (AIBF) 2023.

Speakers at the symposium included Vice-President of the Arab Publishers Association Ibrahim Abdulrahman al-Sayed, General-Manager of Director-General of the Qatari Forum for Authors and CEO of Rosa Publishing House Dr Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari, and President of the Union of Jordanian Publishers Jabr Mohamed Abu Fares.

Jordanian novelist Ahmed Tarawneh, who moderated the symposium, shed light on the overall Arab cultural scene and Qatar's valuable contributions to its enrichment.

He pointed to the interrelation between culture and economy explaining that the cultural industries, including publishing, are a key pillar to every country's economy.

The international publishing market in 2022 was worth \$138bn, Tarawneh said pointing that the Arab countries' share in that was only \$5bn; mostly limited to publishing university and school books, which indicates that the publishing industry in the Arab world is going through a dangerous stage. He stressed that Qatar is an integral part of the Arab cultural scene and the publishing sector, which requires studying the reality of publishing in the state and revealing its strengths and weaknesses.

Dr Aisha al-Kuwari pointed to the close connection between the publishing industry and the economy, where the publishing industry is considered a knowledge economy and faces great challenges, indicating that publishers shoulder their social responsibility in addition to the required

investment ambition. She added that the reality of the publishing sector in Qatar is not very different from the Arab countries in terms of problems, challenges, and economic crises affecting the sector, such as the rise in paper prices, the decline in book purchase rates, and the spread of the culture of reading. The solution to these obstacles lies in the "difficult reconciliation" between the dilemmas of the publishing sector and its high costs with the weak ability to acquire books. This requires playing major roles on the part of the publisher, the reader, and society as a whole.

She said that the number of publishing houses in Qatar is very small when compared with the great vision and ambition of the state. The publishing sector in Qatar began in 2017 with private publishing houses, and before that the publishing sector in the country was a governmental institutional sector with distribution institutions and libraries, she added, explaining that Rosa Publishing House was the first publisher in Qatar, followed by Dar Al Watad and then Dar Nabja. Afterwards many publishing houses, private or semi-government, such as Qatar University Press, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, and publishing houses affiliated with research and study centres were opened, she said. Dr Aisha al-Kuwari explained that Qatar today is witnessing a diversity of publishing houses, which is a positive sign. Wrapping up, she said that the AIBF 2023 provided the opportunity to showcase the publishing sector in Qatar, and to build bridges of co-operation between authors and publishers from Qatar and Jordan.

For his part, Ibrahim al-Sayed spoke about the history and emergence of the publishing industry in Qatar, indicating that the state

is one of the first countries in the Arab world with the beginning of the era of the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani, to show interest in books, which were printed in the country and also purchased from India, Egypt and Baghdad. He also talked about the establishment of the Qatar Public Library in 1958 to be the first official library in the Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

Ibrahim al-Sayed elaborated on the history of the Qatari publishing industry, and mentioned that Qatar was one of the first countries to join the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) in the early 1980s.

He added that the process of publishing continued through government institutions, such as the former ministries of information and culture, through the National Council for Culture and existing bodies, until 2017, when the beginning of private publishing was witnessed.

He pointed to several projects that will contribute in the future to increasing the Qatari cultural and knowledge level, such as the "Qatar Reads" programme, which is a cultural programme that is concerned with reading, writing and publishing, in addition to the presence of the Qatar National Library, one of the most important public libraries in the Arab region.

He also mentioned several awards related to cultural affairs, such as the Hamad Bin Khalifa Translation Award, one of the most important Arab awards in this field, in addition to the Novel Award, which stems from the Katara Novel Award.

He stated that the Doha International Book Fair which was launched in 1972 is one of the leading Arab book fairs as it ranks fourth in the Arab world, after those in Beirut, Cairo and Baghdad. (QNA)

Qatar condemns storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque

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

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that the attempts to

prejudice the religious and historical status of Al-Aqsa Mosque are not only an attack on Palestinians but also on millions of Muslims worldwide.

The ministry held the Israeli occupation authorities solely responsible for the cycle of violence that will result from this systematic escalation policy against the Palestinian people and their lands and holy sites, urging the international com-

munity to take urgent action to stop these attacks.

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



QFFD, Qatar Charity support internally displaced in Somalia

Qatar Charity (QC) has started distributing 150 tonnes of dates to internally displaced persons in Somalia, with the support from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

The distribution took place in the presence of Abdul Aziz Osman Mohamed, deputy governor of Banader for Social Affairs, Abdur Rahman Mohamed Hussein, representative of the Somali Disaster Management Agency, and Khalid Abdulla Alyafei, director of the Emergency and Relief Department at QC, in addition to QFFD's urgent relief team that included Abdulaziz al-Tamimi and Samer Franjeh.

Khalid Abdulla Alyafei, director of the Emergency and Relief Department at QC, thanked the government of Somalia, the Somali Disaster Management Agency and the Banader Regional Administration for their co-operation in carrying out the charity work.

Samer Franjeh, deputy director general for Risk and Compliance and head of Urgent Relief at QFFD, noted that



Many Somali IDPs appreciated the efforts of QC and QFFD in delivering humanitarian aid.

this is not the first project implemented by QC in Somalia, as it has already financed other strategic projects in the country, including the Mogadishu-Afgoye and Mogadishu-Jawaher Road project. He indicated that QFFD has also supported many drought-affected families across Somalia, benefiting nearly 36,000 families.

Deputy governor, Mohamed, expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the generous support by Qatar to the Somali people. He indicated this aid is part of the continuous

co-operation between the two countries. He also emphasised the importance of strengthening co-operation in the field of relief and development to address the challenges faced by the Somali people.

Many Somali IDPs appreciated the efforts of QC and QFFD in delivering humanitarian aid. The distribution is part of the ongoing co-operation between Qatar and Somalia. Qatar has provided huge humanitarian aid to Somalia over the past years, including food, medical and infrastructure aid.

CCQ president outlines college's new strategy, academic orientations

President of the Community College of Qatar (CCQ) Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Horr has revealed that the college's strategic plan and its new orientations meet the labour market needs, respond to career and academic ambitions of students, as well as promote its local stature, role, and reputation.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr al-Horr said the new strategy is an expansion of CCQ's efforts throughout previous years, and concurrently keep up with the mobilisation of various sectors in the country to launch its sectoral strategies within the Qatar National Development Strategy 2023-30, emanat-

ing from the Qatar National Vision 2030. Readiness among the operating cadres in CCQ was strikingly high whether in the academic or administrative aspects at a variety of levels. The work has started one year ago to upgrade a new dynamic and flexible strategy that meets the aspirations of various segments of those who wish to complete their higher education and simultaneously fulfil the requirements of the local labour market, Dr al-Horr added.

He pointed out that the strategy is evidently the product of discussions among many CCQ's sectors and stakeholders from companies and state institutions, indicating that after productive discussions the high administration identified the CCQ's strategic orientation for 2023-2030 by drawing on renewal and development element through constant upgradation and optimisation of all major operations of the college, by focusing on strengths to meet the requirements of the labour market through laying out new academic programmes and expanding students' enrolment process. Dr al-Horr stated that the efforts generated methods of reformulating CCQ's vision, mission, and values, in addition to identifying five strategic objectives to be achieved through the implementation of seven-year 22 strategic initiatives measured through 11 key performance indicators



(KPIs) and said all are dedicated to supporting CCQ's students and achieving their goals.

The new strategy was based on the accomplishments made during the past years with a sharp focus on supporting students' academic development and bolstering their career prospects, he pointed out, adding that CCQ has become a critical component of higher education in Qatar, especially after the graduation of 4,544 students from both genders since its inception in 2010. After a closer look at the past strategic plan 2020-2023, and its impact on the primary

operations in the college, along with the follow-up on the strategic plans of the best community colleges in the world, it has been concluded that the identification of crucial values is the core of the vision and mission in the new strategy, Dr al-Horr added.

He outlined that those values underpin the service of parties of the educational process, mainly excellence, innovation, and students' success, along with internal values that depend on diversity, impartiality, and accountability, which primarily boost CCQ's capabilities in achieving its vision. (QNA)

QNA chief meets CEO of Malaysia's Bernama

HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with the CEO of the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama), Roslan Ariffin. The meeting discussed avenues of co-operation in media between QNA and Bernama. Following the meeting, Ariffin toured QNA's training halls and inspected the cutting-edge devices and technologies utilised in the training process. (QNA)



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, NADINE AIMEE PARKINSON

holder of

UK Passport No. 522290158
QID No. 29582600552

hereby change my name

from

NADINE AIMEE PARKINSON

to

NADINE AIMEE ELLIS

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

Doha Academy celebrates outstanding accomplishments of its students

The secondary students at Doha Academy have shown growth with yet another round of fantastic IGCSE and AS results. All the students have done amazingly well, and their achievements have surpassed the previous results.

There is 100% pass rate at AS Level for Arabic, Art, Mathematics and Economics students; 50% A* - A grades in AS Level Arabic and Economics; 93% pass rate in IGCSE Level English as a first language, and 78% pass rate for English as a second language; 86% pass rate in IGCSE Level Arabic; 83% pass rate in IGCSE Biology, with 56% of students achieving A* - A grades, and 78% pass rate in IGCSE Chemistry with 49% of students achieving A* - A grades.

Doha Academy's principal Edward Cooper said: "Many congratulations to all of our students for their hard work and final results. As an inclusive school, these outcomes are a real testament to the students' commitment and ability to make progress. Great thanks also to our teachers without whose expertise and support these results could not be achieved."

Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf al-Thani, chief executive officer of Al Faleh Educational Holding, stated: "I am immensely proud of our students. This success is a tribute to their continuous hard work and commitment, as it is also a tribute to their teachers' efforts"



Edward Cooper



Sheikha Anwar al-Thani



Doha Academy building.

WCM-Q webinar discusses future of medical physics

Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) recently hosted a two-day webinar titled 'The Future of Radiation Physics in Medicine' with 378 attendees from various disciplines in healthcare.

Co-ordinated by the Division of Continuing Professional Development at WCM-Q and directed by Dr Mohamed Yousef, professor of physics at WCM-Q, the webinar was designed to enable health professionals to analyse the latest developments and trends in medical physics.

It also highlighted the most promising avenues of research and innovation, shedding light on their prospective influence on healthcare and patient outcomes. Participants were encouraged to engage with field experts for a fruitful exchange of ideas and to harness their creative and strategic insights concerning the discipline's evolving trajectories.

The webinar featured keynote talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions with leading experts from around the world. The audience was diverse, encompassing various healthcare professionals. It targeted physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, allied health practitioners, researchers, and students.

Speakers included Dr Issam El Naqa, chair of the Department of Machine Learning and senior member of radiation oncology, Moffitt Cancer Centre; Dr Eslam Kamal Mamoun, medical health physicist, Radiation Safety Office, Pittsburgh University; Dr Nader Metwalli, staff scientist, Na-



WCM-Q organises two-day webinar titled 'The Future of Radiation Physics in Medicine'.

"Over the course of two days, participants had the unique opportunity to hear from leading international experts and discuss the current challenges and opportunities facing medical physicists and practitioners"

nell Medicine, and faculty fellow at Cornell Atkinson Centre for Sustainability.

Dr Yousef said: "Over the course of two days, participants had the unique opportunity to hear from leading international experts and discuss the current challenges and opportunities facing medical physicists and practitioners. Topics included innovative medical technologies, the rise of AI and machine learning, and ensuring patient safety in a rapidly changing healthcare environment."

Dr Thurayya Arayssi, vice-dean for academic and curricular affairs at WCM-Q, added: "We continually strive to offer high quality professional development opportunities for physicians and other healthcare professionals based on identified needs and the latest scientific and medical developments. Our ultimate aim is to increase competence and enhance performance, thereby improving the overall healthcare of patients."

tional Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Dr Sadek Nehmeh, section chief of PET and nuclear physics, and associate professor of medical physics in radiology, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York; Ryan Pennell, chief physicist, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Centre, New York; Dr Ziad Saleh, assistant professor of radiation oncology, Washington University School of Medicine; and Dr Justin Wilson, associate professor, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Cornell University, associate professor of chemistry in radiology at Weill Cor-

DFI to hold script writing lab

By **Joey Aguilar**
Staff Reporter

Emerging screenwriters and writer-directors from Qatar and the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region will have the opportunity to further enhance their skills with Doha Film Institute (DFI)'s online short script writing lab, set to begin on November 25.

According to DFI, the programme also aims to help participants in completing a new draft of their original short film

screenplay under the guidance of experienced international mentors.

The lab offers combined virtual one-on-one mentorship sessions and independent work with moderated group discussions among peers. Participants will also have the chance to explore case studies of recent successful short films and gain insights into the regional and international short film landscapes, DFI noted.

One of the unique features of this lab, DFI added, is its focus on film packaging, which includes

drafting a synopsis, intent note, and mood board, among others. In addition, participants will be introduced to various short film production opportunities.

DFI said the application deadline for this programme is October 28, and the lab will run from November 25-December 7 with participants having eight days allocated for group work and five days for independent work on their scripts. All participants are expected to present a new version of their short film script to their tutors and the DFI team by the last day of the programme.

Qatar delegation participates in ISO meeting held in Brisbane

Qatar, represented by the Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology (QGOSM), participated in the annual meeting of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), held in Brisbane, Australia.

HE the Chairman of QGOSM engineer Mohamed bin Saud al-Musallam led Qatar's delegation to the meeting. QGOSM has been representing Qatar in the ISO since 1993.

The annual meeting of the ISO is an opportunity to share perspectives on stand-

ard specifications in making life easier, better, and safer.

This year's edition is held under the theme 'Meeting global needs' to highlight the most pressing challenges facing the planet today, as well as aspiration to joint solutions, according to QGOSM's statement.

The meeting included an array of legislative sessions and panel discussions starting from the meeting of the Committee to Support Developing Countries (DEVCO), in the presence of ISO president



Ulrika Francke, alongside representatives of the member states to further discuss reports of the professional work teams and progress of the action plan related to developed countries.

Qatar participated in the 45th session of ISO General Assembly to discuss a set of procedural and executive items, including the report submitted by ISO secretary-general on global challenges pertinent to environment, energy, and economy.

The accomplishments of ISO were dis-

cussed, including work and achievements within the framework of ISO strategy 2030. The report concluded by highlighting future predictions and challenges facing standardisation and standard specifications, as well as readiness of ISO and its members to face the future.

The meeting of ISO General Assembly appointed the president of the organisation, elected several members to the ISO board of directors for 2024-2026 and named the vice-president of ISO policies for 2024-2025. (QNA)

Chery to attend 2023 Geneva International Motor Show, set to launch new power brand

With "power 4.0 global architecture", the global competitiveness of Chery products will be further enhanced.

Throughout the event, a number of Chery PHEV products will make their debut in the market, coinciding with the launch of the brand's charitable foundation.

For the first time ever, Qatar will host the prestigious Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) from 7 - 14 October 2023 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center. As the representative of China's independent brands, Chery Automobile is completely geared up for this significant occasion.

Its new power brand will make a grand debut at the show, demonstrating its technical and innovative strength to accelerate the process of the new energy field to global car enthusiasts.

The Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) is one of the five major auto shows in the world and the largest exhibition event in Switzerland. It is known as the "wind vane of international automotive trends" and has always been an important stage for major auto companies to showcase new technologies, new models and future strategies.

The arrival at the Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) and the release of a new power brand is another phased achievement display of Chery's brand improvement, new technology and product development.

With 26 years of technology accumulation, Chery has established a leading advantage in the hybrid and pure electric fields. Adhering to the concept of "innovating power to drive the future", the power brand which Chery will launch at the Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) is "power 4.0 global architecture" covering all forms of energy types such as ICE, PHEV, and BEV.

This architecture will provide new products with the advantages of "powerful · rapid", "efficient · green", and "high-energy · smart", subverting users' perceptions and expectations of electric hybrid products, and at the same time offer technical supports to Chery to move towards new energy transformation in an all-round way. It will further enhance the global market competitiveness of Chery products.





Australia’s firefighters face worst season in years

AFP
Sydney

Volunteer firefighters are scorching Australia's forest undergrowth, reducing fuel for what is expected to be the fiercest fire season since the monster

“Black Summer” blazes. Deadly wildfires have devastated forests in Canada, Greece, Hawaii and elsewhere around the world this year but unlike many other countries, Australia heavily relies on a 190,000-strong volunteer cohort to battle the flames.

Their courage was on display during the “Black Summer” fires of 2019-2020 that killed 33 people and millions of animals, as well as destroying thousands of homes and razing vast swathes of eucalyptus forest. But some of them fear their brigades may not be

able to cope in the future should global warming make fires even more intense and frequent. “It’s terrifying but, if 2019-20 became the norm, I don’t know how you sustain that year on year. I don’t think that’s sustainable,” said Andy Hain, a 41-year-

old volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service, who is married with two young sons. Faced with repeated fires on the scale of the “Black Summer”, Australia and other countries would have to share personnel and resources more than they

do already, said Hain, who has volunteered for nearly 10 years in Picton, a rural town southwest of Sydney with a population of about 5,000. Because of wet conditions since “Black Summer”, the RFS warns that the threat of grass fires is the highest it

has been in two decades. Driving through Picton, as kangaroos hop along in front of houses lit up by the late afternoon sun, Hain points at the grass growing along the roadside. “There’s green in it but see that straw colour? That’s ready to burn,” he said.

Philippines slams Beijing’s ‘floating barrier’ in disputed area

Reuters
Manila

The Philippines yesterday accused China’s coast guard of installing a “floating barrier” in a disputed area of the South China Sea, saying it prevented Filipinos from entering and fishing in the area. Manila’s coast guard and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources “strongly condemn” China’s installation of the barrier in part of the Scarborough Shoal, commodore Jay Tarriela, a coast guard spokesperson, posted on the X social media platform, formerly Twitter.

“The (Philippine Coast Guard) will continue to work closely with all concerned government agencies to address these challenges, uphold our maritime rights and protect our maritime domains”

The barrier blocking fishermen from the shoal was depriving them of their fishing and livelihood activities”, he said. “The (Philippine Coast Guard) will continue to work closely with all concerned government agencies to address these challenges, uphold our maritime rights and protect our maritime domains,” Tarriela said. The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately reply to requests

for comment. China claims 90% of the South China Sea, overlapping with the exclusive economic zones of Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines. Beijing seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and forced fishermen from the Philippines to travel further for smaller catches. Beijing allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the uninhabited shoal when bilateral relations were improving markedly under then-president Rodrigo Duterte. But tension has mounted again since his successor, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, took office last year.

Philippine coast guard and fisheries bureau personnel discovered the floating barrier, estimated at 1,000 feet long, on a routine patrol on Friday near the shoal, locally known as Bajo de Masinloc, Tarriela said.

Three Chinese coast guard rigid-hull inflatable boats and a Chinese maritime militia service boat installed the barrier when the Philippine vessel arrived, he said. Filipino fishermen say China typically installs such barriers when they monitor a large number of fishermen in the area, Tarriela said. The Chinese boats issued 15 radio challenges and accused the Philippine ship and fishermen of violating international and China’s laws, before moving away “upon realising the presence of media personnel onboard the (Filipino) vessel”, he said.

Development plan for Rempang Island opposed



Members of the Muslim community protest against a government plan to develop the Rempang Island into a Chinese-funded economic zone that would displace around 7,500 people, near the Presidential Palace in Bogor, Indonesia, yesterday.

16 die in China coal mine blaze

AFP
Beijing

At least 16 people were killed in a coal mine fire yesterday in southwest China’s Guizhou province, local officials said.

The fire broke out at the Shanjiaoshu Coal Mine at around 8.10am, the Panzhou City government said in a notice posted to its website yesterday night.

“It was preliminarily determined that the conveyor belt caught fire, causing 16 people to be trapped,” it added, with no further

details on what was damaged or how the fire began. Emergency personnel extinguished the blaze and temperatures at the site returned to normal, but “after preliminary verification, 16 people have no vital signs”, the notice said. The Panzhou City mine is about 3,600kms southwest of the capital Beijing. China – the world’s biggest emitter of the pollutants driving climate change – operates thousands of coal mines, even as Beijing has pledged to peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. While safety standards in the

country’s mining sector have improved in recent decades, accidents still frequently plague the industry, often due to lax enforcement of protocols, especially at the most rudimentary sites. Last year, 245 people died in 168 accidents, according to official figures. An explosion at a coal mine in Shaanxi province in northern China last month killed 11 people, nine of whom were trapped inside. Another two people managed to make it to the surface before they succumbed to their injuries, according to state media reports at the time. In February, a coal mine partly collapsed in the remote and

sparsely populated Alxa League of the northern Inner Mongolia region after a 590-foot slope gave way. Dozens of people and vehicles were buried under a mountain of debris, but authorities did not disclose the final death toll for months. It was only revealed in June that 53 people had been killed. In a sign of that incident’s severity, Chinese President Xi Jinping at the time ordered authorities to “do everything possible to search for and rescue the missing people... and protect the security of people’s lives and property as well as overall social stability”

Authorities probe blast at Manila Airport

The Philippine authorities yesterday announced the opening of an investigation into an explosion in the parking area of Manila international airport. The Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported that a faint explosion occurred in the parking area of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City, northern Manila. No injuries were recorded in the explosion that occurred Saturday, the PNA added. The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the Philippine National Police are hunting the culprits behind a reported explosion, while the police have tightened their procedures in public places with an increased number of surveillance patrols. Authorities are reviewing surveillance camera footage of the vicinity. Three vehicles parked in the airports parking lot was damaged in the blast.

British Car Day rally in Colombo



An Austin-Healey Sprite 1958 model car is seen during the British Car Day rally in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday.

Survivor of lethal mushroom mystery leaves hospital

AFP
Sydney

An Australian man who unwittingly ate the same dish containing deadly mushrooms that killed three other diners has been released from hospital, his family said.

Nearly two months after eating a beef Wellington dish, which police believe contained “death cap” mushrooms, during a family lunch, Ian Wilkinson left the hospital, relatives said in a statement. Each lethal mushroom contains enough poison to kill a healthy adult, experts say.

Despite having fallen gravely ill after eating the contaminated meal, Wilkinson has made “significant progress in his recovery” and was discharged, his family said. “This milestone marks a moment of immense relief and gratitude for Ian and the entire Wilkinson family.” Other diners – Wilkinson’s wife Heather, as well as married

couple Don and Gail Patterson – all died after also experiencing food poisoning symptoms.

The lethal mushroom mystery gripped Australia after Erin Patterson cooked and served the beef Wellington for her estranged parents-in-law, Don and Gail, as well as the Wilkinson couple, on July 29.

Erin Patterson has been named as a suspect because she appeared to remain in good health despite her four guests falling gravely ill.

She was married to Don and Gail’s son Simon, but the couple had been living separately for some time.

She has not been charged and police have provided no evidence of wrongdoing.

Erin Patterson has reportedly said that she unknowingly bought the deadly mushrooms from a grocery store and that the poisonings were accidental.

Death cap mushrooms sprout freely throughout wet, warm parts of Australia and are easily mistaken for edible varieties.

New Zealand probes mystery illness killing rare penguins

AFP
Wellington

A mystery illness is decimating the chicks of New Zealand’s endangered yellow-eyed penguins, and scientists say they may have found the cause.

The flightless birds, endemic to New Zealand, stand lower than knee-high, have pale yellow eyes and sport a band of yellow feathers around the head.

There are about 2,400 of the adult birds left, according to estimates by New Zealand’s department of conservation.

Their status is considered

“threatened – nationally endangered”. It is the country’s highest risk level.

The mystery respiratory illness first appeared in 20 freshly hatched chicks brought to Dunedin Wildlife Hospital in 2019.

“They were unable to hold their heads up, gasping with glassy eyes,” wildlife hospital director Dr Lisa Argilla said.

“It was heart-wrenching to see these little chicks in such critical condition,” the veterinarian said.

“All chicks that showed respiratory signs died – there was nothing we could do to save them.”

During the 2020 breeding season, a third of 150 yellow-eyed penguin

chicks brought to the hospital died of respiratory problems, Argilla said.

Professor Jemma Geoghegan, an evolutionary virologist, is part of a team of specialists investigating the illness. “The wildlife hospital tried everything in their power to prevent it but without knowing the cause it’s very hard to manage,” Geoghegan said. Scientists tested tissue samples from dead penguin chicks with sequencing technology similar to that used to identify the coronavirus behind Covid-19.

“There’s two diseases we have been investigating and we have found two viruses which we think are likely responsible,” said Geoghegan, a professor at Otago University.

The team had identified a novel gyrovirus and a novel megrovirus, she said.

Between them, the diseases are thought to have killed around 25% of yellow-eyed penguin chicks – roughly 50 each year – in recent breeding seasons, Geoghegan said.

“We’ve identified what we think may be the cause and then there’s a lot of research needed to potentially work out whether we can prevent or treat the disease,” she said.

For now, chicks younger than five days are being taken from their nests to Dunedin Wildlife Hospital, where they can be reared away from the risk of infection. In 2022, the animal hospital was able to return 90% of

the chicks to their nests, Argilla said. “Around 142 chicks were given a second chance,” she said.

“If they’d been left in the nest, most of them likely would have succumbed to either disease and died.”

The hospital director said it was an “insane operation” to hand-rear dozens of chicks with up to 10 people rostered each day to help with the five daily feeds.

Vets, nurses, zoo keepers and conservation rangers from all over New Zealand came to help, Argilla said.

The flightless birds live in two colonies: a mainland population centred on the southeast of the South Island, and a larger group on New Zealand’s remote outer Sub-

Antarctic Islands. Conservationists say the mainland colony’s population has declined 75% since 2008, leaving only about 200 breeding pairs, which risk disappearing in two decades.

Predators – such as the long, thin barracouta fish in the ocean, or dogs, cats, ferrets and stoats on land – along with climate change and infectious diseases have taken a toll.

Argilla said she was hopeful a vaccine would be found to help save the chicks.

“We are only an ambulance at the bottom of the hill doing our bit to save individual birds so that the population decline can hopefully slow down,” she said.

CONTROVERSY

OCA probing Indian athletes’ China visa issue

The Olympic Council of Asia and Asian Games organisers are examining the issue of three Indian athletes unable to join the games in China due to a visa problem, acting OCA president Raja Randhir Singh said yesterday. “OCA is looking into it, definitely,” as well as organisers and the government, Singh told a press conference in the eastern Chinese host city, Hangzhou. “Since it’s a diplomatic issue, they’re looking into it. And hopefully, let’s see, (whether) something good comes out of it.” The three wushu fighters from Arunachal Pradesh were issued stapled visas instead of stamped ones, India’s foreign ministry said. India does not accept stapled visas as valid.

CORPORATE

X social media’s India policy head resigns

Social media platform X’s head of policy for India and South Asia, Samiran Gupta, has resigned, two sources said, a top departure that comes ahead of India elections and as the company fights a court battle with New Delhi over content removal. Gupta was the most senior India employee for X, formerly known as Twitter, and responsible for “key content-related policy issues” and “defending Twitter’s position with new policy developments and support in-country sales organisation,” according to his LinkedIn profile. Gupta, who was designated as X’s head of global government affairs for India and south Asia, declined to comment.

OFFICIAL

UK minister to highlight migration issues in US

British Interior Minister Suella Braverman will raise “the unsustainable pressures” created by illegal migration when she makes a three-day visit to the US this week. In a speech, Braverman will present a blueprint for how countries can combat the crisis and highlight how Britain has led the way in bringing forward “innovative approaches” to tackling the issue. “Illegal migration and the unprecedented mass movement of people across the globe is placing unsustainable pressures on America, the UK and Europe,” Braverman said. Prime Minister Sunak has made “stopping the boats” - the arrival of migrants in small boats across the English Channel - a priority.

VERDICT

British businessman jailed for fake bomb plot

A businessman at the centre of a money-laundering investigation has been jailed for more than eight years for targeting two lawyers with fake bombs. Jonathan Nuttall, 50, pursued a vendetta against two barristers representing Britain’s National Crime Agency in the agency’s attempt to recover assets from him. Prosecutors said Nuttall orchestrated the plot with his driver Michael Sode, 59, and ex-soldier Michael Broddle, 47, who planted devices which were designed to look like genuine explosives. The aim, they said, was to intimidate Andrew Sutcliffe and Anne Jeavons, who were acting for the NCA in a civil lawsuit brought at the High Court in London.

JSW ‘in talks with S Korea firm to make EV batteries in India’

Reuters
New Delhi

Indian steel-to-energy group JSW is in early stage talks with Korea’s LG Energy Solution (LGES) about jointly manufacturing batteries in India, two sources said, as it presses ahead with plans to build electric vehicles locally.

JSW held talks with senior LGES executives in Korea earlier this month, proposing a partnership to manufacture battery cells in India for EVs and energy storage, one of the people with direct knowledge of the discussions said.

LGES and JSW both declined to comment on any discussions.

The Indian company is also talking to other battery players including China’s CATL and Japan’s Panasonic and Toshiba as it looks to build a local supply chain for EVs, said the second person, who is familiar with JSW’s EV plans.

“Due diligence wise JSW is talking to a lot of people because it needs an ecosystem for an EV. It is looking at storage, motors, battery management,” the person added.

LGES, which supplies battery cells to major automakers including Tesla and General Motors, has asked JSW to share details of its requirements for EVs and energy storage, the first source said.

A third source briefed on JSW’s EV plans said the company wants to set up a factory to produce 20 gigawatt hour (Gwh) of battery capacity in phases by the end of this decade, starting with 8Gwh in the

first phase. JSW’s billionaire chairman Sajjan Jindal has publicly aired his desire to build EVs and its talks to buy a stake in China’s MG Motor.

Discussions with MG Motor are now on the backburner and JSW is in talks with Chinese automaker Leapmotor to license technology to build EVs in India under its own brand, sources told Reuters last month. Panasonic declined to comment. Toshiba said it is not able to confirm “at this point” if it is in talks with JSW for a partnership to build battery cells. CATL did not respond to a request for comment. All three sources declined to be identified as the talks are still ongoing and a final decision has not been made.

India’s EV market is small but growing, with home-grown Tata Motors dominating sales. Electric models made up less than 2% of all cars sold last year and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government wants to increase this to 30% by 2030. It is offering companies billions of dollars in incentives to locally produce batteries and other EV components, and is working on a new policy for EVs that offers lower import tax in return for investment in local manufacturing.

Tesla is also eyeing India and is in talks with the government to build EVs and batteries there. JSW’s talks with LGES come as the Korean company looks to deepen its presence in the world’s third-largest car market where it opened an office in India’s capital New Delhi earlier this year to grow its automotive, mobility and energy storage business, a government filing showed.

Anti-Trudeau rally



Members of United Hindu Front organisation shout slogans as they hold banners during a rally along a street in New Delhi yesterday, to condemn Justin Trudeau, Canada’s Prime Minister and Gurdip Singh Pannun, a lawyer believed to be based in Canada designated as a Khalistani terrorist by the Indian authorities. In an interview with an Indian news channel, Pannun said Nijjar had been his “close associate” for over 20 years and was like a “younger brother” to him. He also blamed India for Nijjar’s killing. A diplomatic firestorm erupted this week with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying there were “credible reasons to believe that agents of the government of India were involved” in Nijjar’s death.

India set to delay laptop import licence measures

Reuters
New Delhi

India will defer an import licence requirement for laptops and tablets, two government officials said, a policy U-turn after industry and the US government complained about the move, which could hit Apple, Samsung and others.

The plan will be delayed by a year, after which the government

will consider whether to implement a licensing regime or not, one of the officials said, requesting anonymity. The licensing regime, announced abruptly on August 3, aimed to “ensure trusted hardware and systems” enter India, reduce dependence on imports, boost local manufacturing and in part address the country’s trade imbalance with China.

But following industry objections, the initial plan was quickly delayed by about three months.

Last month US trade chief Katherine Tai raised concerns with India over the move, which would also affect companies such as Dell and HP. India’s electronics ministry is now proposing a simpler import registration process that is due to start in November, said the officials, who have direct knowledge of the discussions.

A representative for India’s IT ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The new ‘imports management

system’ will need companies to obtain ‘registration certificates’ for imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers, instead of licences proposed earlier by the August 3 order, one of the officials said. The ministry conveyed the proposal to industry officials in a meeting on Friday, they added. India’s electronics imports, including laptops, tablets and personal computers, stood at \$19.7bn in the April to June period, up 6.25% year-on-year.

Sunak could put brakes on high-speed rail line: minister

A UK government minister yesterday said it would be “irresponsible” to keep ploughing money into a new high-speed train line if there has been a change to the country’s “fiscal picture”. Defence Secretary Grant Shapps was speaking after a string of reports said Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was considering scrapping the colossal HS2 rail project which has seen costs spiral. The UK is currently in the grip of a cost of living crisis that has seen housing and food costs hiked, prompting a wave of crippling strikes across the economy from doctors to train drivers. The country’s defence budget is also under pressure faced with a range of new challenges including the war in Ukraine. “There are various different estimates and I think that’s one of the things that the government wants to check, particularly on the costs now post the inflationary picture out of the war in Ukraine,” Shapps told BBC television.

London Sheep Drive



People herd sheep during the annual London Sheep Drive, in London, Britain, yesterday.

London police refuse firearm duties

AFP
London

A number of London police have stepped back from firearms duties after a fellow officer was charged with murder over the fatal shooting of a young black man, a force spokesman said yesterday.

The highly unusual protest by officers prompted Home Secretary Suella Braverman to warn that firearms officers had to make “split-second decisions” and “mustn’t fear ending up in the dock for carrying out their duties”.

Police in Britain are not routinely armed and the small proportion who are authorised to carry guns are highly trained.

The specialist firearms officers who have stepped back, around 100 according to one report, had handed in their tickets,

accreditation that allows them to carry guns while on duty.

In London, in addition to incidents involving the public, they are deployed to protect sites such as parliament, diplomatic missions and airports.

The officers’ stoppage follows the appearance in court last week of a London firearms officer, named only as NX121, who has been charged over the death of 24-year-old Chris Kaba in September 2022.

Kaba died hours after he was struck by a single gunshot fired into the vehicle he was driving in the Streatham area of south London.

A Met Police spokesman said “a number of officers have taken the decision to step back from armed duties while they consider their position,” with the number rising in the past 48 hours.

Scottish port feels force of UK fishing storm

AFP
Peterhead, United Kingdom,

In Peterhead, a major port in northeast Scotland and Europe’s largest wholesale market for white fish, Brexit was supposed to offer “a sea of opportunity” for locals.

Instead they have suffered a wave of complications and added financial costs in recent years, even before the impact of surging inflation.

“Careful what you wish for, it hasn’t turned out as they promised,” Mark Addison says in front of his trawler, the Benarkle II,

which is moored just behind Peterhead’s fish market.

“It’s been the hardest three years,” he said. “Brexit followed by the (Ukraine) war was just a double whammy.”

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine sent prices soaring worldwide, with the fishing industry hit hard by rocketing fuel prices and large cost increases for key equipment such as nets.

Even though fishing represents just a small fraction of Britain’s economy, it became a key negotiating issue in the country’s new trade deal with the EU, as UK politicians rallied behind the island’s rich maritime history.

In 2019, Boris Johnson, prime minister at the time, visited Peterhead as he sought re-election for his Conservative party on a platform of Brexit promotion, telling locals: “It’s a sea of opportunity up here.”

Johnson also made a trip to Grimsby, a major fishing market in northern England.

But for Addison, he was “sold a lie” over Brexit.

“There’s been issues with queues, passports, paperwork... There’s always something, which is a big problem with fresh-produce fish,” he says.

Delays to UK exports have caused the prices of some white fish to drop. Together the problems have off-

set what Addison calls a welcome increase in fishing quotas for the UK in the English Channel and North Sea waters separating the island nation from mainland Europe.

Although the quotas are larger, Addison says he must be more selective in what he catches. Fish whose flesh spoils quickly are no longer worth catching.

Before Brexit, his family business caught as much as it was allowed to, with the assurance of earning a good price at the Peterhead auctions. Despite the changes, “you have to make it work”, he says with a look of resignation. “I have three sons on that fishing boat.”

In a hall the size of a football

pitch, hundreds of boxes of fresh-caught fish are lined up under a pale neon light, ready to be sold.

Around 50 sellers, wearing plastic boots, raincoats or padded jackets to guard against the chill inside, will have sold 6,000 cases of fish in under two hours to the bidders gathered in the early morning.

Graeme Sutherland, co-director of Whitelink Seafoods, was in favour of Brexit but says promises made by the UK government have yet to bear fruit - and he remains hopeful of even higher quotas.

“It’s still not delivering at the moment, we’re still hoping,” he says with a smile.

His family business, which

catches and processes fish, employs nearly 200 people. It has been hit by a cost-of-living crisis, resulting in less income from the sale of prime produce such as monkfish.

Brexit ended the free movement of people between Britain and the EU, which means for Alistair Brown, operations director at Nollan Seafoods, finding staff has become difficult.

“Labour shortages are crazy. We need foreign people for processing,” he says.

“Fishermen thought Brexit was going to be utopia for processors. It’s been a disaster, it only brought extra costs. Everything is strained because of costs, inflation in the end.”

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TIMES

Search for conducive environment for life in space continues

The discovery of carbon dioxide (CO2) on Jupiter’s moon Europa last Thursday from research using James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) data has made scientists confident there is a huge ocean of saltwater kilometres below the ice-covered surface, making the moon a prime candidate for hosting extra-terrestrial life (such as tiny, primitive microbes), in the solar system. But determining whether this concealed ocean has the right chemical elements to support life has been difficult.

Aiming to find an answer, two US-led teams of researchers used data from JWST’s near-infrared spectrometer to map CO2 on the surface of Europa, publishing their results in separate studies in the journal *Science*. The most CO2 was in a 1,800km-wide area called Tara Regio, where there is a lot of “chaos terrain” with jagged ridges and cracks.

Exactly what creates chaos terrain is not well understood, but one theory is that warm water from the ocean rises up to melt the surface ice, which then re-freezes over time into new uneven crags.

The first study used the JWST data to look at whether the CO2 could have come from somewhere other than the ocean below – hitching a ride on a meteorite, for example. Samantha Trumbo, a planetary scientist at Cornell University and the study’s lead author, told AFP they concluded that the carbon was “ultimately derived from the interior, likely the internal ocean”. But the researchers could not rule out that the carbon came up from the planet’s interior as rock-like carbonate minerals, which irradiation could then have broken apart to become CO2.

In another exciting development, table salt has also been detected in Tara Regio – making the area significantly more yellow than the rest of Europa’s scarred white plains – and scientists think it may also have come up from the ocean. Looking at the same JWST data, the second study also indicated that “carbon is sourced from within Europa”. The Nasa-led researchers had also hoped to find plumes of water or volatile gases shooting out of the moon’s surface, but failed to spot any.

Meanwhile, two major space missions plan to get a closer look at Europa and its mysterious ocean. The European Space Agency’s Europa probe JUICE (JUperiter ICy moons Explorer) launched in April this year on an eight-year journey, while Nasa’s Europa Clipper mission is scheduled to blast off in October 2024, but arrive at its destination one year earlier than the former. JUICE project scientist Olivier Witasse welcomed the two new studies, saying they were “very exciting”.

JUICE will study Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, three of the largest moons in the entire solar system. When JUICE flies past Europa twice in 2032, it will collect “a wealth of new information,” including about surface chemistry, he told AFP. Carbon has been detected in Ganymede and Callisto. The missions will get the first close-ups of Jupiter’s icy moons since Nasa’s Galileo probe visited the gas giant from 1995 and 2003.

“We learned about Europa having a subsurface ocean as a result of the Galileo mission,” says Emily Martin, a research geologist in the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. The Galileo finding ignited interest in so-called ‘ocean worlds’ that have liquid water under their thick surface ice and might be the best place to look for alien life in the solar system. Ganymede and Callisto are likely ocean worlds too.

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The New World Disorder

From a global perspective, the world is not doing much better

By Richard Haass
New York

There is an old Soviet joke in which a journalist asks the General Secretary of the Communist Party to assess the country’s economy. “Good” is the short answer. The journalist implores the leader to elaborate so he can complete his story. “In that case,” the General Secretary responds, ‘not good.”

Much the same could be said of the state of the world today. As many global leaders gather in New York for the 78th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the notable exceptions of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and French President Emmanuel Macron, there are reasons to be concerned.

The US-China relationship, arguably the most important of this era, is in poor shape despite a recent increase in the pace of diplomatic exchanges. The US goal is for the two major powers to establish a floor for bilateral ties. At best, however, the two governments will be able to avoid a crisis. But that is made more difficult by China’s refusal to resume military-to-military communications and establish a crisis communication channel. Even optimists do not foresee a path for the two to cooperate meaningfully on pressing regional or global challenges in the near future.

Meanwhile, China faces significant economic challenges, largely due to its own policy shortcomings. But even if the problems are homegrown, it does not mean the consequences will remain confined to China. At a minimum, what happens there will impede global economic growth. At worst, there is the possibility that China’s leadership will be tempted to act more aggressively abroad to distract from its domestic economic woes.

Elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific, North Korea

continues to expand both the size and quality of its nuclear arsenal. The Pyongyang regime continues to test increasingly advanced ballistic missiles and has unveiled a nuclear-armed submarine, which would increase the survivability of its nuclear capabilities. There are no indications that North Korea is prepared to discuss, much less compromise on, its nuclear or missile programmes.

Another concern is that Ukraine’s counteroffensive, which was launched roughly three and a half months ago, has made limited progress. Well-fortified Russian forces still control large swaths of Ukraine’s east and south. This reality, along with Russia’s ability to boost its wartime weapons production – despite the US-led sanctions – and import arms from Iran and North Korea, suggests that the war, now well into its second year, will continue for some time.

Ukraine is understandably disinclined to compromise on its goal of reclaiming its territory. It continues to believe that the military tide will turn in its favor as more advanced arms arrive from the West. Putin, for his part, believes he will be able to ride out the costs of the war and that waning American and European support for Ukraine is a matter of “when,” not “if.” None of this gives would-be peacemakers much to work with.

In Afghanistan, it is increasingly clear that the new Taliban resembles nothing so much as the old Taliban. The real question is to what degree they will again allow their country to become a launchpad for terrorism. Then there is the question of how much the Taliban will contribute to the instability that has exacerbated Pakistan’s vulnerabilities. Speaking of weak states suffering from poor governance, weak institutions, and limited capacity, their number is growing in Africa and Latin America.

From a global perspective, the world is not doing much better. Following a worldwide pandemic that claimed roughly 15mn lives, the past summer was the hottest on record. With just over two months remaining until officials from across the world convene for the

UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates, there is little reason to believe that governments are prepared to prioritise climate concerns over near-term economic priorities.

Finally, as artificial- and augmented-intelligence technologies rapidly evolve, there are no signs of an emerging international consensus on how to take advantage of their constructive dimensions and rein in their potentially destructive applications.

There is some good news. The strong Western response to Russian aggression and, more broadly, the renewed vitality of American-led partnerships and alliances in the Indo-Pacific aimed at deterring Chinese adventurism are prime examples.

In the Middle East, Iran recently released five American prisoners in exchange for Washington giving Tehran access to \$6bn in frozen assets, on the condition that the funds be used only for food and medicine. The two countries also appear to be working on an arrangement – albeit not a formal pact – whereby Iran would accept some limits on its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

There is no getting around the reality that the bad news outweighs the good. International development goals are not being met. The recent G20 summit in India accomplished little, and the UN General Assembly meeting appears to be following in its footsteps. The UN’s most important component, the Security Council, is sidelined and will remain so, given that one of its veto-holding members is waging a war that violates the UN Charter’s most fundamental principle. At a time when the demand is high for effective international co-operation, it seems to be in woefully short supply. — Project Syndicate

● Richard Haass, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*



Major asteroid sample brought to Earth in Nasa first

A seven-year space voyage came to its climactic end yesterday when a Nasa capsule landed in the desert in the US state of Utah, carrying to Earth the largest asteroid samples ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system and how Earth became habitable.

“Touchdown of the Osiris-Rex sample return capsule!” a commentator said on Nasa’s live video webcast of the landing, as engineers and team members applauded at a nearby mission control centre.

Completing a 3.86-bn-mile (6.21bn-km) journey, it marked the United States’ first sample return mission of its kind, the US space agency said in a post on X.

Nasa chief Bill Nelson hailed the mission and said the asteroid dust “will give scientists an extraordinary glimpse into the beginnings of our solar system.”

The Osiris-Rex probe’s final, fiery descent through Earth’s atmosphere was perilous, but Nasa managed to engineer a soft landing at 8:52am local time (1452 GMT), in the military’s Utah Test and Training Range.

Four years after its 2016 launch, the probe had landed on the asteroid Bennu and collected what Nasa estimated is roughly nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface.

Even that small amount, Nasa says, should “help us better understand the



The return capsule containing a sample collected from the asteroid Bennu in October 2020 by Nasa’s Osiris-Rex spacecraft is seen shortly after touching down in the desert at the Department of Defense’s Utah Test and Training Range in Dugway, Utah, yesterday. (Reuters)

types of asteroids that could threaten Earth.”

The sample return “is really historic,” Nasa scientist Amy Simon told AFP. “This is going to be the biggest sample we’ve brought back since the Apollo moon rocks” were returned to Earth.

Osiris-Rex released its capsule early yesterday from an altitude of more than 67,000 miles.

The fiery passage through the atmosphere came only in the last

13 minutes, as the capsule hurtled downward at a speed of more than 27,000 miles per hour, with temperatures of up to 5,000 Fahrenheit (2,760 Celsius).

Its rapid descent was supposed to be slowed by two successive parachutes as it made its way to the 37-mile by nine-mile landing zone.

The main chute, however, deployed “much higher than was originally anticipated,” at about 20,000 feet (6,100

metres) rather than 5,000 feet, Nasa said. Nasa images showed the tyre-sized capsule on the ground in a desert wash, with scientists approaching the device and taking readings.

Eventually they concluded the capsule was not breached, meaning its all-important air-tight seal remained intact, avoiding any contamination of the sample with desert sands.

The team then lifted the capsule by helicopter to a nearby “clean room.”

Meanwhile, the probe that made the space journey fired its engines and shifted course away from Earth, Nasa said, “on its way” for a date with another asteroid, known as Apophis.

Scientists predict that asteroid will come within 20,000 miles of Earth in 2029.

Today, the sample heads to Johnson Space Center in Houston for additional study, and Nasa plans to announce its first results at a news conference October 11.

Most of the sample will be conserved for study by future generations. Roughly one-fourth will be immediately used in experiments, and a small amount will be sent to mission partners Japan and Canada.

Japan had earlier given Nasa a few grains from asteroid Ryugu, after bringing 0.2 ounces of dust to Earth in 2020 during the Hayabusa-2 mission.

Ten years before, it had brought back a microscopic quantity from another asteroid. But the sample from Bennu is

much larger, allowing for significantly more testing, Simon said.

Asteroids are composed of the original materials of the solar system, dating back some 4.5bn years, and have remained relatively intact.

They “can give us clues about how the solar system formed and evolved,” said Osiris-Rex programme executive Melissa Morris.

“It’s our own origin story.”

By striking Earth’s surface, “we do believe asteroids and comets delivered organic material, potentially water, that helped life flourish here on Earth,” Simon said.

Scientists believe Bennu, about 500m in diameter, is rich in carbon — a building block of life on Earth — and contains water molecules locked in minerals.

Bennu surprised scientists in 2020 when the probe, during its brief contact with the asteroid’s surface, sank into the soil, revealing an unexpectedly low density, like a children’s pool filled with plastic balls.

Understanding its composition could come in handy in the — distant — future.

For there is a slight, but non-zero, chance (one in 2,700) that Bennu could collide catastrophically with Earth, though not until 2182.

But Nasa last year successfully deviated the course of an asteroid by crashing a probe into it in a test, and it might at some point need to repeat that exercise — but with much higher stakes.

Fighting ongoing after cop killed in Kosovo attack

Gunmen holed up in a northern Kosovo monastery clashed with authorities yesterday, according to Prime Minister Albin Kurti, hours after a police officer was killed when a patrol was hit by an ambush involving firearms and explosives.

Kurti said that the group of at least 30 heavily armed gunmen were now surrounded by authorities near the village of Banjska, where the patrol had been ambushed earlier yesterday, and called for their surrender.

The attack and ongoing firefight marks one of the gravest escalations in Kosovo in years, following months of mounting tensions and stalling talks between the government in Pristina and Serbia.

“There are at least 30 professional, military or police armed people who are surrounded by our police forces and whom I invite to surrender to our security agencies,” said Kurti during a press conference.

The Serbian Orthodox Church confirmed that gunmen had stormed a monastery in Banjska, where pilgrims from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad were staying.

Pictures released by Kosovo authorities showed several heavily armed gunmen wearing uniforms, barricading themselves at the monastery.

“We can see armed people in uniforms... they are firing on us and we are firing back,” Kosovo police official Veton Elshani told AFP by phone from Banjska.

Police later said in a statement that at least three attackers had been killed and one arrested. Another four civilian suspects carrying radio equipment and weapons were also arrested.

Kosovo police also confirmed that the Jarinje and Brnjak border crossings between Serbia and Kosovo had been closed following the incident.

Kurti’s comments at the press conference came hours after he called the ambush that killed one police officer and wounded another an act of terrorism and pinpointed the blame on the Serbian government.

Italian premier admits she had hoped to do ‘better’ on migration

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has admitted she had hoped to do “better” on controlling irregular migration, which has surged since her far-right party won historic elections a year ago.

“Clearly we hoped for better on immigration, where we worked so hard,” she said in an interview marking the win, broadcast late Saturday on the TG1 channel.

“The results are not what we hoped to see. It is certainly a very complex problem, but I’m sure we’ll get to the bottom of it.”

Meloni’s post-fascist Brothers of Italy party was elected in large part on a promise to reduce mass migration into Italy.

But the number of people arriving on boats from North Africa has instead surged, with more than 130,000 recorded by the interior ministry so far this year — up from 70,000 in the same period of 2022.

After 8,500 people arrived on the tiny island of Lampedusa in just three days earlier this month, Meloni demanded the European Union do more to help relieve the pressure.

Brussels agreed to intensify existing efforts, and this week said it would start to release money to Tunisia — from where many of the boats leave — under a pact aimed at stemming irregular migration from the country.

But Meloni’s main coalition partner, Matteo Salvini of the anti-immigration League party, has been dismissive of EU efforts to manage the surge of arrivals that he dubbed an “act of war”.

Armenia PM signals foreign policy shift away from Russia

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan yesterday signalled a major foreign policy shift away from Russia following Moscow’s refusal to enter the latest conflict over disputed Nagorno-Karabakh.

Pashinyan told the nation in a major television address that his former Soviet republic’s current foreign security alliances were “ineffective” and “insufficient”.

He added that Armenia should join the International Criminal Court (ICC) — a tribunal which has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over his actions in Ukraine.

“The systems of external security in which Armenia is involved are ineffective when it comes to the protection of our security and Armenia’s national interests,” Pashinyan said.

His address aired just days after Azerbaijan claimed full control over Nagorno-Karabakh in a lightning offensive that forced the ethnic Armenian separatist territory to sue for peace.

The separatists’ apparent capitulation could mark the end of a conflict between the Christian and Muslim Caucasus rivals that has raged — off and on — through the three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Armenia is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) — a Russian-dominated group comprised of six post-Soviet states.

The group pledges to protect other members that come under attack.

Karabakh refugees cross to Armenia as Azerbaijan in control

AFP
Kornidzor (Armenia)

Ethnic Armenian refugees began to leave Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday for the first time since Azerbaijan launched an offensive designed to seize control of the breakaway territory and perhaps end a three-decade-old conflict.

This week’s lightning operation could mark a historic geopolitical shift, with Azerbaijan victorious over the separatists and Armenia publicly distancing itself from its traditional ally Russia.

“Yesterday, we had to put down our rifles. So we left,” a man in his thirties from the village of Mets Shen told AFP as a first group of a few dozen people crossed the border and registered with Armenian officials in Kornidzor.

“We had 15 minutes to pack everything up, we couldn’t bring anything,” said 28-year-old farmer Shamir, regretting having left his livestock and the grave of his three-year-old daughter behind in Mets Shen. “I didn’t tell her goodbye. I hope to go back.”

According to the Armenian government, by last evening 377 “forcibly displaced persons” had crossed from Azerbaijan to Armenia.

Most of the refugees seen by AFP were women and children, including some from Eghtsahogh, where people took shelter around a Russian peacekeeping base after their village allegedly came under Azerbaijani shelling.

Separatist leaders have said they are negotiating the fate of some 120,000 ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh in talks with Azerbaijani officials mediated by



Refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh region sit in a bus upon their arrival at a checkpoint in the village of Kornidzor, Armenia, yesterday. (Reuters)

Russian peacekeepers. Many have seen shortages of food, water and power during a nine-month blockade.

The Armenian health ministry said 23 ambulances were carrying seriously wounded citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh to the border, accompanied by medics and Red Cross workers. Crowds of angry relatives gathered on the Armenian side awaiting news.

Armenia announced that Pashinyan would meet his Azerbaijani counterpart President Ilham Aliyev at the summit of the European Political Community in the Spanish city of Granada on October 5, along with EU leaders like President Emmanuel Macron of France and Germany’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Meanwhile, tension was running high at the Kornidzor crossing, 5km from the Hakari bridge on the convoy’s route, where angry relatives had gathered to await news and one man was so frustrated he pulled out a knife in front of police.

“My son was in the army in Artsakh. He’s alive, but I’m worried for him,” said Alik Bilbuyan, 43, using the name Karabakh’s ethnic Armenian population gave their breakaway statelet.

“I came here to get news but I’m also hoping armed groups will cross the border. If they do, I’ll go with them to rescue my son,” he said.

On the other side of the border in Azerbaijani settlements such as Terter and Beylagan, locals had no sympathy for their Armenian neighbours and were celebrating their government’s victory over the rebels.

State television played music paying tribute to the nation and its army, and the roadsides were lined with flags and portraits of dozens of local “martyrs”, fallen in the fighting during the previous 30 years.

Famil Zalov’s 18-year-old brother was among those killed, and he’s in no mood to forgive.

Harris sets out to rally young, minority voters

AFP
Washington

Vice-President Kamala Harris stepped out recently on the campus of a Pennsylvania university and was greeted by a troupe of cheerleaders.

“She’s got that fever. She’s got that heat. She’s our VP. You can’t compete,” they chanted.

Harris, 58, is hoping to whip up enthusiasm among younger voters, an age group that 80-year-old President Joe Biden has trouble reaching.

To that end, Harris was bestowed on Friday with a new role — tackling the scourge of gun violence that has wreaked terror in schools across the country.

Alongside Harris and Biden during the White House announcement of her new role stood the first member of Congress from

Generation Z, 26-year-old Democrat Maxwell Frost.

Speaking about the shootings that have become a tragic fixture of American life, Harris, a former California attorney general who has sometimes struggled to connect with audiences, sought to hit a note of empathy.

“In today’s world, on the first day of school, students, yes, learn the name of their teacher. Yes, they learn the location of their cubby and they learn how to quietly hide from an active shooter,” said Harris, citing the common practice in US schools of teaching youngsters how to stay alive during an attack by a gunman.

Gun violence is on a list of key issues, including climate change and discrimination that Harris — the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to hold the vice-president’s office — is addressing in a national tour

of colleges entitled “Fight for Our Freedoms.”

The month-long tour will take her to universities where she will target African-American and other minority students, speaking on issues that concern them most.

She is working to mobilise two electoral groups who offered the keys to the White House to Biden in the last election, and whose vote will be vital again next year: young people and minorities.

“When your generation starts voting in numbers, so many of these things will change,” Harris told students Tuesday at a college in the small Pennsylvania town of Reading, according to local press reports.

“To make a difference in this world, of the many ways you can do it, one of the biggest ways is to vote,” she said in an interview with a student, shared on X, during a visit to a North Carolina campus.

On her tour, the vice-president is greeted with choreography and cheers, in stark contrast to her gloomy poll numbers.

According to the site FiveThirtyEight, which aggregates opinion surveys, a little less than 40 percent of Americans have a favourable opinion of the VP. Biden is more or less in the same range.

Harris tries to hit a personal note to make herself more relatable to the young people she is addressing, talking about her love for music and, in particular, West Coast rap.

That can play both ways: pictures and video of her dancing at a reception celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip hop attracted flattering comments, but also ridicule.

And the White House still regularly has to contend with sometimes scathing articles about the Veep.

In a recent, much-discussed piece, *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius called not only on Biden, but also on Harris, not to run again.

“Harris has many laudable qualities, but the simple fact is that she has failed to gain traction in the country or even within her own party,” he wrote.

Republican White House hopeful Nikki Haley, also a woman of South Asian descent, has trained her sharpest attacks on the vice-president.

A former ambassador to the United Nations under then-president Donald Trump, Haley regularly insists that because of Biden’s age, it is the vice-president — who would succeed him if he died or was incapacitated — who must be beaten.

The idea of a President Harris “should send a chill up every American spine,” said Haley.



US Vice-President Kamala Harris waves as she walks onstage to speak during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 2023 Phoenix awards dinner at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. (AFP)



93rd Saudi National Day celebrated in Doha



Saudi Arabia's ambassador is joined by Qatari dignitaries in cutting a ceremonial cake on the occasion yesterday. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Qatar, Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Farhan al-Saud, yesterday stressed the depth of historical and fraternal ties and the ties of kinship that link Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He was addressing a celebration in Doha to mark the 93rd National Day of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of a number of Qatari and other dignitaries.

HE Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani, HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser al-Thani, Qatar Businessmen Association president HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah, HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani, HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani, HE the Minister of Transport Jasim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library president Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' protocol di-

rector ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro, dean of the Diplomatic Corps ambassador Ali Ibrahim and other dignitaries were present.

Prince Mansour said: "It is a matter of pride and honour for us to celebrate this occasion dear to us in the sisterly State of Qatar, which has deep-rooted fraternal and friendly ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that extend from our history, culture, and shared authentic values."

He pointed out that the gathering of senior statesmen and officials to share the kingdom's joy on National Day is only a confirmation of these distinguished ties and relations that bind the two brotherly countries and peoples.

"It is also an affirmation and commitment to pushing the relations of the two brotherly countries forward towards broad horizons of close co-operation in various fields in accordance with the directives of the leadership of the two countries, may God protect them."

The Saudi envoy pointed out that bilateral relations are witnessing broad activity at a high pace through intense mutual visits between officials in the two brotherly countries. Saudi delegations made 80 visits to Qatar over the past three years, which is an important indicator of the high level reached by bilateral relations in all fields.

He explained that the Saudi-Qatari Co-ordination Council, thanks to the generous patronage of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed bin Salman, and His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, is playing an important and positive role in promoting relations between the two countries and taking advantage of the opportunities available in the two countries that contribute to strengthening and consolidating these relations in all sectors in a way that serves the interests of the two countries and their brotherly peoples.

"We in Doha Al Khair and on the dear land of Qatar also congratulate our brothers on the wonderful achievements, comprehensive renaissance and progress in all fields, and the amazing success of the best edition of the 2022 World Cup, which we all enjoyed and which the whole world praised, in addition to the continuous success achieved by Qatar in organising international meetings, forums, conferences and exhibitions, which made Doha an active centre, thanks to the vision and wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

"I express my aspiration, as always, for Qatar, its dear leadership and its hospitable people, for other chapters of success as we approach the opening of the Doha International Horticultural Expo next



A music and dance performance on the occasion.

week, in which the kingdom participates with the largest pavilion, reflecting our common interest in the importance of the issue of the environment, water, climate, combating desertification, and increasing green spaces. It also embodies the keenness of the Kingdom to support the efforts of Qatar and wishing its leadership, government and people further progress and prosperity.

"We dream and achieve an identity that symbolises aspirations that embrace the sky and achievements that preceded time. The leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrate its 93rd National Day, the day of its unification at the hands of King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman al-Saud, may God have mercy on him, in a precious memory.

"It is filled with pride and pride in a glorious history and non-stop achievements from that date until the prosperous era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may God protect him. It is pride and honour in the present and in its success story and achievements that have transcended time in light of the kingdom's ambitious 2030 vision launched by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed bin Salman al-Saud, whose dreams have turned into a tangible reality embodied in a compre-

hensive renaissance and unprecedented reforms and with high confidence towards a promising and bright future, God Almighty willing, not only for our country but for the future of our one Gulf and for all the rest of the countries of our region.

"There is not enough space to mention all the aspects in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has achieved notable successes, but we quickly point out what the Saudi economy achieved in the past year 2022, with an exceptional growth rate of 9.9%, which is the highest growth rate among the major G20 countries.

"In the tourism sector, the kingdom has made a big leap in the ranking of the countries that receive the most international tourists, moving up 12 places to reach 13th place in the year 2022 compared to 25th place in the year 2019, as the number of international tourists coming from the kingdom reached approximately 17mn last year. In the first quarter of this year, 2023, the Kingdom received about 8mn tourists, which represents the highest quarterly performance and places the kingdom in second place among the list of the most developed countries in the world, and raises the shares of this sector in the gross domestic product in accordance with the Kingdom's Vision 2030."

Lusail Circuit ready to host Qatar Grand Prix 2023



Engineer Ahmed Abu Nahia



Engineer Fatma al-Abdulmalek



Engineer Hamad al-Bader



Engineer Jarallah al-Marri



Engineer Saud al-Tamimi



Engineer Youssef al-Emadi

From Page 1

The track has been initially approved by Formula 1, the International Automobile Federation (FIA) and the International Motorcycle Federation (FIM), with the final approval of the track to take place at the beginning of October.

Engineer Fatma al-Abdulmalek, project engineer in the Buildings Projects Department, said about 15,000 indoor and outdoor parking spaces are provided. These included VIP parking, in addition to increasing the circuit's capacity to 40,000 spectators including the main and temporary grandstands, the guest grandstand, the preparation building grandstand, and the natural grandstand (Lusail Hill), a high hill from which spectators can watch the race, along with a group of viewing stands around the circuit. As much as 180,000sq m of green spaces were also implemented.

The works of the Lusail International Circuit's Academy (Qatar Motor Sports Academy) are currently being implemented and scheduled to be completed in November 2023. Service roads being constructed to serve urban growth in the area are expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2024.

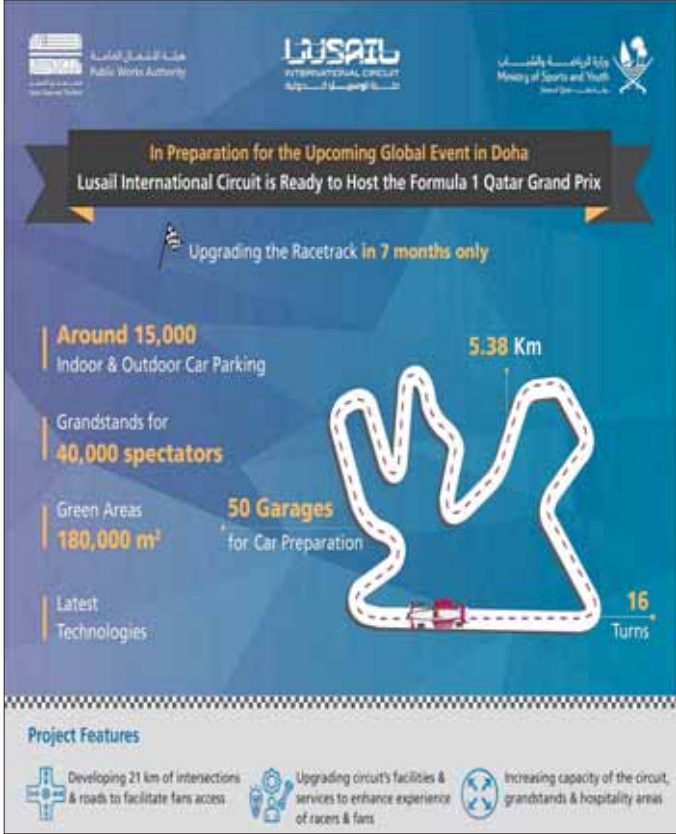
Engineer Ahmed Abu Nahia said the project included the installation of

many complex and heavy steel structures, each of which had its own challenges.

Constructing the VVIP building's canopy, according to him, was the most difficult task in the project, as it has a diameter of 60m and a total weight of 330 tonnes. Installing the canopy of Al Majlis building as a single piece, weighing 68 tonnes was another challenge as it required the use of a 400-tonne crawler crane. This task required careful co-ordination and a specialised work team with high skills.

The project included the implementation of several huge steel canopies throughout the circuit to add an aesthetic appearance to the open areas, including the paddock area. A canopy equipped with a giant screen was built for the escalator of the race car preparation building (PIT). The VIP hospitality platform in the PIT building also featured a uniquely designed spiral staircase surrounded by V-shaped steel columns, and a large steel platform overlooking the circuit's starting line.

The project also included a workshop building which was built entirely from steel pieces, with an area of 2,470sq m and a height of 14m in addition to the steel structures to install giant screens in various areas.



MoL launches 'Istamer' to employ retirees in private sector

From Page 1

The platform streamlines the entire recruitment process, from application submission to interviews and final job offers, all conducted online. This ensures transparency for job applicants regarding available roles in the private sector, while also offering businesses a broader pool of potential candidates during the hiring phase.

Director of Qualifying and Skill Development at the MoL Abdulrahman Telfat highlighted that the "Istamer" platform is the first of its kind in Qatar as it supports the feature of artificial intelligence. This comes in line with the ministry's desire to harness the information technology infrastructure to achieve the objectives of

the localisation programme in the private sector.

During the launch event, Telfat highlighted that since outlining its roles in 2021, MoL has been dedicated to developing efficient strategies to boost the localisation of employment within the private sector. The objective is also to enhance training for national talents to elevate their productivity.

He emphasised that retirees are a significant asset to the national workforce in the private sector. As a result, the Ministry of Labour's departments have been focused on creating an all-encompassing digital system to elevate the hiring rates of retirees in private sector organisations.

He pointed out that the platform is con-

cerned with employing retired citizens voluntarily in private sector institutions and establishments, pointing out that retirees have accumulated experience that must be used within the framework of enhancing the presence of national cadres in private sector institutions.

Telfat stressed that the platform will start receiving applications from retirees wishing to return to the labour market as of Sept 24, to limit their numbers and then determine the sectors in which they will be employed, explaining that the MoL invites retirees wishing to work to enter their data through the platform. He also called on private sector companies and institutions to contribute to the success of the platform and provide appropriate job oppor-

tunities for retirees within their expertise, thus contributing to activating the role of retirees in economic development.

Moreover, he highlighted that the platform would not affect job prospects for job seekers. This is because it will operate in partnership with 300 entities, including government corporations, energy sector businesses, major companies, and public benefit private institutions. The platform will provide job opportunities specifically for retirees in various private sectors, including private education, private health-care, hospitality and hotel industry, and private security.

Telfat stressed that a retired citizen from civil or military authority has the right to work in the private sector without

his pension being affected, in accordance with the Social Insurance Law No. 1 of 2022 and the Military Retirement Law No. 2 of 2022.

In tandem with the introduction of the Istamer platform, the MoL has set up a dedicated hotline at 40488061 and an e-mail, NHRE-HotlineMOL.gov.qa, to address inquiries and questions related to the platform.

The inception of the "Istamer" digital platform is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the MoL, relevant agencies, and the Digital Transformation Unit. Their shared goal is to foster a Qatari workforce poised for outstanding performance, aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030.